

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Second Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Portions of 100 and 200 blocks North Second Street and 100 block West North Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Albemarle

vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Stanly code 167 zip code 28001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPD 2/21/05
Signature of certifying official Date

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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): _____

Second Street Historic District
Name of Property

Stanly County, North Carolina
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	
12	7	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	1	objects
12	8	Total

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store
DOMESTIC hotel
RECREATION AND CULTURE theater
GOVERNMENT post office
GOVERNMENT municipal building
RELIGION religious facility
FUNERARY mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE professional
COMMERCE/TRADE restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE financial institution
RECREATION AND CULTURE theater
GOVERNMENT correctional facility
GOVERNMENT municipal building

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Commercial Style
- Late Gothic Revival
- Colonial Revival
- Moderne
- Art Deco
- Beaux Arts
- Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt
walls Brick
Porcelain
Vinyl
other Stone
Metal
Wood

Narrative Description

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

Second Street Historic District
Name of Property

Stanly County, North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Entertainment/Recreation
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1903 - 1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Northup and O'Brien, Architects
Yoe, Thomas S., Architects
Harwood, J.D., Builder
Holbrooks, D. A., Builder

Areas of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

Second Street Historic District
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 9.5

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 572840 3912190
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
____ 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 Diane M. Young, President

organization Downtown Graphics Network, Inc. date November, 2004

street & number 1409 S. Fulton Street telephone 704-637-0855

city or town Salisbury state NC zip code 28144

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name multiple owners – see continuation sheet

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

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Second Street Historic District
Stanly County, North Carolina

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Second Street Historic District lies within the original Albemarle town limits and includes portions of North Second Street and West North Street at the intersection of the two. The district contains nineteen buildings and one object, with dates of construction ranging from 1903 to 1960. Twelve (sixty percent) of the resources are contributing. These buildings house a combination of commercial, governmental, and religious uses, and represent the period of economic growth and prosperity experienced in Albemarle in the early twentieth century.

Situated in the northeast corner of Albemarle's central commercial district, the Second Street Historic District is bounded to the north and east by predominantly residential neighborhoods, and to the south, west, and southeast by commercial and industrial districts. To the west and south is the Albemarle Historic District, containing commercial properties dating from 1898 to 1940. New construction and vacant lots separate the Albemarle Historic District from the Second Street Historic District. Farther to the west is the Albemarle Railroad District, currently on the North Carolina study list. To the southeast lies the relatively small Five Points commercial and industrial district.

The two streets included in the Second Street Historic District cross one another following the original grid pattern of the town of Albemarle as it was laid out in 1841. The district includes buildings on both the east and west sides of the one hundred block of North Second Street, as well as the first two properties in the two hundred block of North Second Street, the First Baptist Church to the east, and the (former) Post Office to the west. The district then turns west and incorporates the north side of the one hundred block of West North Street to include the First Presbyterian Church, which stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of West North Street and North First Street. While relatively small in size, the Second Street Historic District contains properties that are key to the early twentieth-century historical development of Albemarle, including three prominent churches, two governmental buildings, one theater, one hotel, and a collection of early twentieth-century commercial buildings constructed in the Italianate style.

The diversity of uses within this district led to a variety of architectural styles and levels of ornamentation. Resources in the district are a combination of one- and two-story buildings, with the exception being the four-story Albemarle Hotel (#9). Brick is the predominant building material, with cast concrete and stone embellishing the more elaborate churches. The Alameda Theater (#3) stands out among the neighboring Italianate-style buildings with decorative cast iron cornice and modillions, and cast iron columns remain as part of the modified storefront of

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the Hearne Building (#20). All of the commercial structures originally constructed to house mercantile and professional establishments were built in the modest Commercial Style. The Albemarle Hotel (#9), (former) Post Office (#14), and City Hall (#19) are fine examples of Colonial Revival architecture. The First Presbyterian Church (#10) and the First Baptist Church (#15), both constructed in the Beaux Arts style, as well as the Gothic Revival Central Methodist Church (#17), display greater mass and detailing. Across the street from the First Baptist Church and next to the Central Methodist Church sits the Wilhelm Service Station (#16), a classic example of Art Moderne with its sleek curves and use of glass, porcelain panels, and aluminum.

The most imposing resource in the Second Street Historic District is the four-story Albemarle Hotel (#9). Located prominently on the southwest corner of North Second and West North streets, it was Albemarle's third hotel when it opened in 1923. The Colonial Revival exterior has retained much of its original fabric, with the exception of the storefront level on the North Second Street elevation, where modifications have taken place over the years.

INVENTORY LIST

The following list of properties is organized beginning with the southernmost building on the west side of North Second Street; progressing northward to the intersection of West North Street; continuing along the north side of West North Street from west to east, and then along the east side of North Second Street from north to south. The inventory provides the name, location, dates of construction, contributing or noncontributing status, and a description of each resource. The data represents a combination of sources, including on-site inspections, Sanborn maps, local newspapers, city directories, and local history publications. Properties identified as contributing are those that were present during the period of significance, relate to the documented significance of the district, and possess historic integrity. Those properties identified as noncontributing were either not present during the period of significance, do not relate to the documented significance of the district, or due to alterations no longer possess historic integrity. The dates of construction were determined from a combination of sources including Sanborn maps, city directories, and listings of building permits published in the local newspaper. The sources used to establish a date of construction specific to each property are identified in parentheses at the end of the property's entry.

West Side North Second Street – 100 Block

1. **Hearne Property**
131 N. Second Street

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Second Street Historic District
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ca. 1908
Contributing building

This two-story, six-bay brick Italianate style building is divided into two sections by decorative brick quoins, which also adorn the corners of the building. The decorative cornice has been removed, however, the brick corbelling located directly below the cornice still remains. The original storefronts have been replaced with more modern aluminum-framed windows and doors. The upper façade contains regularly spaced one-over-one double hung wood windows with granite lintels and sills. (Sanborn maps)

2. **P. J. Huneycutt Building**
143 N. Second Street
ca. 1903/ca.1929 rear addition
Contributing building

The two-story brick Italianate style building is divided into two sections defined by brick pilasters. The upper façade is intact. Six regularly spaced one-over-one double hung wood windows have segmental arched brick lintels and rowlock sills. The building terminates at the top with a decorative cornice of alternating corbelled pendants and triangles executed in brick. The storefronts have been modernized with replacement aluminum-framed windows and doors. (Sanborn maps)

3. **The Alameda Theater**
147 N. Second Street
1916
Contributing building

This two-story building with a façade of white glazed brick contains much of its original detailing, combining Art Deco and Neoclassical styles. The main entrance with pairs of double doors on both sides of a centered ticket booth is recessed beyond an elliptically arched opening that spans the storefront. The upper façade has retained regularly spaced one-over-one double hung wood windows with transoms above and granite corner blocks and sills. Above these windows is a half circle window with leaded glass and a granite keystone. The original metal cornice supported by exaggerated modillions is intact. (*The Albemarle Enterprise*, 28 December 1916).

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Second Street Historic District
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4. **City Hall Annex**
157 N. Second Street
1953
Noncontributing building

This two-story masonry building received an extensive remodeling of the façade circa 1980. A recessed aluminum framed storefront situated off-center dominates the street front level. Above, aluminum framed windows are set into openings framed in soldier courses with pre-cast corner blocks and sills. Side and rear elevations experienced the least alteration with the original brick left intact. Windows on the rear elevation were also replaced. (*Stanly News and Press*, 19 June 1953).

5. **Bank of Stanly**
167 N. Second Street
1950
Noncontributing building

The façade of this simple single-story building has been extensively remodeled. New materials include vinyl siding and new doors with sidelights. The storefront on the left has been recessed. The brick on the lower level of the rear elevation has been changed, the upper portion retains the original brick laid in common bond. Two six-over-six windows remain on the rear elevation. (*City Directory; Stanly News and Press*, 4 July 1950)

6. **Whitley Luncheonette**
171 N. Second Street
circa 1958
Noncontributing building

The façade of the one-story Whitley Luncheonette building contains large plate glass windows framed in aluminum from end to end. Above the flat metal canopy is corrugated aluminum. This building replaced the original metal structure on this lot, the Do-Nut Dinette, which was constructed here in 1948 and then moved to a location on North First Street in 1957. (*Stanly News and Press*, 4 May 1948, 8 January 1985)

7. **North Carolina Savings and Loan**
173 N. Second Street

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Second Street Historic District
Stanly County, North Carolina

ca. 1953, 1965
Noncontributing building

The single-story North Carolina Savings and Loan building now houses the Bear Insurance Service. Original concrete panels run vertically up both sides and across the top to frame the storefront. Yellow brick laid in stack bond, added circa 1965, sets off the aluminum-framed replacement storefront and windows. (City Directory)

8. **Standard Office Supply**
175 N. Second Street
ca. 1951
Contributing building

This single-story red brick building with pilasters has retained its simple design and materials, with the only changes being the insertion of new aluminum-framed plate glass windows and doors into the original storefront opening. A leaded glass transom with panes of prism-glass tile exists above the storefront. The red brick is accented by regularly spaced vertical stripes of bricks laid in dogtooth fashion, and terminates at the top with a cast concrete coping. (City Directory)

9. **Albemarle Hotel**
179 – 195 N. Second Street
1923
Contributing building

This four-story red brick Colonial Revival building is prominently located on the southwest corner of North Second Street and West North Street. The east elevation housed merchants on the ground floor level; these early storefronts have been modified. Separating the first and second stories is a wood cornice. The upper façade is completely intact, with regularly spaced one-over-one wood double hung windows in alternating singles and pairs. The north and east elevations terminate at the top with a dropped wooden cornice with an exaggerated dentil row. (Sanborn maps; *Stanly News-Herald*, 17 March 1922)

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Second Street Historic District
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North Side West North Street

10. **First Presbyterian Church**
126 W. North Street
1924
Contributing building

Located on the northeast corner of the intersection of North First and West North streets, the First Presbyterian Church was constructed in the Beaux Arts style. The rich red brick is broken up by a stone water table, frieze band, and denticulated cornice. The front (south) elevation boasts a pedimented portico with a plain architrave supported by Tuscan columns. Windows on the front elevation are wood one-over-one double hung stained glass windows with stone sills and corner blocks. The east and west elevations have projecting pedimented pavilions with multi-story arched windows containing stained glass. At the center of the roof structure is a copper dome. (*Stanly News-Herald*, 25 January 1924)

(vacant lot)

11. **Commercial Building**
116 W. North Street
ca. 1957
Noncontributing building

This property is one of three contiguous small noncontributing commercial buildings, each one bay wide. A single-story building of painted masonry, the front (south) elevation contains an aluminum-framed storefront and an oversized false mansard roof finished with asphalt shingles. (City Directory)

12. **Commercial Building**
114 W. North Street
1960
Noncontributing building

This single story building, one bay wide, is constructed of unpainted red brick. The storefront is dramatically recessed, and a blue fabric awning spans end to end. (City Directory)

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Second Street Historic District
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13. **Commercial Building**
110 W. North Street
1959
Noncontributing building

A single story building, one bay wide, this property is also constructed of red brick. The aluminum-framed storefront contains a centered entrance and is shaded by a sloped fabric awning. (City Directory)

West Side North Second Street – 200 Block

14. **(former) U.S. Post Office**
203 N. Second Street
1936
Contributing building

This single-story red brick Colonial Revival building stands on the northwest corner of South Second and West North Streets. The bilaterally symmetrical front elevation has a centered entrance below an arched brick opening. Above the replacement entry door is the original fanlight. Double-hung windows with jack-arched lintels and concrete keystones flank the entrance. Above each window on the front elevation is a panel of brick laid in a basket weave pattern. The building's walls are capped with a concrete coping. The interior contains a 1941 mural painted by Louis Ribak titled, "View near Albemarle." The City of Albemarle purchased this building in 1968 to house offices for the police department. (*Stanly News and Press*, 17 January 1936)

East Side North Second Street – 200 Block

15. **First Baptist Church**
202 N. Second Street
1919
Contributing building

Constructed in the Beaux Arts style, the north and south elevations of this brick building have projecting pedimented pavilions. These pavilions are accented with plain architraves supported by Ionic pilasters of blond brick. Between these pilasters are multi-story arched stained glass windows. The front entrance, located on the west

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Second Street Historic District
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elevation, features a pedimented portico with Ionic columns. The centered entry contains a pair of wood paneled doors surmounted by a semi-circular stained glass window. Arched windows on the first level, with flat-topped windows above, flank the entry. A dome tops the sanctuary. (*Essays on History: One Hundred Years of Caring and Sharing, 1888 – 1988. First Baptist Church, Albemarle, North Carolina*)

East Side of North Second Street – 100 Block

16. **Wilhelm Service Station**
192 N. Second Street
1950
Contributing building

The Wilhelm service station is a well-preserved example of Art Moderne architecture. The front (west) elevation contains three regularly spaced service bays with traditional roll-up doors. This elevation is sheathed in white porcelain panels. The office is located at the northwest corner of the building, with curved glass set into aluminum framing and a curved metal awning above. The north elevation contains a projecting restroom bay with glass block. (*City Directory; Stanly News and Press, 9 June 1950*)

17. **Central Methodist Church**
172 N. Second Street
1908
Contributing building

This landmark Gothic Revival building is constructed of red brick. The nave's hipped-roof is fronted by parapeted gables on the front and side elevations. Large tracery windows containing stained glass are present on these elevations as well. The nave is flanked by towers of differing heights, the belltower being the taller of the two. The towers contain pairs of entry doors set in lancet-arched openings with stained glass transoms and stone keystones, as well as a variety of windows above including tall, thin double-hung windows, lancet windows, and arched-shaped vented openings. Both towers terminate in battlements surrounding metal-clad spires. The corners of the towers as well as the side elevations are highlighted with stucco-tipped buttresses. An addition constructed on the rear (east) elevation in 1926 was replaced

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Second Street Historic District
Stanly County, North Carolina

by a sizable new addition completed in 1989. (*Sesquicentennial 1831-1981, Central United Methodist Church, Albemarle, N.C.*)

18. **Confederate Memorial Statue**
Between 144 and 172 N. Second Street
1925
Noncontributing object

The Confederate Memorial Statue is currently located in the west end of the Central Methodist Church parking lot, facing North Second Street. Erected in 1925 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, it was originally located on a median in the center of the 100 Block of North First Street. In the early 1950s, it was relocated to a prominent location in front of Central Elementary School. The statue remained at this location until 1970 when it was moved to the present location facing North Second Street. This object has been classified as noncontributing due to the fact that it has been relocated from its original place of erection. Research has not revealed the name of the sculptor or other additional pertinent information. Further research may reveal the significance of the sculptor. (Inscription)

19. **City Hall**
144 N. Second Street
1938
Contributing building

The front (west) elevation of this Colonial Revival building is bilaterally symmetrical, the two-story three-bay central block is flanked by projecting single-story wings that give the building an H-shaped plan. Throughout the building, multi-light, double-hung wood windows are framed in cast concrete. Windows on the front façade have concrete aprons. The main entrance has fluted pilasters supporting a full entablature with the words "City Hall". A concrete water table, frieze band and coping add further ornamentation. Architects were the firm of Northup and O'Brien of Winston-Salem and Thomas S. Yoe of Salisbury. (*Stanly News and Press*, 1 November 1938)

(vacant lot)

20. **Hearne Building**
122 – 126 N. Second Street

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Second Street Historic District
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1906
Contributing Building

The two-story painted brick building is divided into two sections by a brick pilaster. While the first-floor storefronts have been altered, the mid-level cast iron cornice still remains, and the storefront at 126 North Second Street has retained its' cast iron columns. The upper facade features arched one-over-one double hung wood windows with segmentally arched windows. The building terminates at the top with brick corbelling. The side (south) elevation is highly visible from East Main Street, and has retained its' regularly spaced double-hung wood windows with segmentally arched lintels. (*Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County*)

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Second Street Historic District
Stanly County, North Carolina

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Second Street Historic District in Albemarle, Stanly County, comprises the 100 block of North Second Street, the first two buildings in the 200 block of North Second Street, and the north side of the 100 block of West North Street. Within this district are buildings representative of the commercial development of Albemarle from circa 1903 to circa 1961, a period during which the original commercial district expanded beyond its late nineteenth century development into North Second Street and West North Street. The district also includes the post office, a new city hall, three churches, a theater, and a historically significant hotel. The district meets Criterion A in the areas of commerce, entertainment/recreation, and politics/government, and Criterion C for architecture, as it contains buildings exemplifying early and mid-twentieth-century architectural styles, including Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival, Art Deco and Art Moderne. The period of significance spans from 1903 to 1955, with the period ending at the fifty-year cut-off for Criteria A and C.

Established in 1857, Albemarle did not see significant growth until the Yadkin Railroad arrived in 1891. Manufacturing quickly followed the arrival of the railroad with the opening of Efir Manufacturing in 1896, the Wiscasset Mill in 1898, and Sibley Manufacturing in 1900. This manufacturing explosion led to the development of a more affluent downtown commercial district, with many two- and three-story commercial buildings constructed on South Second Street, West Main Street, and North and South First Streets. This commercial growth continued into the next decade, during which time the buildings located in the Second Street Historic District were constructed. From 1900 to 1920, the city of Albemarle put in place many modern amenities including electricity, water, and paved streets. It was during this later period of prosperity that Albemarle also saw the development of new recreational opportunities, with the opening of the Alameda Theater (#3) in 1916. Albemarle's population nearly doubled in the first two decades of the twentieth century, going from 1382 in 1900 to 2691 in 1920, and as a result the churches were experiencing great growth in their congregations. Between 1908 and 1924 the First Presbyterian Church (#10), First Baptist Church (#15), and Central Methodist Church (#17) constructed new sanctuaries within the blocks located in the Second Street Historic District.

With its local economy relying largely on textile mill production and cotton farming, Albemarle was hit hard by the depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s. As part of publicly funded building projects along with a response to an increased need for governmental services, the city of Albemarle constructed a new City Hall (#19) on North Second Street, and the Federal

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Second Street Historic District
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government constructed its first post office building (#14) on the northwest corner of North Second Street and West North Street.

The Second Street Historic District contains a fine collection of one- and two- story commercial buildings. Many have intact upper-story facades with original double hung wood windows and brick corbelling. The government buildings, as well as the Albemarle Hotel (#9), are Colonial Revival style, with regularly spaced windows and classical details. The three churches, constructed in the Beaux Arts and Gothic Revival styles, and the Alameda Theater (#3) with its blend of Art Deco and Neoclassical, are the most elaborate buildings in the district.

Historical Background – Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation, and Politics/Government Contexts

Present-day Stanly County, located west of the Pee Dee River, was originally part of Bladen County, then Anson County, and finally Montgomery County in 1779. The Montgomery County courthouse was located on the east side of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River in Troy. Due to the geographical difficulties this caused the residents on the west side of the river, the state legislature was petitioned to establish a new county, thus Stanly County was formed in 1841, bounded by Rocky River to the south, Cabarrus County on the west, Rowan County to the north, and the Yadkin-Pee Dee River to the east.

Nehemiah Hearne's widow, Nancy Almond Hearne, donated a fifty-one-acre tract of land for the county seat, to be named Albemarle after North Carolina's first county. The land was laid out in grid fashion into seventy-two lots that were sold at public auction to raise funds for the construction of the courthouse and jail. The streets making up the original town of Albemarle were North, Main, and South streets running east/west, and First, Second, Third, and Fourth streets running north/south. After incorporation in 1857, Albemarle experienced very little growth until the last decade of the nineteenth century. The population in 1890 was less than 300.

In 1891, the Southern Railroad extended the Yadkin Railroad connector line between Salisbury and Norwood. The introduction of the railroad, coupled with steam-powered equipment that arrived in Stanly County in the 1880s, spurred great developments in commerce and manufacturing during this decade. John Solomon Efird, Irenus Polycarp Efird, and J.W. Cannon formed the Efird Manufacturing Company, which began operation in 1897. The Albemarle Telephone Company started up in 1897 with offices located in the Efird Mills. Adding to this momentum was the founding of the Wiscasset Mill in 1898 by John Solomon and J.W. Cannon, followed by the start-up of the Sibley Manufacturing Company in 1900.

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With this industrial growth came a prospering downtown commercial district. New one- and two-story brick commercial buildings were constructed, first on South Second Street followed by construction on Main Street and First Street. These buildings housed merchants selling dry goods, furniture, and hardware, as well as professionals. By 1900, Albemarle's population had reached 1,832. The industrial development of the late nineteenth century continued into the twentieth century with the opening of the Lillian Knitting Mill in 1905.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, commercial development spread to the one hundred block of North Second Street. The Marks Building, located at 134 N. Second Street (demolished in 1990), the P.J. Huneycutt Building (#2), the Hearne Building (#20), and the Hearne Property (#1) were all constructed between 1903 and 1913. These buildings housed merchants selling goods similar to those existing in other parts of downtown including furniture, drugs, general merchandise, hardware, and groceries. The Hearne Building housed a drugstore and clothing retailers through the 1920s. From approximately 1934 to 1984 Hearne's daughter, Mary, taught piano lessons on the second floor. The P.J. Huneycutt Building was home to the P.J. Huneycutt Furniture Company and an undertaker. The P.J. Huneycutt Furniture Company continued to operate at this location for several decades. General merchandise, hardware, and grocery stores were the predominant businesses in the Hearne Property.

In 1909, a \$67,000 bond issue was passed to put in place electricity, water, sewer and paved streets. All of these improvements were completed by 1920. This coincided with the creation of the State Highway Commission in 1915 and the Federal Highway Act of 1916. The installation of modern utilities and improved transportation routes ushered in an era of travel and entertainment as yet unseen in Stanly County. The local economy also prospered with the expansion of Wiscasset Mills in 1918. By 1920, the population had reached 2,691. The results of these innovations and local investment in the economy can be seen in the Second Street Historic District in the Alameda Theater (#3), the Albemarle Hotel (#9), and the filling station constructed where the Wilhelm Service Station (#16) sits today. It was in the late 1920s that the Western Union opened an office in the Hearne Building (#20).

The Alameda Theater (#3), opened to much fanfare on Christmas day in 1916. The theater was established and managed by Eben L. Hearn, great-grandson of Nehemiah and Nancy Almond Hearne. This was the first building constructed for the specific use of showing moving pictures year-round. Prior to the opening of the Alameda Theater, movies were shown at the Opera House located on West Main Street (the upper story was converted to a movie theater in 1914). As work was proceeding on the new theater building during the summer of 1916, the Alameda Theater showed movies at an open theater referred to as the "air dome;" showings were obviously

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susceptible to weather. At the time of the theater's construction, the commercial development along North Second Street was viewed as a positive expansion of the downtown commercial district, as stated by the local *Stanly Enterprise* (August 17, 1916), "This location is one of the best in town, as it is on one of the best business streets, and people have noticed for some time the movement of the town toward the north, this building being located on North Second Street."

In 1923, the Albemarle Hotel (#9) was completed at the southwest corner of North Second Street and West North Street. Constructed by Dr. and Mrs. W.C. Fitzgerald (owners and operators), this was Albemarle's third hotel at the time of its opening, the other two being the Central Hotel located on South Second Street and the Maralise Hotel at the southwest corner of West Main and South First Streets. Significant features of the Albemarle Hotel were its ballroom, grand lobby and dining room, the availability of telephone connections in all sixty rooms, and private baths. A July, 1922 edition of the *Stanly News Herald* reported that the lobby was to be furnished with Reed Furniture, a brand of furniture that at that time was only used in one other North Carolina Hotel, The Grove Park Inn in Asheville. The ground floor provided retail, banquet, and lobby space. Retail tenants during the 1920s included clothing stores and barbershops. The Albemarle Hotel also became the meeting place for civic clubs such as the Rotary and Lions who organized in the 1920s. The Albemarle Library, originally located in the Community House, became the Stanly County Library in 1927 and moved to the Albemarle Hotel, occupying one of the ground floor spaces on North Second Street. The library remained at this location until its new facility was constructed next to the Hearne Building (#20) in 1939.

With the marked improvement of road systems and the growing availability of automobiles, filling stations began dotting downtown streetscapes. The Sanborn maps indicate that a filling station was constructed across the street from the Albemarle Hotel between 1923 and 1929. The current Wilhelm Service Station (#16) occupies this site today in a building that replaced the original filling station structure around 1950.

As population rapidly increased during the 1890s and 1900s, local churches found themselves outgrowing their existing meetinghouses and sanctuaries. The growing prosperity experienced during this time period gave churches the financial resources to construct new sanctuaries to accommodate their larger congregations. The Central Methodist Church (#17), First Baptist Church (#15) and First Presbyterian Church (#10) all built new sanctuaries (1908, 1919, and 1924 respectively) within the Second Street Historic District.

The Central Methodist Church of Albemarle was organized in 1831. The present day sanctuary and parking lot sit on two lots donated by the Daniel Freeman family. The home for this

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congregation was a white frame church constructed on one of these lots. This early building was replaced by a larger frame structure erected in 1878 – 1880. Construction began on the present church building in 1908 and was completed at an approximate cost of \$50,000.00.

The First Baptist Church of Albemarle was organized in 1888 under the leadership of Reverend J.M. Bennett. During their early years, they conducted services in the log courthouse located on the Square. By 1892, the church had purchased a lot on the southwest corner of North and Third Streets, and their first church building was erected on this lot between 1892 and 1895. In 1912, the church voted to construct a new church on the northeast corner of North Second and East North Streets. Due to lack of finances the first brick was not laid until 1916, with construction completing in 1919. D.A. Holbrook of Albemarle was the general contractor.

The First Presbyterian Church was founded in Albemarle in 1898. At that time, it was meeting in the Masonic Hall that stood on the corner of West Main and South First Streets. Led by Rev. William Black, the church formed with a total of eleven members. Under the guidance of its first full time pastor, Rev. Arrowood, the church constructed their first building on the southwest corner of the intersection of North First and West North Streets, diagonally across from the church's present home. It was in 1923 that work began on the present First Presbyterian Church building, and when completed in 1924 at a cost of approximately \$87,000 the Church boasted a membership of 208 members.

The prosperity of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century came to a halt during the depression. With a local economy fueled predominantly by textile mills and cotton farming, Stanly County found itself with farmers facing difficult times, mill workers losing jobs, and construction ceasing to exist. During the Depression, the federal government rapidly expanded its public works program to stimulate economic recovery and provide work for the unemployed. Through the Works Projects Administration (WPA), the federal government granted approximately \$2 million in funds to Stanly County for public works projects. These funds were used to grade and recondition state and secondary roads, and to build modern sewage and water treatment plants in Albemarle, Norwood, and Oakboro. The County Courthouse was remodeled and several public schools were expanded. Utilizing funds from the WPA, a new U.S. Post Office (#14) was constructed in 1936 at the northwest corner of North Second Street and West North Street. This was a common building program across the entire nation, as nearly a quarter of the post offices built during this period were authorized by the federal public works programs. The new post office was a state of the art facility for its day, including a watchtower where postal inspectors could see into every room in the building where postal workers were at work, and a burglar alarm system that dispensed tear gas to drive away intruders. The WPA labor

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department was housed in the basement of the Post Office upon its completion. The 1940s also saw the additional influx of governmental offices taking up residence in the Post Office building, including the US Farm Security Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Navy recruiting office. The post office interior was enhanced in 1941 with the completion of a mural entitled "View Near Albemarle" by Louis Ribak, this work of art was funded by the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). A second building program used partial federal funding from the Public Works Administration, with the balance of funding raised locally. This program was used to construct the new Albemarle City Hall (#19), completed in 1938. The new city government building was constructed on the same site as the existing town hall, a white wood residential structure that was converted to the Albemarle Town Hall around 1908. The city government operated for a period of time in rented space on East Main Street next to the Boxy Theater while the new municipal building was being constructed.

It was ultimately World War II that led to a long lasting economic recovery. With the entry of the United States into World War II in 1941, local mills began providing products for use by our military. Efir and Wiscasset Mills produced blankets, tents, tarps, surgical dressings and other items. During October and November of 1941 and July of 1942, over 100,000 soldiers used large portions of Stanly County and the surrounding area to practice war maneuvers. Stanly County residents opened their homes to these soldiers, and all attention was concentrated on providing for our country during this time of war.

After World War II, a new era of construction and commerce began within the Second Street Historic District due to post-war prosperity and technological advances. By 1946, the county had its first airport, and in 1950, the first publicly owned hospital was built on land donated by Wiscasset Mills. From 1950 to 1953, five buildings were constructed along the west side of the 100 block of North Second Street, replacing the last few remaining homes that dotted this streetscape. The Do-Nut Dinette (replaced circa 1958 by the present Whitley Luncheonette building, #6), Standard Office Supply (#8), City Hall Annex (originally the Lefler Furniture Building) (#4), the Bank of Stanly (#5) and North Carolina Savings and Loan (#7) buildings were constructed on the land between the Alameda Theater and the Albemarle Hotel, completely eliminating residential homes from the first block of North Second Street. The same progression continued on the north side of the 100 block of West North Street, with the construction of the three single-story commercial buildings (#11, #12, #13) replacing single-story residential homes. While the existing buildings in the Second Street Historic District continued to house merchants catering to furniture, mortuary services, groceries, and clothing among other things, these newly constructed properties (with the exception of the Lefler Furniture Building) provided office supplies, financial services, offices for physicians and dentists, and simple dining. In 1947 the

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first local radio station, WABZ, began broadcasting from the Albemarle Hotel. The Albemarle Hotel continued to provide meeting space for many clubs and civic organizations, including the Credit Women's Breakfast club, Lions, Chamber of Commerce, Albemarle Board of Realtors, Optomist Club, Rotary, Civitans, and the Furniture Dealers Association.

The 1960s brought a changed economic climate to downtown Albemarle. The Quenby Mall was opened in 1960, providing an alternative shopping experience to Albemarle and Stanly County residents. With retail now being provided at the mall and later outlying shopping strips, the downtown Second Street Historic District began to carry less retail and more professional services. In 1982, the City of Albemarle purchased and renovated the former Lefler Furniture Building for their use, creating the City Hall Annex across the street from the City Hall. The Hearne Building now houses office space on the first floor in lieu of small shops. Retail has been retained in the Hearne Property and the P.J. Huneycutt Buildings, and the Alameda Theater awaits renovation. It is to the credit of the Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation that while the type of commerce has undergone changes, the buildings in the Second Street Historic District and downtown as a whole continue to provide much needed goods and services.

Architectural Context

The earliest buildings in the Second Street Historic District are the P. J. Huneycutt Building (#2), the Hearne Building (#20), the Hearne Property (#1), and the Alameda Theater (#3). These two-story masonry commercial buildings were constructed predominantly in the Italianate style, with modest variations of Italianate and Romanesque detailing that included arched windows accented with hoods and corbelled or pressed tin frieze bands delineating cornices. The Alameda Theater displays a higher level of detailing with metal pilasters and a metal cornice supported by exaggerated modillions.

The twentieth century ushered in a tendency to use a more restrained style of architecture, either a restrained Italianate style or the Commercial Style. In the Second Street Historic District the P.J. Huneycutt Building (#2), the Hearne Building (#20), and the Hearne Property (#1) are examples of the restrained Italianate style. Modest Italianate and Romanesque detailing is evident in segmental arched windows and corbelled cornices. These buildings are much more restrained than the more ornate Italianate structures found on South Second Street and East and West Main Streets.

The Standard Office Supply Building (#8) is a delightfully simplistic rendition of Commercial Style architecture constructed decades later. Buildings constructed in the Commercial Style are

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identified by their plain, flat appearance sometimes relieved by the use of brick patterns. Parapets are often uninterrupted by projecting cornices. Its single-story façade contains an intact transom of prism-glass tiles, with vertical strips of bricks laid in dogtooth fashion above.

Colonial and Classical Revival styles were used for institutional buildings such as hotels, banks, and governmental buildings during the first half of the twentieth century. The Albemarle Hotel (#9), proclaimed by the *Stanly News Herald* as “the pride of our town”, is an example of a restrained Colonial Revival building with a balanced façade and a decorative classical projecting wood cornice. The (former) U.S. Post Office (#14) and the Albemarle City Hall (#19) represent the two governmental buildings constructed in the Second Street Historic District during the 1930s. Both of these are restrained Colonial Revival buildings, with symmetrical facades displaying classical elements in a more modern setting of relatively plain red brick surfaces. This restrained version of Colonial Style architecture is typical of governmental buildings constructed during the 1930s with funds provided by federal building programs.

In contrast to these conservative examples of Colonial Revival and simplified Italianate architecture are the three imposing churches within this district, these being the First Presbyterian Church (#10), the First Baptist Church (#15), and the Central Methodist Church (#17). In nineteenth-century Stanly County, Gothic Revival had been the preferred style for churches. The Central Methodist Church (#17) is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, exhibiting classic detailing including towers with battlements, tracery windows, arched doorways and window openings, and corner buttresses. During the economic boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Gothic Revival architecture was joined by the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical styles in the construction of new churches. This is demonstrated in the Beaux Arts sanctuaries of the First Presbyterian Church (#10) and the First Baptist Church (#15). Both churches have pedimented porticos on the front elevation with colossal columns, and projecting pedimented porticos or pavilions on the side elevations. Most of these elevations contain multi-storied windows of stained glass, accentuating their verticality.

Adding to the diversity of the Second Street Historic District are examples of both Art Deco and Art Moderne architecture. The construction and opening of the Alameda Theater (#3) ushered in a new era of entertainment to Albemarle. This significance was not lost in the architecture of the building, a jazzy combination of Art Deco and Neoclassical styles. The Art Deco style experimented with new materials, smooth linear lines promoting verticality, and geometric shapes. The Alameda Theater (#3) expressed this style with a combination of brick, metal, and glass, produced in a storefront recessed under an elliptical arch, with rectangular upper story windows made more vertical by transoms. These geometric Art Deco details were topped by a

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pronounced metal cornice supported by exaggerated modillions. In the Alameda Theater (#3) the combination of these two styles produced a building that stood apart from its adjacent restrained Commercial Style and Colonial Revival neighbors, giving this new recreational gem great prominence in the commercial streetscape of North Second Street. At the southwest corner of the intersection of North Second Street and East North Street sits the Wilhelm Service Station (#16), an interpretation of Art Moderne architecture. Its white porcelain panels and curved glass with a curved metal awning above give this building a streamlined, curvaceous feel typical of the Art Moderne architectural style.

A variety of contractors were used for construction of buildings in the Second Street Historic District. J. D. Harwood of Albemarle was commonly used for downtown construction and served as the general contractor for the City Hall (#19). Another prominent local contractor, D.A. Holbrook, constructed the First Baptist Church (#15). The Albemarle Hotel (#9) and the Central Methodist Church (#17) used Charlotte contractors, Goode Construction Company and J.D. Gandy respectively. Morrison Falls served as the contractor for the (former) Post Office (#14); it is not known if they were a local contractor. The only known architect for a building project in the Second Street Historic District is Northup and O'Brien and Thomas Yoe, architects for the Albemarle City Hall (#19).

Like most traditional downtowns, many of the storefronts have undergone alterations but the upper facades remain relatively intact. The P.J. Huneycutt Building (#2), the Hearne Building (#20), and the Albemarle Hotel (#9) are examples of this practice. The public buildings have undergone little change; the Albemarle City Hall (#19) has retained all of its original architectural integrity. While all three churches have had sizeable additions, these have been constructed in a manner that respects the original building through proper size, scale, mass, and use of materials.

It is important to note that the Second Street Historic District includes buildings housing commercial, religious, and service-oriented establishments. While most block faces within downtown Albemarle have contiguous rows of commercial buildings constructed to the front lot line, North Second Street and West North Street have a much different visual feel. Churches, constructed as religious landmarks, typically are set back on larger lots than their surrounding commercial neighbors. Filling stations as well are not constructed to the front lot line as the nature of their enterprises require an open area in front of their buildings for fuel pumps and customer parking. North from the intersection of North Second Street and Main Street, the streetscape is a mixture of zero lot line commercial buildings, with open space beyond due to the churches and the Wilhelm Filling Station (#16). Looking west on West North Street from North

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Second Street, the First Presbyterian Church (#10) lies beyond the small grouping of circa 1950 commercial structures constructed on the front lot line.

As the county seat of Stanly County, Albemarle's downtown district as a whole is significantly larger than the downtown districts of neighboring Stanly County towns such as Badin to the northeast and Norwood to the southwest. The commercial buildings in these nearby communities were constructed around the same time as the oldest buildings currently standing in the Second Street Historic District, and thus their size, scale, materials and architectural features are very similar to the earliest buildings in the Second Street Historic District's inventory. Norwood developed with the coming of the railroad and the textile industry. Its commercial district has groupings of two-story mostly masonry commercial buildings with brick corbelling, wooden and metal cornices with exaggerated dentil details, and a combination of Italianate and Romanesque qualities. Badin developed as a company village by ALCOA power company in the second decade of the twentieth century. Many of the commercial buildings in Badin have been lost to demolition over the years, but the few remaining properties are two-story masonry structures with brick corbelling and pilasters with large display windows and glass transoms.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Second Street Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying Stanly county tax map at a scale of one inch to fifty feet.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Second Street Historic District is bordered by the Albemarle Historic District to the west and south, and predominantly professional buildings to the north and east. New construction, parking lots, and pocket parks separate the Second Street Historic District from the Albemarle Historic District. To the north and east are primarily offices and service-oriented establishments residing in newly constructed properties as well as older homes that have been converted from residential to professional use resulting in some loss of integrity. The boundaries of the Second Street Historic District were drawn to encompass a cohesive grouping of commercial, governmental, and religious buildings constructed between 1903 and circa 1960.

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- C - Contributing Resources
- N - Noncontributing Resources
- V - Vacant Lot
- ⑩ → Photo view



