

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Hotel Troy

Troy, Montgomery County, MG0054, Listed 8/23/2006
Nomination by Edward F. Turberg
Photographs by Janet Seapker, April 2005



Facade and side view



Side and rear view

**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 any 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 Hotel Troy
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner North Main and Smitherman Streets not for publication N/A
city or town Troy vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Montgomery code 123 zip code 27371

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. Classification

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box) | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) |
|--|---|---|

Hotel Troy
Name of Property

Montgomery County, NC
County and State

private building(s)
 public-local district
 public-State site
 public-Federal structure
 object

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: HEALTH CARE Sub: clinic
HEALTH CARE medical business/office
DOMESTIC hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE specialty stores

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: restaurant, specialty store
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation **BRICK**
roof **OTHER: composition**
walls **BRICK**
other **STONE/Limestone**
CERAMIC TILE

Narrative Description

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

Hotel Troy
Name of Property

Montgomery County, 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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Medicine

Period of Significance

1908-1956

Significant Dates

1908, 1909, 1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Hotel Troy
Name of Property

Montgomery County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>17 600340</u> | <u>3913600</u> |

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward F. Turberg

organization Architectural Historian

date April 25, 2006

street & number 307 North 15th Street

telephone 910-762-6301

city or town Wilmington

state North Carolina

zip code 28401

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name James H. and Claudia Blair Bulthuis

street & number 105 Blair Street

telephone 910-572-2100

city or town Troy

state North Carolina

zip code 27371

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hotel Troy
Montgomery County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The Hotel Troy building is situated at the northwest intersection of North Main and Smitherman Streets in Troy, North Carolina, anchoring a compact business district composed of single- and multiple-story stores, banks and office buildings dating from the early- to mid-twentieth century. The three-story brick building, rising above a full basement on a sloping site, is restrained in its architectural detail incorporating Classical Revival style features of smooth masonry wall surfaces, brick paneled areas, expansive storefronts, single and paired sash windows with rusticated stone sills and lintels, and molded cornices with urn motifs. The principal, east, façade is angled outward to follow the curve of North Main Street creating a forceful projection of the building's mass. Curvilinear wrought iron balconies originally projected from beneath some second story windows in the south elevation.

The exterior of the Hotel Troy is faced with smooth pressed brick laid in running bond courses between narrow, flush mortar joints. Large brick panels decorate the southeast corner wall at the first level where display cases occupy the interior of the store. The west (rear) and north elevations consist of five-to-one-bond brickwork. The building is seven bays wide along North Main Street and eight bays deep along Smitherman Street. Paired and single windows contain one-over-one wooden sash with stone sills and lintels. All the windows in the six-bay west and four-bay north walls were later bricked in, but the stonework remains intact.

The foot of the hill on the west side of the property affords storage spaces and shops in the full basement with three store units lighted by a storefront with a recessed entrance and display windows and two double-leaf glazed doors along the south elevation. On the south elevation access to North Main Street is by a flight of concrete steps; one riser contains the incised legend: TROY DRUG STORE.

Three broad storefronts opening onto North Main Street feature cast iron pilasters, columns with foliated capitals and cornices stamped with the manufacturer's name, "Geo. L. Mesker & Co. Iron Work Evanston, Ind." The aprons beneath the windows have beaded boards and pressed metal inserts, the transoms contain patterned glass, and the double-leaf glazed doors are an inviting draw into the interior of the shops. The sidewalk along Main Street contains a series of square, purple glass blocks providing light into the front basement area. The Classical Revival style is reflected in the arched hotel lobby entrance near the center of the front façade, surrounded by radiating, cream-colored brick voussoirs that give the entrance an imposing dignity. The second and third stories of the front façade are punctuated by seven bays of single and paired sash windows with rusticated stone sills and lintels. The upper stories of the south elevation contain eight bays of similar fenestration. A parapet of projecting, molded metal cornices containing dentil friezes and decorative urns define the corners and interstices of the walls and add a distinctly classical silhouette to the roof line.

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The Hotel Troy building was originally erected for multi-purpose use. Beginning in 1908, a one-story, one storefront-wide drug store and office faced North Main Street, a grocery and market occupied the basement, and a three-story furniture store opened at the foot of Smitherman Street across from the Troy railroad and freight station which had recently been completed. In 1909, the building was enlarged by constructing two additional stories above the drug store and office, adding another story to the furniture store, and erecting a three-story structure attached to the north side of the North Main Street section. The drug store remained at its original corner location, the basement continued as retail shops, and the remainder of the structure became Thompson's Sanitorium. A cornerstone marked "1909" is set into the lower northeast corner of the extended front façade.

The interior of the Hotel Troy has three store units in the basement; two stores, a lobby and a stair hall at the first level; and bedrooms, many with ensuite baths in the upper stories. The floor in the lobby and stairway feature small multicolored tiles and borders; those in the flanking stores feature large, red and white hexagonal ceramic tiles. The lobby walls are faced with rectangular white tile wainscoting dating to the period when a sanitorium occupied the building. The ceilings in the stores and lobby have pressed metal panels of a floral pattern and acanthus-leaf cornices. The stair from the basement to the first floor is enclosed by a wainscot covered with pressed metal. A handsome staircase with a turned balustrade and paneled newel rises from the first to the second floors, and an elevator occupies the northwest corner of the lobby. Doors and windows feature symmetrical moldings and concentric-circle corner blocks. The third level contains a former operating room of the hospital and retains its rectangular skylight.

Integrity Statement

The Hotel Troy retains its historic exterior and interior character and has continued to be used for stores, offices and apartments until recent years. Minor changes to the exterior of the structure were the bricking-up of windows in the secondary rear and north walls, and the removal of the balconies along the south elevation, but these have been stored inside the building. In 1925, rooms in the upper stories were modified for use from medial clinics and offices to hotel rooms and baths, yet preserve their original door and window casings and moldings. The tiled walls in the lobby and the skylight in the former operating room remain as evidence of the sanitorium occupancy. The multi-colored tile floors and pressed metal ceilings in the flanking stores are rare surviving examples in the city of decorative treatments which were widespread in popularity across the country during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-centuries. The Mesker cast iron storefronts are another important feature of the building, linking it with a nationally significant foundry that produced a wealth of prefabricated materials that were sold through trade catalogues. In Troy, the closeness of the

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freight depot to the building site may have been an important factor in the selection of the storefronts, as well as the fact that the Mesker Company sold an estimated eight thousand units in the decade between 1890 and 1910 (Jackson, 7).

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Hotel Troy building is significant as a prominent and distinguished feature of the town and county's architectural heritage, exhibiting national stylistic trends of Classical Revival in a composition that dominates the hilltop business district along North Main Street. It is the tallest structure in Troy and is equaled in distinction only by the Neoclassical Revival-style Montgomery County Courthouse (NR, 1979) three blocks south. In addition, it is the only historic hotel structure still standing in Montgomery County. The building is also significant for its commercial history, housing a drug store, grocery and furniture business in 1908, expanded in 1909 to contain not only the former tenants, but also a bank, clothing stores, barber shop, rental offices and a medical clinic or sanatorium. In the 1920s the building continued to house retail, office and specialty stores, however, the sanatorium space was adapted for use as a hotel providing first-class accommodations for businessmen and other travelers stopping over in the county town. Its prominent location on a corner lot, bordered by the railroad on the west and Main Street on the east, made it a centerpiece of Troy's commercial prosperity and its architectural design enhanced the character of the commercial district. From 1925 through 1956, the building continued to be used for retail and office uses, but by the 1950s the hotel became a rooming house and finally closed in 1970. Because of its local importance in the development of commerce and the practice of medicine extending from the early- to mid-twentieth century, the Hotel Troy qualifies under Criterion A. Because of its distinctive Classical Revival architectural design, the building additionally qualifies under Criterion C.

Architectural Context

The Hotel Troy is an attractive Classical Revival style building that displays features of a popular, national architectural fashion of the early twentieth century modified to the scale and materials available in a small Piedmont, North Carolina town. Features of the style include smooth masonry courses, brick panels, restrained classical ornamentation, simple molded cornices, large rectangular windows arranged singly and in groups, and large areas of glass in shop fronts. The principal façade features cast iron pilasters marked "Geo. L. Mesker & Co. Iron Work Evanston, Ind." All these features characterize the exterior of the structure, while the interior contains patterned tile floors, tile wainscoting and pressed metal ceilings. The building's Classical Revival style is comparable to only two other buildings in Troy: the Montgomery County Courthouse (NR, 1979), at South Main and Chestnut streets, designed by Wilson architects Benton & Benton and built in 1921; and First Bank, at 341 North Main Street, across Smitherman Street from the Hotel Troy, designed c. 1910 and originally containing the

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post office and a bank. The former structure, of beige brick and stone, features a monumental Doric portico, paired windows and a pedimented entrance. The latter building is faced with yellow brick veneer and rusticated stone corners and originally terminated in a masonry modillion cornice crowned by a balustrade.

Through time, the Hotel Troy has preserved evidence of the craftsmanship of its architectural detail, it exemplifies the development of Classical Revival style trends of the early- to mid-twentieth centuries within the context of a single structure, and it stands as a dominant presence in the commercial district of the city.

The interior of the building has three store units in the basement; two stores, a lobby and a stair hall at the first level; and bedrooms and ensuite bedrooms at the second and third levels. A handsome staircase rises from the basement to the first, second and third floors, and an elevator is located at the west end of the stair hall. Doors and windows feature symmetrical moldings and concentric-circle corner blocks. The ceilings and cornices in the stores and the lobby have pressed metal panels of a floral pattern and acanthus leaf cornices. The third story contains the former operating room of the sanatorium and retains its original skylight.

The Hotel Troy was built in 1908 in a location close by the Troy railroad and freight depot three blocks north of Courthouse Square. Originally comprising two separate structures, in 1909 the building was enlarged to its current appearance for Dr. Alexander F. Thompson (1871-1936), a local physician who provided medical services to residents of the county seat and neighboring communities. Dr. Thompson operated the sanatorium until the beginning of World War I when he entered the U. S. Army Medical Corps. Upon discharge, he returned to Troy and opened a medical center in the North Main Street building. By 1925, the Troy Drug Company, Palace Barber Shop and Troy Bank and Trust Company occupied the North Main Street storefronts, while the American Café was in the basement along Smitherman Street. That same year the Allen Hotel nearby was destroyed by fire removing much-needed accommodations for sundry salesmen, professional businessmen, court-related individuals and families who were visiting the area during the post-World War I boom. Dr. Thompson decided to renovate his sanatorium as a new hotel with modern accommodations and amenities in a fireproof structure that was a centerpiece of the city. On February 4, 1925, the Montgomery County *Herald* reported that new steel beams were being installed in the Smitherman Street section of the building, the barber shop was moved to the basement next to the café, and its former space became the hotel lobby. The July 23, 1925 issue of the Rockingham *Post-Dispatch* reported that Dr. Thompson was remodeling his building at Troy into a thirty room hotel. This was followed, on September 9th, by the statement that the new Hotel Troy would be opened on the 15th of the month, leased by W. H. Britt and managed by W. H. Malone. Accommodations included twenty-seven bedrooms, twenty-five baths, and an elevator. On the day of the opening, the Rockingham *Post-Dispatch* acclaimed the newly refurbished place as “the best equipped hotel in any town its size in the state.”

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The Hotel Troy operated until about 1970. It was more of a boarding house at the end. The hotel was never really altered for apartments. There is no evidence that there ever were full kitchens.

Historical Background

The Hotel Troy is directly linked to the development of commerce and medicine in Troy and Montgomery County, motivated by the growth of the railroad, the establishment of medical practices in a centralized location, and the influx of commerce into the region. In 1893, the Durham and Charlotte Railroad began construction of a line into the Piedmont, reaching Troy by the first year of the new century. There it met another system, the Sanford and Troy Railroad. In 1897, the Aberdeen and Asheboro Railroad built a spur line through Troy to Mt. Gilead and obtained the contract to carry the mail by rail instead of by road. By 1901, many of the lines were acquired or leased to form the Southern Railway System. The year 1911 saw the Norfolk and Southern Railway acquiring both the Durham and Charlotte and the Sanford and Troy railroads, allowing the parent company to complete the link between their Raleigh to Charlotte route (Norfolk Southern History).

Dr. Thompson's medical office at the northwest corner of North Main and Smitherman Streets was at top of the hill above the railroad depot. The site was convenient not only because of its prominent position in the center of a growing commercial district easily accessible for travelers, but also because its proximity to the rail freight traffic made it convenient to purchase timber building materials from mills in Mt. Gilead, bricks from Norwood across the Pee Dee River from Mt. Gilead, and ironwork from as far away as the Midwest. In fact, the storefronts on Dr. Thompson's building carry the stamp of G. L. Mesker, Evansville, Indiana, a nationally known supplier of commercial designs that became synonymous wherever up-to-date businesses were building or remodeling in the latest fashion. The 650-mile journey from the Mesker factory followed rail routes that ran from Evansville, Indiana, to Lexington, Kentucky, to Knoxville, Tennessee, and then to Asheville, Salisbury, and Norwood, North Carolina. A spur line carried the materials from Norwood to Troy, a distance of twenty miles (Carriker, 216).

In the field of medicine, Montgomery County has had the fortune of producing more than thirty doctors who were born or practiced in the area, notably Dr. Jiles Christian (1844-1887), Mt. Gilead's first physician; Dr. Benjamin Brookshire, a country doctor whose intact medical office is preserved on the grounds of the Mt. Gilead Museum; Dr. Charles B. Ingram (1858-1942), whose horses, Mach and Daisy, drew his carriage through storms, cold, and heat so he could administer to suffering patients of the area; and Dr. Presley Robinson Rankin (1885-1958), for forty years a local practitioner in Mt. Gilead (Lassiter). Alexander Frank Thompson (1871-1936) was born in Wadeville, between Mt. Gilead and Troy. He received his early

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education in Montgomery County schools, attended Trinity College (now Duke University) in Durham, NC, in 1891-1892, and the Medical Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in 1893-1894. After teaching school to earn tuition for further studies, he entered the Medical College of Indiana, in Indianapolis, where he received his medical degree, in 1895. That same year he married Laura Burch (1873-1909) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The couple moved to Troy in 1896 where he opened a practice on North Main Street and purchased the Mills House at 303 South Main Street. In 1908, he erected a brick building at the northwest corner of North Main and Smitherman streets, expanding it the following year to a four-story structure. This was the first medical clinic in Montgomery County and became widely known as "Dr. Thompson's Sanatorium." During World War I, Dr. Thompson was commissioned First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps and served at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia. At the conclusion of the war he returned to Troy and converted the private sanatorium to a Doctor's Office Center where other doctors opened practices. He served as president of the Montgomery County Medical Society, the American Medical Society, became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Montgomery County Schools, and was active in the local Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias, Junior Order of American Mechanics, and the Lions Club. In his early practice, Dr. Thompson traveled by horse and buggy into remote areas of the county, especially to the gold mining settlements in the Uwharrie Mountains north of Troy, but with the advent of the automobile in about 1906, he purchased the first and second motor vehicles seen in Troy. In 1936, after forty-one years of family medical practice, Dr. Thompson, 65, died and was succeeded in his profession by a son, A. Frank Thompson, Jr. (Heritage, Item 826).

The surge of rail and road transportation from the post-Civil War era to the early twentieth century witnessed the construction of railway depots, automobile sales and service shops, and transient accommodations for a growing number of travelers who came to the area to conduct business in building materials, legal matters and the attraction of the Uwharrie Mountains. Many communities offered bed and board in private homes which often grew into larger boarding houses and hotels. M. A. Monroe operated a hotel in 1867, followed by J. A. Smitherman's and Thomas E. Halton's hotels on Main Street in 1869 (Branson, 1867-1868). In 1883, there were two boarding houses, Mrs. M. A. Jordan's and A. R. Morris's, while the National Hotel was managed by W. B. Pemberton (Branson, 1883). In 1890, accommodations were available at George Washington Allen's Allen House and C. A. Morris's boarding house (Branson, 1890). Morris was later listed as manager of the Troy Hotel (Branson, 1896).

By the 1920s, with both rail and motor vehicle traffic on the rise, Troy and other communities in the Piedmont addressed the task of increasing trackage, smoothing roadbeds, and paving streets. In Troy, contracts were signed with W. F. Bowie of Augusta, Georgia, to pave the streets in town with asphaltic concrete and to make them fifty-feet in width (*Post-Dispatch*, 1923). Suddenly, large cities and small towns felt the pressure to provide travelers' services to an increasing mobile population. In 1924, city and private funds built new hotels to accommodate visitors and to erect progressive symbols of each cities' prosperity and self-esteem. Fanning

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around Troy were several centers that boasted new or enlarged accommodations. Albemarle, twenty-one miles west, built a four-story brick hotel incorporating five retail stores. Asheboro, twenty-four miles north, had a forty-room inn with double-story porches and projecting wings; Burlington, further north, proposed construction of a \$30,000, six-story hotel financed by citizens of the community; Concord, west of Albemarle, already offered a large commercial hotel, but planned on adding a new eight-story fireproof building to supply the need for more rooms. In Greensboro, the O. Henry Hotel stood in the center of the city, but two additional facilities were on the drawing boards. This swell in commercial construction activity found its way into Montgomery's county seat, and in 1925 Dr. Thompson decided to join the movement and convert his clinic into a hostelry. The decision was probably generated by the accessibility of other modern medical services available at Dr. Rankin's clinic in Mt. Gilead, in two hospitals each in Durham and Hamlet, and in Wadesboro and Lumberton (Drummond, 26 et seq.).

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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Hotel Troy
Montgomery County, North Carolina

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, tax parcel numbers 0973 and 0977 on the Montgomery County Land Records Map, is located at the northwest corner of North Main and Smitherman Streets. The property measures 100 feet north-south along North Main Street, and eighty-nine feet east-west along Smitherman Street. The boundary is shown by a heavy black line drawn on the accompanying land records map reduced to a scale of 1.5" = 200.'

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with the Hotel Troy building.
