

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 Clinton Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Vance, Elizabeth, Wall, and Sampson streets N/A not for publication

city or town Clinton N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Sampson code 163 zip code 28328

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.)

Casper J. Cross SHPO 3/5/02
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:)

Clinton Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Sampson County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
67	16	buildings
0	1	sites
0	0	structures
4	3	objects
71	20	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

4

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department store
GOVERNMENT/county courthouse
GOVERNMENT/post office
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department store
GOVERNMENT/county courthouse
VACANT/NOT IN USE
COMMERCE/restaurant
COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival
Tudor Revival
Commercial Style
Modern
Classical Revival
Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
Metal
roof Metal
other _____

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1902-1951

Significant Dates

1902

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Markley, R. R.

Simon, Louis A.

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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Clinton Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Sampson County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 30 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
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7	4	3	8	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	5	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	7
---	---

7	4	4	4	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	6	0	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2

1	7
---	---

7	4	4	3	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	6	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	7
---	---

7	4	4	3	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	7	5	4	0	0
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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 Beth Keane

organization Retrospective date August, 2001

street & number 2001 Metts Avenue telephone 910-815-1096

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing 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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Clinton Commercial Historic District
Sampson County, North Carolina

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Clinton Commercial Historic District is located in the heart of the city of Clinton in Sampson County. Incorporated in 1852, Clinton is the largest town in Sampson County and contains older residential neighborhoods and new subdivisions, an early-twentieth-century downtown commercial section clustered around the courthouse square, suburban shopping centers, and industrial diversification in the outlying areas. The town is served by U. S. Highways 421 and 24. Vance and Elizabeth streets roughly bound the commercial historic district on the north and south, Wall and Sampson streets generally define its east and west edges.

The Clinton Commercial Historic District is made up almost entirely of early- to mid-twentieth century commercial buildings. Although Clinton's earliest major architectural development began in the early 1830s, the city had to essentially rebuild in the early twentieth century after a devastating fire in 1902 destroyed almost the entire downtown commercial district.

Clinton is situated near the middle of Sampson County, an area given over to major agricultural production. Although rolling hills surround the town, the topography of the town itself is relatively flat. The city streets are laid out in a forty-five degree angle to the major compass points, thus Main, Vance, and Elizabeth streets run in a southwest to northeast direction, while Wall, McKoy Street, Lisbon, and Sampson streets run southeast to northwest. Fayetteville Street is laid out in an east-west orientation and joins Wall Street at a forty-five degree angle. The railroad right-of-way, situated several blocks southwest of the courthouse, went through town in a southeast to northwest direction. Only a portion of the railroad right-of-way, along with a small section of track, located next to the Clinton Depot remains.

Several existing historic districts are located adjacent to the Clinton Commercial Historic District. The College Road Historic District (NR listed 1986) lies northeast of the commercial district and consists of several blocks of residential buildings. Immediately southwest of downtown, the West Main-North Chestnut Streets Historic District (NR listed 1986) abuts the Downtown Commercial Historic District and includes several blocks of residential buildings as well as St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The Clinton Commercial Historic District centers on the square dominated by the Sampson County Courthouse (#1), fronting East Main Street. Built in 1904, the Romanesque Revival-style courthouse reflected the late-nineteenth century character of Clinton's commercial district. However, a 1937-1939 remodeling transformed the courthouse

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into a much larger Colonial Revival building. Originally, the 1904 two-story masonry courthouse featured gabled dormers on all four elevations, round-arch windows on the second story, and segmental arched ones on the first. The present H-shaped building gives little hint of the character of the original core. Large, two-and-a-half story additions are set perpendicular to the central block which has two-story Mount Vernon-style porches running between the wings on the front and rear elevations. The gable roofs of the additions are pierced by four gable dormers and have parapeted ends. The original clock tower, although altered in size and appearance, remains and is adorned with a weathervane depicting "Blind Justice" holding high her balance. Numerous monuments and statues are located on the courthouse lawn, while a small brick paved plaza with a central fountain, created by the Clinton Public Works Department in 1986, is located directly east of the building. The plaza replaced a through road that previously ran between East Main Street and Vance Street.

Enclosing the courthouse square are one- and two-story brick commercial buildings dating from the turn of the century. The 100 block of East Main Street directly across from the courthouse contains the town's most prominent and architecturally significant buildings, three of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Powell and Bethune Buildings (#13 and #14, NR 1986), adjacent two-story brick commercial buildings covered with ornate pressed-metal sheathing in a robust pattern of colonnaded, arched garland friezes and modillion cornice, are the outstanding commercial buildings in Sampson County. They were built in 1902 to replace structures burned in the city's worst fire in July of that year. Although the first-floor facades of both buildings have been altered, they are, never-the-less, the two dominant structures on the courthouse square.

The Johnson Building (#11, NR 2000), located on the southeast corner of East Main and South Wall streets, exemplifies the Classical Revival architectural features associated with the construction and style of the period. Also constructed after the 1902 fire, the two-story brick building, with its decorative brick work and heavy metal cornice, symbolizes the respectable and stable image promoted by the businessman of the era. The building was associated with L. P. Barbrey and Company, a ladies' clothing store, and Roses' Dime Store for many years.

The remaining buildings facing the courthouse, located primarily along North Wall, Vance, and Sampson streets, are typical of the one- and two-story brick buildings built in downtown areas all over eastern North Carolina in the early-twentieth century. Decorative brick corbeling at the cornice is the most common architectural trait. Stylistically, this feature along with other common features such as segmentally arched windows, patterned brick work, and parapeted roof

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lines, are typical architectural elements added to commercial buildings of the era.

One block south of the courthouse on West Elizabeth Street stands the chief reminder of railroad days, the long brick Clinton Depot and Freight Station (#45, NR 1985). The depot dates to c. 1917, around the time of the First World War. The Clinton Depot and Freight Station handled both passenger travel and freight shipment on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad into and out of the county seat. The building consists of three sections: the passenger depot, the enclosed freight station, and the open platform. Built of brick the enclosed freight station was located behind the passenger station. Behind this is an open, but covered platform. Remnants of the railroad tracks can still be found immediately west of the depot running in a southeast-northwest direction. East of the depot, along Elizabeth Street, can be found several large warehouse type buildings, built to support activities associated with the railroad.

The remaining buildings, located primarily along the three hundred block of Vance Street, were constructed in the 1930s and 1940s and tend to be rather simple one-story brick buildings with few embellishments. There are several impressive buildings located along Fayetteville and McKoy streets that are associated with the automobile industry. The large two-story yellow-brick Henry Vann Building (#69) housed the Vann Motor Company for many years. Womble-Vann Motors which sold new and used cars was located in the building during the 1960s. The handsome two-story brick c. 1935 William's Building (#76), located on McKoy Street, was also constructed as an automobile dealership.

The Clinton Commercial Historic District continues to retain a great deal of its historic architectural fabric. Although there have been alterations to most of the buildings in the district, as a whole, and particularly above their shopfronts, they maintain an integrity of materials, design, setting, and feeling. Taken as a whole, the district continues to convey a sense of its development as an early twentieth century railroad town and county seat. There are seventy-one contributing resources and twenty non-contributing resources in the district, including sixty-seven contributing primary buildings and four contributing objects.

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Clinton Commercial Historic District
Sampson County, North Carolina

Clinton Commercial Historic District Inventory List

The inventory list is organized on a street-by-street basis. The streets were surveyed in the following order: Main Street, Vance Street, Elizabeth Street, Wall Street, Fayetteville Street, McKoy Street, Lisbon Street, and Sampson Street. Southwest-northeast oriented streets are listed northwest side first, then southeast side. Southeast-northwest oriented streets are listed southwest side first, then northeast side. Buildings are listed either by their historic name or the by the name of the original owner, when available. A combination of documentary sources was utilized to determine the original date and owners of the buildings including deeds, secondary sources, tax records, survey files, and interviews. All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or N (noncontributing) based on the following criteria. Any building built after the end of the ca. 1901-1951 period of significance is noncontributing due to its age. Buildings built before 1951 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their original character are also categorized as noncontributing.

C = Contributing resource
N = Noncontributing resource
B = Building
O = Object
Si = Site

100 block E. Main Street, northwest side

1. Sampson County Courthouse C/B 1904, 1938 101 E. Main

The Clinton Commercial Historic District centers on the square dominated by the Sampson County Courthouse. The original 1904 courthouse was a two-story brick Romanesque-style building constructed under the guidance of Vann Jasper McArthur, chairman of the county commissioners for a cost of \$30,000. The red brick building was completely remodeled in the Colonial Revival style, designed by architect, R. R. Markley, in 1938. Erected by the Works Progress Administration, two projecting wings were added to each end of the courthouse and a two-story porch supported by square columns and surmounted by a picket railing, replaced with a wrought iron railing, was added to the front of the building. A central cupola with a blind Justice weathervane survives from the original courthouse.

- 1A. Veteran's Memorial N/O 1986 E. Main

This granite memorial was placed on the courthouse lawn in front of the courthouse by the Veteran of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 7547. It serves as a memorial to all Sampsonians who have served their country during armed conflict. It is in the form of several different height blocks and it has four emblems on it of the different services - Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines.

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1B. DOT Historical Marker C/O 1951 E. Main

A sign erected by the Department of Transportation honoring Richard Clinton, was placed on the front of the courthouse lawn. It reads: "Richard Clinton, Lieut. Colonel militia, member Provincial Congress, 1773, legislature, conventions 1788, 1789. This town named for him. Home was nearby."

1C. Confederate Monument C/O 1916 E. Main

A metal statue of a Confederate soldier on a granite pedestal sits squarely in front of the courthouse. It was erected by a chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy on May 10, 1916. It reads: "In honor of the Confederate soldiers of Sampson County who bore the flag of a nation's trust and fell in a cause, though lost, still just and died for me and you, 1861-1865."

1D. Vietnam Veterans Memorial N/O 1980 E. Main

Another granite memorial placed on the front of the courthouse lawn by the American Legion Posts #22 and #319. It is in memory of those who served during the Vietnam era who offered their lives for the service of their country. It was erected on May 25, 1980.

1E. W.W. II Memorial C/O c. 1950 E. Main

This memorial was erected by American Legion Post #22 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #7547. It reads: "In honor of Robert A. Fields, EM3C, United States Navy, who died December 7, 1941, the first Sampson County man killed in World War II and all others that gave their lives from Sampson County, North Carolina."

1F. Time Capsule Marker N/O 1984 E. Main

A small granite stone marks the location of a time capsule that was buried on the courthouse lawn on July 4, 1984. The time capsule is to be opened on July 4, 2184.

1G. King Memorial C/O 1930 E. Main

A bronze bust of William Rufus King, 1786-1853, sits on a pedestal on the rear courthouse lawn (Karl Gruppe, sculptor). King was a native of Sampson County, a United States congressman, a minister to France, a member of the Senate, and Vice-President of the United States.

2. Courthouse Plaza N/Si 1986 E. Main

A plaza on the east side of the courthouse was constructed by the Clinton Public Works Department in 1986. It consists of a brick patio with a raised fountain in the center of it and several benches on either side. Landscaping consists of deciduous trees and mature flowering shrubs around the perimeter of the plaza.

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3. Bank of Clinton N/B c. 1905/1967 207 E. Main

Completely remodeled on the exterior in 1967, this building was originally occupied by the Bank of Clinton. An adjacent building, known as the Grady and Graham Store Building and later the City Barber Shop, was incorporated into a remodeling project when it was taken over by the First Citizens Bank and Trust Company in 1945. The current two-story post-war Modern-style office building is covered with stucco and the windows have been completely replaced and remodeled. Arched windows and doors on the street level create a colonnade effect. The original brick wall is still exposed on the rear elevation. The building, currently vacant, will become offices for Sampson County employees.

4. Butler Building C/B 1906 209/211 E. Main

A handsome two-story brick Commercial-style building incorporating two commercial spaces, each of which is four bays wide with one-over-one sash windows on the upper level. Vertical emphasis is provided by flat brick pilasters, one on each corner and one in the middle. Arched lintels surmount the windows, while several rows of corbeled brick highlight the cornice. The southwest unit was originally a general store, meat market, and grocery store operated by Murphy Philyaw. The building is currently vacant. At one time known as the Pender Store, the attached unit housed an ice cream parlor run by Mike Gainom, a general store run by Henry Register, and a tire store operated by Ferrell Shuford. The building is currently occupied by Gregory E. Griffith, Attorney-at-Law.

5. U. S. Post Office C/B 1905 213 E. Main

Situated on the northwest corner of E. Main and Sampson streets, this two-story brick Commercial-style building was built for George E. Butler, as was the adjacent building (209/211 E. Main). It originally served as a post office and subsequently became quarters to a newspaper office. It is currently occupied by Butler and Faircloth, Insurance Agents. Similar in style to the adjacent building, this four-bay building features one-over-one windows with arched lintels, brick corbeling, and a raised parapet. The storefront entrance has been remodeled with a recessed entrance flanked by nine-over-six windows. A shed roof awning protects the entrance.

6. J. A. Powell Store C/B c. 1923 301 E. Main

This two-story Commercial-style brick building presents three elevations to the street: a three bay-elevation along Sampson Street, a longer seven-bay elevation along Main Street, and a one-bay elevation facing diagonally toward the corner; each elevation with its own entrance. The principal door, angled towards the corner, features a pedimented gable over the recessed entrance supported by two pilasters. A vertical accentuation is achieved with full-height pilasters, painted white, on each corner, with an additional one on the Main Street elevation.

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7. Bell Building C/B 1933 303/305/307 E.Main

The Bell building was constructed on the old Clinton Hotel property by T. C. and Sudie Bell in 1933. This one-story Commercial-style brick building is divided into three commercial spaces, two of which are currently vacant. The building was sold to Robert Harris in 1973, who has operated Modernistic Barber Shop in one of the spaces since 1965. The front is painted gray and each entrance is protected with a shed-roof awning. Simple details include a stepped roof line and a horizontal band of corbeled brick across the upper facade.

8. Herring Building C/B 1935 315-319 E. Main

Built for P. D. Herr on the old Clinton Hotel property, this large one-story Commercial-style brick building is situated on the northwest corner of E. Main and Connestee streets. The Main Street elevation is dominated by a continuous wall of plate-glass display windows and includes two recessed entrances. The doors and windows are protected by attached aluminum awnings. A horizontal row of recessed panels along the upper facade is the only significant architectural detail of this simple commercial building. The City Auto Parts Store and an Alcoholic Beverage Control Store were located in this building for many years. It is currently occupied by Sampson's Crisis Center and Thrift Shop

100 block West Main Street, southeast side

9. U. S. Post Office C/B 1936 109 W. Main

Built in the Colonial Revival style, this one-story with raised basement, brick post office was designed by Louis A. Simon, supervising architect. Neal A. Melick was the supervising engineer. Seven bays wide, the gable-end building features twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows and an off-center double-leaf door with a Colonial Revival-style door surround consisting of flanking Doric columns supporting a wide cornice and surmounted with a leaded-glass transom with a fanlight design. A carved eagle sits in a recessed arch above the transom. Steps, flanked by a wrought-iron railing, rise to the front entrance. A fanlight window is situated in each pedimented gable end. The roof is surmounted with a four-sided cupola with an arched vent in each side. The post office vacated the premises in April, 2001.

10. DuBose Building C/B 1938 107/105/103/101 W. Main
106, 108-110 S. Wall

Six buildings, known as the Elizabeth S. DuBose development, were built on the site of one of Clinton's former boarding houses. Although they may have been built separately, they are joined together by party walls, and have been faced with a common brick, so from the street, it appears as one large building. Situated on the southwest corner of South Wall and West Main streets, the Commercial-style building includes six commercial spaces, four with entrances along W. Main Street and two with entrances on S. Wall Street. Former long-term occupants of the

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building include the Town Shop (107 W. Main), Ideal Shoe Rebuilders (105 W. Main), Holland's Grill (103 W. Main), and Powell's Shoes (101 W. Main). Current occupants include the Beauty Kingdom (107 W. Main), Sharon's Country Diner (103 W. Main), and an attorney's office (101 W. Main). The fourth space (105 W. Main) is currently vacant. A wall of plate-glass display windows extends along the W. Main Street elevation. The adjoining buildings facing S. Wall Street are a continuation of the DuBose development. The building at 106 S. Wall Street features its own separate recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass windows and sheltered by an attached flat metal awning. Former occupants include the Clinton Style Shop, the Ladies Shop, and Sessom's Jewelry. The building is currently vacant.

It appears that the building at 108-110 S. Wall Street retains an older facade. The front of the building features a very high parapet with a corbeled brick cornice, two recessed brick panels, and two recessed entrances providing access to two separate commercial spaces. The entrances are flanked by plate-glass display windows. Behind the facade is evidence of a newer building, probably constructed about the same time as the building it is attached to on the north side. Former occupants include Lucille's Beauty Shop and Marie's Beauty Shop during the 1960s and 70s. The building is currently vacant.

100 block East Main Street, southeast side

11. A. F. Johnson Building C/B c. 1902 102/104 E. Main
(NR listed)

The Johnson Building is a brick two-story rectangular building with Classical Revival-style details. The building retains a later one-story, rear brick addition. The five-bay principal facade features double one-over-one sash windows with arched brick lintels. Ornamental detailing includes plain brick corner pilasters, recessed brick panels, a corbeled table, and projecting metal cornice with modillion blocks. The original entrance doors were flush with the front of the building and flanked by projecting bay windows. The windows were replaced in the 1960s with large plate-glass display windows. The southwest or Wall Street elevation is eight bays wide. The first level windows have been filled in with brick. The second-level windows preserve the original one-over-one sash with arched brick lintels. A corbeled beltcourse and a raised parapet run the length of the southwest elevation.

The building historically accommodated two to three retail shops on the first level, with professional office space on the second level. The interior retains the original wood floors on the first level and original pressed tin ceiling. The second level retains original wood floors, wainscoting, and tongue-and-groove ceilings, as well as four large, enclosed skylights.

Prominent businesses which have previously been located in the Johnson Building include Fowler & Crumpler, attorneys and counselors-at-law (1909), L. P. Barbrey and Company, dealers in dry goods, notions, shoes, hats, clothing, and millinery (1911), and

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Roses' Dime Store (1927 to 1979). Ed Fleishmans Brothers, Inc., a men's clothing retailer, also occupied retail space until approximately 1979. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

12. Dr. Lee Building N/B c. 1904/1965 108-110 E. Main

This two-story post-war Modern-style building suffered a major fire in 1965, resulting in a modern aluminum panel upper facade. Currently occupied by the Sampson County Department of Social Services, historically the building was divided into two commercial spaces. One was occupied by Miss Annie Jane Barbrey who ran a millinery shop. Adjacent to it, Dr. A. M. Lee, M.D., operated a drug store in the front half, while his doctor's office was located in the rear part of the building. Mosley Chestnutt took over the drug store and remained until about 1934. Eagles Five and Dime occupied the building during the 1960s, while Scotty Stores became a tenant after the fire.

13. Powell Building C/B c. 1902 118 E. Main
(NR listed)

This two-story Classical Revival-style brick building is noted for its superlative metal facade. Built c. 1902, the building features engaged columns, a corbeled cornice, and elaborate frieze decorations. Three bays wide, the one-over-one sash windows are flanked by engaged Tuscan columns the full height of the windows; the bottom half of these columns are covered with floral and garland motif bands. Between each pair of windows is a panel--equal in size to a window--that is covered with a vertically-oriented pattern of urns and floral motifs. Crowning the three windows and these two panels is a series of five semicircular metal fanlight arches, intricately detailed and outlined. Above this are two frieze bands, the upper being floral swags and the lower comprised of ram's horn spirals. A series of modillions support the cornice molding. The first-floor facade has been altered with replacement plate glass and its transom covered. Stairs to the second floor are located on the southeast end of the building.

The building originally contained a general mercantile store operated by Ben Powell. Ben and his brother, John, operated the store for many years, and after they died, Mrs. Powell continued to operate the business. The longest tenant of the Powell building was Sampson Ace Hardware. The Powell Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

14. Bethune Building #1 C/B 1902 120 E. Main
(NR listed)

Somewhat larger than the adjacent Powell Building, the Classical Revival-style Bethune Building is six bays wide with six evenly-spaced one-over-one windows framed by engaged Corinthian columns resting on pedestals which are half the height of the window; the pedestals have two inset panels of stylized foliage. Blocks resting on the columns carry the large multi-banded frieze. The bands, from top to bottom and

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separated by molding stripes consists of: a flat portion, a band of foliage spirals, resembling ram's horns, alternating clockwise and counterclockwise, and a row of evenly spaced circular medallions. The uppermost face of the cornice is delicately decorated with a series of foliage garlands. The center of the facade, rising above the cornice, is the nameplate, spanning the center of two bays. The cornice terminates at each end with large, triangular brackets faced with anthemion; a pair of smaller brackets, taking the place of one of the modillions, is located under each end of the nameplate. The first-floor facade, originally composed of two separate storefronts, has been replaced with large plate-glass display cases; the aluminum and glass double doors are off center towards the northwest.

The original use was a grocery/hardware store. Additional previous businesses included the Sampson Hardware, owned and operated by Mr. Edgar Powell and Harry Stewart, and a grocery store, operated by Jim Peterson; also the Harmon Register. The Masonic Temple was located upstairs. The Bethune Building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

15. Herring Building C/B c. 1902 124 E. Main

Built for Robert A. Herring after the 1902 fire, this handsome two-story Classical Revival-style brick building maintains an imposing presence on the block. The prominent building is six bays wide with one-over-one double-hung sash windows with arched lintels on the second level. Outstanding features include a decorated cornice supported by painted modillion blocks. The first level includes two recessed entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows.

Early businesses included an ice cream parlor and general clothing store operated by Mike Ganning. The Popes purchased the building in 1968 and established Pope's 5-, 10-, and 25-Cent Store, later becoming Pope's Dollar Mart and Pope's Distributing Company.

16. Bank of Sampson C/B c. 1902 132 E. Main

This two-story Classical Revival-style brick building is situated on the southwest corner of E. Main and S. Wall streets. Like many of the corner buildings in Clinton, this building features three elevations, three bays along E. Main Street, two bays along S. Wall Street, and one bay facing the corner. The one-over-one second-story windows are supported by arched brick lintels. Modillion blocks support a projecting cornice. A wide band of wood shingles wraps around the three street-front elevations above the first level plate-glass display windows. A recessed double-leaf entrance is located in the corner elevation.

The Bank of Sampson operated in this building until 1934, when it was bought by Joe Reynolds and became known as Reynolds Drug Store. The Clinton telephone and telegraph exchange was once located on the second floor. The first level is currently occupied by Scandals Salon.

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200 block of East Main Street, southeast side

17. Caison Building #1 C/B 1924 202 E. Main

This three-story Commercial-style brick building located on the southeast corner of S. Lisbon and E. Main street was built on the old Montague Hotel property by F. A. Caison in 1924. Two bays wide and six bays long, the principal facade features double one-over-one sash windows with arched transoms on the second and third levels. The first level includes two recessed entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows. Hargrove's Men Shop was located here in the 1960s. The Clinton Dental Lab took over the building in 1967 and remained throughout the 70s.

18. Butler's Drug Store C/B 1924 204 E. Main

This handsome three-story Commercial-style brick building was built for A. B. Butler, who opened a pharmacy in the building in 1924. Four bays wide with one-over-one sash windows, the principal facade is accented with small white squares and diamonds punctuating the window's upper corners and the upper facade. The roof line features a central peak with the name, "Butler" centered below the peak. A recessed entrance is flanked by plate-glass display windows. Butler's Pharmacy, operated by Jack and Patsy Waters since 1979, continues to occupy the store.

19. Henry Vann Building #1 C/B 1924 206-208 E. Main
101 College

Built on the southwest corner of S. College and E. Main streets, the site of the old Montague Hotel, this two-story brick Classical Revival-style building features three street-side elevations and encompasses three commercial spaces. The original portion of the building included a two-bay elevation facing E. Main Street with its own recessed entrance and a two-bay elevation facing the corner. The upper level features nine-over-one sash windows and a projecting tile shed roof supported by modillion blocks. An attached addition faces S. College Street. The second level includes a band of double and triple nine-over-one sash windows. Several entrances with glass panels surmounting the doors are located on the street level.

The building was originally used as a post office on the first level with attorneys' offices upstairs. Several barber shops, City Barber Shop, followed by Model Barber Shop, have been located in the building since 1960.

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100 block of Vance Street, northwest side

20. Joe Royal's Store/Claude N/B c. 1904/ 103-105 Vance
Holliday Furniture and 1975
Undertaking Building

Located on the northeast corner of Vance and McKoy streets, this two-story Commercial-style brick building is the first in a block of one and two-story brick commercial buildings facing the back of the courthouse. The building has been combined on the interior with an adjacent building to form one commercial space. The corner building is four bays wide, the second story windows are currently boarded up. The storefront features a recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. The exterior has been covered with stucco.

Joe Royal, the first owner of 103 Vance, occupied a general mercantile store here. Later it was sold to W. D. Walter Kelly. His son-in-law, Joe Best, joined him in business, the business was known as the Kelly-Best Hardware Store. From 1967 until 1973, Jackson's Ltd. Clothing Store occupied the building. It is currently occupied by Leon's Clothes and owned by Leon Boyette.

The adjacent two-story, five-bay brick Commercial-style building (105 Vance) features a corbeled cornice and a recessed entrance with plate-glass display windows. A shingled awning protects the front entrance. The second-floor windows have been boarded up.

Occupied by Claude Holliday Furniture and Undertaking business until the late 1920s or early 1930s, it was later taken over by Furman Honeycutt and Johnny Crumpler and the business became Crumpler-Honeycutt Furniture and Funeral. In 1935, the undertaking part of the business was moved to a new location and they concentrated on selling furniture from this location. In 1975, they sold the building to Leon Boyette, who currently operates a clothing store. Boyette combined 103 and 105 Vance into one building.

21. Sam Thomas Store C/B 1901 107 Vance

Like its neighbors, this building is an early-twentieth century brick two-story Commercial-style building. The four second-story arched windows have been boarded up. The building features a simple corbeled cornice and a recessed entrance with plate-glass display windows. A flat metal awning protects the entrance. Sam Thomas, the original owner, operated a dry goods store in this building. Later, this business was taken over by Cad F. Collins. In 1932, Solly Kaleel bought the building and opened Carolina Fruit Palace, which he operated with his children until the early 1960s. Kaleel's son, Albert, has run a cafe in the building since 1964. The business is currently known as Kaleel's City Grill.

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22. Patrick Store C/B c. 1900 109 Vance

Four bays wide with one-over-one windows, this two-story brick Commercial-style building features a raised parapet and an off-center recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. The original owner of this general mercantile store was Dunk Patrick. Subsequent owners included Preston Lewis, Vectron Merritt, and a Mr. Gregory. Gregory operated Gregory's Variety Store until he passed away in the early 1960s, and then it went into several other hands, remaining a variety store for many years. Current occupant is Smitty's Antiques and Collectibles.

23. Dr. Stephens Office C/B c. 1905 111 Vance

This one-story brick Commercial-style building with a simple corbelled cornice was first owned by Dr. John Stephens. Upon his death, the building was taken over by Frank Giddens, who operated a jewelry store here for many years. Subsequent owners included Simon David and Farris Monseur. In the early 1930s it was taken over by Otis Register who opened a drug store. Finally, M. Matthews operated Matthews Drug Store until approximately 1970. James Ingram Reynolds, an insurance agent, then came into possession of the building and ran an insurance agency in the building until 1981, at which time it was turned over to his eldest son, James Robert Reynolds, who still runs an insurance agency in the building.

The lower level, which has been altered, is dominated by large plate-glass windows and a double-leaf glass door. A flat metal awning runs the width of the front facade sheltering the first-level.

24. Hubbard Building C/B c. 1918 113/115 Vance

This one-story brick Commercial-style building features a full-width recessed brick panel situated above double recessed entrances which are flanked by plate-glass display windows. R. H. and H. J. Hubbard bought the property in 1918 and opened a clothing store. Fleishman's Department Store, Turlington's Department Store, Dulaney's Department Store, and Taylor's Department Store variously occupied the building during the 1960s and 70s. The building was divided into two commercial spaces in 1979.

25. Cole Store N/B c. 1902 117 Vance

This is an unadorned one-story brick Commercial-style building with a flat rectangular panel outlined by a raised header brick course, probably intended to encompass the name of the establishment. The front facade has been altered with a flat white panel with a centered replacement window. The slightly recessed entrance is situated on the northeast side of the principal elevation. The Cole Grocery Business occupied the building through the 1970s. The building is currently occupied the Sampson County Community Corrections.

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26. Hobbs Store C/B c. 1902 119 Vance

This one-story brick Commercial-style building with a corbelled brick cornice is distinguished by its recessed entrance surmounted by a transom. J. L. Hobbs purchased the property in 1902. At one time it was operated as a saloon by Bill Russell and it has been said that bartender did not charge for the food that was served, as long as the patrons bought their whiskey and beer at the establishment. Later businesses included the Clinton Sports Center and Economy Auto Supply. The building is currently occupied by Danny's Service Center.

27. Butler Store N/B c. 1901 121 Vance

This one-story brick Commercial-style building with a corbelled cornice features a flat rectangular panel which probably once held the name of the establishment. The original entrance has been replaced with large plate-glass windows. The current double-leaf glass door is situated on the northeast side of the facade. The building has been faced with permastone, resulting in its non-contributing status. The property was sold to John E. Butler in 1891.

28. Rich Store C/B c. 1905 123 Vance

This is a one-story brick Commercial-style building with a corbelled cornice and a centered flat rectangular panel situated above the front door. A hipped shingled awning shades the recessed entrance. The original occupants, Tom Rich and John Butler, operated a general mercantile business in this building. The Clinton City Cafe operated in the building during the 1960s and Kelly and Best Hardware occupied the building in the 1970s. The building is currently occupied by Gracie's Grill.

Alley - separates the 100 and 200 blocks of Vance Street

200 block of Vance Street, northwest side

29. Commercial building N/B c. 1910 201 Vance

This Commercial-style building is the first in a block of one- and two-story brick buildings. The west side features a stepped roof line. Although a corbelled brick cornice remains evident, the remainder of the facade has been covered with synthetic siding. A striped awning protects the lower level of the building. There is a recessed entrance flanked by modern plate-glass windows. A long-time former occupant of the building included George's Jewelry. The current occupant is Brittany's Jewelry.

30. Henry Vann Building #2 C/B 1929 207 Vance

The one-story brick Commercial-style building features simple brick corbeling. A recessed entrance with multi-light transom is situated on the west side of the facade and is flanked by a large plate-glass windows. A shed roof awning protects the entrance. The

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property was sold to Henry Vann in 1927, who erected the building several years later. Fields Ready-to-Wear Shop occupied the building for many years. The current occupant is Hi-Lites (ladies clothing).

31. Caison Building #2 C/B 1928 209/211/213 Vance

The one-story brick Commercial-style building has a single-step central parapet. Two flat panels are situated on the upper part of the facade. The building currently incorporates three separate commercial spaces and features three recessed entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows. Built on lots 77 and 78 of the Dr. William M. McKoy Estate Subdivision, the building was erected by Fred A. Caison in 1928. Clinton Billiard Parlor, the Vance Street Barber Shop, and the Daughtry Food market were located in this building for many years.

32. The Clinton Lodge No. 124 C/B 1931 217 Vance
Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The facade of this two-story brick Commercial-style building is accented by flat brick pilasters on each corner. Several rows of brick corbeling are situated above the two-bay upper facade. The upper level windows are fixed sash, each with sixteen lights. It appears that a third central window has been filled in with brick. The first level of the front facade features a recessed principal entrance flanked by bay windows and protected by an attached flat awning. A second entrance is located on the west side of the front facade and it leads to the second level. The property, lot 79 of the McKoy Subdivision, was purchased by The Clinton Lodge No. 124, Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1920 and they waited until 1931 to erect the building. Leon's Clothiers business was located here in the 1960s until 1975, before they moved to their new location on the corner of Vance and McKoy streets.

300 block of Vance Street, northwest side

33. Sutton & Welsh Grocery Store C/B c. 1943 301-307 Vance

This large one-story three-bay Commercial-style brick building is situated on the northeast corner of Vance and Sampson streets. The building has a flat roof, a raised parapet, recessed panels, and three recessed entrances flanked by large plate-glass display windows. Built on lot #1 of the Annie Laura Herring subdivision c. 1942, the building was originally a grocery store. Taylor and Sanderson have run their household appliance business in the building since 1954. The east portion of the building (#307) has been divided into a separate commercial space, with its own recessed entrance. The interior has been divided into professional office space.

34. Barwick Building C/B 1950 309-311 Vance

The Town of Clinton sold a vacant lot to H. B. Barwick in 1947. In 1948 and 1949, an agreement was reached between Barwick and adjacent property owners to share a party wall. All the buildings on the block are remarkably uniform in height, depth, and architectural details.

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This one-story post-war Modern-style brick building features a raised parapet and brick panels in the upper facade. The building has been divided into two commercial spaces, one of which is currently vacant (309 Vance). The other space (311 Vance) has been occupied by Nordan Finance since 1975. The west-side commercial space has a central recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. The east-side space has a slightly recessed central entrance flanked by large plate-glass windows. Separate attached flat awnings protect the lower level of both the west and east sides of the front facade. The building occupies lot 1 and part of lot 2 of the 1945 H. J. Carr property subdivision.

35. Carr Building C/B 1948 313-315 Vance

A one-story brick post-war Modern-style building divided into three commercial spaces erected on lot #3 of the subdivision of the H. J. Carr subdivision property. Current occupants are Agape Pictures and Mirrors and Aquatic Life. One space is currently unoccupied. The building features a flat roof and brick panels. The west side, which contains two of the commercial spaces, has two recessed entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows. An attached flat awning protects the lower level. The east side commercial space has had its original lower facade completely removed and is now recessed with an entire wall of glass windows and two central glass doors.

36. Butler-Blount Building C/B 1949 319 Vance

Another one-story post-war Modern-style brick building erected on lots 5 and 6 of the H. J. Carr property subdivision by Edwin Butler and P. W. Blount. It has a raised parapet with ridged coping. There is a recessed entrance flanked by large banks of plate-glass display windows. An attached flat awning protects the lower level. A variety of businesses have occupied the building including Barwicks Home Appliances and Lacy's Home Appliances in the 1960s and 70s. The building is currently vacant.

Vacant Lot - A commercial building was located on this lot until it was destroyed by fire in 1979. Part of the front facade and the back wall are all that is left standing.

37. Blount Building C/B c. 1947 401 Vance

One-story post-war Modern-style brick commercial building constructed for P. W. and Doris Blount. The building remained in their family until sold by their estate to Henry Turlington in 1961. Turlingtons operated a sporting goods store here in the 1970s. The current occupant is Quality Printing Plus. The building features a flat roof, ridged coping, and brick panels in the upper facade and a central entrance with a glass door. Lower level windows have been filled in. The building is on the 300 block of Vance Street, despite the 401 address.

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200 block of Vance Street, southeast side

Vacant - parking lot

300 block of Vance Street, southeast side

38. Liberty Service Station C/B 1935 300A Vance

This one-story concrete Commercial-style building set back from the road on the southeast corner of Vance and Sampson streets was formerly a garage/gas station, known as Liberty Service Station, built for F. L. Turlington. The garage originally included two service bays and a corner office. The building currently contains three businesses, including a barber shop, a shoe shine shop and a car wash.

39. Caison Building #2 C/B 1931 300 Vance

A narrow alley separates this one-story brick Commercial-style building from 300A Vance Street. Brick detailing includes a parapet capped by a single corbeled brick course, a single soldier course below the parapet, plus one over the windows and doors, and rectangular panels outlined with a header course. The building is divided into several commercial spaces, each with their own entrance. One door, flanked on the northeast by large plate-glass windows, provides access off Vance Street, while the entrance to Colwell's Barber Shop is on a diagonal facade facing northwest. The building was erected for F. A. Caison in 1931 on Lot #8 and part of Lot #9 of the subdivision of the old Clinton Hotel property. Colwell's Barber Shop has been located in the building since 1965.

40. Howell Building #1 C/B c. 1937 304=306 Vance

This simple one-story brick Commercial-style building features architectural details similar to its neighbor at 300 Vance. A single soldier course spans the width of the upper facade as well as over the windows and door. Also a rectangular panel outlined with a header course is situated on the upper wall of the facade. The lower level was altered in 1960 when one entrance was removed and replaced with a large expanse of windows. The remaining recessed entrance is flanked by plate-glass display windows. The parapet is capped with concrete. The property, Lots 9-12, of the old Clinton Hotel property subdivision, was purchased by David B. Howell in 1937. It remained in his family until it was sold to C. W. Taylor in 1967. Former tenants include the New Grill, the Le Petite Cafe, and Colwell's Pool Room.

41. Howell Building #2 C/B c. 1937 308-310 Vance

This one-story brick Commercial-style building is situated on the southeast corner of Vance and Connestee streets. Almost identical to the adjacent building, it also features two panels outlined by header courses of brick on the upper facade. Divided into two commercial spaces, the west side has a slightly recessed entrance with double-leaf glass doors flanked by plate-glass windows. The east side has a more

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pronounced recessed entrance with double-leaf doors, also flanked by plate-glass display windows. Built by David B. Howell at the same time as the adjacent building, it remained in the Howell family until 1971. A variety of businesses have occupied the building over the years. Current occupants are Weeks and Associates Insurance Service (308 Vance) and Dixie Motor Parts (310 Vance).

100 block of West Elizabeth Street, northwest side

Vacant - parking lot located behind the post office

42. Commercial Printing Company C/B c. 1937 100/106/108
Building W. Elizabeth

This very large one-story brick Commercial-style building occupies the entire 100 block of the northwest side of W. Elizabeth Street. It is currently divided into two commercial spaces, one of which is occupied by William Faircloth, attorney-at-law (108 W. Elizabeth). The larger space has been occupied by The Commercial Printing Company for over fifty years (100 & 106 W. Elizabeth). The building has a flat roof, several entrances, and an expanse of large plate-glass windows on the lower level. An attached flat metal awning runs the length of the building along W. Elizabeth Street.

100 block of East Elizabeth Street, northwest side

Vacant - Parking lot

43. First Union Bank N/B 1959 111 E. Elizabeth

This is a large rectangular two-story post-war Modern-style brick building with a flat roof and minimal architectural detail. The facade features a central recessed entrance surmounted by a shed-roof awning, above which is a six-panel fixed-glass window. One horizontal window with three fixed-glass windows is situated east of the recessed entrance. The building, first occupied by the Royal Electric Company Contractors, has been occupied by the First Union Bank since c. 1965.

Vacant - Parking lot

44. Dr. J. B. Powell Building C/B c. 1935 115-117 E. Elizabeth

This is a one-story brick Commercial-style building featuring a recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass windows, a flat brick panel in the upper facade, cornice corbeling, and a stepped parapet along the sides of the building. The property was purchased by Dr. Powell in 1922 and remained in the Powell family until 1977. The Sampson Independent Newspaper occupied the building during the 1960s. It is currently occupied by Peterson-Austin-Sampson Insurance Agency.

Vacant - Parking lot

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100 block of West Elizabeth Street, southeast side

45. Clinton Depot & Freight Station (NR listed) C/B c. 1917 113 W. Elizabeth

The Craftsman-style Clinton Depot and Freight Station dates from around the time of the First World War. The Station handled both passenger travel and freight shipment on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. The structure consists of three sections: the passenger depot, the enclosed freight station, and the open platform. The passenger depot is a one-story common bond brick building with a hipped roof and overhanging eaves supported by large triangular braces. The depot section followed the standard plan for a depot in the South, with dual waiting rooms and facilities for the segregated races adjoining the common ticket area. Southeast of the passenger station was the enclosed freight section, built of brick similar to the depot. Behind this is an open, but covered platform. The entire length of the structure is 327 feet, of which only the forty-two feet on the northwest end constituted the passenger section. A sandwich shop and a beauty shop are currently located in the freight section of the building. The passenger station has been converted to office space and is currently for rent. The depot was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

46. Matthews Building C/B c. 1932 117-123 W. Elizabeth

This large two-story brick Commercial-style warehouse building was built c. 1932 on Lots 1 and 2 of the subdivision of the Thomas E. Owen home lot. The property was sold to Katie P. Matthews in 1922 and remained in the Matthews family until 1981. Although currently vacant, former tenants included the Southern Supply Company, Wickers Corporation, the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, and most recently, the Rental Uniform Service of Culpepper. Eight upper-level windows along W. Elizabeth Street are currently boarded up. The lower level has been altered - windows have been removed and filled in with new brick. Several large additions are attached to the rear of the building.

47. C. R. Rich Warehouse #1 C/B c. 1939 115 W. Elizabeth

A large two-story brick Commercial-style warehouse built c. 1939 for Clyde R. Rich. Currently vacant, Sampson Tractor and Implements was located here for many years. It also has recently been utilized by the Rental Uniform Service of Culpepper, Virginia. The upper level features nine-bays of fixed sash glass, each with central louvered openings. The lower level has been altered with the west side of the facade displaying plate-glass windows and a separate entrance. Some of the original fixed sash windows remain on the eastern side of the facade.

48. C. R. Rich Warehouse #2 C/B c. 1939 101-111 W. Elizabeth

A large one-story Commercial-style brick building built c. 1939 for Clyde R. Rich. It is divided into two commercial spaces. The west portion is currently vacant. Former occupants of the building included the Malpass Store (furniture), the Royal Electric Company, and the

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Belk-Williams warehouse. Western Automobile Association Store was also located here in the 1970s. The portion which borders the corner of W. Elizabeth and S. Wall streets is currently occupied by Sampson County Child Support Services.

100 block of East Elizabeth Street, southeast side

49. Commercial building C/B 1936 102-106 E. Elizabeth

A one-story brick Commercial-style building situated on the southeast corner of E. Elizabeth and S. Wall streets. Divided into two commercial spaces, the corner space (102 E. Elizabeth) features two recessed entrances facing E. Elizabeth Street, each flanked by plate-glass display windows. The east side space (106 E. Elizabeth) also features a recessed entrance with double-leaf doors, flanked by plate-glass display windows. The upper facade features a long panel of patterned brick work and slight corbeling near the cornice. Former tenants of the building included John T. Best General Merchandise, Sampson Seed and Feed, and the Clinton Typewriter Company. Current occupants are Interior Selections (102 E. Elizabeth) and the Potter's House (106 E. Elizabeth).

50. Stables C/B 1900 108 E. Elizabeth

This two-story brick Commercial-style building originally served as a boarding and sales stable. Sampson Hardware Company occupied the building for a number of years. Ace Hardware is the current occupant. The elevation fronting E. Elizabeth Street is now the rear elevation, with the main entrance to the store on the opposite (south) side, facing a large parking lot. The first-level fenestration facing E. Elizabeth Street has been filled in except for one small door. The second level features six two-over-two windows with arched lintels separated by pilasters, effectively creating six bays. Three rows of brick corbeling highlight the cornice.

51. Hatchery Company Building N/B 1925 118 E. Elizabeth

This is a two-story brick Commercial-style building with a central stepped parapet, ridged coping, and a flat panel outlined with a header course of bricks. The three second-story windows have been filled in with brick. The first level has been altered with a large plate-glass window on the east side and a replacement double-leaf glass door flanked by display windows on the west side. Built for W. J. Calhoun, the building has been referred to as the Clinton Hatchery Company for many years. Current occupants are Imprinted Sportswear and Oh Tees.

52. Underwood Motor Company Building C/B 1917 120 E. Elizabeth

This one-story brick Commercial-style building was referred to in early deeds as the Hiatt Stable lot and the Underwood Motor Company. The date of the building, 1917, is carved in the upper facade. F. A. Caison purchased the building at public auction in 1933 for \$1900.00.

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The City Appliance and Air Conditioning Company occupied the building for many years. The current tenant is Temporary Solutions. The building features a raised central stepped parapet and corner brick pilasters. The lower level features a recessed central double-leaf door flanked by large plate-glass display windows.

53. Commercial building C/B 1933 122 E. Elizabeth

This two-story Commercial-style brick building also features a central stepped parapet and corner brick pilasters. The upper level has two sets of paired one-over-one sash windows. The lower level has been altered with an off-center glass door flanked on the east side with a large plate-glass window and on the west side with a small glass window. B & J Billiards operated out of this building during the 1960s, while physician's offices were located in the second level.

54. Sears, Roebuck & Company Building C/B 1951 124-126 E. Elizabeth

This one-story post-war Modern-style brick building with a flat roof and ridged coping sits on the southwest corner of E. Elizabeth and S. Lisbon streets. The building includes two commercial spaces, each with a separate glass door entrance flanked by large plate-glass windows. Originally occupied by Sears, Roebuck and Company, the building has also been leased by the Clinton Insurance Agency, the Carr-Boyette Insurance Agency, and Warren & Fowler, lawyers. It is currently occupied by Proteck Professional Technical Services.

100 block of North Wall Street, southwest side

55. Slossberg Building N/B c. 1915/ c. 1970 101 N. Wall

Moses Slossberg operated a store here until c. 1940. The building was then rented to Belk-Williams, who purchased the building in 1946. Belk's occupied the building until 1975. The building is non-contributing due to its major alterations. The two-story post-war Modern-style building has been covered with large flat metal panels. The storefront entrance has also been moved. The facade facing N. Wall Street has been altered with four long narrow windows set in a replaced wall. The current tenant is Nanny Jones Country Store.

56. Racket Store N/B c. 1915 105 N. Wall

This Commercial-style brick building has been referred to variously as the G. L. Peterson lot, the Racket Store, and the Herring and Darden Racket Store. L. A. and Rena Bethune came to an agreement with Slossberg over a party wall between the two buildings (101 and 105 N. Wall) in 1915. The Bethunes then sold the building to M. J. Herring and H. W. Darden. The Dardens and Herrings retained ownership until 1955, when Janie Herring, widow, sold the building to J. B. Darden and Frances Wright. Jay's Jewelers occupied the building throughout the 1960s and 70s. The Wrights sold the building to the Sessoms in 1984 who

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ownership until 1955, when Janie Herring, widow, sold the building to J. B. Darden and Frances Wright. Jay's Jewelers occupied the building throughout the 1960s and 70s. The Wrights sold the building to the Sessoms in 1984 who opened Sessom's Jewelry Store.

57. Lewis Building C/B c. 1915 107 N. Wall

L. A. and Rena Bethune sold this lot to Junius Lewis in 1898. The small one-story brick Classical Revival-style building was erected c. 1915. The building features some unique architectural details including a row of seven vertical recessed panels near the upper facade, several rows of corbeled brick and another row of seven elongated recessed niches. The lower level has been altered with a central recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. The building remained in the Lewis family until 1995. Various tenants over the years have included Thompson Shoe Store, Phillips Ice Cream Company, and the Children's Shop. The building is currently occupied by the Sampson County Republican Party and has been painted in patriotic red, white, and blue.

58. Clinton Hardware Company C/B c. 1916 109 N. Wall
Building #1

T. F. "Tim" Sanders opened Clinton Hardware Company in this building c. 1916. The two-story brick Commercial-style building with raised parapet features some brick corbeling near the cornice, a flat recessed brick panel outlined by a header course of bricks and a double fixed-glass window, each with twelve panes of glass. The first level has been altered and features a recessed central entrance flanked by fixed-glass windows, each with twelve panes of glass. The Gem Theater occupied the building from the 1930s until the early 1950s. The name was subsequently changed to the Cinema. The Glamour Shop (women's clothes) occupied the building throughout the 1960s and 70s. The building is currently occupied by Templo de Dos Pentecostes.

59. Holliday Drug Store C/B 1917 109a N. Wall

The small one-story brick Commercial-style building, originally occupied by Dr. Holliday, served as both his office and a drug store. He sold patent medicine only. Later tenants, including Simon David, Douglas Sutherland, and Fulton Morrisay, operated a small restaurant or sandwich place in the building. Later on, Taft Bass ran an insurance agency in the building. The current occupant is Powell Bail Bonding. It has a recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows and a corbelled cornice.

60. Rawl's Jewelry Store N/B 1917 111 N. Wall

The two-story brick Commercial-style building was occupied for many years by members of the Rawl family, first Floyd Rawl and his mother, then Floyd's two daughters. The family ran Rawl's Jewelry Store. The commercial space is currently occupied by Alpha and Omega Clothing. The south side of the building features a central stepped

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parapet and two shuttered windows with arched brick lintels in the upper facade. The windows in the north side of the upper facade have been bricked over. The lower facade has been altered with the recessed entrance located on the south side of the facade. Horizontal wood paneling fronts the north side of the lower facade and it has three fixed glass square windows located in it.

61. T. M. Ferrell & Son C/B c. 1905 115 N. Wall
Furniture & Undertaking Building

This is a two-story yellow brick Commercial-style building with a raised parapet. The upper level features a patterned brick design. Below the design is a central window flanked on either side with paired windows, all of which are covered with louvered shutters. The lower level has a recessed central entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. The earliest owner and occupant of this building was T. M. Ferrell who operated a furniture store and undertaking business. He remained in the building until the late 1920s or early 1930s. The Ferrells sold the building to C. S. Royal in 1934. The Royals also opened a furniture store, known as Royal Furniture Company, which remains in business today.

62. Hanstein Clothing Store N/B 1905 119 N. Wall

This is a two-story brick Commercial-style building with brick corbeling near the cornice and three boarded-up windows on the upper level. The lower level has been heavily altered with new brick facing and long narrow windows flanking a recessed entrance. The former clothing store was originally owned and managed by Moses Hanstein. He sold the building in 1917 to Henry Darden and Matt Herring who opened Five Points Drug Company. It remained in the Herring family until 1959 when it was sold to Willie and Evenly Bell, who opened Bell clothiers.

100 block of Fayetteville Street, west side

63. Standard Oil Station C/B c. 1935 103 Fayetteville

Built as a filling station for the Standard Oil Company in the 1930s, the one-story concrete block building has some Art Moderne details including curved corners and glass-block windows. The building has three service bays and a corner office. After operating as Honeycutt's Esso Station for many years, the building is currently being used as an auto repair shop.

Vacant - parking lot.

64. Filling station C/B c. 1930 109 Fayetteville

This one-story brick and concrete block Commercial-style building, has undergone many alterations over the years, although most of the changes look to be over fifty years old. It operated as an automobile service station in the early 1930s and a Shell service station during the 1960s. The station originally had three service bays plus a corner

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office. The former corner office began serving as the Clinton bus station in 1970 and today is a stop for Greyhound Bus Company. Bass Lloyd Plumbing is another long-term occupant of the premises.

Vacant - parking lot.

65. Carolina Telephone and N/B c. 1930/ 115 Fayetteville
Telegraph Building c. 1980

Originally owned by Dr. Glenn Newman, the building was enlarged considerably when taken over by the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. The building is non-contributing due to an entirely new facade being added to the building c. 1980, destroying its historic integrity. The large three-story post-war Modern-style brick building dominates the street. The five-to-one common bond is still evident on the side walls of the building. The new facade features a projecting upper level supported by square concrete posts. The upper level features recessed narrow elongated windows set in rows of recessed stucco, creating a columnar pattern. The building is currently occupied by Sprint, Inc.

Vacant - large parking lot adjacent and behind the (former) Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Building

66. Clinton Theater C/B 1950 117 Fayetteville

Originally known as the Clinton Theater, the name was changed to Austin Theater in 1956 when J. L. and Louise Vann Austin purchased the building. The name was changed again in 1973 to Cinema Theater. The theater served the entertainment needs of Clinton from 1950 until 1982, when the building was bought by the City of Clinton. The deed stipulated that the building could not be used as a movie theater for twenty years. The large two-story brick Art Moderne-style building features a series of brick pilasters along the side (east and west) elevations. A curved metal ticket office is attached to the front adjacent to glass-panel entrance doors. A hipped-roof marquee projects over the front entrance. Two small windows are located in the east side of the upper facade. The building is currently utilized by a small theater group.

67. Commercial building C/B 1950 117 Fayetteville

This one-story brick Commercial-style building attached to the side of the Clinton Theater was constructed by J. L. and Louise Vann Austin soon after the Clinton Theater was constructed in 1950. The building has been used as a florist shop for many years.

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100 block of Fayetteville Street, east side

68. Clinton Hardware Company C/B 1910 100 Fayetteville
 Building #2

This two-story brick Commercial-style building was constructed by brothers, R. H. and H. J. Hubbard, who opened Clinton Hardware Company. The business operated out of the building for many years. The odd-shaped building is located on a triangular lot where Fayetteville and McKoy Streets come together and merge into Wall Street. The facade faces the corner and is one-bay wide. The lower-level of the facade features a double-leaf entrance door with glass panels surmounted by a transom. The second-level of the facade has a one-over-one sash window. The upper level of the south elevation (along Fayetteville Street) has six one-over-one sash windows. Many of the windows have been filled in along the north (McKoy Street) elevation. Two rows of brick corbeling encircle the upper level of the building. The building, bought by Pointe Venture in 1995, is currently vacant.

69. Henry Vann Building #3 C/B c. 1911 104 Fayetteville

This large two-story yellow-brick Commercial-style building adjacent to the Clinton Hardware Company Building (#71) was built for Henry Vann. The long narrow building features stepped parapets and flat brick pilasters. The lower level has a large service bay in addition to several large plate-glass windows. The upper level is ten bays wide on the south side and five bays wide on the north side. The building also has a small one-story section attached to the south side. Vann Motor Company was located in the building for many years. Womble-Vann Motors, which sold new and used cars, was located in the building during the 1960s. The building is still used for storing antique automobiles.

Vacant - parking lot adjacent to and behind the Henry Vann Building

70. T. F. Sanders Building #1 C/B c. 1925 108 Fayetteville

This is a one-story brick Commercial-style building containing two commercial spaces. It has a corbeled cornice and recessed brick panels in the upper facade. Two recessed entrances are flanked by plate-glass display windows. The Western Union Telegraph Company and Parker's Florist were two of the tenants during the 1960s.

71. T. F. Sanders Building #2 N/B c. 1925 114 Fayetteville

This Mediterranean Revival-style building has been so drastically altered, it is impossible to say what it originally may have looked like. Covered with stucco, the front has been reworked to include several large arches leading to a recessed wall dominated with glass windows. There is a concrete block addition on the rear.

Vacant - parking lot

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72. Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home C/B 1935 118 Fayetteville

This handsome two-story brick Tudor Revival building with half-timbering on the upper level was built for the Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral business when they moved from their Vance Street location. A chapel is located on the north side of the building. The home features multiple front gables and a corbeled interior chimney. A large two-story brick addition with a flat roof has been added to the rear of the building. An attached shed roof carport in the rear provides shelter for the company's hearses. They also own a large parking lot behind the building. The funeral home has been operating out of this building for sixty-six years.

200 block of McKoy Street, northeast side

Vacant - parking lot

73. Commercial building C/B c. 1925 206 McKoy

This one-story brick Commercial-style building shares a party wall with the adjacent building at 208 McKoy. The building's front facade features a side door flanked by a plate-glass window. The southeast side of the building is a solid brick wall, while the northwest side runs at a forty-five degree angle from the front wall and has a large plate-glass window. Sanitary Barber Shop has occupied the building for many years.

74. Commercial building C/B c. 1925 208 McKoy

This is a one-story brick Commercial-style building with a raised parapet with a central step. The first level features a central glass door flanked by plate-glass windows. It is attached to an older one-story brick building with three brick pilasters, one on each corner and one in the center, creating a two-bay facade. A garage door is on the north side and a recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows is located on the south side of the facade. The principal entrance is currently located on the north side of the building, adjacent to a parking lot. Many of the deeds associated with this property refer to the site as the "Stable Building." Home and Office Interiors and K. W. Newman Barber Shop are the current occupants.

Vacant - intersection of Loop Street and parking lot

75. Ford Dealership C/B c. 1935/
c. 1950 216 McKoy

Although this post-war Modern building has been significantly altered, changes date to c. 1950. The original upper-level facade with recessed brick panel and corbeled cornice is still evident. The lower level was completely redone with large display windows and an addition on the south side with cantilevered glass walls. Former occupants

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included a Ford dealership and a Chrysler dealership. The current occupant of the building is C & G Automotive Parts.

76. Williams Building C/B c. 1935 218-220 McKoy

This handsome one- and two-story brick Classical Revival-style building was constructed for brothers, J. B. and R. E. Williams. The front elevation features brick pilasters, creating a tripartite facade. There are six paired six-over-six sash windows with stone lintels in the second level. The center portion of the building features a stepped parapet with a central raised step and a recessed panel. A small one-story brick addition is attached to the northwest side of the building. Whitley Auto Supply was located in the building between 1958 and 1997. It is currently occupied by Dennis Murphy's Auto Sales.

100 block of Lisbon Street, southwest side

77. Western Union Telegraph Company Building C/B c. 1904 110 Lisbon

A one-story brick Commercial-style building with a central recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. Erected by R. E. Herring, early deeds referred to this building as the Western Union Telegraph Company building. It has been occupied by insurance agencies for many years. The building is currently vacant.

78. United States Post Office N/B c. 1912 112-116 Lisbon

This one-story brick Commercial-style building has been divided into three commercial spaces. The three separate entrances have been drastically altered, although the upper brick facade with three flat panels continues to unite the building. The building was originally occupied by the United States Post Office. Hudson's Cafeteria was located in one of the spaces during the 1960s. Current occupants include SurrealNET/ Faircloth and Taylors, Attorneys-at-Law/Bartin W. Baldwin, CPA

79. Hiatt Building C/B c. 1916 118 Lisbon

Erected for J. R. Hiatt, this handsome two-story brick Commercial-style building is situated on the northeast corner of Lisbon and East Elizabeth streets. The building presents three elevations to the street, with two bays along Lisbon Street, four bays along East Elizabeth Street, and a one-bay elevation angled toward the corner in which the entrance is placed. The one-over-one sash windows feature arched lintels. Painted gray, the brick building is enhanced with white full-length flat columns on each corner and between the two bays on the Lisbon Street elevation. Horizontal relief is provided by molding wrapped around one side of the building between the first and second stories and a corbeled brick cornice. Kirby Law Firm is the present occupant of the building.

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80. Caison Building #3 N/B c. 1935 204 Lisbon

This two-story brick Commercial-style building has been covered with vinyl replacement siding. The door is located on the north side of the principal facade with a one-over-one sash replacement window south of the door. Previous occupants include Austin Insurance Agent and Bradshaw Insurance Agents.

81. Commercial building C/B c. 1935 206 Lisbon

This is one of two almost identical buildings facing each other across the entrance to a parking lot. They are each one-story brick buildings with large arched windows and brick corbeling around the cornice. The rear wall of this building has been covered with replacement brick, covering two of the original windows. The buildings may have been associated with Packard Automotive Sales Dealership at one time. The building is currently occupied by Carr Finance Company.

Vacant - parking lot separates 206 and 208 Lisbon St. and serves the buildings facing the 100 block of East Elizabeth St.

82. Commercial building C/B c. 1935 208 Lisbon

Almost identical to Building #84, this building retains its original brick on the rear wall. It also retains two small two-over-two sash windows with arched brick lintels in its rear elevation. Doodle Bee Art Studio is the current occupant of the building.

100 block of Sampson Street, northeast side

83. Graham Building #1 C/B c. 1924 102 Sampson

This one-story brick Commercial-style building was constructed on the property of the Old Clinton Hotel for A. McL. Graham and his wife, Allie. The building features simple brick corbeling and a central entrance flanked by a row of plate-glass windows. The Sampsonian Newspaper operated out of the building during the 1960s. Robert Lee Harris opened a store here in the 1980s and the Clinton United Churches Crisis Center occupied the building during the late 1980s. The current tenant is Interstar Communications.

84. Graham Building #2 C/B c. 1924 106-108 Sampson

This two-story brick Commercial-style building was constructed on lots 4 and 5 of the subdivision of the Old Clinton Hotel property for A. McL. and Allie Graham. The building is six bays wide and features simple brick corbeling and corner brick pilasters. Currently divided into two commercial spaces, the first level has two recessed entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows. The building has contained a camera shop and studio for many years and currently one of the spaces is occupied by the Photography and Art Studio. The second commercial space is currently vacant.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clinton Commercial Historic District is locally significant for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of commerce and Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance for the district begins in 1902, the date of the earliest building, and extends to 1951 after which no significant construction occurred within the district. The post-1951 period has been evaluated, and it does not possess exceptional significance, therefore the fifty-year cut-off date for Criterion A is appropriate.

Although Clinton did not officially incorporate until 1822, the town had been the location of Sampson County's seat since 1784. The city's earliest major construction began in the early 1830s with the arrival of several merchant families from Connecticut. Despite several major fires, the town flourished as an educational, trade and political center during the nineteenth century. The 1886 completion of a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad enabled Clinton to thrive during the latter part of the nineteenth century as an agriculture and timber market.

The period of significance begins in 1902 when a devastating fire destroyed most of Clinton's commercial district. The business community immediately began the task of rebuilding, replacing the former vulnerable frame structures with more substantial and fire-resistant brick buildings. The district contains governmental and commercial buildings which are characteristic of the distinctive styles from the first half of the twentieth century. A popular style chosen by many of the town's businessmen was the early-twentieth-century Commercial style, identified by the use of patterned masonry wall surfaces, shaped parapets at the roofline, and large rectangular windows. The Classical Revival-style 1902 Powell and Bethune Buildings (NR 1986, #13 and #14) on East Main Street provide excellent examples of the early-twentieth-century use of decorative pressed metal to sheathe commercial buildings. The A. F. Johnson Building (NR 1999, # 11), also located on East Main Street, is a more restrained Classical Revival-style two-story brick building featuring a projecting metal cornice with modillion blocks.

Shortly after the 1902 fire, the town replaced the former frame 1818 courthouse with a much more substantial brick Romanesque Revival-style courthouse. The 1904 courthouse received a major facelift in 1938 when the Works Progress Administration, under the direction of R. R. Markley, architect, remodeled the building in the Colonial Revival style. The courthouse (#1) continues to anchor the downtown commercial district. Several blocks west of the courthouse, the 1936 United States Post Office (#9) echoes the Colonial Revival style of the courthouse.

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Designed by architect Louis A. Simon, the post office is embellished with many patriotic elements, including a carved eagle in a recessed arch over the main entrance.

Another popular style of the early twentieth century can be found in the Clinton Railroad and Freight Depot (NR 1985, #45), located several blocks southwest of the courthouse, on the edge of the historic district. Dating from c. 1917, the brick Craftsman-style passenger depot displays a low hip roof with wide eaves supported by large triangular brackets.

Clinton thrived during the first half of the twentieth century as Sampson County's governmental seat, cultural center, and major business locality. Large department stores, including Barbrey's and Powell's, both located on East Main Street, attracted shoppers from all over the county. The town, continuing to expand, underwent a second major building boom during the early to mid 1940s when former frame buildings, lost to fire or neglect, were replaced with post-war modern one-story brick commercial buildings. Clinton's commercial historic district remains a time capsule, as no significant building has taken place since approximately 1950. Several currently vacant buildings are slated for restoration as the city recognizes and seeks to preserve its unique heritage and historically significant built environment.

Historical Background and Commerce Context

Created on April 19, 1784, by the General Assembly, Sampson County was cut from the western half of Duplin County, which had been created from New Hanover County in 1749. The county was named in honor of Colonel John Sampson, a native of Northern Ireland, who immigrated to North Carolina in the early 1730s. Sampson, a prominent early political leader, was the first Registrar of Deeds in Duplin County and also served on the Royal Councils of Governors Dobbs, Tyron and Martin. Sampson owned approximately 12,000 acres of land and built a house just northeast of Clinton (Butchko, p. 11).

Sampson, the largest county in the state, established its own log courthouse with an attached jail and stock by the fall of 1784. Originally know as Rhodes' Cross Roads, the name was changed to Sampson Courthouse in 1801 with the completion of a new courthouse and the establishment of the town's first post office. The name, "Clinton Courthouse", was officially given the village by Act of General Assembly in 1818 (Bass, p. 28).

With money from the sale of lots, a two-story Federal-style courthouse was built on high brick piers. Offices were located on the second floor of the frame building, while the first level contained the

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courtroom, accessed by two outside staircases. This building, remodeled c. 1849 in the Greek Revival style, was utilized until 1904, when it was sold and moved to McKoy Street (Patrick-Carr-Herring House National Register Nomination, Section 8, page 5).

When another North Carolina town named "Clinton" gave up its charter in 1822, the Clinton Courthouse post office was permitted to drop the "Courthouse" part of its name and the town officially became known as Clinton. Although the General Assembly had authorized "Clinton Courthouse" in Sampson County to be laid out in 1818, it was not incorporated until 1822 (Bizzell, p. 51).

The community was named for Richard Clinton (1721-1796), John Sampson's foster son and Sampson County representative to both the state general assembly and senate (1784-1787, 1789-1795). Clinton also served as one of the first Justices of Sampson County and was the county's first Registrar of Deeds. The 1818 courthouse was built on five acres of land purchased from Richard Clinton for thirty cents an acre (Butchko, p. 12).

Sampson County led the state's production of tar, pitch, and turpentine during most of the nineteenth century. Early agricultural products included rice, corn, cotton, and sweet potatoes. It was common for sheep, geese, hogs, and cows to forage over the countryside. Clinton, meanwhile, flourished as an educational, trade, and political center, energized by an influx of Connecticut merchants in the 1830s. Surveyed in 1834, the town limits were established so as not to extend beyond one-fourth of a mile from the courthouse. On December 22, 1852, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified an act for the better regulation of the town of Clinton. Newly-appointed town commissioners, James M. Moseley, Isaac Boykin, Dr. Henry A. Bizzell, John R. Beaman, and Alfred Johnson, resurveyed the town and prepared a plat, extending the town limits to a half-mile each direction from the courthouse (Bass, pp. 32-33).

Following the Civil War and the destruction of the commercial district by an 1877 fire, Clinton rebounded as an agriculture and timber market, aided by the completion of a branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad (Bishir, p. 408). Cotton and tobacco replaced tar, pitch, and turpentine as the cash crop of Sampson County. On April 1, 1887, the first passenger train pulled out of Clinton for Warsaw on a spur of the Wilmington to Weldon Railroad, thereby connecting Clinton to the outside world. The train also provided for efficient and fast delivery of supplies and products for Clinton merchants, replacing the previously utilized slow and unpredictable mule and wagon mode of transporting goods (Bizzell, p. 153).

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On December 5, 1889, an article in *The Caucasian*, a Clinton newspaper, describes some of the improvements in town. "Several new businesses on Courthouse Square are identified as the two new stores of F. T. Atkins, a new store occupied by Mrs. M. E. Peterson & Co., the store of T. M. Britt, D. R. Watson's new store, the handsome new brick store of J. E. Royal, a millinery establishment of W. A. Jackson, and the office of the Clinton Loan Association." The article also describes numerous improvements throughout the town, including overhauled mills and cotton gins, new hotels, and new and improved residences (Bizzell, pp. 36-37).

Following the 1877 fire, Clinton sustained major damage from several additional fires in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1892, fire destroyed the entire block of North Wall Street. Two years later, in 1894, another fire destroyed a number of downtown stores. A fourth major fire, in 1902, burned forty-three of Clinton's downtown buildings, taking with it practically all of East Main Street (Bass, pp. 41-42).

In 1904, a large Romanesque Revival-style brick building replaced the 1818 courthouse. The courthouse building (#1) was completely remodeled in 1938-39 in the Colonial-Revival style with the addition of two wings at a cost of \$100,000. The building has remained essentially the same since that time.

Telephone service also began in Clinton in 1904 with the formation of the Sampson Telephone Company. The company was granted permission by the board of county commissioners to use the public roads and highways of Sampson County for the purpose of erecting, maintaining, and operating telephone poles and lines. The telephone company moved immediately to publish a directory. At the time, there were only fifty-three telephones listed in Clinton. Initial advertisers included grocers, restaurants, a lumber company, a clothing and dry goods store, a drug store, a meat market, a horse, mule, wagon, buggy, and harness business, and the Bank of Clinton (Bizzell, p. 172).

In 1910, Clinton became one of the first in a growing number of North Carolina towns to receive electricity. A franchise was granted by the town to C. W. Petty, operating as Sampson Power Company. It became a part of the Carolina Power and Light system in 1923 when the company's transmission system was extended eastward from Fayetteville and the municipal lighting plants at Clinton and Mount Olive were acquired (Bizzell, p. 173).

The town realized that it needed a more effective means to combat the ever-present threat of fire, and in 1910, began issuing bonds for the purpose of installing a waterworks system. The town commissioners argued that in addition to the protection waterworks would

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give the town in case of fire, the improvement in sanitation conditions and the health of the town alone would be worth the cost. A consulting engineer was brought to town in April, 1911, to discuss the costs of installing a waterworks and sewage system in Clinton (Bizzell, p. 43).

Clinton's commercial district thrived from the 1920s through the early 1950s. By 1930, the population of Clinton had reached 2,712. Many of its businesses were dependent on the agricultural economy. Several large markets opened in Clinton during the 1930s including the Tobacco Market, the Sampson Fruit and Vegetable Market, a livestock market, and a poultry and egg market. Many of the farmer's markets were located on an empty lot behind the courthouse, drawing local farmers into downtown Clinton, whose commercial enterprises were ready to supply them with anything that could not be produced on the farm.

Downtown department and clothing stores included L. P. Barbrey and Company, dealers in dry goods, notions, shoes, hats, clothing, and millinery, located in the A. F. Johnson Building (NR 2000, #11). Later businesses in the Johnson building included Ed Fleishmans Brothers, a men's clothing retailer, which remained in the building until 1979 and Roses Dime Store (1929-1979). Further down East Main Street could be found Sampson Ace Hardware Store, located in the c. 1902 Powell Building (NR 1986, #11). Pope's Five, Ten, and Twenty-Five Cent Store located at 124 East Main Street in the Herring Building (#15) was a popular gathering spot during the 1940s and 50s.

Belk Williams Department Store opened for business in the Slossberg Building (#55) on the corner of West Main and North Wall Street in 1946. They remained in that location until 1975. Another popular store for the ladies during the 1940s and 50s was The Town Shop, situated across the street from Belk Williams at 107 West Main Street (#10).

One of the most prominent businesses downtown during this time period was Butler's Drug Store (#18). Founded by A. B. Butler in 1924, the store remains in business today. Additional businesses located in the buildings encircling the courthouse included jewelry stores, furniture stores, shoe stores, and small grocery stores. Professional businessmen, including doctors, lawyers, dentists, and insurance agents rented office space on the second level of many of the buildings.

Several banks also located in the commercial district. The Bank of Clinton (#3) located near the courthouse on East Main Street, opened its doors in 1905 and remained until c. 1945, when it was taken over by First Citizens Bank and Trust Company. The Bank of Sampson (#16) occupied the building across the street at 132 E. Main Street. It operated in this building until 1934, when it was bought by Joe Reynolds and became known as Reynolds Drug Store.

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Clinton also catered to the entertainment needs of the local citizens. The Gem Theater occupied the building at 109 N. Wall Street (#58) from the 1930s until the early 1950s. The Clinton Theater (#66), later known as the Austin Theater, opened on Fayetteville Street in 1950. Several popular restaurants were also located near the courthouse. The Carolina Fruit Palace, opened by Solly Kaleel in 1932 at 107 Vance Street (#21), remained until the early 1960s. Today, Kaleel's son operates a cafe in the building known as Kaleel's City Grill. The downtown drug stores attracted the teenage crowd with their lunch counters and ice cream soda fountains. Cruising the block around the courthouse in their souped-up automobiles was an ever popular past-time for Clinton's teenagers during the 1940s, 50s, and 60s.

Clinton's growth during the second half of the twentieth century has been slow and steady. By the 1950s, Clinton was designated as a "city" and was becoming recognized as one of the state's industrial and marketing centers. Clinton owned and operated an auction produce market with office buildings, grading sheds, storage rooms, cotton platform, and poultry and egg market covering a ten-acre plat. A tobacco market had been established in 1945. A meat packing plant established in 1950 processed over 3,000 hogs each week while a modern poultry processing plant also furnished employment to local citizens. By 1957, Clinton's manufacturing plants produced lumber, fertilizer, ice cream, boats, meal, poultry and livestock feed, awnings, furniture, tobacco oil curers, home heating units, radio electronic parts, garments, and component parts for airplanes (Bass, p. 82). Some of the businesses in the downtown commercial district lost their momentum during the 1970s and 80s as improved roads lured the county's citizens to the larger shopping malls in nearby Raleigh.

At the turn of the twenty-first century, the city of Clinton continues its pattern of growth and prosperity. The 1996 population of approximately 9,100 is about one-fifth of Sampson County's entire population. The 1980s witnessed the development of Southeastern Business Complex, adjacent to the City of Clinton. Since then, the industrial park has expanded including such industries as Dubose Strapping, Dubose National Energy, and Atlantic Coil Processing. Clinton's downtown commercial district, centered around the courthouse square, remains essentially intact, however, and is enjoying a renaissance as previously vacant buildings are being renovated and occupied by new businesses.

Architectural Context

Clinton owes its beginnings to its selection as the county seat. Consequently, it is the courthouse, and not the railroad depot which was the focus of the business district and the street layout. It was not

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until 1886, when the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad built a spur from Warsaw to Clinton, that the railroad made an impact on the town.

Clinton Commercial Historic District centers on the square dominated by the Sampson County Courthouse (#1). In 1938, a Public Works Administration-sponsored Colonial Revival-style courthouse (#1) replaced the original 1904 Romanesque Revival-style building. Designed by R. R. Markley, the courthouse features two projecting wings, a two-story porch supported by square columns, and a central cupola.

Enclosing the square are one- and two-story brick commercial buildings from the turn of the century. Some feature pressed-metal facades such as the Powell and Bethune Buildings (NR, #13 and #14), built after a fire that destroyed their predecessors. South of the courthouse stands the chief reminder of railroad days, the long brick Clinton Depot and Freight Station (NR, #45), built c. 1917 in the Craftsman style.

By the 1910s and 20s, many of southeastern North Carolina's small towns assumed a typical form, which many have maintained to the present. Similar to Clinton, a business core of two to perhaps four or five blocks centers on a courthouse square or a railroad depot. The streets were generally paved in the 1920s and concrete sidewalks installed about the same time that power lines were run. Replacing older frame buildings, the commercial buildings built from the 1890s to the 1920s generally consisted of one- and two-story brick blocks with plate-glass windows and simple corbelled brick cornices. A few of the more upscale buildings boasted of pressed metal fronts. Lawyers, doctors, and dentists occupied second-floor office space.

The majority of the buildings in Clinton's Commercial Historic District were constructed after the 1902 catastrophic fire which destroyed much of the town's architectural fabric. The more elaborate commercial buildings in the district are situated across East Main Street from the courthouse. This row of two-story brick buildings were all constructed shortly after the fire and seem to make a statement that Clinton not only would not be defeated by the fire but would rebuild bigger and better than before.

The previously mentioned Classical Revival-style Powell and Bethune buildings (#13 and #14) were embellished with decorative friezes, cornices, and ornate pressed-metal sheathing, standing out as architectural landmarks in Sampson County. While somewhat more subdued, the remaining four buildings on the block tend to be larger and exhibit more architectural adornment than the remainder of Clinton's commercial buildings. These include the c. 1902 Classical Revival-style A. F. Johnson Building (#11, NR 2000) with its pressed metal projecting cornice and the c. 1902 Herring Building (#15), also embellished with

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Classical Revival details, including a decorated cornice supported by modillion blocks. The c. 1902 Bank of Sampson (#16) located on the corner of East Main and Lisbon streets, also features classically-inspired modillion blocks supporting a projecting cornice. The c. 1904 Dr. Lee Building (#12), suffered a major fire in 1965 and the upper level of the front facade was replaced with a post-war Modern-style aluminum panel.

The remaining buildings facing the courthouse, situated along North Wall, Vance, and Sampson streets, are more typical early-twentieth century Commercial-style buildings. Most have undergone some alteration of their first-story facades, but the original architectural detailing of the upper levels remains evident. Features common to these buildings include corbelled tables at the roofline, recessed panels, parapeted roof lines, patterned brickwork, and rectangular windows.

One block west of the courthouse is the 1936 United States Post Office (# 9) designed by Louis A. Simon. Built in the Colonial Revival style, the post office features an elaborate door surround including Doric columns flanking the double-leaf front door and a leaded-glass fanlight transom surmounted by a carved eagle. It is interesting to note that the Colonial Revival design of the post office coincided with the redesign of the Sampson County Courthouse in the Colonial Revival style.

Clinton underwent another building boom during the 1940s. At this time some of the town's older frame hotels and boarding houses situated adjacent to the commercial district were either demolished or destroyed by fire. They tended to be replaced by one-story brick commercial buildings constructed in the post-war Modern style. These commercial structures took the shape of common brick buildings with flat roofs and large expanses of plate-glass windows, devoid of much architectural detail.

Several garages and auto showrooms were built in downtown Clinton during the first half of the twentieth century. The best of these is the c. 1911 Henry Vann Building (#69) on Fayetteville Street. This impressive yellow brick Commercial-style building features a multi-stepped parapet, paired rectangular windows, and flat brick pilasters dividing the large building into sections. The first floor was divided into a large showroom area and office space. Vann Motor Company was located in the building for many years. The c. 1935 Williams Building (#76) on McKoy Street, is another handsome automobile showroom built in the Commercial-style. Similar to the Vann Building, the Williams building is divided into sections by flat brick pilasters. It features a central stepped parapet, paired rectangular windows, and inset accent stones on the facade.

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Several small automobile service stations are included in the historic district. The c. 1935 Standard Oil Station (#63), located on a triangular lot where Fayetteville Street joins North Wall Street, exhibits the influence of the Art Moderne style with its curved office walls and glass-block windows. The curved walls and metal sheathing of the ticket office on the 1950 Clinton Theater (#66) located on Fayetteville Street is also reminiscent of the Art Moderne style.

One of the most handsome buildings within the Clinton Commercial Historic District is the 1935 Tudor Revival-style Crumpler-Honeycutt Funeral Home (#72) located on Fayetteville Street. Built to resemble a large country-style residence, the funeral home exhibits half-timbering on the upper level, as well as multiple gables and a corbelled interior chimney.

The overwhelming bulk of Sampson County's surviving commercial buildings date from the first decades of the twentieth century. One- and two-story brick commercial structures are found in Salemburg, Roseboro, and Clinton. These brick buildings are essentially expanded versions of the one-story variety and were given a heightened sense of stylistic ornamentation, usually in the form of a metal cornice or decorative stone lintels and sills.

The town of Burgaw (NR 1999), in adjacent Pender County, is similar to Clinton in many respects. Also a county seat, Burgaw's commercial district centers on the courthouse square and the impressive 1934 brick Georgian Revival courthouse. Bounded by broad streets, modest one- and two-story early-twentieth-century brick commercial buildings define the perimeter of the square. And like Clinton, the railroad depot is situated several blocks from the courthouse square on the outskirts of the commercial district.

The Clinton Commercial Historic District is free of industrial buildings which tended to be located on the outskirts of the town. Several residential historic districts are located immediately adjacent to the downtown district. The proposed historic district is a mix of early- and mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings, along with the 1930s remodeled courthouse and post office. The few designated non-contributing buildings in the Clinton Commercial Historic District are due primarily to inappropriate changes to the buildings' historic fabric.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Clinton Commercial Historic District are as shown by the solid line on the accompanying Clinton map (scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Clinton Commercial Historic District are drawn to include the highest concentration of commercial buildings dating prior to 1951. Vacant lots, post-1951 buildings, and residential properties are excluded from the district.

Faison St EFC

Church
Chestnut

CLINTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
SAMPSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
1 INCH = 100 FEET

- = CONTRIBUTING BLDG.
- ▲ = NON-CONTRIBUTING BLDG.
- = CONTRIBUTING OBJECT
- ⊗ = NON-CONTRIBUTING OBJECT
- ★ = NON-CONTRIBUTING SITE
- V = VACANT LOT



