

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 (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1000 West Morehead Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Charlotte N/A  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28208

### 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.)

Jesse J. Cross SHPD 11/29/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY  
OTHER:utilitarian  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	concrete
walls	brick
	concrete
roof	tar
other	metal

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1927-1942

Significant Dates

1927

1942

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: NC Div. Archives and Hist., Survey and Planni

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid 1: Zone 17, Easting 5 12 8 00, Northing 38 98 1 60

UTM grid 3: Zone, Easting, Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard L. Mattson, Frances P. Alexander
organization Mattson, Alexander and Associates date April 20, 2000
street & number 2228 Winter Street telephone 704-376-0985
city or town Charlotte state NC zip code 28205

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Lincoln-Harris (Jubal Early, Vice President)
street & number 4201 Congress Street, Suite 175 telephone 704-556-1717
city or town Charlotte state NC zip code 28209

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 time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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### **(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building Mecklenburg County, NC**

#### **Narrative Description**

Constructed in 1927, the (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building is located at 1000 West Morehead Street, southwest of downtown Charlotte. Facing the street, the building occupies a 1.2-acre lot that was laid out adjacent to both West Morehead and the Piedmont and Northern (P & N) Railway, which runs behind the property. McNinch Street, a dead-end street, runs along the east side of the building and terminates at the P & N tracks. Because of the easy access to downtown Charlotte and good railway connections, West Morehead Street developed into a thriving warehousing and industrial corridor between the 1920s and 1950s, and warehouses and factories from this period still line West Morehead and side streets. Although some of the buildings in the vicinity of the Union Storage and Warehouse property now stand vacant, many are currently being converted to office and retail uses. Among these are the Coca Cola Bottling Plant (1401 West Morehead), the Carolina Transfer and Storage Company Building (1230 West Morehead), the Carolina School Supply Building (1023 West Morehead), and the Crane Building (1307 West Morehead). The area's rejuvenation has been sparked in part by the construction of nearby Ericsson Stadium. This massive, modern sports arena, erected for the city's professional football franchise in 1996, stands along West Morehead Street several blocks east of the (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building.

Sited on a tract of land that slopes sharply downward from West Morehead Street, the two-story Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building rests on a raised concrete basement clearly visible along the entire length of the west elevation. Consistent with much factory design of the early twentieth century, the building has a largely utilitarian appearance expressed in its simple red-brick veneer, steel-sash windows, large freight doors, flat roof, and long, rectangular plan. Exterior ornamentation is concentrated on the front elevation, which features a parapet façade, tall, steel-sash windows divided by metal spandrels, and the main entrance at the southeast corner. The prominent windows along this façade were designed to accommodate a series of offices on the first floor and the above mezzanine. The main entry features concrete trim cast in a classically inspired motif of sheathed papyrus leaves and a cast-concrete pediment with the letter "S" (presumably for the company owner and president, Cyril G. Smith) inscribed in the center medallion. A simpler entry with a matching glazed, steel-frame door is sited at the southwest side of the front façade. Cast-concrete swags and wreaths ornament the pedimented east and west corner bays of the parapet.

The (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building has cast-in-place, reinforced concrete construction, and the concrete flooring and piers, plus the brick curtain walls, made the building largely fireproof. Constructed for warehouse use, the

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### **(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building Mecklenburg County, NC**

windows are confined primarily to the office areas and the top portions of the first and second floors. The first floor of the east elevation has sizable loading bays, including several with original overhead wooden doors. The original railroad loading dock with a metal roof extends from the rear elevation oriented to a P & N spur line. This dock has been enlarged in recent decades. A modern, one-story, concrete-block appendage is located at the east side of the dock, while the concrete boiler room extends from the west side at the basement level.

The substantially intact interior of the warehouse is comprised primarily of open storage spaces. The most evident alteration is a later wooden partition wall that divides the main storage area on the first floor into two sizable rooms. In keeping with the fireproof design, the interior of the building is constructed almost exclusively of concrete, brick, and steel. The stairwell in the northeast corner is a solid unit of reinforced concrete with steel railings and heavy, steel fire doors. Each of the three floors (including the basement) consists of large warehousing space with cast-in-place, concrete ceilings and floors and a series of octagonal mushroom columns, with flared capitals that press against square, concrete slabs.

The main floor of the building is distinguished by a series of office rooms and a corner foyer along the main elevation facing West Morehead Street. The entrance foyer at the southeast corner features a well-preserved terrazzo-tile finish and a concrete staircase ascending to a mezzanine. The small, wooden alcove in the foyer is a later addition. The adjacent first-floor offices have original plaster walls and wooden, paneled doors with glazed upper sections and molded, steel surrounds.

The mezzanine also consists of a series of offices with plaster walls and paneled doors. The original mezzanine section, located directly above the main-floor offices, has concrete flooring and octagonal mushroom columns consistent with the overall construction of the warehouse. The mezzanine also has a concrete-block interior wall with two-over-two and later, single-pane, fixed-sash windows overlooking the first floor of the warehouse, and two steel stairways that descend onto the storage room floor. The west side of the mezzanine, which extends to create a short ell along the west elevation of the building, is a later addition. This projection was built to accommodate bathrooms and additional storage space, and is distinguished from the original mezzanine area by its steel flooring and supports.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

**Statement of Significance**

Constructed in 1927, the (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building is recommended for the National Register under Criterion A for commerce and under Criterion C for architecture and engineering. Under Criterion A, the two-story, masonry building exemplifies the commercial storage warehouses built in Charlotte during the early twentieth century when the city emerged as a regional industrial, distribution, and commercial center. The growing commercial and manufacturing base of the city required a number of warehousing and storage facilities sited with both rail and highway access and proximity to the center city. The Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building was one of the earliest warehouses constructed along the emerging West Morehead Street industrial corridor, which linked the center city to the newly built state highway (Wilkinson Boulevard) extending westward through the heart of region's textile belt. Moreover, the adjacent Piedmont and Northern Railway allowed for railroad service to the booming mill towns, including the textile manufacturing center of Gastonia, west of Charlotte.

The (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building is also eligible under Criterion C for architecture and engineering. In its use of reinforced concrete construction, the building exemplifies the innovations in structural engineering and factory and warehouse design that transformed industrial construction during the first decades of the twentieth century. The building employed two of the principal refinements or innovations in reinforced concrete framing, the mushroom column and the drop slab system. The mushroom column, named for its flared capital, eliminated the need for overhead beams. The drop slab system introduced a small, square, concrete pad, or drop slab, which was placed between the flared capital and the underside of the concrete floor. The added, concentrated support of the drop slab enabled concrete flooring in huge warehouses to absorb particularly heavy loads without the need for space-consuming girders or additional vertical columns. As clearly reflected in the (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building, with its drop-slab system of octagonal, concrete mushroom columns and concrete slabs, these structural and fireproofing innovations in factory and warehouse design were quickly adopted and disseminated nationwide by the 1920s.

The former warehouse along West Morehead Street has undergone few alterations and survives as one of the most intact early-twentieth-century warehouses remaining in Charlotte. The period of significance begins in 1927, the building's date of construction, and ends in 1942, when the warehouse was purchased by the Ford Motor Company and converted to an auto repair establishment.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

**Historical Background and Commerce Context**

Located within the industrial corridor of West Morehead Street along the Piedmont and Northern Railway, the well-preserved (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building stands as a tangible reminder of the diverse warehousing, commercial, and industrial operations which made Charlotte a flourishing New South city by the early twentieth century. With the end of the Civil War, and the subsequent reconstruction and expansion of the Piedmont's rail network, leaders throughout the region envisioned a new order based on industrialization, specifically cotton production, and urban growth to replace the agrarian society of the past. These proponents of the New South campaigned vigorously for the construction of cotton mills, which by World War I numbered over 300 within a 100-mile radius of Charlotte (Woodward 1951: 31; Lefler and Newsome 1954: 474-489). Charlotte, and Mecklenburg County, became the hub of the Southern textile manufacturing industry, and by the 1920s the Piedmont of North and South Carolina had surpassed New England as the leading textile producer in the world (Mitchell and Mitchell 1930; *Charlotte Observer*, 28 October 1928). Textiles, in turn, attracted other industries to Charlotte. By the 1920s, the city could boast that its 141 factories manufactured eighty-one different products (Hanchett 1993: 202). With industrialization, the population of Charlotte soared from just 7,000 in 1880, to over 82,000 in 1929, becoming the largest city in the two Carolinas (Sixteenth Census 1940).

Although cotton and textile production formed the economic mainstay of Charlotte, other industries were also drawn to the city's good rail system, expanding work force, and plentiful and inexpensive electric power. Machine shops, pump and elevator manufacturers, foundries, engineering firms, mattress factories, and cotton oil processors were just some of the industries which followed in the wake of the textile boom. Tobacco magnate, James Buchanan Duke, and his Southern Power Company (later Duke Power Company) expanded aggressively in the region, supplying both industrial and residential clients with inexpensive electricity. With a robust industrial economy and urban prosperity came a strong commercial and financial base which served large areas of the industrialized Piedmont as well as local consumers. As the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce boasted in a 1928 advertisement, Charlotte had emerged as a regional commercial center with a 150-mile trading radius and more than 4,500,000 consumers (*Charlotte City Directory* 1928).

Because of its inland location, the economic success of Charlotte was dependent upon good rail transportation. Sustaining little damage during the Civil War, the city quickly recovered and even expanded its rail network. By 1875, six railroads were routed through the city, giving Charlotte more rail connections than any other city

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### **(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building Mecklenburg County, NC**

between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta (Hanchett 1993: 72). Charlotte benefited from continued rail expansion and consolidation throughout the late nineteenth century, which created both the powerful Southern Railway system, with its connections to New Orleans and Baltimore, and the smaller, but strategic, Piedmont and Northern (P & N) Railway. An interurban line linking Charlotte to scores of mill towns to the west, the P & N served both passengers and freight on its 150-mile route. At its height of operation in the 1920s, the line generated so much traffic that its motto, "A Mill to the Mile", was accurate for much of its length (Fetters and Swanson 1974: 12; Hanchett 1993: 74; Glass 1992: 57-58).

With the increase in manufacturing and trade, auxiliary operations quickly followed to serve these expanding sectors as well as a growing population and an increasingly specialized urban economy. Principal among these secondary operations were the large warehouse and storage companies that provided varying degrees of service to a diverse, urban clientele. As a sign of the growing urban status of Charlotte, by the late 1920s, the city supported eight storage warehouses and eleven transfer and moving companies (*Charlotte City Directory* 1928). Some storage companies offered only warehousing with no moving or transfer services while transfer companies were often simply shipping companies. Still other warehousing operations, like cold storage facilities for perishable goods, were erected to serve specialized needs.

The Union Storage and Warehouse Company offered both general storage and transfer and hauling services; providing moving and storage for residential clients, merchandise storage for stores and commercial ventures, and general warehousing facilities for manufacturers. In 1927, when it began operations on West Morehead Street, the business was an agent for the Aero-Mayflower Transit Company, while also leasing out offices to manufacturers' agents for such products as industrial lubricants, electrical appliances, and cotton waste. During its fifteen years at this location, the company also rented office and storage space to assorted food brokers, the Philco Radio Corporation, a refrigerator distributing company, and chemical companies (*Charlotte City Directory* 1928, 1930, 1936, 1940).

The company began in 1918 as the Union Storage Company, with Charlottean, Cyril G. Smith, as the owner, president, and manager. The city directory in that year listed the firm's address as 205 West First Street, several blocks north of West Morehead Street. The 1921 directory listed West First Street as the company's office address and West Palmer Street (several blocks south of West Morehead) as the location of the warehouse (now gone) (*Charlotte City Directory* 1921, 1927).

The present Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building was constructed at 1000 West Morehead Street in 1927, and first appears at that address in the 1927 *Charlotte City Directory*. The 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Charlotte depicts

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

the two-story, brick warehouse and denotes its 1927 date of construction. The West Morehead Street location was a strategic one for the newly built Union Storage and Warehouse facility. In 1927, West Morehead Street, formerly a minor roadway at the outskirts of the center city, was extended westward across Irwin Creek to connect downtown with Wilkinson Boulevard. Completed in 1927, Wilkinson was the state's first four-lane highway, and linked Charlotte to the booming textile center of Gastonia and surrounding mill towns west of the city. West Morehead Street also ran parallel to the P & N Railway, which Wilkinson Boulevard followed westward into Gaston County. Benefiting from both rail and highway connections and proximity to the Piedmont and Northern's Mint Street yards and freight station, the West Morehead Street corridor became prime industrial real estate. By the end of the 1920s, a number of warehousing, light industrial, and small commercial enterprises had been built along the new route (Sanborn Map Company 1929; Hanchett 1993: 16; Fetters and Swanson 1974: 69).

In 1920, there had been only one industrial operation, a foundry, located along West Morehead, but with its new connections, sales and construction both along the new thoroughfare were brisk between 1927 and 1930. The four-story Carolina Transfer and Storage Company Building was completed several blocks west of the Union Storage and Warehouse facility in 1927. The following year, the Carolina School Supply Building opened across the street, and the National Crane Corporation (distributors of plumbing supplies) commissioned a two-story warehouse to the west. By the end of the decade, West Morehead Street also included multiple-story buildings for the Charlotte Coca-Cola Bottling Plant (N. R. 1997) and the Grinnell Company, manufacturers of fire extinguishers for the textile industry (Sanborn Map Company 1929; *Charlotte City Directory* 1920, 1929).

West Morehead continued to attract industrial and warehousing facilities until the 1950s and early 1960s, but the construction of Interstate Highway 85 to the north and east reoriented much of the industrial geography of the city after the early 1960s. Some of the original occupants along the corridor, like the Carolina Transfer and Storage and the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, continued to operate in their West Morehead locations until the 1980s and early 1990s, but other properties became vacant or underused.

The Union Storage and Warehouse operated at 1000 West Morehead Street until 1942, when (for reasons unknown) it relocated to facilities (now gone) on the 200 and 300 blocks of West First Street. In that year, Ford Motor Company acquired the building for use as an automobile repair establishment, and remained there until the mid-1950s, when Southern Appliances, Inc., regional distributors of household appliances, purchased the building. In the late 1970s, the Karl Boxer Textile Machinery Company acquired the property. Distributors of knitting machines and related supplies and

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## **(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building Mecklenburg County, NC**

equipment for the textile industry, the Boxer Company used the spacious building for storing and distributing its inventory until 1999, when the current owners purchased the property. Plans are now in progress to rehabilitate the building for office use. The rehabilitation reflects a renewed interest in this area because of the easy access provided by Interstate Highway 77 (with an interchange several blocks west of the Union Storage and Warehouse) and because of increased commercial and residential development in downtown Charlotte. In particular, the 1996 construction of Ericsson Stadium along West Morehead Street for the city's professional football teams has sparked the renovation and conversion of a host of industrial buildings along the street.

### **Architecture and Engineering Contexts**

The (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building is also eligible under Criterion C for architecture and engineering. The two-story masonry building with reinforced concrete construction exemplifies the innovations in structural engineering and factory design which transformed industrial construction during the first decades of the twentieth century. Technological advances, particularly in the reinforcing systems used in concrete construction, made factories and warehouses largely fireproof, as well as offering numerous structural advantages over either heavy timber mill construction or steel framing. Although unreinforced concrete had long been known for its great compressive strength, and had been used for simple vertical piers, in its reinforced state, the material could withstand tensile stresses as well, making reinforced concrete feasible for horizontal members such as foundations, floor slabs, and girders. Of particular importance in factory and warehouse design, its great strength reduced the number of vertical members needed for structural support, and even multiple story factories could be built with open interiors unbroken by numerous piers, and with flexible plans, which greatly increased the storage capacity of warehouses (Alexander 1991: 108-109).

By the 1920s, tall lofts had begun falling out of favor for manufacturing purposes as sprawling, one story factory complexes better accommodated the new straight-line production methods with their emphasis on efficiency and rationalization of layout. However, multiple story construction remained both highly efficient and economical for warehouse design. The strength of the reinforced concrete framing permitted even the upper stories to hold heavy loads, while making the interior plan versatile. In addition, the vertical loft design made economical and profitable use of expensive rail frontage property, which the contemporary sprawling one-story, multiple-building industrial properties did not.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

The Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building also employed what is regarded as one of the principal refinements or innovations in reinforced concrete construction, the mushroom column. Developed in 1907 and 1908 by C.A.P. Turner, a Minneapolis engineer, the mushroom column, named for its flared capital, resulted from Turner's experiments in column and flat-slab framing. Turner devised a concrete reinforcing system, using the mushroom column, which eliminated the need for girders, and his 1908 patent was the first sophisticated reinforcing technique for an all-concrete, girderless construction. In contrast to simple slab and beam construction, the mushroom column formed a rigid, continuous unit with the floor slab, and the flare of the mushroom cap spread the load across a larger area and eliminated the need for girders and beams, resulting in more economical construction and an increase in interior space (Condit 1968: 243; Nichols 1923: 99-104).

The Turner slab and mushroom column system quickly became the standard for concrete construction although experimentation in concrete construction continued, and other engineers developed variations on the Turner system. One refinement, known as the drop slab system, is demonstrated in the design of Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building. Developed in 1911 by Chicago engineers, Condron and Sinks, for a Sears and Roebuck Company warehouse, the drop slab system gave the mushroom column a conical flare and introduced a small, square, concrete pad, or drop slab, which was placed between the flared capital and the underside of the floor slab. The added, concentrated support enabled the flat slab to absorb the particularly heavy floor loads found in warehouses (Condit 1973: 168). As reflected in the design of the Union Storage and Warehouse facility, these structural and fireproofing innovations in factory and warehouse design were quickly adopted and disseminated nation-wide by the 1920s.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
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**Bibliographic References**

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- Charlotte Building Permits. On file in the Carolina Room, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library.
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. "Charlotte: A Center of the South's New Industrial Empire." Informational Pamphlet, 1928. On file in the Carolina Room, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library.
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. *Charlotte Transportation Directory*. 1976-1977. On file in the Carolina Room, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library.
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. *Charlotte Transportation Facilities*. Informational Pamphlet, n.d. On file in the Carolina Room, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library.
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- Fetters, Thomas T. and Peter W. Swanson, Jr. *Piedmont and Northern: The Great Electric System of the South*. San Marino, California: Golden West Books, 1974.
- Glass, Brent D. *The Textile Industry in North Carolina, A History*. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992.
- Hanchett, Thomas W. *Sorting Out the New South City: Charlotte and Its Neighborhoods*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina, 1993.
- Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. *(Former) Charlotte Coca-Cola Bottling Company Building*. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 1997.
- Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. *(Former) Parks-Cramer Company Complex*. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. 16 September 1993.

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Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc. *(Former) Thrift Mill*. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. 10 March 1994.

*Miller's Official Charlotte, North Carolina City Directory*. Asheville, North Carolina: E.H. Miller, 1921, 1927, 1928, 1935, 1940, 1950, and 1960.

Nichols, John R. "Choice of Type of Construction," *Architectural Forum* (September 1923): 99-104.

Sanborn Map Company. *Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina*. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1929.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Population*, vol. 1.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property conforms to the current tax parcel (No. 07324209), Mecklenburg County Tax Office.

**Boundary Justification**

The property being nominated consists of the original 1.2-acre parcel on which the Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building was constructed and which conforms to the current tax parcel.

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**(Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Mecklenburg County, NC**

The following information pertains to each of the photographs:

Name of Property: (Former) Union Storage and Warehouse Company Building  
Location: Charlotte, North Carolina  
County: Mecklenburg  
Name of Photographer: Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.  
Location of Negatives: Survey and Planning Branch  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
109 E. Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807

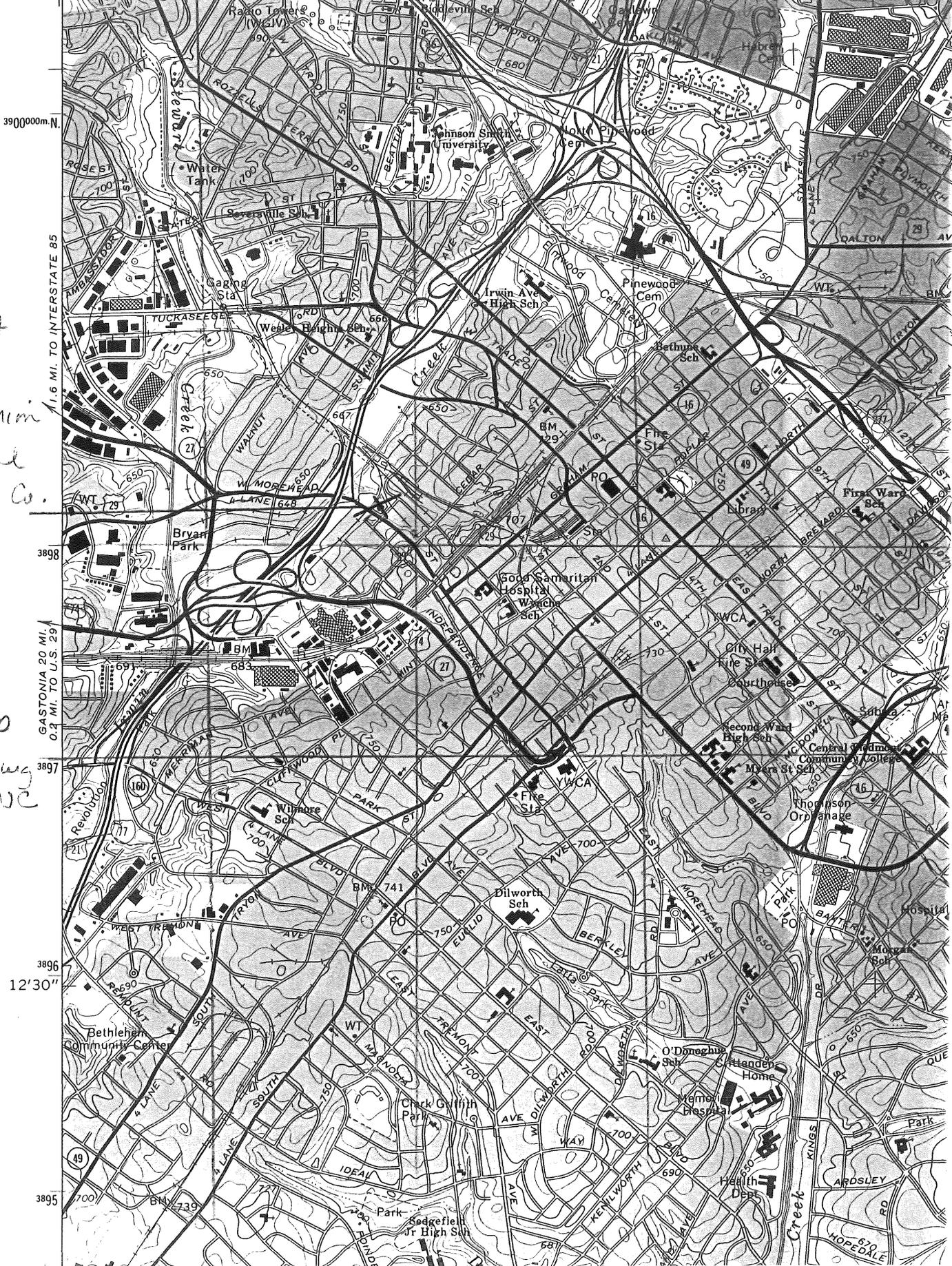
Date of Photographs: January 2000

1. Front (South) and East Elevations, View Looking Northwest
2. Main Entry, Front (South) Elevation
3. East Elevation, View Looking Northwest
4. West Elevation, View Looking East
5. Interior, Entry Vestibule
6. Interior, First Floor Storage Room, Showing Mushroom Columns
7. Interior, Mezzanine Offices
8. Interior, Second Floor Storage Room

4854 IV SW  
(MTR ISLAND LAKE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

80°52'30" 35°15' HOMESTEAD 3.4 MI. 513000m.E. 514 STATESVILLE 40 MI. 1.8 MI. TO INTERSTATE 85 515 50'



Crossing East  
(Former) Union  
Storage and  
Warehouse Co.  
Building

ES12800

N3898160  
Mecklenburg  
County, NC

3900000m.N.  
1.6 MI. TO INTERSTATE 85  
3898  
GASTONIA 20 MI.  
0.3 MI. TO U.S. 29  
3897  
3896  
12'30"  
3895

