

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sumrell and McCoy Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 400 North Queen Street N/A not for publication
city, town Kinston N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Lenoir code 107 zip code 28501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name or related multiple property listing:
Historic & Architectural Resources
of Kinston, N. C.
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

William S. Price, Jr. 11/13/89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:) _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Brick
Cast iron
Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sumrell and McCoy Building stands on the west side of Queen Street, the main commercial thoroughfare of Kinston, North Carolina, two blocks north of the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District (approved by the State Professional Review Committee 13 July 1989). The massive building is bordered on the north by the right-of-way of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, on the south by West Blount Street and on the west by the ca. 1915 building constructed for the Kinston Garage Company. Its surroundings are typified by the flat terrain, standard commercial buildings and paved parking lots characteristic of Kinston's central business district.

Encompassing approximately 30,000 square feet of space, the Sumrell and McCoy Building is a two-story and basement masonry building of heavy post and beam construction, using both wood and steel members. Its trapezoidal configuration follows the lines of the lot on which it was constructed. The exterior brickwork is of one-to-six common bond. Encircling the building is a raised parapet, topped by tile coping, with projections at the front corners and intermittently along the side elevations. Below the parapet extending across the facade and along the side elevations is a plain frieze delineated by a wide, corbelled brickwork band at the top and a stringcourse. Decorative brickwork does not extend to the rear (west) elevation, most of which is covered by the side wall of a building which faces West Blount Street. Common elements on the three exposed elevations are wooden window and door surrounds, stuccoed brick window sills, and metal grills covering four-over-four, vertical-pane basement windows. The ghosts of painted wall signs can be seen on these three elevations.

The apparent mass of the building is reduced by having the narrowest elevation, approximately 50 feet wide, as its principal facade, fronting Queen Street. This facade is also the most lavishly embellished of the three exposed elevations. Centered on the facade is a gable which projects above the main parapet. Brick quoins decorate the corners at the second floor, which features triple windows with four-over-four, vertical-pane sash and vertical-pane transoms. Above each group of windows is a brick label molding with a cast-iron keystone

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bearing a foliate motif. A string course separates the first and second floors on the facade. Below the string course, the clipped southwest corner of the building contains the main entrance. A metal column supports the second floor projection, and concrete steps lead to the recessed entrance, which has replacement glass and aluminum double leaf doors below a plain transom. The sides of the recessed area are sheathed with beaded tongue and groove siding having a high baseboard and a molded chair rail. A large prism glass transom links the brick walls forming the recess. Prism glass transoms also surmount the facade's first floor openings which contain large plate glass display windows. The left bay has two sections, while that on the right has three sections. The northernmost right section has a concrete stair leading to a recessed entrance which has been closed up with plywood.

The south elevation, on West Blount Street, originally had three doors on the first floor. The rear (westernmost) door is the street-level entrance to a passageway which extends through the rear of the building. To its right is a chevron-pattern, wooden freight door. The third, smaller, doorway is now partially bricked-up. Toward the front (east) of this elevation are three pairs of one-over-one windows with vertical-panel transoms. Two of these pairs are covered with plywood, as are two smaller windows on this floor. Eight rectangular, plywood-covered windows are in irregular groups on the second floor. The sashes of these windows are missing, but documentary photographs show they were originally four-over-four vertical-panel sash.

The north elevation also has three first-floor entrances, including the street-level door to the rear passageway and a chevron-patterned, wooden freight door. The third entrance contains double-leaf aluminum and glass doors. Three plywood-covered first floor windows retain their four-light vertical sash. The second floor has seven windows, also covered with plywood, in groups of two and three. Again, the sashes have been removed; presumably they were like those on the south elevation with four-over-four vertical-pane sash.

Most of the interior finish consists of the exposed construction materials--brick walls, ceiling and floor joists and bridging, wide pine flooring, and heavy posts and beams of both wood and steel. Along the south elevation of the first floor is an original or early office of frame construction with beaded tongue and groove sheathing, large interior windows with transoms and extensive shelving. Restrooms are located behind the office. The front two-thirds of the first floor was partitioned off, probably in the 1950s as a large display room. Sheet panelling was installed over walls and posts. Along the north elevation

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of this front section are the open wooden stairs to the second floor, which were partially enclosed by the panelling.

In the open rear area is an open freight elevator, which runs between the building's three floors, and a large furnace. A wooden stair to the basement is located along the south wall. Extending across the rear of building is a passageway, originally having a dirt floor, but later covered with concrete; wagons and, later, trucks could enter at one end, be unloaded and continue to the opposite end and exit.

The second floor is an open expanse, with the stair well and freight elevator in the north section. Rows of temporary open shelving are located down the center of the floor, between two runs of posts. The basement level has a concrete floor, 18-inch posts and beams, and two enclosed toilets on the south wall.

The building remains basically intact except for the installation of the sheet paneling and dropped ceiling on the first floor and some deterioration which has occurred as a result of its standing vacant for several years. In addition, two doors have been replaced, one has been partially bricked up, and, for security reasons, numerous window openings have been boarded up. Most of these alterations are easily reversible.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1910-1939

1910

Commerce

1917

1934

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Sumrell and McCoy Building is significant in the history of Kinston, North Carolina, as a relatively intact, representative example of the type of large commercial/industrial buildings constructed in the early 20th century. It also represents the wholesale grocery business which became such an important part of Kinston's booming commercial economy in the first three decades of the 20th century, drawing from the farms of the surrounding largely agricultural area and supplying retail establishments in Kinston and smaller communities nearby. The 1910 building was the third location for Sumrell and McCoy, one of the first such businesses established in Kinston and one of the largest. The company was founded about 1900 by George W. Sumrell and Henry H. McCoy. Under the names Sumrell and McCoy, Inc., and H. H. McCoy Company, the concern operated for more than fifty years, making it the leader in longevity among wholesale grocery businesses in Kinston. In Kinston's Historic and Architectural Resources, the Sumrell and McCoy Building conforms to the associated historic context Kinston's Era of Accelerating Prosperity, 1890-1941; it is a member of the property type Late 19th/Early 20th Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings.

Historical Background

At the turn of the 20th century, when the city of Kinston was solidly established in its path toward prosperity as a major tobacco market and trading center for eastern North Carolina, there were two wholesale grocery businesses with longstanding reputations in the field, T. W. Mewborn and Company and James F. Parrott & Brother [Illustrated - pp. 5 and 16]. In 1900, a third such concern entered the field, organized by George W. Sumrell (1857-1917) and Henry H. McCoy (1877-1934). Sumrell and McCoy quickly established itself as a flourishing business; it eventually was to become one of the largest and longest-running wholesale operations in Kinston. Fourteen years after its establishment, Sumrell and McCoy was described in a Kinston promotional

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booklet as one of " . . . many prominent establishments which have in their special line of trade achieved a reputation beyond the bounds of the city" [Illustrated - p. 4].

Sumrell and McCoy's first location was on South Queen Street between Caswell and King streets; for several years it occupied a building on East Gordon Street between Queen and McIlwain streets [1902 City Directory and Kinston Free Press, 1906 Industrial Issue]. Both of these were relatively modest brick commercial buildings, apparently rented while the company established itself as a successful enterprise.

By 1909, Sumrell and McCoy's business had grown to such an extent that construction of a large new building was contemplated. In February of that year, Sumrell and McCoy purchased a large trapezoidal lot on the northwest corner of North Queen and Blount streets which was bounded on the north by the right-of-way of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad and its passenger depot. A one-story frame house stood on the site [deed book 38 - p. 745; and 1908 Sanborn map]. On this lot, Sumrell and McCoy constructed a handsome 30,000-square-foot, heavy timber frame and steel beam, brick building of two stories with a full basement. The configuration of the building followed the trapezoidal shape of the tract of land on which it was built. It was described four years later as " . . . strictly modern throughout and every facility is here in service for the economic and convenient conduct of the business" [Illustrated - p. 4]. Also in 1910, the company incorporated with George W. Sumrell as president and H. H. McCoy as secretary and treasurer. Other shareholders included W. J. Richardson and L. A. Clayton, both of Kinston [Record of Corporations - vol. 1, p. 188; and Illustrated City - p. 4].

By 1914, six additional wholesale grocery businesses had joined the earlier three; the city also supported a wholesale drug company and several major hardware and building supply concerns. T. W. Mewborn had expanded its operations to include a large line in farm supplies and implements. In a promotional brochure published that year, it was stated that, "Kinston, with its varied industries, rich surrounding country and excellent shipping facilities, naturally sustains a number of large and prosperous wholesale houses" [Illustrated - pp. 4, 5, 6, 11, and 16]. Sumrell and McCoy, with its established reputation and its large and modern building, was in the forefront of Kinston's wholesale businesses. The company had also added the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Works to its operations [Illustrated - p. 4].

Two years later, Sumrell and McCoy seems to have become the senior

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wholesale grocery business in Kinston, as neither the Mewborn nor the Parrott wholesale enterprise appears in the 1916-17 Kinston City Directory. Eight wholesale grocers were listed at that time, and it seems likely that Sumrell and McCoy was one of the largest, given the scale of buildings in which the other firms conducted their business [1916-17 City Directory; and 1914 and 1919 Sanborn maps]. Some of the buildings associated with these ventures no longer exist, and others have been extensively altered. One of those which survive is the building erected in the mid 1920s for Jesse Brown's Wholesale Grocery, a contributing building in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District. A major competitor of Sumrell and McCoy was probably Harvey C. Hines Company, which was the local Coca-Cola bottler and also had an ice plant and made ice cream. This company's large Classical Revival building erected in 1914 on the southwest corner of Gordon and Heritage streets is no longer standing [Illustrated City - p. 5; and Kinston City Directories, 1916-17, 1920-21, and 1928].

Tragedy struck Sumrell and McCoy in August 1917 when one of the company's founders, George W. Sumrell, committed suicide ["G. W. Sumrell"]. In April of the following year, the name of the concern was changed to H. H. McCoy Company, but the nature and location of its business remained the same [Record of Corporations - vol. 2, p. 81]. Under H. H. McCoy's management, the company continued to prosper as one of the leading wholesale enterprises in Kinston. McCoy died in 1934; in his will he established a trust for his wife and daughter which would manage his business interests for their benefit. He named Wachovia Bank and Trust as the trustee for his estate and stipulated that his daughter Mary was to receive a third of the estate at her 25th, 30th and 35th birthdays [will book D, p. 469]. McCoy's widow, Susie Taylor McCoy, became president of the company, which continued to operate in the Sumrell and McCoy building until the mid 1950s [1951 and 1953 City Directories].

In 1952, Mary McCoy Bragdon, daughter of H. H. and Susie McCoy, reached the age of 35 and received the final third of her father's estate, including the Sumrell and McCoy Building [deed book 293, p. 388]. By 1957, H. H. McCoy Company had ceased doing business, and the Sumrell and McCoy Building was leased to Kinston Building Supply Company, which continued its occupancy until 1964. In 1965, Midyette Hardware Company moved its operations from the 100 block of North Queen Street to the Sumrell and McCoy Building, where it remained for more than 20 years [City Directories, 1957-1986]. S. T. and Elizabeth S. Midyette, owners of Midyette Hardware, purchased the building in 1969 from Mary McCoy Bragdon [deed book 615, p. 474]. The Community Council

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for the Arts in Kinston has purchased the building and plans renovate it for use as an arts center [Kanter interviews].

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.24

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	6	5	1	4	0
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3	9	0	5	1	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated consists of the building and the lot on which it stands.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The building covers the entire lot with which it has been historically associated. It is bordered on the north by the Right-of-way of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, on the east by North Queen Street, on the south by West Blount Street, and on the west by another, unrelated building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allison H. Black, Architectural Historian
organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants date August 26, 1989
street & number 620 Wills Forest St. telephone 919 828-4616
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Bank Will Carry on Business of H. H. McCoy Under Will." Kinston Daily Free Press, 15 March 1934, p. 1.

"Funeral of Mr. McCoy Yesterday P.M.; A Leader." Kinston Daily Free Press, 12 March 1934, p. 1.

"G. W. Sumrell Found Dead in Corn Patch Eastern Part City." The (Kinston, N. C.) Daily Free Press, 22 August 1917, p. 1.

"H. H. McCoy Dies Today." Kinston Daily Free Press, 10 March 1934, p. 1.

Illustrated City of Kinston. Kinston: n.p., 1914.

Kanter, Sharon. Community Council for the Arts, Kinston, North Carolina. Allison and David Black interview, 7 July 1989 and Allison Black telephone interview, 21 August 1981.

Kinston City Directories. 1902-1986.

Kinston Daily Free Press. 1906 Industrial Issue.

Lenoir County Register of Deeds. Deeds and Records of Corporations.

Lenoir County Clerk of Superior Court. Wills.

Sanborn Map Company. Kinston series, 1908, 1914, 1919, 1925, 1930.

W. PEYTON AVE.

TAX RECORD BLOCK NO. 410

N. HERITAGE ST.

N. QUEEN ST.

132

1

91

147.8

155.3

100

2

180.1

15

3

207

60

236

ALLEY OF RECORD

20

4

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

55.5

84

5

84

104

6

104

7

104

224

8

55.5

54'10"

82'3"

91

17

84.2

Sumrell & McCoy Building

Kinston, NC

Compiled from Lenoir County Tax Maps
Approx. scale 1 inch = 50 feet



10' ALLEY OF RECORD

50

MB-1

70

P-21

100

15

50

100

14

70

100

13

50'8"

12

59'4"

11

82.4

118.2

9

120.8

50.1

1160.1

1553.2

10

86

ATLANTIC AND NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD

W. BLOUNT ST.

A

B

105

