

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Robbinsville, Graham County, GH0230, Listed 9/3/2021

Nomination by Sybil Argintar, Southern Preservation Services

Photographs by Lisa Buckley and Sybil Argintar, August 2018 and October 2019



South Main Street streetscape, view northwest



376 North Main Street, view northeast

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: North and South Main Street, Moose Branch Road, Dula Street, Laura Street, Circle Street, East Main Street, as shown on district boundary map

City or town: Robbinsville State: North Carolina County: Graham

Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification


As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D



, Deputy SHPO

7/30/2021

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>50</u>	<u>19</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>52</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (Graham County Courthouse, NR 2007)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Domestic: hotel

Commerce/trade: business

Commerce/trade: professional

Commerce/trade: financial

Commerce/trade: specialty store

Commerce/trade: department store

Commerce/trade: restaurant

Government: town hall

Government: post office

Government: courthouse

Education: school

Education: library

Religion: religious facility

Religion: church-related residence

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Domestic: hotel

Commerce/trade: business

Commerce/trade: professional

Commerce/trade: specialty store

Commerce/trade: restaurant

Government: town hall

Government: courthouse

Education: school

Religion: religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Commercial Style

No style

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Tudor Revival

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Neoclassical

Modern Movement: Ranch

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: stone, brick, wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Robbinsville Downtown Historic District, located in Graham County, North Carolina, runs north-south along North and South Main Street, and includes properties on portions of some of the adjacent side streets, including Court Street, Laura Street and East Main Street on the east, and Circle Street, Dula Street, and Moose Branch Road on the west. The northern boundary of the district is the Rodney Orr Bypass/Tapoco Road (Highways 129/143), with the southern boundary between Church Street and Junaluska Drive. Outside of the district, on the north and south sides, is commercial and office development outside of the period of significance. To the east is commercial development along the Rodney Orr Bypass. To the west is scattered residential development related to the lumber mill industry, some of which has been demolished or altered, along with newer institutional buildings located to the west of the historic school buildings. Anchored by the only Robbinsville property that is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Graham County Courthouse, the district includes a mixture of residential, religious, educational, and commercial buildings that represent the development of

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Robbinsville from the late nineteenth century through the mid-1960s. The district lines both sides of Main Street, with contiguous commercial buildings interspersed with free-standing buildings such as schools, residences, churches, and the courthouse. The north side of the district consists primarily of the complex of school buildings, residences, and a hotel, with the largest concentration of commercial buildings located between Moose Branch Road on the north and Courthouse Square on the south. South of the courthouse are additional free-standing houses, most of which are now in commercial use.

One of the primary materials visible along Main Street is brick, and many commercial buildings have tall parapet stone or brick facades, with brick, gabled construction to the rear. Some of the earliest buildings along Main Street are of frame construction. In the second quarter of the twentieth century, stone was a common material used for constructing or facing buildings along Main Street. Stone consists primarily of orange-toned local creek rock, in use on commercial, educational, residential, and religious buildings, a testament to the available stonemasonry craftsmanship in the town during its major periods of development. The use of stone is also notable in the retaining walls along the west side of a portion of North Main Street, and in the school property, around the west and south perimeter and within the property, as retaining walls around the many buildings sited on hillsides. While there have been changes to many of the buildings, along with some new construction of a few buildings outside the period of significance, overall, the district retains a great deal of architectural integrity, with many of the historic uses of the buildings remaining in current uses.

The district includes fifty Contributing buildings and outbuildings, two Contributing structures, nineteen Non-contributing buildings and outbuildings, one Non-contributing structure, and thirteen vacant lots. Architectural styles represented include Commercial Style, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, and Ranch.

Narrative Description

The Main Street Historic District is centered around the courthouse, located near the south end of the district, which is surrounded by commercial buildings. There are scattered residential buildings on the north and south ends of the district, with a church anchoring the south end, and the school complex anchoring the north end. Main Street, the main artery within the Robbinsville Downtown Historic District, runs along a ridgeline, with the topography dropping away steeply to the east and gradually to the west. Many of the buildings fronting onto Main Street are one story at the street level, and drop away to the rear, often with at least one additional story at the rear. Most of the commercial, office, and religious buildings are set at the sidewalk, with no setbacks. An exception to this is the church where there is no sidewalk in front, and the building is set back about five feet from the curb. Commercial buildings in the district alternate between stand-alone structures to clusters of contiguous buildings. Residential and educational buildings are free-standing within their properties, and the courthouse is set within a level grassy lot surrounded by a stone retaining wall. There are commercial and office

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buildings to the rear, lining Court Street. There are two one-story commercial buildings directly behind the courthouse, separated by a three- to-four-foot gap. Then there is a significant gap before the next one-story commercial building located to the north of the courthouse. Lot sizes vary within the district, with the largest lot being the complex of school buildings, followed by the **Phillips Motel** (290 North Main Street). Most house lots on the north end of Main Street are approximately two acres in size, with a typical commercial lot being a half-acre or less. Within the district there are a total of forty-eight contributing buildings and outbuildings, and a total of eleven non-contributing buildings. Additionally, there are two contributing structures and one non-contributing structure in the district. Of a total of fifty commercial, institutional, and government buildings, forty-one are contributing and nine are non-contributing. Of the nine residences in the district, all but one are contributing, with one of those having been converted to commercial use.

In addition to the many stone facades and structural masonry stone buildings, these are notable for their craftsmanship and are inventoried as separate resources. Contributing buildings, outbuildings and structures are those that fall within the period of significance of ca. 1872 to 1965, and have undergone minimal architectural changes. Buildings noted as non-contributing are those that fall outside the period of significance or have undergone a of structural change on the façade which significantly alters the historic appearance, including alterations of openings or infill of openings with late-twentieth-century replacement materials and retrofitted doors or windows. A few of the buildings in the district have had a non-permanent change made to their flat roofs, extending them up a few feet to accommodate mechanical systems, but these were not considered to be a significant alteration since the flat roof original building is clearly visible and the form could be easily reversed. There are twelve vacant lots in the district.

Architectural styles within the district include early to mid-twentieth century Commercial Style, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Ranch, and vernacular late nineteenth century buildings. Buildings date from ca. 1872, the oldest resource in the district, the **Hoke Phillips House** at 85 North Main Street, to the **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Building**, completed in 1965. The majority of buildings in the district date from the 1930s through the 1950s, a time period when Robbinsville was booming due to thriving industry and post World War II development. There are a few buildings in the district remaining from the late nineteenth century through the mid-1920s, and some that date from the 1960s.

Inventory

After the first entry, for the network of stone retaining walls throughout the district, the inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name, in ascending numerical order by street address along the streets, with side of street noted. The dates of buildings are taken primarily from tax records, unless newspaper or oral history interviews have suggested a more appropriate or accurate date.

Main Street. Stone Retaining Walls, west side. ca. 1936 – 1938. Contributing Structure.

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Along the west side of Main Street, beginning south of 59 Circle Street and extending to the front of 93 N. Main Street, are retaining walls, approximately four feet in height and extending approximately 265' in length, built of uncoursed stone. Some are capped by flat, cut granite slabs, as in front of the **Will and Marie Cooper House** (93 North Main Street). One section, in front of the **Hoke-Phillips House** (85 North Main Street) is built into the hillside at an angle. These walls were built under the Federal Works Project Administration (WPA), at a cost of \$1,932.¹

Also notable in the district are the extensive stone retaining walls located around the school complex, also built as part of the Works Project Administration program. These walls, also approximately four feet in height, are located along the sidewalk along Main Street, continuing around the property onto Moose Branch Road, for a total length of approximately 2400 feet. Within the school property there are also stone retaining walls along the north side of the new cafeteria building, and to the east side of the (former) cafeteria building. Walls are capped by smooth-finished and rusticated-finished granite slabs. The stonework is uncoursed granite. There are also stone cheek walls framing concrete stairs at the west side of the property. There are a few small infill sections of the walls that appear to be later replacements of crumbling walls. These are also uncoursed stone.²

59 Circle Street, south side. House, ca. 1973. Non-contributing Building.

This property is a hill that sits above Main Street, with Circle Street forming the northern edge of the lot as it continues from Main Street on the east to the remainder of Circle Street on the west. The lot contains several non-contributing mobile homes. Only the far east end of the lot is included in the district. Within this portion of the lot is a one-story, aluminum-sided mobile home with a shallow gable roof and one-over-one horizontal windows.

Vacant lot, west side North Main Street, south of 59 Circle Street.

4 Court Street, east side. Jenkins Building, ca. 1953. Contributing Building.

This single-story brick commercial building, facing west, has a running bond brick veneer, a basketweave course along the parapet at the flat roof, and a stone foundation, visible at the rear due to the drop in elevation from front to rear. The main façade is divided into two commercial bays, each originally with a door and storefront window. There is an additional door on the far north end of the façade. Beginning at the north end, there is a single-light wood-trim door with a boarded-over transom, followed by a fixed wood-trim single light which has been retrofitted into a former door opening, after the period of significance in the 1990s. This is followed by a two-pane plate glass window with wood framing and wood sill, followed by another single-light wood door with wood trim and a two-light transom window and a plate glass two-pane window. One continuous awning runs across all of the façade. The south elevation of the building is three bays, consisting of, from west to east, two single six-over-six wood replacement windows with

¹Works Project Administration Records for Graham County. National Archives. 1936 – 1942, May 15, 1937.

²Works Project Administration Records for Graham County, October 28, 1935 and January 12, 1938. National Archives. 1936 – 1942, May 15, 1937.

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one-over-one storms, wood sills and wood trim, followed by a metal replacement door with wood trim and a two-light transom window. All three openings have awnings, and there is a wood entry deck added at the door, also outside of the period of significance, in the 1990s, likely replacing an earlier stoop and stairs. The rear façade has replacement double hung six-over-six wood-frame windows. The north elevation has three wood-frame-and-trimmed wood windows on the upper level, all with concrete sills. The lower level has a window and door opening, with a concrete lintel at the door. A crimped metal parapet was added to the original flat roof of the building in the 1990s, to accommodate heating and ventilation systems. This and the other changes to the building do not significantly impact the building's architectural integrity since the original roofline is clearly visible, and all window and door openings are intact even if they have replacement materials.

Mr. Jenkins, an attorney, built this building as offices.³ Before the city began using the building for its administrative offices in the 1990s, Nantahala Power Company had offices there in the 1970s. After that, the building was occupied by attorneys, and then the town began using the building in the 1990s, adding the metal roof at that time. According to long-time residents, the building was not originally brick, but it is not known when the veneer was added.⁴

14 Court Street, east side. Phillips & Jordan-Lloyd Building. ca. 1959. Contributing Building.

This single-story modernist commercial building, facing west, is constructed of concrete block and is clad in roughly coursed cut stone on the main façade. The roofline of the south end of the building is slightly higher in elevation than the north end, giving the appearance of two distinct sections but it was built at separate times. The façade has three entry doors. Two are inset into a recessed entry alcove on the northern section of the building and face each other, with separate businesses in each section. The third door is located in the southern section and faces the street. There are narrow, metal-frame slider windows across the façade, likely added when the stone veneer was added in the early 1960s, and there is an awning above these windows that runs almost the full width of the building. The north elevation is painted concrete block, interspersed with plate glass window openings at the first and lower levels, and the south elevation is painted concrete block with no openings. The building has a full floor below street level. Changes to the building include the addition to the flat roof of the building with a shallow hip roof, clad in asphalt shingles, that was added in 2001. The building was in use as offices for Maxwell Auto Parts and Phillips & Jordan, as well as for attorney Leonard Lloyd, from ca. 1959 through 2005. This was not the corporate headquarters for Phillips & Jordan, and it is not known who built the building. The building was then donated to Graham County, which used it as offices until recently.⁵

³Stewart, Carolyn. Registrar of Deeds and town historian. Phone interview with Sybil Argintar, September 16, 2020.

⁴Calhoun, James, John Booth Crisp, Teresa Garland, May Orr, Mary Ruth Crisp Shuler, Carolyn Stewart. Long-time residents of Robbinsville and local historians. Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

⁵Email from Edd Satterfield, employee and historian for Phillips & Jordan, dated July 24, 2020, and group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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34 Court Street, north side. Roy Millsap Building. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This symmetrical, single-story, flat-roof-with-parapet commercial building, facing south, with a single storefront, is built of concrete block and is clad in running bond brick on the facade. The single-leaf entry door is centered and recessed into the building and flanked by metal framed plate glass windows with rowlock brick sills. There is a cantilevered metal awning that spans the full width of the front entrance. The interior is currently gutted, and the front portion of the building is wood framed while the rear portion of the building is a concrete block addition. This building, built by Roy Millsap, originally housed a dry goods store, then a grocery in the 1940s, and then doctors' offices.⁶ It is not known how long the building has been vacant.

Five vacant lots, north side Court Street, east and south of 34 Court Street.

40 Court Street, north side. Graham County Bank-Ingram's Drug Store. ca. 1910. Contributing Building.

This two-story, flat-roof-with-parapet commercial building with a chamfered corner at the prominent intersection of Main and Court Streets, faces southwest. The bricks on the chamfered corner meet the adjacent walls in knuckle joints. The building, with concrete coping at the roofline and brick windowsills, is clad in running bond brick with a soldier course atop a rowlock course at the floorplate of the second floor. The window openings have rowlock sills and have all been infilled with T1-11 siding to accommodate double-hung vinyl replacement windows and through-the-wall air conditioning units. A circa 1950 documentary photo reveal that, by the mid-twentieth century, the first floor window openings were filled with plate glass, which likely replaced earlier double-hung wood sash. The photo also depicts the multi-light industrial steel sash windows that filled the second-story window openings. A large plate glass window with a four-light transom, which was a mid-twentieth-century change to an earlier doorway, was located where the large T1-11-filled opening is presently on the west elevation facing Main Street. In addition to the corner entry, there are two entries on the south façade that are inset. All exterior door openings contain single-leaf metal doors that were installed in the late 1900s or early 2000s. The street-facing facades have a parapet wall. This building was originally in use as the Graham County Bank, which closed during the Depression. Beginning in 1929, the building served as Ingram's Drug Store, including a soda fountain and lunch counter. Upon this change of use, the main entrance was relocated from the Main street elevation to its current placement on the corner facing the intersection. In addition to the drug store, the Post Office and a barbershop also variously occupied the first floor, while the second floor was leased to different businesses in town and even served as government offices for a while. In 1964, the Ingram family sold the business to Martin Delozier, who maintained the drug store until circa 1970, when he moved the business to a new building on the Rodney Orr bypass. The Ingram family maintained ownership of the building, and in the 1970s, it was leased to numerous short-lived businesses, including a florist, sporting goods supplier, and an attorney. The building has been sold out of the Ingram family and is now in use as law offices.⁷

34 Dula Street, north side. Commercial Building. ca. 1960. Non-contributing Building.

⁶Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

⁷Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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This one-story, asphalt-shingle-clad, front-gable-roof concrete block building, facing south, is set back slightly from the street, with an asphalt drive in the front. The building has been extensively altered on the façade with what appears to be the removal of the lower sash of the original windows, and replacement with infill concrete block. The addition of a late twentieth-century double leaf paneled metal door on the façade is another change, along with the possibility that the front-gable roof is a change from an original flat roof, with T1-11 siding and a triangular roof vent in the gable end. It appears that the original two-horizontal-over-two-horizontal windows remain on the east and west elevations. The original use of the building is not known.

40 Dula Street, north side. Graham County Jail-Dula House. ca. 1910. Contributing Building.

This house, originally built as the county jail, is a two-story common bond, painted brick building with a hipped roof and a secondary lower hipped roof on the rear section. The front section of the house is one room deep, and the back section is almost full width, inset slightly at the east and west ends. The three-bay house, which faces south, has a corbeled brick cornice with dentil blocks, original features which date to when the building was in use as the county jail. On the façade, the door is centrally located, with a window on either side. On the second floor there are two windows, one on either end. There is a mix of double hung wood windows, including one over one, and three over one. Since ca.1944, when the jail was sold by Graham County to James J. Dula and converted to a residence, a concrete block one-story, full-width front porch with tapered classical columns that rest on a solid concrete block balustrade and support a gabled roof with rafter tails, was added.⁸ Initially surveyed in the 1970s, this house has subsequently undergone additional modifications for multifamily use by the addition of an exterior wooden staircase and second-story porch/deck supported by wood posts that extends the full width of the east elevation, and the replacement of an upper floor window with a late twentieth-century replacement door. Additionally, the brick exterior has been painted. There is bowing of the exterior wall on the west façade. There is a gable-roof, one-story concrete block addition on the west side at the rear, and an enclosed porch which was added when the building was converted to a residence. There are shingles on the gable end of the roof, storm windows, and a jalousie door that faces south. The building served as the county jail from ca. 1910 through the 1930s, before the new courthouse was built in 1942. A Justice of the Peace and a barber were also located in the building in the 1930s time period.⁹

74 Laura Street, south side. Phillips and Jordan Machine Shop. ca. 1951. Contributing Building.

This is an industrial building complex with two north-facing bowstring-truss-roof buildings joined in the center by a small flat-roof section, , a garage building at the southwest corner of the property that also faces north, and three metal former fuel storage tanks located along the fence at the western edge of the property. The bowstring-truss-roof buildings, constructed of concrete block, are connected by a narrow flat-roofed center section. Each section of the bowstring truss-roof buildings, on the façade, is three bays wide, consisting of a rolling metal garage door

⁸Graham County Deed Book 52, p. 78.

⁹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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centered under each arch, flanked by double-hung, multi-light, metal-frame windows. There is dog-ear flush board siding on the upper façade below the arches, and a shed roof wing, set back from the front of the building, on the west side.

This building was constructed as part of the Phillips and Jordan Company's Robbinsville operations, which began in 1951. It served as the company's machine shop until the company moved their headquarters to Knoxville, Tennessee in the mid-1980s and later sold the property. Phillips and Jordan was a land clearing company that was founded by Robbinsville residents Ted Phillips and Ted Jordan. One of the earliest large jobs awarded to the company was the contract for clearing a portion of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah.¹⁰ When the company moved its headquarters to Knoxville it greatly expanded operations.¹¹

Garage. ca. 1951. Contributing Building.

This one-story concrete block building has a side-gable roof, three garage bays on the east end and two garage bays on the west.

Vacant lot, south side Laura Street, portion of full lot, west of 74 Laura Street.

237 East Main Street, south side. Joyce Kilmer Restaurant. ca. 1960. Contributing Building.

This one-story Modernist-influenced brick building, facing north, has a flat roof with wide eaves and a continuous band of display windows on the façade. The entry doors and windows appear to be original, based on documentary photos and ads for the business. The two plate glass windows on the east elevation are original. Recent changes to the building, since the end of the period of significance, include one front window on the west end of the façade that has been covered with T1-11 siding, and the addition of vinyl siding covering windows on the west elevation. There is a one-story shed roof addition at the rear, with a small portion of the roof visible from the street. None of these changes affect the overall architectural integrity of the building. This building was built just north of the adjacent hillside to the south, outside the historic district, where the former Joyce Kilmer cabins were located, all of which have been demolished. The building has remained in continuous use as a restaurant, now called Lynn's Place. To the west of the building is a parking lot which originally housed a service station.

Vacant lot, east side North Main Street, west of 237 East Main Street.

5 North Main Street, west side. Collins Store. ca. 1940; upper level rebuilt ca. 1960. Contributing Building.

This one-story symmetrical brick-faced commercial building, facing east, has a flat roof with a stepped parapet capped by tile coping, and a center storefront that is covered by a cantilevered metal awning. The double-leaf, aluminum-frame glazed front entry doors are inset, flanked by aluminum-frame plate glass windows with concrete sills. The building is clad in running bond

¹⁰"Robbinsville Firm Gets Big U. S. Contract". Asheville Citizen-Times, June 11, 1959.

¹¹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019, and Satterfield, Edd. Interview with Sybil Argintar, 6 December 2019.

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brick. There is a soldier course along the base and a basketweave pattern near the parapet. Stepping down the hillside from east to west, the building has a full above-ground basement at the rear. The south elevation is five bays wide at the basement level. Beginning at the west end, there is a multi-panel wood garage door, and then a window, two doors, and another small window at the southeast corner. Window and door openings along the south elevation are deep-set and it appears that the brick was added around the original openings. Stairs that lead from the sidewalk to the side street at the southeast corner of the lot appear in ca. 1955 documentary photos, as does the original stone foundation and wood siding. It appears that the original foundation and openings at the basement level remain, but the upper level of the building was rebuilt sometime after 1955. The building width in the documentary photo appears narrower and does not adjoin the building the Shuler House to the north as it does now.

This building was in use as the Collins Store in the 1940s and 1950s. This building had a stone foundation, as shown in documentary photos, and appears to have been of frame construction. The original steps on the south end of the building, leading down to Snider Hill, are the same as appear in documentary photos.¹²

11 North Main Street, west side. Shuler House. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This two-story, standing-seam-metal-clad hipped roof dwelling, facing east, contains elements of the Colonial Revival style in its central hallway plan and symmetrical massing with four rooms down and four rooms up. There are three single windows on the second level and a tall brick chimney which is slightly off-centered in the front roof plane. Originally there was a matching brick chimney to the south. The house has a full-width, weatherboard-clad enclosed porch with a central ca. 1990s front door with sidelights, and double-hung six over six replacement windows which were placed there as part of the porch enclosure. There is a stone knee wall along the front. The side elevations are clad in vinyl siding and the upper story of the front façade is clad in aluminum siding. The building has a rear extension covered by a lower hipped roof. Historic photographs show that the front porch was enclosed after 1955 and a brick chimney was removed. The building is currently in use as apartments, but it is not known when the use changed from single- to multi-family use.¹³

12 North Main Street, east side. Graham County Courthouse. 1942. Contributing Building. Individually listed in NR (2007).

Designed by the Knoxville, Tennessee architecture firm of Barber and McMurry in 1941 and dedicated in 1942, the Graham County Courthouse, facing west, is a one-story Neoclassical Revival style T-plan building constructed of native stone. The stone reportedly came from the Mill Creek area approximately two miles southeast of Robbinsville, and the cut stone blocks, which include shades of red, orange, grey and light brown are irregularly coursed with concave mortar joints. The symmetrical five-bay façade, which forms the top of the "T," is defined by a prominent partial-width pedimented portico supported by four square masonry posts covered with stucco. The main entry is topped by a flat arch with a stone keystone and voussoirs. The façade windows are large twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sash with concrete lintels and

¹²Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

¹³Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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sills. The lower story windows are positioned partially below grade with exterior light wells to permit natural light to enter. The original double-leaf entrance of paneled wood doors and a wood-framed multi-light transom was replaced with aluminum-frame doors and a single-pane transom in the mid-1970s. The face of the pediment on the portico was originally finished with flush board sheathing, but it was covered with synthetic siding ca. 2000, at the same time a clock was placed in the pediment. Since the building was surveyed in 2006 and listed on the National Register in 2007, the words "In God We Trust" have been added to the front portico.

25 North Main Street, west side. Arthur Millsap Store. ca. 1900. Non-contributing Building.

This front gabled, two-story-plus-basement building, facing east, has a traditional wood frame storefront comprised of five bays, with two doors at the south end followed by a plate glass window, another door, and a second plate glass window on the north end which is two separate glass panels separated by a mullion. All door and window framing is wood, and there are transoms above all of the doors. The door on the south end is three-horizontal-lights-over-panel, and the other two doors are single light. The solid wall above the storefront was likely originally transom windows. The building is clad in vertical wood boards on the upper façade, with the former open porch on the upper level now completely enclosed except for the non-historic addition of three aluminum-frame one-over-one windows. The upper-level overhang is supported by squared wood columns atop masonry bases. The north elevation, clad in weatherboard siding, retains its original two-over-two windows. The south and west elevations are clad in corrugated metal. The roof is standing seam metal. Historic photos indicate that there was a second story porch that was enclosed sometime after 1955, so the general character and style of the building has been significantly diminished.

One of the oldest buildings on Main Street, this building was originally in use as the Arthur Millsap Store, selling a variety of dry goods. Later, the building was a meat market, run by Jake Orr. In the 1920s this building was in use as the Wiggons-Ammons Store, with an open porch on the upper level and stairs on the south end of the porch.¹⁴

Vacant lot, west side North Main Street, south of 25 North Main Street.

37 North Main Street, west side. Graham Ford Car Dealership. ca. 1950. Contributing Building.

This one-story-plus-basement bowstring truss-roof commercial building, facing east, is built of concrete block and is clad in aluminum siding on the north and south elevations. The naturally sloping lot has been leveled with the installation of a stone retaining wall on the south end to support an asphalt pad. The portion of the asphalt pad closest to the building is covered by a metal roof. The façade is clad in running bond brick with a soldier course at the top and is six bays wide, beginning at the south end, with a double-leaf metal door followed by several bays of plate glass windows. The south elevation, at the basement level, is four bays wide, beginning at the west end with a delivery bay followed by a double-leaf single-pane door retrofitted into the original delivery bay. East of this is a single door followed by a small fixed-light window.

¹⁴Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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Vertical wood siding is visible under the bowed arch with exposed rafter tails. The west elevation (rear) of the building has several fixed-light windows on both levels and the north elevation has exposed concrete block at the lower level and vertical siding above with a central window. The stone foundation under the front parking area and visible on the south elevation provides evidence that there was an earlier building on this site. This building is similar to the bowstring truss-roof building at 74 Laura Street, the **Phillips and Jordan Machine Shop.**, both built in 1950.. This building was built as the Graham Ford Car Dealership, the first car dealership in the county. Originally the Crawford Hotel was located on this site, indicated by the stone foundation which still remains on the south elevation. This building was constructed on the site of a former hotel that burned, possibly utilizing the same foundation. The date the hotel burned is not known..¹⁵ The building is currently in use as a church.

42 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1950. Contributing Building.

This narrow one-story brick building, facing west, is shorter in height than the adjacent one-story building to the north. The building has a single-pane plate glass window within the original window opening with brick sill, and a single-light entry door. The brick courses closely align with the adjacent corner building, but the building is a separate structure. The building parapet consists of a soldier course of bricks with a rowlock course below. According to the building's owner, it was once home to a doctor's office and also once held the police department. The post office was also located in this building for a while.¹⁶

50 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1929. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story building, facing west, has a running bond brick façade, parapet above a front gable roof, and extensive alterations on the facade. There are three openings on the façade, a central door flanked by windows. Window and door openings have been infilled with vinyl siding to accommodate smaller replacement windows and door. The window openings retain their original rowlock brick sills. The façade stretches to the north beyond the main block, with a supported wall structure creating a screen to the side yard of the building. At the rear of the building, the north façade is visible and has been clad in T1-11 siding. The building has a rubble foundation. The chimney was removed. According to the current owner, it was once a dry goods store.

51 North Main Street, west side. Griffin Building. ca 1945. Contributing Building.

This single-story building, facing east, is constructed of concrete block and is clad in uncoursed stone on the façade and wrapping around onto the front portion of the north elevation, at the northeast corner. The south elevation and the remainder of the north elevation are covered in stucco. The façade is four bays wide, with an aluminum-frame, single light window with transom on the south end, followed by a second aluminum-frame single-light door with transom flanked by aluminum-frame, single-pane fixed light windows with concrete sills. The original roofline is flat, with a shed-roof extension above, clad in T1-11 siding, that slants from east to

¹⁵Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

¹⁶Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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west and extends beyond the rear elevation to provide a shed-roof covering for the wood deck added at the northwest corner.. Mr. Griffin built this building.¹⁷

54 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This one-story building, facing west, was formerly in use as the Blue Beacon pool hall. The box-frame-construction building with a stone façade has a parapet that extends up above the metal-clad front gable roof, an indicator that the stone façade may have been a later addition to an older frame building. The box framing is the only use of this construction technique in a commercial building known within the district. The façade, three bays wide, is roughly cut, uncoursed granite. Window lintels, sills, door lintel, steps and parapet coping are of cast concrete. The south window is filled with a three-part plate glass window in a wood surround and the north window is infilled with T1-11 siding. The central door opening has a ca. 1990s six-panel door set within a T1-11 infill surround. The north elevation, visible from the rear, reveals boxed walls, exposed rafter tails and a plank gutter built under the eave. The rear of the building is a ca. 1950s addition, cantilevering out over the rear lot. It is set on concrete block footers, with the original structure built on a log post foundation. According to the current owner, the façade stonework was done by the WPA. The building was most recently used as a Zumba studio.

56 North Main Street, east side. Baker Building façade. ca. 1934. Contributing Site. The uncut stone façade with no courses is all that remains of this building, but the high level of craftsmanship of the intact stonemasonry is important in understanding the history and context of this material in the development of downtown Robbinsville buildings. There was a fire in this building, but the date is unknown. Behind the remaining two-story façade is wood framing, indicating that, like several other buildings along Main Street, stone facades were added later to older frame buildings. The building once had a central entry flanked by picture windows on the lower floor and double-hung windows on the upper floors. All had stone sills and lintels. There was also an entry on the north end of the façade. This building housed City Furniture Company in the 1930s and Will and Marie's Restaurant in the 1950s. This building was built by the Baker family.¹⁸

66 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1928. Contributing Building.

This one-story-plus-basement building, facing west, narrower than most of the commercial buildings downtown, is clad in uncut, uncoursed stone on the facade. The building appears to have been modified several times, but based on the intact stone façade, it appears that these alterations occurred within the period of significance, since most of the added stonework facades in downtown took place in the 1930s and 1940s. The most recent alteration of an extended parapet is the only change that appears to have taken place outside the period of significance. The concrete lintels are set at a higher level than the current door and window openings. It appears that there was once a garage door or other large opening on the north end of the façade, which now contains a smaller-scale door and a window. There is a door on the south end of the façade, which also appears to have been shortened, with the area below the lintels infilled with stone. The rear of the building, which drops in elevation from the front, is surfaced in stucco.

¹⁷Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

¹⁸Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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There is a roof addition onto the original flat roof, clad in T1-11 siding, which was built to add enough space for a functional second floor.¹⁹

70 – 72 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This one-story-plus-basement building, facing west, is clad in uncoursed stone on the facade, with the rear of the building at a lower elevation on the east.. The building behind the stone façade is wood frame with brick veneer, with the stone facade added at a later time. The building has been modified for residential use, with a central recessed entry with apartment entry doors facing each other within the recessed area a change from what would have historically been doors flush with the façade as the entry into the commercial space. The two tri-partite wood-frame and trimmed windows on either side of the recessed entry have fixed lights and concrete sills. There is an awning extending nearly the full width of the storefront. There is a ca. 1990s door at the north end of the building set within the original wood framing with a concrete lintel. At the rear (east) elevation, a two-tiered, full-width wood porch with wood railing and a metal-clad flat roof at the upper levels, has been added, with lattice covering the area beneath the porch at the basement level. According to the owners, the building previously served as Robbinsville Town Hall. A fire damaged the foundation, and consequently the interior floor slopes downward. The building was also in use prior to this as the Fred Ghormley Grocery and Dry Goods Store.²⁰

77 North Main Street, west side. United States Post Office. ca. 1968; alterations ca. 1980s. Non-contributing Building.

This running bond brick, one story Mid-Century Modernist building, has a flat roof with concrete coping extending around the entire perimeter of the building. The lot slopes up in elevation from front to rear, with a driveway running along the north elevation. The façade of the building, facing east onto North Main Street, beginning at the south end, projects forward at the southeast corner, with the entry area recessed with this, bookended by walls perpendicular to the façade. The recessed entry area is four bays wide, with a double-leaf, single-light door followed by a paired, fixed-light window with transom, a boarded-up opening, and a single fixed-light window with transom at the north end. All of this entry area replaces the original entry components of the post office, which consisted of large plate glass windows. There is no additional fenestration on the north end of the façade. The south elevation, facing towards a parking lot, is three bays wide, with two original wood-frame one-over-one horizontal light windows with concrete sills on the west end and a new three-part, wood-frame window with single pane lights added adjacent to the original windows. Near the southeast corner, a two-part wood-frame window with a transom has been added, retrofitted into an original opening. At the rear, northwest corner of the building is the original flat-roof loading dock for the post office with a roofline that cantilevers out over the loading platform. All openings have been infilled. There is a planter in front of the building, at the northeast corner. This building served as the post office from 1968 to the 1980s with the changes noted made when Phillips and Jordan began using the building as

¹⁹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

²⁰Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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their Robbinsville offices in the 1980s.²¹ The extensive alterations to the building are what make it non-contributing.

Vacant lot, west side North Main Street, south of 77 North Main Street.

78 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1930; alterations ca. 1944. Contributing Building.

This one-story frame building, facing west, has a front-gable roof and a brick parapet wall with a basketweave brick pattern added to the façade by the 1940s, and a concrete block foundation. Behind the tall parapet is the original front-gabled roof frame building clad in aluminum siding. The three-bay-wide façade contains a double-leaf center entry comprised of wood frame doors with five lights each, a double-hung one-over-one wood window with wood trim and a concrete sill to the north of the main door and a six-panel wood door with a sidelight to the south of the entry. This door is a replacement in an opening that appears to originally have been a window. There is a concrete entry step at each of the doors. A metal shed-roof awning spans the width of the façade. A decayed sign above the awning indicates that the building once housed a coffee shop. Beginning ca. 1944, there has been a barber shop in the building.²²

Vacant lot, east side North Main Street, south of 78 North Main Street.

85 North Main Street, west side. Hoke-Phillips House. ca. 1872. Contributing Building.

Purportedly the oldest structure in Robbinsville, and the only building in the district that illustrates Robbinsville's nineteenth-century history, This dwelling, facing east, is located on a hillside lot that remains as a high part in the district, with part of the stone retaining walls lining the west side of Main Street visible at the sidewalk below the house. The one-story, weatherboard-clad log construction vernacular dwelling has a side-gabled roof with eave returns and a shed-roof front porch that extends approximately two-thirds of the width of the façade. The wood windows with wood trim and sills are six-over-six, double hung, with the lower sash missing in some cases. There are two interior brick chimneys flanking a central hall and the foundation of the house is parged concrete block, a later change. The façade is three bays in width, with single windows flanking the center entry. The north and south elevations are each two bays wide, with each bay containing a single window. There is a small one-story rear wing with a shed roof. Recent changes to the building include a replacement one-over-one wood window with applied muntins on the north side of the front porch, and a new wood railing and narrow wood posts at the front porch. Historic photos indicate the porch is in its original location. The owner states that the structure's frame is constructed of locust logs.

Oral tradition indicates this building is the oldest resource in the historic district, dating from ca. 1872, the founding of the county. It is located on the same site as the original Methodist Church, at a high point in the town.. It may also have served as the post office for the Cheoah Valley, the area of the county that later became Robbinsville.²³

²¹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

²²Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

²³Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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86 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This one-story solid masonry, free-standing building with a brick facade, facing west, has a flat roof and no ornamentation on the facade. The southern portion of the building has a recessed entry with modern wood doors facing each other, and an aluminum-frame transom window flush with the facade. The entry is flanked by windows with three one-over-one replacement wood-frame windows each, infilled in the original openings by T1-11 plywood. Sills are concrete. At the north end of the facade is a separate entry door opening, currently infilled with concrete and stucco, and set slightly higher in elevation than the sidewalk, accessed by a concrete step. Side elevations are concrete block with no fenestrations.

93 North Main Street, west side. Will and Marie Cooper House. ca. 1949. Contributing Building.

This house is located immediately north of the **United States Post Office** at 77 North Main Street but is addressed as though it is north of the **Hoke-Phillips House** (85 North Main Street). This one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roof, house is a blend of Tudor Revival-inspired cottages and Minimal Traditional-style houses beginning to shift towards the Ranch style. It faces east, set up on a hill above Main Street and is clad in uncoursed stone with brown mortar joints. Windows are wood-frame, six-over-six double hung sash. There is a front-facing gable in the center of the main block of the house with a front-gabled dormer sitting behind it. At the rear is a nearly full-width shed-roof dormer at the rear, clad in vinyl siding. There is a small, one-story side-gable-roof wing on the north end of the house, recessed slightly to the rear and separated from the main body of the house by a prominent stone chimney. The facade of the house is four bays wide, with, beginning on the south end, a single window followed by a paired window in the projecting front-gable bay, the twelve-light-over-panel front door, and a single window. The south elevation is one bay wide on the main block, consisting of a double window, and on the rear extension of the main block with the shed-roof dormer, there are two paired. A concrete staircase with urns leads to the house from Main Street, and there is a stone retaining wall with concrete cap along the Main Street side of the property. Will and Marie Cooper built the house.²⁴

Apartment Building. ca. 1949. Contributing Building.

At the southwest corner of the lot, facing east, is a one-story, side-gable-roof concrete block building divided into two apartment units which do not appear to be in use at the present time. Each unit, on the facade, consists of a multi-panel metal door flanked by a large picture window on one side and a single window on the other. All windows are painted over. On the south end of the building, there are three window bays, all boarded over. There are asbestos shingles in the gable ends.

128 North Main Street, east side. Lloyd Millsap Store. ca. 1930. Contributing Building.

This brick one-story-plus-basement, flat-roof building, facing west, covers two parcels and is built in two sections, the portion to the south at a slightly higher elevation than the smaller section to the north. The building sits on a grade and consequently, there are stairs at the north end leading downhill. The south end of the facade, with a slightly larger footprint than the north

²⁴Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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end, is also three bays in width, with a central entry flanked by plate glass windows. The central entry here has been reduced in size from its original configuration with a new door framed by stone infill. Set within the stone infill is a concrete plaque that reads "Graham County V.F.W. Post 8635 and Auxiliary and American Legion Eller Rogers Post 192 and Auxiliary". The north end of the façade has three bays, with a central entry flanked by former window openings, with concrete sills. The original door has been replaced by a recessed entry with angled added doors facing each other. There is a clock mounted over the entry opening. The building has a roof addition on the south end, clad in T1-11 siding, placed there to allow for the addition of ductwork, and a smaller roof addition on the north end. The south elevation of the building has an added wood-frame wall with a parapet that extends up above the roofline, likely placed there when the adjacent building to the south was removed. This building housed the Lloyd Millsap Store and a beauty shop in the 1940s and 1950s.²⁵

Storage Building. ca. 1930. Contributing Building

This one-story, gable roof building has unpainted weatherboard siding, wood doors on the east elevation, and a standing seam metal cladding on the roof.

Two vacant lots, east side North Main Street, south of 128 North Main Street.

148 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1965; alterations ca. 1988. Non-contributing Building.

This parapet-roofed, one-story-plus-basement concrete block building, facing west, is clad in weatherboard siding on the façade. There are three sets of double-leaf single-light entry doors interspersed with plate glass display windows on the façade, all recent replacements made outside of the period of significance. The stuccoed south elevation has a single window in the upper level and a garage bay and entry door with wood deck on the lower level. This building was extensively remodeled throughout ca. 1988.

165 North Main Street, west side. Commercial Building. ca. 1960., alterations ca. 2004. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story building with a second-story addition, facing northeast, has a multi-angled roofline on the main block of the building, and a smaller one-story entry wing on the east side, clad in stone, with a side-gable roof and a door facing north. The lower half of the main block of the building is clad in stone, with T1-11 siding on the upper half. Set within the stone are numerous narrow multi-light vertical band fixed window openings. There is a second door near the northwest corner of the building, with a shed roof that slopes from front to rear. Windows on the upper level, facing northwest, are square fixed lights. This building was extensively remodeled ca. 2004 with the addition of stone, but the second story addition may be later than 2004.

178 - 192 North Main Street, east side. G. E. Brewer Building. ca. 1936. Contributing Building.

²⁵Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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This one-story-plus-basement, concrete block, flat-roof commercial building, facing west, is clad in stone, and has a short narrow parapet cap, clad in standing-seam metal, that is side-gabled. The ridgeline of the gable sits directly over the front edge of the building, so that the parapet cap overhangs the façade by roughly three feet. The building is constructed in two sections, with the main block of the building constructed first on the south end, and a smaller, metal-clad-hip-roof wing constructed on the north end at a later, unknown time. The north wing is slightly lower in height than the south end. The front façade of the main block of the building is five bays wide, beginning at the north end, with a delivery bay infilled with T1-11 siding followed by two paired plate glass windows with concrete lintels and sills, an aluminum-frame double-leaf glass door with transom, and an additional paired plated glass window. The south elevation has a single plate glass window at the southwest corner, and a smaller square window at the basement. The rear (east) elevation, clad in aluminum siding, has a metal canopy over the basement level. The north wing has three bays on the façade, consisting of a central replacement metal door with metal framing and a concrete lintel, flanked by single one-over-one wood windows. The north elevation of this wing consists of six bays, five narrow, wood-frame single-light windows with concrete sills and lintels, and a paneled wood door near the northeast corner that has a concrete lintel.

G. E. Brewer built this building, and the stone façade was added later, in the 1940s. The mortar joints on the stone on the north wing is lighter in color than the mortar on the main block of the building. The building later was in use as Gurney Furniture.²⁶

206 North Main Street, east side. Eller's Esso Gas Station. ca. 1950. Contributing Building.

This one-story concrete block service station, facing west, has a flat roof with four garage bays and an attached office. The two garage bays at the north end of the building project forward. The garage bays have rolling metal doors. The office section on the south end of the building has a slightly lower roofline and wide overhanging eaves. The office has plate glass windows and a metal framed glass door. There is a brick chimney at the rear of the building. There is a gas pump island near the street on the west side of the building, but it appears this is a non-historic concrete slab built when the new gas pumps were installed. The date of the light fixture mounted on the gas pump island is unknown. This building was first opened as Eller's Esso Gas Station. There were rental cabins at the rear, no longer extant, where Ronnie Millsap and his mother lived.²⁷

240 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1925. Contributing Building.

This one-story free-standing building, facing west, is set on a lot that slopes down the hill from west to east. It has an uncut rubble stone façade with no courses and a stepped parapet at the façade roofline. The parapet has a high center section over the entry that steps down on the sides, obscuring a gabled roof to the rear. The building is symmetrical in form with a metal framed glass double-leafed door with side lights and transom lights, flanked by plate glass windows with concrete lintels and sills. The side elevations are also clad in uncut rubble stone, with no

²⁶Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

²⁷Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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fenestrations. The building was in use for many years as the Roy Eller Garage, with the garage business upstairs, and the Eller family living below. The store later was in use as Holland's Western Store.²⁸

268 North Main Street, east side. Commercial Building. ca. 1945; alterations ca. 2007. Non-contributing Building.

Formerly a restaurant and originally part of the Phillips Motel complex, this one-story-plus-basement, side-gable-roof building, facing west, is clad in “log” veneer with shingle cladding at the center front gable and at the gable ends. The full-width concrete-floor porch is covered by a shed roof and a smaller porch gable over the entrance, supported by square wood posts and railings. The entry on the facade is a double-leaf full-glass door and there are plate glass windows along the front. The north elevation has no windows. The rear of the building is outfitted with double-hung windows and contains an apartment entrance. The structure underwent a substantial renovation and remodeling around 2007, removing the original stone cladding and adding details. Originally there was a gas station on the site.²⁹

290 North Main Street, east side. Phillips Motel. ca. 1945 – 1963. Contributing Building.

This motel complex, set back from the street with a flat lawn and parking in front, is comprised of a one-story U-shaped main building and seven ancillary buildings located on the north and south sides of Laura Street that include a motel annex and several rental cottages. The main building, originally a single-family residence, is flanked by one-story hotel room additions on the north and south. This original house in the center, displaying a mix of elements of the late Tudor Revival and Minimal Traditional styles, is two stories in height with a steep side gable roof, a large front-gable on the south end, and two front-gable dormers on the north end of the roof. On the first floor, there is a slightly projecting front-gable-roof entry bay in the center with a round arch leading to the front door and the partially-glass-enclosed porch to the north. Porch details include stone corner posts with concrete caps. Set back from the façade on either side of the main block are one-story L-plan wings surrounding a courtyard which house twelve hotel rooms. A breezeway with decorative metal columns connects the guest rooms on each wing. The entire structure has a standing seam roof. There is a metal carport at the west end of the north and south wings of the building. The rear of the building is two stories, clad in vinyl siding on the second story and brick on the first story. Portions of the second story cantilevers out over the lower level, creating a porch below. The center portion of the rear is clad in stone, the same as the front. The motel started as just the house, and later was expanded with the wings and the smaller annex and ancillary brick cottages. The business was started by Laura and Patton Phillips.³⁰ From 1945 through 1963, a motel annex and several individual rental cottages were added to the property, fronting onto the north and south sides of Laura Street.

²⁸Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

²⁹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

³⁰Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019, and Wood, Robert E. Echoes from the Smoky Mountains. The History of Phillips and Jordan, Inc. Centralia, Washington: Life's Footprints, Inc., 2003.

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Additional buildings which are part of the hotel complex, but located on four separate tax parcels under the same ownership, include the following:

Rental Cottage. 1958. Contributing Building.

The one-story, yellow brick building has a standing seam metal hip roof with wide eaves. A triple window, each a two-horizontal-over-two-horizontal sash, is located to the west of the central six-panel door.

Rental Cottage. 1958. Contributing Building.

This one-story, brick, standing-seam-metal hip-roof building with wide eaves, has an entry that faces west at the corner entry porch. There is a picture window on the façade and one-over-one windows elsewhere.

Rental Cottage. 1963. Contributing Building.

This one-story brick building has a hip roof with wide eaves, a corner entry porch with an entry facing west, and a four-light window to the east of the door. There is a small one-story wing at the northeast corner.

Rental Cottage. 1958. Contributing Building.

This one-story, side-gable-roof, brick Ranch style house is a duplex, with a central recessed entry. There is a picture window on the façade of each section of the duplex.

Motel Annex. 1945. Contributing Building.

This one-story, standing-seam-metal-clad, side-gable-roof building was the first of the ancillary buildings to be added to the main hotel building complex. Consisting of four separate motel rooms, each room has a six-panel door and one-over-one windows. There is a small, vinyl-clad addition on the east end.

Rental Cottage. 1958. Contributing Building.

This one-story building has a standing-seam-metal-clad hip roof with wide eaves, a corner entry porch and a picture window on the façade.

Rental Cottage. 1958. Contributing Building.

Identical to the building noted above, this one-story building has a standing-seam-metal-clad hip roof with wide eaves, a corner entry porch and a picture window on the façade.

Carport. ca. 1990. Non-contributing structure.

This one-story metal carport is located between the two cottages noted above.

309 North Main Street, west side. Robbinsville School Complex.

This school complex, located on approximately eleven acres at the northwest end of the district, includes seven buildings dating from 1938 – 1974. The buildings are set up on a hill above Main Street, with the property extending from Tapoco Road on the north to Moose Branch Road on the south. Within this complex, there are only two non-contributing buildings, the **Robbinsville School Cafeteria** (1967) and the **Robbinsville High School Vocational Building** (1974), both

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of which date from outside of the period of significance. They are located at the northwest corner of the property and at the south end. The remaining contributing buildings in the complex are clustered primarily within the center of the property. The buildings are discussed from north to south within the property. Two of the buildings, the **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Gymnasium** (1938) and the **Robbinsville High School Band Building** (1939), were constructed under the Works Progress Administration. One later building, the **Robbinsville School Cafeteria** (1949 – 1950), is similar in style and massing to the earlier buildings. Two buildings, the **Robbinsville School Primary Building** (1955 – 1956) **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School** (1965) are more Modernist in their design, typical of that time period in school construction. There are a handful of non-contributing small storage buildings throughout the campus. In addition to the buildings within this complex, there is one additional school building in the district, the **Robbinsville High School Science Building** 1950, 1956), located on Moose Branch Road, directly west of the **Robbinsville Band Building** on a separate parcel. The original public high school building for the town, dating from 1924, has been torn down, along with the ca. 1924 school bus garage and the later ca. 1939 bus garage, built under the WPA program. Later buildings on the campus, including the 1967 high school gymnasium and the 1962 agriculture building, have also been torn down.³¹

Robbinsville School Cafeteria. 1949 – 1950. Contributing Building.

Completed in 1950, this one-story building, facing south, was expanded in 1965 and later converted to a multi-use space. Originally the building served all twelve grades at the school.³² The structure closely mimics the style of the earlier buildings on the campus, with uncut, uncoursed native stone cladding. The building is front gabled, with a cross-gable in the rear, creating a T-plan building. Windows are recessed, narrow, vertical double-hung sash with a fixed square light above and stone sills. The façade is three bays wide, consisting of the main entry of double-leaf metal doors flanked by windows. There is a standing-seam-metal-clad front-gable-roof covering at the entry and concrete stairs with pipe railing leading up to the entry doors. The east elevation is nine bays wide, consisting of, from the south end, six window bays followed by an entry door with a shed-roof covering and concrete steps with pipe railing. The two bays on the north end project forward, consisting of two window bays. The west elevation is eight bays wide, beginning, on the north end, with a single projecting window bay, followed by a double-leaf entry door, three window bays, and another double-leaf entry door. A metal-clad shed roof awning covers these five bays. South of this are two additional window bays. The rear of the building consists of a single entry bay covered by a gabled roof, with concrete steps with pipe railing. At the northwest corner is a small one-story addition which covers most of the remaining bays. The interior is highly modified. A stage has been constructed on the north end of the building and there is a dropped ceiling. The floor is terraced to allow for theater seating, but there is no fixed seating. A new cafeteria building was built on the school property sometime

³¹McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. "A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967. Report located in maintenance department of Graham County Schools, Robbinsville, North Carolina and National Archives Works Project Administration records for construction of bus garage, dated August 24, 1939.

³²McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. "A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967.

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after 1967.³³ The award for the construction of the cafeteria was granted on January 10, 1950. Lindsey Gudger of Asheville was noted as being the architect. The \$35,752 cafeteria building general contractor was William Dillard, with plumbing and heating awarded to Young and Brookshire of Sylva, and electrical awarded to Hayes and Lunsford of Asheville.³⁴

Robbinsville School Cafeteria. After 1967. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story brick building, facing west, has a flat roof with wide eaves supported by exposed rafters. Currently in use as the cafeteria for the school, there is a playground located to the south side. Down the hill and to the northeast of the building are two storage buildings. The building was constructed sometime after 1967, outside of the period of significance.³⁵

Storage Building. Non-contributing. ca. 1990s.

This one-story concrete block building has a gabled roof.

Storage Building. Non-contributing. ca. 1990s.

This one-story metal storage building has a gabled roof.

Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School. 1965. Contributing Building.

This one-story, flat-roof brick building, facing east, is located across a courtyard and in front of the earlier primary school building (GH0200). There is a continuous band of metal-frame, one-over-one windows with brick sills on the façade and rear (west) elevations. The north elevation adjoins the earlier primary school building, and the south elevation is covered by a one-story, flat-roof brick addition, built in 1976, which is compatible in materials and scale. The original twenty-room building was designed to replace an earlier two-story stone building, built ca. 1924, that was condemned as a fire hazard in 1963. While funds were sought to build this building, students attended classes at the American Legion and Masonic Hall buildings. The architect for the building was Foy and Lee, out of Waynesville, North Carolina.³⁶

Robbinsville High School Vocational Building. 1974. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story-plus-basement, flat roof brick building, facing north, is set on a hill above Main Street and follows the topography down the hillside to the east at the basement level. Serving from 1974 - 1975 as the vocational building for the high school, the building is currently in use as Graham County Schools Administrative Offices on the main level, with the maintenance shop for the schools located in the basement level. According to a plaque in the building, the architect was Jackson, Padgett, and Freeman out of Asheville, and the contractor was Price-Ray Constructors.

³³McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. "A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967.

³⁴"Graham School Building Contracts Are Awarded". Asheville Citizen-Times, January 11, 1950.

³⁵"A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967.

³⁶"A New Robbinsville Elementary School". Asheville Citizen-Times, February 14, 1960 and "New Robbinsville School Coming Off Drawing Boards". Asheville Citizen-Times, March 19, 1964.

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Storage Shed. ca. 1990s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story metal building has a gable roof.

Robbinsville School Primary Building. 1955 – 1956. Contributing Building.

This one-story, flat-roof Modernist building, facing east, is clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone. The façade is a continuous band of metal-frame, one-over-one sash windows with concrete sills, broken only by two entry doors, one near the south end, and one near the north end. The entry doors are single-light, sheltered by stone walls projecting outward on either side, and a flat roof. The west elevation is a continuous band of windows the same as on the façade, with the windows on the north end being two-light awning style, smaller than the remaining windows. The building consists of a single hallway lined with classrooms on both sides. There is a drop ceiling and the floors are linoleum tile. A one-story brick connector addition on the south end of the courtyard, ca. 2000s, connects this building with the 1965 elementary and junior high school building (GH0435) to the east. According to a concrete plaque inside the building, the building was completed in 1956, under school board chairman J. D. Stratton. The architect was Gilmer Harrill and the contractor was Smith & Jones Inc.

Robbinsville High School Band Building. 1939. Contributing Building.

The Band Building, facing east, and located down the hill to the south from the remainder of the school campus, was part of the original Works Progress Administration-built school complex. It is a one-story-plus-basement, standing-seam-metal-clad, front-gabled building clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone. The window sash are later replacements, likely dating from within the period significance, and are two-horizontal-over-two-horizontal double hung metal windows with cast concrete sills. The façade (east elevation) has a central five-panel door flanked by a paired window on the south and a single window on the north. There is a ca. 1990s wood door at the north end. The south elevation consists of six single window bays on the upper level, with all five former window bays on the lower level infilled with concrete block. The west (rear) elevation is four single window bays on the upper level and two on the lower level, one of which is infilled with plywood. The north elevation consists of six single window bays on the upper level, with an exterior stone chimney between the second and third bays. There are five window bays on the lower level with all but the westernmost window infilled with plywood. At the northwest corner is a three-light-over-panel door. The interior walls of the second floor of the building have been lined with masonite board paneling and there is an acoustic tile ceiling. There is a concrete plaque on the north side of the main entrance noting "In memory of Hugh Ashley Colvard, 1927 - 1955. First captain of Robbinsville band".

Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Gymnasium. 1938. Contributing Building.

The gymnasium building, facing south, is a one-story-plus-basement, front-gable-roof building clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone structure. The gable peaks are clad in vinyl siding. Windows are replacement, consisting of two vertical lights with square transoms above, all retaining their original concrete lintels and sills. The façade (south elevation) is comprised of two sets of metal double-leaf doors, recessed slightly back, and reached by stone steps with concrete balustrades at the entry stoop. Between the two doors are two single window bays. At the

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basement level, at the southwest corner, is a double-leaf wood door with a concrete lintel. The east elevation consists of six window bays with stone pilasters between each of the bays. The west elevation consists of six window bays on the upper level, and the rear (north) elevation is four bays wide, consisting of two doors reached by concrete steps with pipe railing and a flat-roof awning at the door on the east end, and a cast concrete balustrade on the west end. There are two single window bays between the doors. The building underwent renovations in 2005 that included replacing the windows and doors and removing a dropped ceiling. A bathroom and electrical upgrades were also added at this time and a stage was removed. The interior has wormy chestnut walls with plaster above. The basement once held a classroom and showers. The walls on this level are painted rock foundation wells with concrete block interior walls. This building is one of two remaining structures of the original Works Progress Administration (WPA) complex, constructed by local labor in 1938, under the WPA. The project was approved on January 12, 1938, at a total cost of \$8,105, including work on the grounds. It served Grades 1 - 8, and there was a separate building for the high school grades.³⁷ Bemis Lumber Company funded this building.³⁸

Storage Building. ca. 1990s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story, side-gable, concrete block building has one-over-one windows.

Storage Building. ca. 1990s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story metal storage building is located to the southwest of the building.

Storage Building. ca. 1990s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story metal storage building is located to the southwest of the building.

Storage Building. ca. 1990s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story metal storage building is located adjacent to the building.

314 North Main Street, east side. Roy Millsap House. ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

This asphalt-shingle-clad, side-gable, one-and-one-half-story-plus-basement house, exhibiting elements of the Tudor Revival style, faces west and has two projecting steep front-gable bays and is clad in uncut, uncoursed rubble with plain mortar. The replacement paired wood windows with wood trim and concrete sills are one-over-one double-hung sash with snap-in muntins, flanking either side of the central entry. The entry is beneath a centered gable that extends outward and is nested inside a larger gable with an identical pitch. The front door is six-light-over-panel. There is a front-gable dormer clad in weatherboard on the south end of the front of the house with paired replacement windows the same as on the main level, and an exterior end stone chimney and paired windows in the gable end the south elevation. A small one-story gabled wing sits to the south and is set back from the main façade. A front-gable-roof concrete

³⁷McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. "A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967. This building no longer exists.

³⁸Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019, and Works Project Administration Records for Graham County. National Archives. 1936 – 1942, May 15, 1937.

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block carport has been added to the south end of the wing on the south, end of the house. This house was built by Roy Millsap, with the stone façade added later, in the late 1940s.³⁹

352 North Main Street, east side. House. ca. 1954. Contributing Building.

This one-story brick Ranch style house, set near the center of the lot that spans from North Main Street and the Rodney Orr Bypass, faces south towards the driveway that connects the two roads. The house has an asphalt-shingle-clad hipped roof, two-horizontal-over-two-horizontal windows and a central brick chimney. The façade of the house is five bays wide, consisting of, from the south end, a single window bay, a paired window bay, the entry door and brick stoop with a shed roof supported by metal posts, followed by a paired and a single window bay. The rear (west) elevation has two single window bays.

376 North Main Street, east side. Roland Millsap House. ca. 1948. Contributing Building.

This standing-seam-metal-clad, cross-gable roof, one-story-plus-raised-basement transitional Minimal Traditional/Ranch style house, facing west, has a projecting front-gable wing on the north end and is clad in uncut, uncoursed rubble stone. Windows are one-over-one wood double-hung sash with snap-in muntins, all replacements, concrete lintels and stone sills. There is a central stone chimney. The façade of the house is three bays wide, with a paired window in the projecting gable end bay on the north, a small, centered entry porch under a shed roof with a wood balustrade, and a triple window on the south end. The front door is twelve-light-over-panel. The south elevation of the house consists of two paired window bays. The north elevation has a paired and two single windows on the upper level and four bays at the basement level, from east to west, a door, two single window bays, and a double-leaf glass door. There is a shed roof supported by narrow wood posts across the full width of the basement level. The rear (east) elevation has a two-story concrete block addition at the southeast corner, covered with masonite siding on the upper level. The original block of the house, to the north of this, consists of three single or paired windows on both levels. This house was built by Roland Millsap, with the stone being original to the construction date of the house.⁴⁰

10 South Main Street, west side. J. J. Snider Department Store and Bemis Lumber Company Office. ca. 1927. Contributing Building.

This one-story, flat-roof with parapet retail building, facing east, is clad in uncoursed stone. It has a decorative concrete diamond pattern above the concrete window lintels across the entire facade. The building has two distinct sections. The northernmost section served as the primary storefront and contains three groupings of plate glass windows with concrete sills. The entry is recessed and contains two wooden single-light-over-panel doors flanked by plate glass display windows. A transom is located above the windows and the entry. The two adjacent window groupings to the south each contain three large panes topped by three smaller transom-light panes. The entire northern section of the storefront is covered by a cantilevered metal awning. There is very slight gap in the stonework between the north and south sections of the building, with the south section sitting slightly lower in elevation. The southern portion of the façade consists of a double leaf door with transom, with each door comprised of two-lights-over-panel.

³⁹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

⁴⁰Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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To the north and south of the door are paired display windows with transoms. A wide concrete lintel is located above the doors and windows, and sills are concrete. The southernmost end of the building once served as an office for the Bemis Lumber Company. It is not known how long they occupied the building. The south elevation of the building is clad in pressed metal. The rear (west) elevation of the building is five bays on both levels, with corrugated metal covering the south half of the elevation, and stone on the remainder. The north elevation has a stepped parapet wall from east to west, with concrete coping. At the upper level, there are five single wood windows, either two-light-over-one or two-over-two and at the basement level there is a double-leaf wood door with concrete lintel near the east end, flanked by wood two-over-two windows, with four additional single two-light windows to the west. Historical photos indicate that the south end of the building was originally covered in pressed metal, with the stone façade added later across all of the front of the building. The building was expanded to the rear in several stages. A 1940 newspaper article notes that Snider's was "one of the largest general stores in this section of Western North Carolina". The article further noted that the store's reputation was widespread for the great variety of goods it carried, at reasonable prices. Some of the items carried by Snider's included men's and women's clothing, shoes, millinery, groceries', and Philco radios.⁴¹

39 South Main Street, east side. Citizens Bank and Trust Company. 1955., alterations ca. late 1970s. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story, side-gable-roof, Modernist building, facing west, was originally a bank. The south end of the façade is stretcher-bond brick, and the north end is stacked Roman brick. There is vinyl siding in the gable ends. The façade features two recessed entry bays with anodized aluminum frame, single-light doors with sidelights, separated by a band of six plate glass windows. The knee wall below the windows is parged. Near the north end of the façade are three narrow fixed light windows with brick sills, and a shed roof awning extends nearly the full width of the facade. The north elevation of the building is stretcher bond brick with a paired, sliding glass window at the northwest corner. The east elevation (rear) of the building has no fenestration, and the parged south elevation has a paired window at the southwest corner and a door in the center. Archival photos indicate that the original flat roof was altered to a side gabled roof and a cantilevered flat-roof canopy was replaced with a shed-roof canopy that covers both the original entry and the newer entry at the south end of the façade. The building has lost a great deal of its original architectural integrity due to these changes.⁴²

A marble plaque on the south end of the facade reads "Smith-Howell Building, Donated to Graham County by Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N. A. June 10, 1977." It appears, from this plaque, that the building remained in use as a bank from 1955 to 1977. The building served as the Sheriff's Office in the late 1970s and now serves as the Graham County Soil and Water Conservation District Office and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Office.

⁴¹Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019, and "Snider Department Store One of Best in Section", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 14, 1940.

⁴²see photo with article "New Bank Building At Robbinsville to Open Tomorrow". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, April 21, 1955.

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44 South Main Street, west side. Methodist Church. ca. 1938. Contributing Building.

This one-story-plus-basement building, facing east, now houses Hosanna Baptist Church. This front-gabled church with a side-gable rear wing is clad in uncoursed rubble stone. The window openings have arched tops, but the openings were later squared to hold rectangular stained-glass windows. All upper level windows have stained glass. An entry portico with a gabled roof supported by square posts is clad in T1-11 siding at the top and was added sometime between 1970 and 1992, after the end of the period of significance. A square steeple clad in shingle siding is likely also a later addition or alteration. The building sits on a steep grade and the basement sits at grade at the rear of the building. There are steps along the north side down to a ca. 1990s entry door at the basement level. Basement windows are four-light, with some ca. 1990s replacement windows at the rear elevation. Both the north and south elevations are four bays wide, each with a single stained glass window set within a recessed arched opening with stone sills.

This church building began its life as a Methodist congregation. The first Methodist Church was built in 1858 in the Cheoah Valley, at a high point in the town, Cemetery Hill (pre-dating the founding of Graham County, and later the area to become Robbinsville). In 1880, the Methodists built a church in town, on the same lot where the existing Hoke Phillips House is located. This house still stands at 85 North Main Street (GH0205). Then, in 1897, a second Methodist Church was built. Funding in the amount of \$3000 was received in 1938 by the Robbinsville Methodists, to construct a new church on Main Street. The plaque on the building (1874 - 1938) notes the Methodists occupied this church through 1938. When the building began to be used by Hosanna Baptist Church, a parsonage for the Baptist Church was built on the lot to the south of the church in 1950.

Storage building. post-1965. Non-contributing Building.

This one-story, gable roof metal storage building is located to the south of the church building.

58 South Main Street, west side. Hosanna Baptist Church Parsonage. ca. 1950. Contributing Building.

This one story, side-gable-roof Minimal Traditional/Ranch style house, with elements of cottages from the 1930s and 1940s, facing east, is clad in uncoursed stone and has a center front gable with a smaller recessed gable over the entry that sits behind and lower than the center gable. The windows are single and paired six-over-six wood double-hung sash with wood trim and concrete sills, and the roof is asphalt shingle. The vertical board front door with an off-center single square light is recessed into the smaller gable. The front, exterior, single-shoulder stone chimney sits to the north of the entry and is a dominant feature of the four-bay-wide façade. At the south end of the façade, slightly lower is a side-gable-roof enclosed porch with a separate entry. The north and south elevations are each two bays wide, comprised of one paired window and one single window.

65 South Main Street, east side. Bemis Memorial Library. 1953. Contributing Building.

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This front-gabled single-story Colonial Revival style building, clad in vinyl siding, with a brick foundation, faces west, and was originally constructed as the Bemis Memorial Library by the Bemis Lumber Company, with its official opening taking place on Monday, April 6, 1953. The building retains its overall form, including, on the façade, a round window in the front gable end and a projecting multi-light picture window with wood bracket supports to the north of the main entry. There is a three-pane transom over the door on the south end of the facade that appears in early photographs. The side elevations are lined with bands of short slider clerestory windows just below the eaves, presumably configured to sit above bookcases that would line the walls of the library. The rear (west) elevation of the building is four bays wide, beginning at the south end, with a six-light casement window followed by a replacement door, another casement window, and a second replacement door. An interior brick chimney is visible just above the roofline. The former library is now in use as a commercial building. Local residents report that the building served as the Church of Christ and later a stained-glass studio after the library moved to its current location near the elementary school. It is now a commercial office space.⁴³

74 South Main Street, west side. House. ca. 1958. Contributing Building.

This symmetrical one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roof house, expressing some elements of the late Colonial Revival style, faces east, is clad in rough cut irregular coursed stone and has a single-story projecting front-gabled bay in the center of the façade. Original windows are wood two-over-two-horizontal-lights, but there are some four-light wood replacement windows on the first level. On either end of the main block of the house are one-story porches. The northernmost porch is enclosed in glass and the southernmost porch has been converted to a walk-in cooler that occupies about 75% of the covered area but retains its iron railing and columns at the corners. There is a wooden handicap ramp at the front of the building which extends out into the gravel parking area. The three bays of the lower level of the main block of the façade consists of, from the south end, a tripartite bay window with a half-hipped roof, the entry with a replacement door within the projecting front-gable bay, and a paired replacement window. There are two front-gable dormers clad in asbestos shingles, with original windows, above. The south elevation of the building consists of the porch on the first level, with a narrow, vertical replacement window on the east end, and a single window bay on the upper level. There is also an exterior end stone chimney with chimney pots on this elevation. This building is now used as a commercial building.

85 South Main Street, east side. Marion and Edward Ingram House. ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

This highly intact stretcher-bond painted brick, two-story Colonial Revival house, facing west, is among the largest dwellings in the district and the most high-style. It has a steeply pitched side-gable roof with four front-gable dormers on the front, six-over-six double-hung vinyl replacement windows with rowlock brick sills on the first and second floors, and an inset porch with a flagstone floor, a two-bay-wide, segmental-arched arcade, wood posts, a beadboard ceiling, and a balustrade that appears to be a replacement. The multi-light front door, at the north

⁴³"Robbinsville Library Will Be Dedicated". Asheville Citizen-Times, April 5, 1953, and Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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end of the porch, faces south. The roof at the south end of the house sits slightly lower than the main block. The façade is three bays wide on the main block, each with a single window evenly spaced across the elevation, and added flush board shutters that are nailed in place. The south end of the façade consists of the porch with a single dormer above. The south elevation is two bays wide on the first floor, each pierced by a single window, with a single window above. The rear (west) elevation is four bays wide on the first level of the main block of the house covers the three south bays, and a wood deck with an accessibility ramp has been added. The second floor consists of three single window bays. There is a paired window on the south end of the first floor. The north elevation is two bays wide on the first floor, with a paired window on the east end and a multi-light door with a half-round cloth awning on the west end. There are two single-window bays on the upper floor, and an exterior end, painted brick chimney with a rounded single shoulder at the west end of the bay. The Ingrams owned the drugstore at 40 Court Street (GH0179). Mr. Ingram ran the drugstore and Mrs. Ingram was a teacher and local historian.⁴⁴

Garage. Ca. 1940. Contributing Building.

To the northeast of the house, there is a wood frame, one story, one bay, front-gable-roof with exposed rafter tails garage with a river rock stone foundation and weatherboard siding. The double leaf garage doors are six-light-over-three-vertical-panels.

70 Moose Branch Road, north side. Robbinsville High School Science Building. 1950, 1956. Contributing Building.

The one-story, front-gable building, facing west, originally served as the Science building for the high school. The building is clad in uncoursed rubble stone. The main entrance is on the west side, on the façade, and is reached by a set of concrete steps with metal railing, leading to a hip-roof-covered entry portico. The entry door is a single-light-over-panel with sidelights and transom. Windows are late-twentieth-century replacements, retrofitted into the original openings with concrete sills, with eight single window bays on the south elevation, and ten bays on the north elevation. There is an addition at the rear of the building, two bays wide, with a side gable roof and a hallway on the interior that is perpendicular to the original portion of the building. The interior of the building is a double-loaded hall with classrooms on either side, and it is clear where the addition begins at the cased opening on the east end of the main hall. According to the current owner, this building may also have been funded by Bemis Lumber Company, which was very community-minded and helped fund several buildings in town.

⁴⁴Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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 grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce
Architecture
Politics/Government
Education

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Period of Significance

ca. 1872 - 1965

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Robbinsville Downtown Historic District has a period of significance of ca. 1872, the date of the earliest resource in the historic district, the Hoke-Phillips House, to 1965, the date of the most recent contributing resource in the district, the Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School. While there were a handful of buildings constructed in the district into the late 1960s, they have undergone extensive alterations that make them non-contributing. The period of significance is also the time period of major growth of the town, with the district eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A, in the areas of Commerce, Politics/Government, and Education. Retaining a great deal of its historic integrity, the town exemplifies the major development period and economic prosperity that existed in the community through the mid-1960s. For the most part, commercial development in the town primarily served the local Robbinsville and Graham County communities, but as tourism grew in importance throughout Graham County and western North Carolina, several hotels were built for visitors to the area. However, even though these hotels served individuals outside of the community, they and other business in the town were mostly small family-run operations owned by Robbinsville residents. As the county seat of Graham County, the town's history is closely tied to the ongoing presence of the county courthouse, significant to the development of the community and still serving as the central place for government and political operations for both Robbinsville and communities outside of the town. The Courthouse was

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National Register-listed in 2007 for its local significance under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The presence of numerous buildings in the district related to public education also adds to the significance of the district, with new school buildings only recently constructed outside of the downtown and the central operations of the county school district still located within the historic district in downtown Robbinsville. Significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, the district is significant for the concentration of intact examples of commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential building types, built in vernacular, Commercial, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, and Modern Movement Ranch styles, many of which retain high degrees of architectural integrity. These resources represent the best collection of these types of buildings in Graham County. Of particular significance in the district is the significant concentration of stone craftsmanship in buildings and retaining walls dating from ca. 1925 – ca. 1958, many of which were built during the Works Project Administration (WPA) dating from 1935 – 1943. Stone craftsmanship, while in use in Robbinsville before the WPA, increased during the years of the program and continued afterward into the middle of the twentieth century, especially in residential property types.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Commerce, Politics/Government, and Education Context

Graham County, North Carolina, located in far western North Carolina, is bounded on the west by the state of Tennessee, on the north and east by Swain County, on the south by Cherokee County, and on the east/southeast by Macon County. Graham County was founded out of a portion of Cherokee County in 1872, named for William A. Graham, a United States Senator, governor of North Carolina, and secretary of the navy under President Fillmore.⁴⁵ At the time of its founding, Graham County was primarily wilderness, mostly inaccessible due to the mountain ranges on all sides, with most of the land having been owned and occupied by the Cherokee Nation until 1838, with sparsely located white settlement beginning to take place from 1848 - 1862.⁴⁶ Copper veins were discovered in Graham County in the early 1860s, drawing additional settlers to the area.⁴⁷

On December 7, 1872, the new county commissioners held an initial meeting to select the county seat. Three sites were considered, Rhea Hill, Fort Hill, and property belonging to local resident C. A. Colvard. In early 1873, Colvard's property was chosen, and Robbinsville was selected as the county seat under an act of the North Carolina legislature.⁴⁸ G. W. Ditmore laid out the town in February 1873, and soon after commissioners accepted bids for a courthouse.⁴⁹ John W.

⁴⁵"Graham County". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 20, 1932.

⁴⁶"The Village of Five Lives". Unpublished report, 1964. Collection of North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina, p. 7 and p. 11.

⁴⁷"The Village of Five Lives" p. 29.

⁴⁸Griffith, Clay. "Graham County Courthouse". National Register nomination, 2007, p. 8-6.

⁴⁹"Graham County Courthouse". National Register nomination, 2007, p. 8-6

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Harwood's bid of \$1075 was accepted, with the first courthouse to be completed by May 1874. This simple wood building lasted until July 1895 when the second floor collapsed under the weight of attendees at a local murder trial.⁵⁰ County commissioners met on May 8, 1873 and elected N. G. Phillips as mayor, W. P. Mauney secretary-treasurer, and J.A. Ammons as town constable. Town commissioners were N. M. E. Slaughter, J. B. Walker, N. G. Phillips, and W. G. King. Minimal ordinances were created initially, since this was the first incorporated town in the county.⁵¹ In November 1873 bids were accepted to build the first jail near the new courthouse, replaced ca. 1910 by a second jail building (40 Dula Street).⁵²

The 1880 Census for the Cheoah Township (Robbinsville) noted that occupations included carpenter, laborer, blacksmith, miller, cook, trader, miner, and most extensively, farmer or farm laborer.⁵³ There were four physicians in town, two lawyers, one clerk (George Walker) and a clerk of the Superior Court. Additional early records for Graham County and Robbinsville note that the county population in 1884 was 2,335, with the population of Robbinsville being 102. Town lots were valued at \$1,895. The town had a post office, a Baptist Church, and two hotels and boarding houses, the Junaluskah, owned by N. G. Phillips, and the Lovejoy, owned by W. F. Cooper.⁵⁴ Farming was the main economic engine for the county at the time, along with grist and sawmills. There were a couple of merchants located in Robbinsville, W. Cooper and Co. and W. T. Walker.⁵⁵ The Town of Robbinsville was incorporated in 1893, with some of the stores in town at the time including George Walker Store and Ben Grant Store.⁵⁶

Schools in Robbinsville and Graham County, in the late nineteenth century, were scattered, with sessions typically lasting only a few months, and all grades housed in single-room school buildings. There was one private school in Robbinsville, the Peabody Institute, which was located in the courthouse. At the turn of the twentieth century, a small public school was built in Robbinsville, with funds raised from subscriptions since there were no public funds for schools at this time.⁵⁷ In 1910, a Presbyterian mission school was founded in Robbinsville, not charging any tuition, and serving 350 pupils. Since public school interest began to peak at this time, the Presbyterian school was sold to the State Board of Education, where it then replaced the earlier small public school and served as the main public school in town until a new school was built in 1924.⁵⁸

⁵⁰<http://www.grahamcounty.net/GCHistory/02-grahamcounty/grahamcounty.htm>

"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019. A new, larger wooden courthouse was built in July 1895, which remained in place until the current courthouse was constructed in 1942.

⁵¹"Robbinsville Now an Incorporated Town". *Asheville Citizen-Times*. May 11, 1893.

⁵²"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁵³ Aldridge, Bryan. 1880 Graham County, North Carolina Census, Unpublished report, 1994. Collection of North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina.

⁵⁴Branson, Reverend L. The North Carolina Business Directory. Raleigh, North Carolina: J. A. Jones, 1884.

⁵⁵ "Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁵⁶ "Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁵⁷<http://www.grahamcounty.net/GCHistory/10-education/educationhistory.htm>

"History of Education in Graham County", p. 2. Accessed November 14, 2019

⁵⁸"History of Education in Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

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Before the founding of the Town of Robbinsville, the area was sparsely settled and was known as the Cheoah Valley. Most families were farmers, and the area was remotely located from the rest of the state of North Carolina. But Robbinsville and all of Graham County was also rich with natural resources, one of the main ones being the extensive amount of hardwood forests. It didn't take long for this resource to be discovered, and in 1910 Whiting Lumber Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania bought or obtained options on nearly all of Graham County, including most of the Robbinsville area for their lumber operations. The company already had large sawmill operations in Judson, North Carolina in Swain County, and in Abingdon, Virginia. The timber harvested from Graham County was considered to be of the highest grade, including poplar, oak, chestnut, birch, cherry, and walnut, used to produce finish carpentry lumber and flooring in the mills.⁵⁹ A map in *American Lumberman* magazine, dated January 15, 1910 shows all of the Whiting landholdings in the county.⁶⁰ Representatives of the Whiting Company paid huge sums of money to the local people to obtain these property rights, "...creating excitement equal to California gold fever...".⁶¹ Only the Methodist and Presbyterian church and school lots, and the courthouse were not included in the initial massive land purchase by Whiting. Negotiations were underway, however, to purchase the courthouse. In addition to building their lumbering operations in the town, Whiting Lumber Company also invested in completing the rail lines, the Graham County Railroad, to Bushnell that then connected Robbinsville to Knoxville, Tennessee.⁶² Whiting's plans included building a large tannic acid plant, a pulp plant and a lumber camp in the town proper, employing 1000 people.⁶³ Whiting's capital stock increased from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 after its Graham County purchases.⁶⁴

In 1911, the citizens of Graham County were asked to approve bonds to assist in the completion of additional rail lines, due in part to Whiting Lumber Company's investment in the community and insistence that additional transportation was needed. The rail line would run from Topton to Robbinsville, a distance of approximately twenty miles. At the time Graham County had no railroad, and the bond was for \$50,000. It was noted that "...if the county is developed this line will be necessary, for without it Graham has no outlet at all..."⁶⁵ The lumber company agreed to pay \$100,000 towards this rail line if the county voted the bonds.⁶⁶ By 1915, the population of Robbinsville was 200.⁶⁷

Due in large part to the investment of Whiting Lumber Company, later bought by Bemis Lumber Company, Robbinsville continued to grow into the 1920s and 1930s. Bemis Lumber Company was originally incorporated in the State of Delaware on April 16, 1926 and was succeeded by the

⁵⁹*American Lumberman* magazine. January 15, 1910. Private collection of Edd Satterfield, Robbinsville, North Carolina.

⁶⁰*American Lumberman* magazine. January 15, 1910. Private collection of Edd Satterfield, Robbinsville, North Carolina.

⁶¹"Big Lumber Company Purchased Town of Robbinsville, NC". *The Charlotte News*, October 9, 1910.

⁶²"Big Lumber Company Purchased Town of Robbinsville, NC".

⁶³"Whiting Lumber Company Closes a Big Deal". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 15, 1910.

⁶⁴"Most of Graham County Sold to Whiting Company". *Asheville Gazette-News*, October 14, 1910.

⁶⁵"New Railroad". *The Raleigh Times*, January 20, 1911.

⁶⁶"Railroad for Graham County". *The Charlotte News*, September 11, 1915.

⁶⁷"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

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Bemis Hardwood Lumber Company, a North Carolina Corporation, incorporated January 1, 1937. In 1924 H. C. Bemis purchased the lands owned in Graham County by the Buffalo Realty Company, Carolina Railway and Lumber Company, and George R. Cottrelle, Trustee. Also, in 1924, the Champion Paper and Fiber Company, the Gennett Lumber Company, and H. C. Bemis purchased the lands of the Whiting Manufacturing Company. The Gennett Lumber Company took the Santeetlah Watershed and then sold it to the U.S. Forest Service in 1935. Champion Paper purchased the West Buffalo watershed in fee and H. C. Bemis bought the Big Snowbird area. Then Champion and Bemis traded so that Champion owned all the hemlock and Bemis all the hardwoods on both Big Snowbird and West Buffalo Watersheds. In 1926 Bemis started construction of a band mill in Robbinsville, and the first log was sawn in August 1927.⁶⁸ On November 27, 1928, the Interstate Commerce Commission granted the Graham County Railroad Company, the line initially built by Whiting Manufacturing Company between Topton and Robbinsville, and in use primarily at the time by Bemis Lumber Company, the right to issue stock in the amount of \$163,000 to help with debt on the line and to make improvements on the line.⁶⁹ A large part of the machinery and equipment for the Bemis mill were shipped from the band mill that Bemis had been operating since 1905 at Bemis, West Virginia.⁷⁰ Bemis Lumber Company continued to employ many families in Robbinsville, even during the Depression years.

The first public high school in Robbinsville, and the first publicly funded school in the county, was constructed of stone in 1924, serving children through the eleventh grade.⁷¹ The town installed a water system in 1925, at a cost of \$35,000.⁷² By 1928, there was a fully operational electric system in town, operated by Bemis Lumber, and in 1929 to 1930 Highway 28, connecting Robbinsville to Stecoah, had been completed.⁷³

Graham County's population grew from 4,749 in 1910 to 5,841 in 1930. By 1930, the population in Robbinsville was 345.⁷⁴ Not only did the commercial center of town continue to expand, but new construction and land development continued to take place in and around Robbinsville. On February 16, 1928, the town agreed to lay additional water lines to the west side of town, to the Mill-Dale subdivision, still in existence, located three blocks to the west of Main Street, to the east of Long Creek, laid out in 1927 and including Atoah Avenue, Walters Avenue, and Chestnut Street.⁷⁵ Fifty lots in this subdivision had already been sold by this time, with several homes and a store built. Additional water supply was needed so that homes could be built.⁷⁶

⁶⁸<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/bemislumber/> Bemis Lumber Company Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. Accessed November 1, 2019.

⁶⁹"11-Mile Line is Owned by Bemis Lumber Company". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 28, 1928.

⁷⁰Bemis Lumber Company Records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University. Accessed November 1, 2019.

⁷¹"History of Education in Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁷²"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁷³"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

⁷⁴"Graham County". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 20, 1932.

⁷⁵Graham County Deed Records, Plat Book 1, p. 7.

⁷⁶"West Robbinsville to Have City Water; Pipe is Received". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 16, 1928.

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The Great Smoky Mountains National Park was created on February 6, 1930 and opened on a limited basis to visitors.⁷⁷ By 1932, Robbinsville and the surrounding county benefitted from the presence of good roads, the completion of the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the tourism that was associated with the park. The scenic beauty in the county complemented what was available in the park. The extensive development of water power by the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) at Tapoco and Lake Santeetlah, and the Cheoah River near Robbinsville also assisted in the further development of the town.⁷⁸

Newspaper articles from September and November 1932 noted several projects under construction just outside of downtown Robbinsville, including the building of tourist cabins, the purchase of large tracts of land, renovation of properties, building of new residences, and erection of farm buildings.⁷⁹ New businesses also opened in downtown in the 1930s, including City Furniture Company, opening ca. 1939 in the Baker Building (56 North Main Street), owned by Frank Colvard and Lee McClure.⁸⁰ A 1936 newspaper ad, encouraging the community to "...visit Robbinsville and Lake Santeetlah...", noted several businesses in town in 1936 including City Garage, Ghormley House and Café, Snowbird Supply Company, Snider's (10 South Main Street), Ingram's Drug Store (40 Court Street), and Walter's Garage.⁸¹ A telephone exchange began operations in Robbinsville on December 1, 1936, under a thirty-year franchise from the Town of Robbinsville, managed by James Penland of Clay County, North Carolina. Local operations were run by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Sinclair.⁸²

Robbinsville, like many other western North Carolina cities and towns, benefitted from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal program which was in existence from 1935 - 1943, with many projects funded, including the construction of several school buildings in the 1930s and the county courthouse in 1942. Downtown Robbinsville historically was where public school buildings were located, beginning with the construction of a high school in 1924. While this building is no longer extant, several buildings constructed under the WPA still remain. These include the Robbinsville High School Band Building (1939) and the Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Gymnasium (1938). In addition to the stone school buildings constructed under this program, a great deal of infrastructure was completed under the WPA, including the construction of stone retaining walls along Main Street.⁸³ Additional projects funded under the program in Graham County, as the population grew, included construction of a four-room brick addition to the ca. 1910 county jail (40 Dula Street), improvements to the water system, and improvements to the schools. Other infrastructure projects that took place in this time included roadside improvement along Highway 108, and widening, grading, surfacing, draining and general repair and beautification of all residential streets and sidewalks in the town. Construction of recreational facilities and sanitation systems

⁷⁷ "The Village of Five Lives", p. 34.

⁷⁸ "Graham County".

⁷⁹ "Other Structures Being Built In and Near Robbinsville". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 7, 1932 and "Construction Work is Underway in Graham". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 20, 1932.

⁸⁰ "Robbinsville Has New Furniture Company". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 17, 1934.

⁸¹ "Visit Robbinsville and Lake Santeetlah". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 14, 1936.

⁸² "New Exchange was Opened on December 1st". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 6, 1936.

⁸³ National Archives Records, Works Project Administration, approved May 15, 1937.

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where adequate sewage disposal systems were unavailable, and improvement and renovation of schools, with headquarters located in Robbinsville, were some of the additional projects funded under the WPA.⁸⁴ Many of these projects are still in existence today, including the county courthouse (12 North Main Street) and the stone retaining walls located along the west side of Main Street and throughout the school property. Construction of school buildings, several of which remain today, (Robbinsville High School Band Building, 309 North Main Street; and Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Gymnasium, 309 North Main Street), were completed as WPA projects. The WPA program left an indelible mark on the appearance of downtown Robbinsville, still evident today in the large number of stone buildings that remain in the district along with those, especially residential property types, that were built after the program ended, well into the 1950s.

In addition to the construction projects noted, the WPA employed many people in the county in non-construction jobs, including as lunchroom workers; deed index workers; forest fire fighting crews and superintendence; as in-home workers to help with home and child care; as janitorial and maintenance assistance in the schools; as gardeners, including canning of foodstuffs; and as cleaners in the county courthouse.⁸⁵ Funding was also provided for a free school lunch program; and a public health nursing program for needy families.⁸⁶

In 1939, thirty WPA workers were hired to widen and hard surface a mile of streets from downtown Robbinsville to nearby Milltown to the west, a road under heavy use due to the town's milling operations which were located adjacent to Milltown.⁸⁷ While not fully documented, there does not appear to have been much stone construction in the historic district prior to the work completed under the WPA from 1935 - 1942. An exception to this is the north section of the **J. J. Snider Department Store and Bemis Lumber Company Office** (10 South Main Street, ca. 1927, contributing). This portion of the building appears to have originally been constructed of uncoursed stone. However, many buildings were faced in stone during this time period and several stone buildings were constructed after the program ended, making it possible that some of the craftsmen who worked under the WPA program did this work. Some of the buildings later faced in stone or built new of stone during the era of the WPA, include the southern portion of the **J. J. Snider Department Store and Bemis Lumber Company** (10 South Main Street, ca. 1927), where documentary photos indicate the building was originally clad in pressed metal and later clad in stone on the façade only; the **Griffin Building** (51 N. Main Street, ca. 1945, contributing), built of concrete block and clad in uncoursed stone; the **Commercial Building** (54 North Main Street, ca. 1930, contributing), which has a frame construction with a front-gable roof to the rear and a front parapet wall as part of the stone facade; the **Baker Building façade** (56 North Main Street (ca. 1934, contributing structure), which also appears to have originally been of frame construction and later clad in stone; the

⁸⁴Works Project Administration, approval dates of October 28, 1935; November 4, 1935; October 28, 1935; October 21, 1935; April 23, 1936; November 18, 1935; September 17, 1937; August 26, 1937; April 22, 1938; March 14, 1940.

⁸⁵Works Project Administration, approval dates of November 4, 1935; January 21, 1936; February 4, 1936; July 23, 1937; December 9, 1937; April 15, 1936; March 12, 1937.

⁸⁶Works Project Administration, January 6, 1936; January 6, 1936.

⁸⁷"30 WPA Men Employed on Robbinsville Project". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, April 25, 1939.

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Commercial Building (70-72 North Main Street, ca. 1930, contributing), where the façade is constructed of uncoursed stone and the rear of the building is clearly frame construction; **G. E. Brewer Building** (192 North Main Street, ca. 1936, contributing) where the building appears to originally have been built of uncoursed stone; **Roy Eller Garage** (240 North Main Street, ca. 1925, contributing), where the added stone façade of uncut rubble stone had a high parapet obscuring a frame side gable roof behind it; and the **Methodist Church** (44 South Main Street, ca. 1938, contributing), where the building was originally constructed of uncoursed rubble stone.⁸⁸

In the early 1940s, the town completed work on a modern water system, with over 70% complete by March 1941. \$10,000 of the project cost was funded by the town, with the remainder funded through the WPA.⁸⁹ A major WPA project in the Robbinsville Downtown Historic District was completed in 1942 with the construction of a new **Graham County Courthouse** (12 North Main Street, 1942, NR 2007). As the lumber companies expanded, some hotels and boarding houses were built to house out of town executives, including the non-extant Joyce Kilmer Inn and Cottages and the **Phillips Motel**, which began operations in 1945 and is still operating in the historic district.⁹⁰ Post-World War II growth in the economy and in population, typical of so many towns in western North Carolina, was no different in Robbinsville in the 1940s through the 1960s. Schools and industry expanded, and downtown businesses thrived. The Robbinsville School Cafeteria (1949 – 1950) was built at the public school complex on North Main Street.). The school population in 1943 included 228 high school students, 895 elementary students, and 32 teachers.⁹¹ In 1945, funding was available for local communities from the State's Literary and Building Fund. Some funds from this were used to renovate the Robbinsville Gymnasium and Elementary Buildings.⁹² Under a later school construction program, the 1953 State School Plant Construction Fund, the primary school was funded in 1955, and an addition to the new science building in 1956.⁹³ School enrollment in 1953 included 1,032 elementary students, 276 high school students, and forty-two teachers. Almost \$400,000 was spent on school improvements throughout the county, most of which was spent on the Robbinsville schools.⁹⁴ The Robbinsville school complex on North Main Street and Moose Branch Road was further expanded in the 1950s, with the construction of the Robbinsville School Primary Building (309 North Main Street, 1955-1956) and the Robbinsville High School Science Building (70 Moose Branch Road, 1950, 1956). School enrollment continued to grow in the 1960s, with 345 high school students enrolled at Robbinsville High School in 1960, with 45% of students graduating. The high school began offering full college preparatory courses.⁹⁵

⁸⁸Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

⁸⁹"Robbinsville to Have Modern Water System". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 16, 1941.

⁹⁰"Robbinsville Invites You to Graham County". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 20, 1942.

⁹¹Graham County School Board Minutes, July 2, 1945.

⁹²Graham County School Board Minutes, July 2, 1945.

⁹³Graham County School Board Minutes, April 4, 1955 and August 30, 1956.

⁹⁴"Three Schools Replace 33 Under Consolidation Plan". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 26, 1953.

⁹⁵"Steady Progress In Community Development Reported by Graham". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 29, 1961.

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Tourism grew in Robbinsville as a source of income for local residents in the 1940s.⁹⁶ Robbinsville, with a population in 1949 of 399, was often noted in newspaper articles and publications as a destination vacation spot, located on Highway 129, which ran all the way to Florida. It was noted that the town was near the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, with "...many shops and small-town facilities..." Recreational opportunities in the area included "...boating, riding, tennis, fishing, camping, picnicking, and hiking..."⁹⁷

One of the biggest economic drivers to the Robbinsville area in the 1940s was the construction of Fontana Dam from 1942 to 1945, with many workers housed in local lodging facilities. By 1947, in addition to the Snowbird Lodge which was located outside of Robbinsville, the Phillips Tourist Home (**Phillips Motel, 290 North Main Street, ca. 1945 – 1963**), with Mrs. Roy Phillips listed as the manager, offered home cooked meals and daily rates of \$2.50 to \$5.00, with weekly rates of \$15.00 to \$25.00.⁹⁸

As the town continued to develop and thrive in the 1950s, additional roads were completed, one of these being the extension of Highway 28 from Stecoah to Fontana, continuing Robbinsville's accessibility by automobile.⁹⁹ A newspaper article noted that additional roadwork through the 1950s included the straightening of US 129 from Tipton to Robbinsville and the straightening of Highway 28 from Fontana Dam to Stecoah. The article noted that "...from Robbinsville, the county seat, any community is just minutes away by good state-maintained roads..."¹⁰⁰ Typical of many post World War II towns in western North Carolina, Robbinsville businesses thrived in this time period, and its accessibility within and beyond the county certainly contributed to this strong economic time. According to a newspaper article from 1950, the "...county's sole industrial operation is lumbering, although the tourist trade is growing important economically..." District ranger headquarters for the Nantahala National Forest was moved to Robbinsville in 1950, and busses ran from Murphy through Robbinsville to Knoxville. Tourism was growing due to the influx of visitors to the newly completed Fontana Dam, Joyce Kilmer Forest, and other natural attractions.¹⁰¹ In 1953, there were numerous lodging accommodations that had been built to accommodate these tourists, near Robbinsville, including J. R. Orr's Cabins, J. W. Shope's Pine Ridge Cabins, Deyton's Mountain Lake Cottages, Snowbird Mountain Lodge, Blue Boar Sportsman's Lodge, Tapoco Lodge, and Lake in the Sky Lodge. In Robbinsville, two tourist courts were in operation, the Joyce Kilmer Motor Court and Phillips Motor Court. At the time Joyce Kilmer had seven cabins, with meals served at the adjacent Joyce Kilmer Inn. The Phillips Motor Court had its own dining room, six cabins, and two apartment units. Crawford's Hotel was also located in Robbinsville.¹⁰²

⁹⁶"Accommodations in The Land of the Sky". Brochures 1941. MS036.001. Collection of North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina, p. 23.

⁹⁷"Where to Vacation in North Carolina". *The Gastonia Gazette*, June 22, 1949.

⁹⁸"Accommodations in The Land of the Sky". Brochures 1947. MS036.001. Collection of North Carolina Room, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina, p. 17.

⁹⁹"Graham County". Accessed November 14, 2019.

¹⁰⁰"Steady Progress In Community Development Reported by Graham". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 29, 1961.

¹⁰¹"Graham Emphasizes Lumbering and Major Tourist Attractions". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 26, 1950.

¹⁰²"Robbinsville Has Many Fine Accommodations". *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 31, 1953.

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There were numerous stores in business in operation in and around downtown in the 1950s, including the Style Center, a hair salon; Ford and Lovin, an outdoor equipment store; Robbinsville Blossom Shop; Citizen's Bank & Trust Company (39 South Main Street); Phillips Café and Motel (290 North Main Street); Carranger and Millsaps general store; Junaluska Grill; Collins Store, general store (5 North Main Street); Fontana Mills; Ingram's Drugstore (40 Court Street); Hugh Eller's Garage; Ruby Nell's Beauty Shop; Wilson's Watch Shop; Sharpe's General Merchandise; Russell's Furniture Company; Marie's Variety Store; J. J. Snider Department Store (10 South Main Street), and Roy Millsap's Store, another general merchandise store (40 Court Street).¹⁰³ These commercial businesses included a wide range of goods, including general dry goods, beauty shops, restaurants, banks, drugstores and soda fountains, furniture stores, and jewelry stores. While not all of them were located within the historic district, they supported the economic vitality of downtown Robbinsville.

Another significant industry for the town, founded in 1951 in Robbinsville and employing many local people, was Phillips & Jordan (P & J). Two local men, Ted Phillips and Ted Jordan, partnered in 1951 to form the company.¹⁰⁴ Several resources within the historic district are related to this company, including the **Phillips and Jordan Machine Shops** (74 Laura Street); the **Phillips & Jordan-Lloyd Building** (14 Court Street) and the **United States Post Office** (77 North Main Street), which currently houses the offices of Phillips and Jordan. Post-World War II construction was booming into the 1950s, and this land-clearing company for new roads and highways, especially as funded through the 1956 National Interstate and Federal Aid Highway Act, contributed greatly to this company's success.

Phillips & Jordan, in the early 1960s, took on one of their earliest large land clearing jobs, at the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Utah, a \$1.5 million job.¹⁰⁵ In 1970 the company merged with Kanab Pipeline Company and in 1980 moved its headquarters to Knoxville, Tennessee. The company still maintains an administrative office in Robbinsville.

By the late 1940s, some of the lumber industry was beginning to move away from Graham County, and P & J made it a point to hire local people to work in its business, training them and then sending them to job locations across the United States. The company was involved in land clearing projects including electric transmission lines, pipelines, and superhighways.¹⁰⁶

James Lees Carpet Company, a subsidiary of Burlington Industries in Burlington, North Carolina, began operations in Robbinsville in 1957, employing over 400 people. Operating in a

¹⁰³*The Robin Yearbook*. Yearbook of Robbinsville High School. 1950, 1957, 1959. Ads in the yearbook. Addresses for these businesses were not included in the ads, but the businesses that are known to have been in the historic district have an address noted.

¹⁰⁴Wood, Robert E. Echoes from the Smoky Mountains. The History of Phillips and Jordan, Inc. Centralia, Washington: Life's Footprints, Inc., 2003, p. vi.

¹⁰⁵ Echoes from the Smoky Mountains, p. vi.

¹⁰⁶ Echoes from the Smoky Mountains. The History of Phillips and Jordan, Inc., p. viii.

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large building on the outskirts of Robbinsville, the company later converted to furniture manufacturing, utilizing lumber from Bemis Lumber Company, but closed its doors in 1971.¹⁰⁷

Bemis Lumber Company continued operations just outside of Robbinsville well into the 1960s, although a great deal of the lumbering industry had begun to diminish in the late 1940s. In March of 1967 the original band mill of the company was completely destroyed by fire and was replaced by a modern band mill, all-electric except for the steam shot-gun feed. Operations of the mill declined through the third quarter of the twentieth century, as over-logging had diminished much of the rich forest resource in the area.

Many downtown businesses continued to thrive in downtown Robbinsville through the mid-1960s, including Hoover Williams & Son; Nantahala Power & Light (4 Court Street); L. W. Lloyd; Collins Store (5 North Main Street); F. S. Griffin; J. L. Phillips; Western Auto; Tri County Builder Supply; Graham Motors; Wiseman Shoe Town; Steppe's Grocery; Five Point Motel and Café; Ingram's (40 Court Street); Robbinsville Jewelry; Rocket Service Station; Charlie's Furniture; Orr's Florist; Hooper's Grocery; Russell Furniture Company; Junaluska Grill; Ford & Lovin; Jordan's Pure Oil; Joyce Kilmer Esso Station; Joyce Kilmer Restaurant; and Helen's Beauty Shop. The variety and types of businesses in operation in the downtown was extensive, with the center of Robbinsville, through the mid-1960s, continuing to be the heart of the community.¹⁰⁸ While not all of these businesses were located in extant contributing buildings in the historic district, they were located in Robbinsville, and together with the downtown businesses, created a thriving economic community.

Downtown Robbinsville, since the end of the period of significance of 1965, has lost many businesses to outlying commercial strips on the adjoining highways outside of the district. There are a handful of businesses still in existence in downtown, with Phillips Motel one of the few remaining businesses from the period of significance. Some buildings have newer businesses located in them and some have been converted to residential use. Some of the school buildings on the north side of the district remain, and Graham County's school administration is located on the site of the former vocational building. A new high school was built outside of the historic district.

Architectural Context

The historic district features a collection of commercial, civic, institutional, and residential styles and forms popular from the late nineteenth century through the mid-1960s. By far, the commercial buildings are the largest number of resources in the district, followed by a large collection of civic and institutional buildings, many of which are particularly notable for the stone craftsmanship they exhibit. There are a handful of residential buildings within the district, many also notable for their stone masonry, located on the north and south ends of North Main Street. The majority of buildings in the district date from the late 1920s through the 1950s, a time

¹⁰⁷<https://www.grahamcounty.net/GCHistory/11-logging/logging.htm> "History of Logging in Graham County", Accessed February 11, 2021.

¹⁰⁸*The Robin Yearbook*. Yearbook of Robbinsville High School. 1960, 1965. Addresses for these businesses were not noted in the yearbook. The businesses that are known to have been located in the historic district and contribute to the district's significance, are noted with addresses in parentheses.

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period when Robbinsville was booming due to thriving industry and post-World War II development.

Architectural styles within the district range from the late nineteenth-century vernacular **Hoke-Phillips House** (85 North Main Street, ca. 1872) to the early-to-mid-twentieth century residential, educational, commercial, industrial, and religious buildings, exhibiting a variety of building types and styles including Commercial Style, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Ranch styles.

Commercial buildings

The standard commercial building form that is so common to Main Streets throughout the country was in use from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, and was most popular in downtown commercial districts from 1890 - 1920.¹⁰⁹ The style evolved over time as construction technology changed. Early in the commercial style, "...building height was limited by the need for massive masonry support walls..."¹¹⁰ This meant that buildings were typically limited in height to a maximum of three or four stories. Depending upon when a commercial building was constructed, it would often take on elements of other popular styles of the time, including Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Art Deco, and Art Nouveau. As steel framing began to be used, the strength of the steel allowed for much taller buildings. Chicago was the center of these early skyscrapers, with many buildings constructed as early as the 1890s.¹¹¹

Buildings are typically contiguous, as are most of the buildings in downtown Robbinsville, but buildings can be free-standing, often seen in more rural settings. The form consists, most commonly, of a storefront on the first level often with a double-leaf central entry that is sometimes recessed, flanked by large display windows. It is not uncommon for there to be an additional single door at either end of the storefront leading to the upper or lower floors. If there are additional stories, these will include single windows or full bands of windows on the upper levels. Buildings are typically constructed of brick or stone, with ornamentation variable, often drawing detailing from other styles of the day. More common however, are relatively plain buildings with most decorative detailing at the cornice level. Most of the commercial buildings in downtown Robbinsville are of this building type, with relatively plain facades, ranging in height from one to two stories. Due to the steep changes in topography which drops significantly in elevation from Main Street to the east and west, most buildings have at least one additional story at the rear, but only a single story at the street level. Buildings are constructed of concrete block or wood frame, with the facades finished in brick or stone veneer, in some cases added at a later date, such as the **J. J. Snider Department Store and Bemis Lumber Company Office** (10 South Main Street, ca. 1927). Pre-dating the Federal WPA programs, this building displays a high level of stonemasonry craftsmanship that was available locally. The building is wood frame

¹⁰⁹<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/commercial.html> "Commercial Style 1890 - 1920". Accessed February 12, 2021.

¹¹⁰<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/commercial.html>

¹¹¹<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/commercial.html>

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on the south end, with a stone façade added later, and original solid masonry construction with a stone exterior on the north end of the building. This building is one of the best examples of a commercial building in town, retaining its original storefront configurations and stonework craftsmanship evident in the uncoursed, uncut stone and concrete diamond-shape stone above the window lintels across the entire façade. The northernmost section served as the primary storefront and contains three groupings of plate glass windows. The entry is recessed and contains two wooden single-light-over-panel doors flanked by plate glass display windows. A transom is located above the windows and the entry. The two adjacent window groupings to the south each contain three large panes topped by three smaller transom-light panes. The southern portion of the façade consists of a double leaf door with transom, with each door comprised of two-lights-over-panel. To the north and south of the door are paired display windows with transoms. A wide concrete lintel is located above the doors and windows. The **Roy Millsap Building** (34 Court Street, ca. 1930) is another example of an intact commercial building, clad in brick veneer, with its central recessed entry flanked by display windows. Unique within the district is the **Commercial Building** (54 North Main Street, ca. 1930), which makes use of box framing on its interior, dividing the space into small sections, with walls perpendicular to the façade, typical of this method of construction. This is the only building within the historic district that makes use of this construction technique.

Other examples of commercial buildings in the district from the 1940s to 1950s include the **Collins Store** (5 North Main Street, ca. 1940), a one-story building originally built in 1940, but with a new brick façade added in the early 1960s; and the **Griffin Building** (51 North Main Street, ca. 1945), a single-story building clad in uncoursed stone, and a four-bay storefront.

One particular type of commercial building construction used mostly for industrial building types that gained in popularity in the first half of the twentieth century is the one utilizing the bowstring truss roof design. This bowed or arched truss system supports the roof, allowed for the space to remain free of structural columns.¹¹² This open space could then be used for additional manufacturing workspace, warehousing or unobstructed display. The **Phillips and Jordan Machine Shops** (74 Laura Street, ca. 1951) is an example of an industrial building type utilizing bow truss roof construction in the district, retaining its original bowed roof structure, garage bays, and multi-light, metal-frame industrial type windows. While originally built as an automobile showroom with a commercial rather than an industrial use, **The Graham Ford Car Dealership** (37 North Main Street, ca. 1950), also utilizes this bowstring truss type of roof construction which was built to free up floor space for the showroom.

Civic/institutional buildings

Civic and institutional buildings within the district are primarily of a vernacular form and style, but some, such as the Graham County Courthouse, exhibit the use of the more formal Neoclassical style. School buildings in the 1930s in the district were vernacular in form, but the

¹¹²<https://architizer.com/blog/inspiration/collections/bowstring-truss-structures/>
"In Bowstring We Truss". Accessed August 7, 2020.

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later school buildings, from the mid 1950s to the mid-1960s, were more typical in form for educational buildings of the day, with flat roofs, long spans of windows on both sides of the building at the classrooms, and a double-loaded hallway on the interior.

One of the earliest civic buildings remaining in the historic district, built in a vernacular form, is the **Graham County Jail-Dula House** (40 Dula Street, ca. 1910). Built as the second county jail and later converted to residential use after the new courthouse was completed in 1942, the painted, common-bond brick building is two stories, with a hipped roof and a secondary lower hipped roof on the rear section. The house, which faces south, has a corbeled brick cornice with dentil blocks, original features which date to when the building was in use as the county jail.

The **Methodist Church** (44 South Main Street, ca. 1938) may have been built by WPA workers who were in town constructing many of the school buildings at the time. This one-story, front-gabled, cruciform plan church is clad in uncoursed rubble stone. The window openings have arched tops, but the openings were later squared to hold rectangular stained-glass windows.

Skilled stonemasonry is evident in the district into the 1940s, with the construction of the **Graham County Courthouse** (NR 2007, 12 North Main Street, ca. 1942), an example of the Neoclassical style. The Neoclassical style, popular in the first quarter of the twentieth century, is "...based primarily on the Greek and to a lesser extend the Roman architectural orders. It is distinguished by symmetrically arranged buildings of monumental proportions...with pedimented porticos..."¹¹³ Although a late use of the style, and the only one in the historic district, the courthouse retains its symmetrical five-bay façade, defined by a prominent partial-width pedimented portico supported by four square masonry posts covered with stucco. The main entry is topped by a flat arch with a stone keystone and voussoirs. The façade windows are large twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sash with concrete lintels and sills.

There are several notable stone school buildings which have been documented to have been funded under the WPA, including the **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School Gymnasium** (309 North Main Street, 1938), a one-story-plus-basement, front-gable-roof building clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone structure. The façade (south elevation) is comprised of two sets of metal double-leaf doors, recessed slightly back, and reached by stone steps with concrete balustrades at the entry stoop. The interior has wormy chestnut walls with plaster above. The **Robbinsville High School Band Building** (309 North Main Street, 1939), located down the hill to the south from the remainder of the school campus, is a one-story-plus-basement, standing-seam-metal-clad, front-gabled building clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone. The façade (east elevation) has a central five-panel door flanked by a paired window on the south and a single window on the north.

Workers who remained in town after construction of the courthouse may have been involved in building some of the later stone school buildings on the campus including the **Robbinsville School Cafeteria** (309 North main Street, 1949 – 1950); and the **Robbinsville High School**

¹¹³Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture, pp. 68-69.

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Science Building (70 Moose Branch Road, 1950). The **Robbinsville School Cafeteria**, a one-story building, facing south, was expanded in 1965 and later converted to a multi-use space. Originally the building served all twelve grades at the school.¹¹⁴ The structure closely mimics the style of the earlier buildings on the campus, with uncut, uncoursed native stone cladding. The building is front gabled, with a cross-gable in the rear, creating a T-plan building. Windows are recessed, narrow, vertical double-hung sash with a fixed square light above and stone sills. The **Robbinsville High School Science Building**, a one-story, front-gable building, facing west, originally served as the Science building for the high school. The building is clad in uncoursed rubble stone. The main entrance is on the west side, on the façade, and is reached by a set of concrete steps with metal railing, leading to a hip-roof-covered entry portico.

Later buildings on the school campus, exhibiting more modern stylistic elements typical of school construction of the time period include the **Robbinsville School Primary Building** (309 North Main Street, 1955 – 1956); and the **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School** (309 North Main Street, 1965). The **Robbinsville School Primary Building** is a one-story, flat-roof building, facing east, clad in uncut, uncoursed native stone. The façade is a continuous band of metal-frame, one-over-one sash windows with concrete sills, broken only by two entry doors, one near the south end, and one near the north end. The entry doors are single-light, sheltered by stone walls projecting outward on either side, and a flat roof. The west elevation is a continuous band of windows the same as on the façade, with the windows on the north end being two-light awning style, smaller than the remaining windows. The building consists of a single hallway lined with classrooms on both sides. The **Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School** is a one-story, flat-roof brick building with a continuous band of metal-frame, one-over-one windows with brick sills on the façade and rear (west) elevations.

Residential buildings

There are several additional building styles within the historic district, in evidence on residential buildings, including vernacular, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Ranch.

The oldest resource in the district, the **Hoke-Phillips House** (85 North Main Street, ca. 1872) is the best example of a vernacular form that has undergone minimal changes. The one-story, weatherboard-clad building is a side-gabled vernacular house with eave returns and a front porch that sits beneath a shed roof. The windows are six-over-six, double hung, with the lower sash missing in some cases. There are two interior brick chimneys and the foundation of the house is parged concrete block.

The Colonial Revival style, popular from the 1880s through as late as 1960, is a style that endured for many decades due to its traditional, symmetrical design, with simple design details.¹¹⁵ Early in its evolution, the style typically displayed more elaborate detailing,

¹¹⁴McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. "A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System". Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967.

¹¹⁵Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture. Nashville, Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1977, pp. 24-25.

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including the use of dentil blocks, porch posts in the Ionic, Corinthian, or Doric styles of classical architecture, Palladian windows, full or broken pediments and fanlights over front doorways, and large chimneys. However, as the style continued to be used into the middle of the twentieth century, much of this detail was no longer part of the design. The symmetry and simplicity of the style is what prevailed as the most common elements. Typical details of the style, "...a combination of various Colonial styles and contemporary elements...", may include a symmetrical façade, with a center entry, but there may be side porches or sunrooms.¹¹⁶ Massing is rectangular, and the roof type can be gabled or hipped, often with dormers along the front and/or rear. Windows are often multi-light, usually six-over-six or six-over-one. Brick or weatherboard are typical siding materials, and buildings are generally two-story.¹¹⁷ The three houses in the district built in this style are later iterations of the style, dating from ca. 1930 to ca. 1958. The **Shuler House** (11 North Main Street, ca. 1930), a two-story symmetrical, standing-seam-metal-clad hipped roof building, contains elements of the Colonial Revival style in its full-width enclosed porch with a central front door, clad in weatherboard with a shed roof and double-hung six over six replacement windows. There is a stone knee wall along the front. The side façades are clad in vinyl siding and the upper story of the front façade is clad in aluminum siding.¹¹⁸ This house has undergone some changes over time, with the Ingram House being the best example of the style. The **Marion and Edward Ingram House** (85 South Main Street, ca. 1940) is a good example of the style, although the entry is off-center, through a corner porch. But the rectangular massing, gabled roof, brick construction, exterior end single-shoulder chimney, and the use of six-over-six windows along with a row of dormers at the front, exemplifies the use of this style. The **House** at 74 South Main Street, ca. 1958, is a symmetrical one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roof house, expressing some elements of the late Colonial Revival style. Clad in rough cut irregular coursed stone, it has a single-story projecting front-gabled bay in the center of the façade. On either end of the main block of the house are one-story porches. There are two front-gable and an exterior end stone chimney with chimney pots. While expressing a symmetrical form, this house has undergone more changes than the Marion and Edward Ingram House.

There are two buildings within the historic district that make use of elements of the Tudor Revival style, an iteration of the use of the Tudor cottage style popular in Europe as early as the fifth and sixth centuries. The Tudor Revival style, popular from 1890 to 1940 can take on a variety of forms. Late nineteenth-century houses in this style typically utilized many of the details typical of the style, but as the style evolved into the mid-twentieth century, often some detail was lost and what remained was primarily the asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched roofs, and brick or stone cladding. The residential form of this style is typically one or two stories, with asymmetrical massing, cross-gable steeply pitched rooflines, tall, narrow multi-light windows, sometimes in bands or as casements, prominent chimneys, half-round or arched doors, siding that is either stucco, shingle, or weatherboard, and often with decorative half-timbering.

¹¹⁶Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture, pp. 24-25.

¹¹⁷Blumenson, John J. G. Identifying American Architecture, pp. 24-25.

¹¹⁸Group interview with Sybil Argintar, 29 October 2019.

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Often the house has a more cottage-like appearance.¹¹⁹ The most intact and best example of the Tudor Revival style in Robbinsville, again a late use of the style, is the **Roy Millsap House** (314 North Main Street, ca. 1940), with its compact massing, steeply pitched roofline, six-over-six windows, and prominent end chimney. This building also is a good example of stonemasonry in the district with its use of uncut, uncoursed stone. The main house at the **Phillips Motel** (290 North Main Street, ca. 1945) also expresses elements of the Tudor Revival style. Two stories in height with a steep side gable roof, a large front-gable on the south end, and two front-gable dormers on the north end of the roof, the house has a slightly projecting front-gable-roof entry bay in the center with a round arch leading to the front door.

The Ranch style, of which there are several examples in the district, built from ca. 1948 – 1968, is a style that was popular as early as 1935 and continuing in popularity through the 1970s. The style originated in California and gained in popularity as the accessibility of the automobile and suburban development occurred, especially post-World War II. No longer were houses built on small compact lots where residents would walk to a streetcar or other transportation nearby. Land outside of the city was available, the automobile allowed easy access, and suburbs with larger lots were developed. The sprawling “rambling” Ranch house form fit well into this desired landscape, along with the fact that most Ranch houses had a built-in garage or carport as part of their design.¹²⁰ A house built in this style is typically one story in height, with side gable or hipped rooflines, often with a wide central chimney. Facades are often asymmetrical, but massing is typically a wide façade set facing the street, giving the house a low, horizontal appearance. Often there is a garage or carport at one end. Windows are sliding, one-over-one, and a picture window is common. Exterior materials are commonly brick, but stone or wood siding is also seen.¹²¹ There are two good examples of the Ranch style in the Downtown Historic District, the **Roland Millsap House** (376 North Main Street, ca. 1948) and the **Will and Marie Cooper House** (93 North Main Street, ca. 1949). The **Roland Millsap House** expresses the low, horizontal form of the Ranch style, with a side gable roof and a projecting front-gable bay over the off-center entry. The building is clad in stone, more typical of the local Robbinsville landscape, and has a central chimney and six-over-six windows. The **Will and Marie Cooper House**, set on a hillside above Main Street, is also clad in stone, with horizontal massing, one-over-one windows, side gable roof with a prominent front gable and a notable front chimney, all typical features of the style.

The Downtown Robbinsville Historic District is significant for the variety of architectural styles it contains, especially the Commercial style, along with examples of vernacular forms, Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Ranch. The use of stone on many buildings, from the 1920s through the 1950s is a feature that stands out in the district, with many intact buildings displaying this construction material. Overall, the district retains a great deal of

¹¹⁹McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 355.

¹²⁰A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 479.

¹²¹A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 479.

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its architectural integrity and setting, with typical changes to buildings being the addition of new storefronts, replacement windows, or artificial siding.

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<https://pandj.com/our-founder/> “Ted Phillips: A Fearless Leader With A Compassionate Heart”. Accessed December 3, 2019.

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<https://lib.digitalnc.org/record/100153#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=153&r=0&xywh=-422%2C1000%2C4716%2C2865> *The Robin*. High School Yearbook, Robbinsville High School, 1965. Accessed December 3, 2019.

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

McDonald, Henry Clyde and Associates, AIA. “A Presentation of the Existing Buildings of the Graham County School System”. Graham County Schools. Property Accounting Survey, November 1967. Report located in maintenance department of Graham County Schools, Robbinsville, North Carolina.

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property
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Graham, North Carolina

County and State
OMB No. 1024-0018

“Most of Graham County Sold to Whiting Company”. *Asheville Gazette-News*, October 14, 1910.

“New Exchange was Opened on December 1st”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, December 6, 1936.

“New Railroad” *The Raleigh Times*, January 20, 1911.

“Other Structures Being Built In and Near Robbinsville”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 7, 1932.

“Plant Planned at Robbinsville”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 23, 1956.

“Railroad for Graham County”. *The Charlotte News*, September 11, 1915.

“Robbinsville Has Many Fine Accommodations”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 31, 1953.

“Robbinsville Has New Furniture Company”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 17, 1934.

“Robbinsville Invites You to Graham County”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 20, 1942.

“Robbinsville Now an Incorporated Town”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*. May 11, 1893.

“Robbinsville to Have Modern Water System”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 16, 1941.

Satterfield, Edd. Interview with Sybil Argintar, 6 December 2019.

“Stanley Names Principal at Robbinsville”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 9, 1953.

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“Three Schools Replace 33 Under Consolidation Plan”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 26, 1953.

“Visit Robbinsville and Lake Santeetlah”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 14, 1936.

“West Robbinsville to Have City Water; Pipe is Received”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, February 16, 1928.

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property
NPS Form 10-900

Graham, North Carolina

County and State
OMB No. 1024-0018

“Where to Vacation in North Carolina”. *The Gastonia Gazette*, June 22, 1949.

“Whiting Lumber Company Closes a Big Deal”. *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 15, 1910.

Wood, Robert E. Echoes from the Smoky Mountains. The History of Phillips and Jordan, Inc.
Centralia, Washington: Life’s Footprints, Inc., 2003.

Works Project Administration Records for Graham County. National Archives. 1936 – 1942.

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GH0230

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 36 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property
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(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.328799 | Longitude: -83.809152 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.328817 | Longitude: -83.808252 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.328804 | Longitude: -83.807998 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.328182 | Longitude: -83.806695 |
| 5. Latitude: 35.327394 | Longitude: -83.805777 |
| 6. Latitude: 35.325858 | Longitude: -83.805724 |
| 7. Latitude: 35.321884 | Longitude: -83.805960 |
| 8. Latitude: 35.321663 | Longitude: -83.805925 |
| 9. Latitude: 35.321580 | Longitude: -83.806810 |
| 10. Latitude: 35.321569 | Longitude: -83.807333 |
| 11. Latitude: 35.321768 | Longitude: -83.807596 |
| 12. Latitude: 35.325314 | Longitude: -83.810145 |
| 13. Latitude: 35.325650 | Longitude: -83.810153 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the district are shown on the accompanying map, titled Robbinsville Downtown Historic District Boundary, at a scale of 1" = 200'. Boundaries typically follow parcel lines and the edge of road pavement. One exception to this are the buildings at 309 North Main Street, where only the buildings historically associated with the school are included, with a portion of the lot excluded that does not contribute to the historic significance of the property or district. Other exceptions include 59 North Main Street, where only the portion of the lot where the building is located is included; and the southern portion of the lot to the west of 74 Laura Street which contains buildings that do not contribute to the historic significance of the property or the district.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries were selected based upon the largest collection of commercial, civic, institutional, and residential forms and styles that retain integrity to the period of significance. To the east and north are a large trailer park and automobile-oriented commercial development dating from the late twentieth century along the Rodney Orr Bypass. To the west is scattered residential development along Circle, Atoah, and Gordan Streets, related to the lumber mill industry, some of which has been demolished or altered, along with institutional buildings built outside the period of significance, including the

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

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Graham County Public Library, located to the west of the historic school buildings. To the south is commercial development and additional residential development, most of which is outside the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sybil H. Argintar

organization: Southeastern Preservation Services

street & number: 166 Pearson Drive

city or town: Asheville state: NC zip code: 28801

e-mail sybil.argintar@yahoo.com

telephone: (828) 230-3773

date: April 28, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District

Name of Property
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Graham, North Carolina

County and State
OMB No. 1024-0018

City or Vicinity: Robbinsville

County: Graham

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Lisa Buckley/Sybil Argintar

Date Photographed: August 2018/October 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 21 North Main Street streetscape, view northeast.
- 2 of 21 North Main Street streetscape, view southeast.
- 3 of 21 North Main Street streetscape, view southeast.
- 4 of 21 South Main Street streetscape, view northwest.
- 5 of 21 North Main Street walls, view north.
- 6 of 21 North Main Street walls, view southwest.
- 7 of 21 North Main Street wall at 85 North Main Street, view west.
- 8 of 21 North Main Street walls at 309 North Main Street, view south.
- 9 of 21 Graham County Courthouse, 12 North Main Street, view northeast.
- 10 of 21 40 Dula Street, view northwest.
- 11 of 21 237 East Main Street, view southwest.
- 12 of 21 309 North Main Street, Robbinsville School Cafeteria, view northeast.
- 13 of 21 309 North Main Street, Robbinsville Elementary and Junior High School, view northwest.
- 14 of 21 85 North Main Street, view west.
- 15 of 21 93 North Main Street, view west.
- 16 of 21 77 North Main Street, view west.

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17 of 21 376 North Main Street, view northeast.

18 of 21 290 North Main Street, view southeast.

19 of 21 56 North Main Street, view east.

20 of 21 10 South Main Street, view southwest.

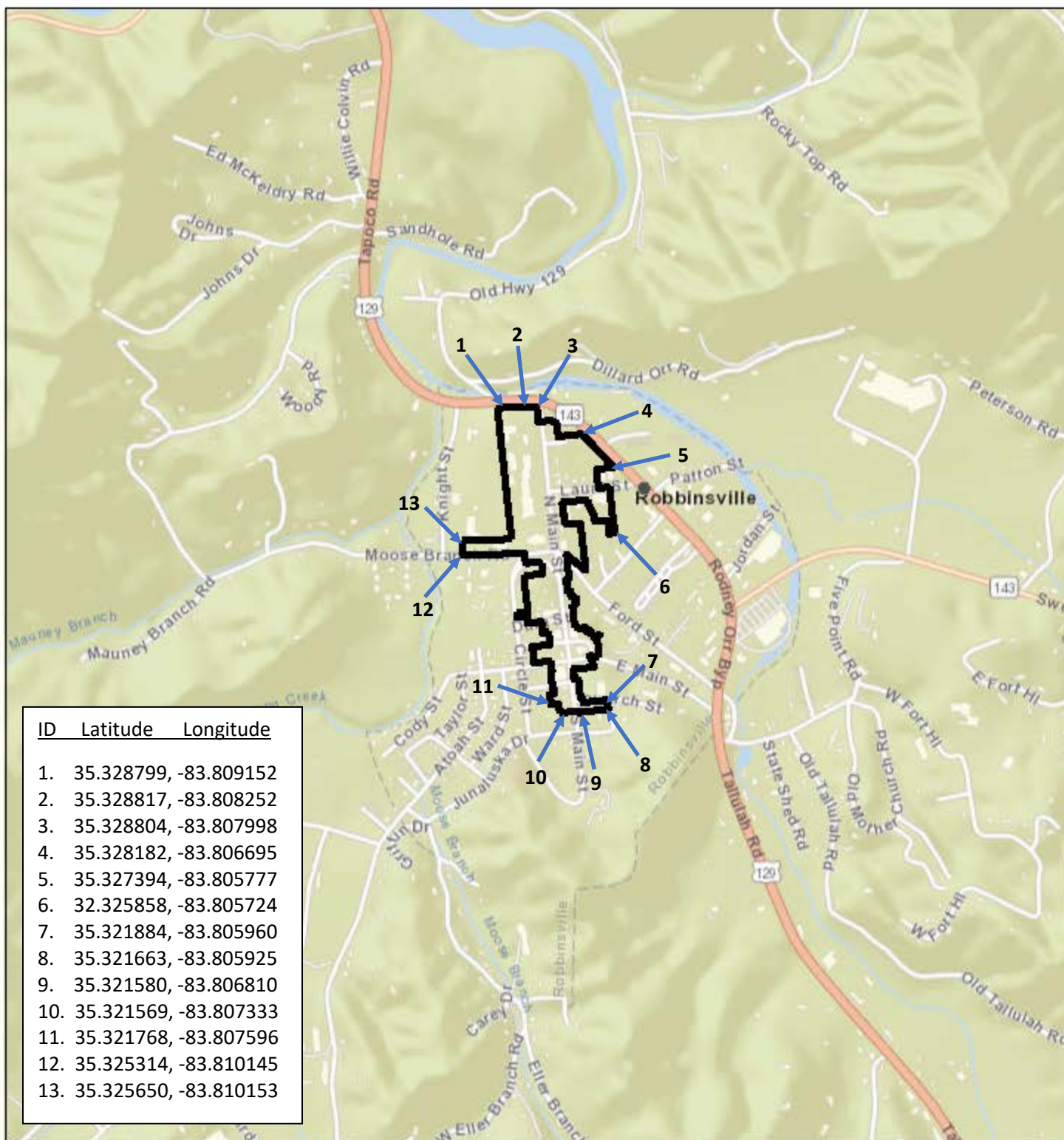
21 of 21 85 South Main Street, view northeast.

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.460 et seq.).

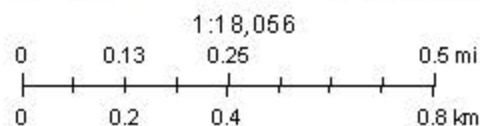
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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.460 et seq.).

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Robbinsville Downtown Historic District
 Robbinsville, Graham County, North Carolina
National Register Location Map
 — Historic District Boundary



State of North Carolina DOT, Tennessee STS GIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENTP, NGA, USGS

Source: NC HPO, HPOWEB

Created by Julie H. Smith 7-27-2021



12/14/2019, 11:04:33 AM

Parcels

C

NC

V vacant lot

309... address

— National Register boundary

Robbinsville Downtown Historic District Boundary
Graham County

NOTE: Contributing status is indicated for primary resources only. See inventory list for status of secondary buildings.

Photo / View 1

1:2,257

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 mi
0 0.03 0.07 0.13 km

Scale: 1" = 200'

0 200'

North