

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Kinston Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation,  
Boundary Decrease, and Boundary Increase)**

Kinston, Lenoir County, LR1561, Listed 4/30/2021

Nomination by Heather Slane and Cheri Szcodronski, hmwPreservation and Firefly Preservation Consulting

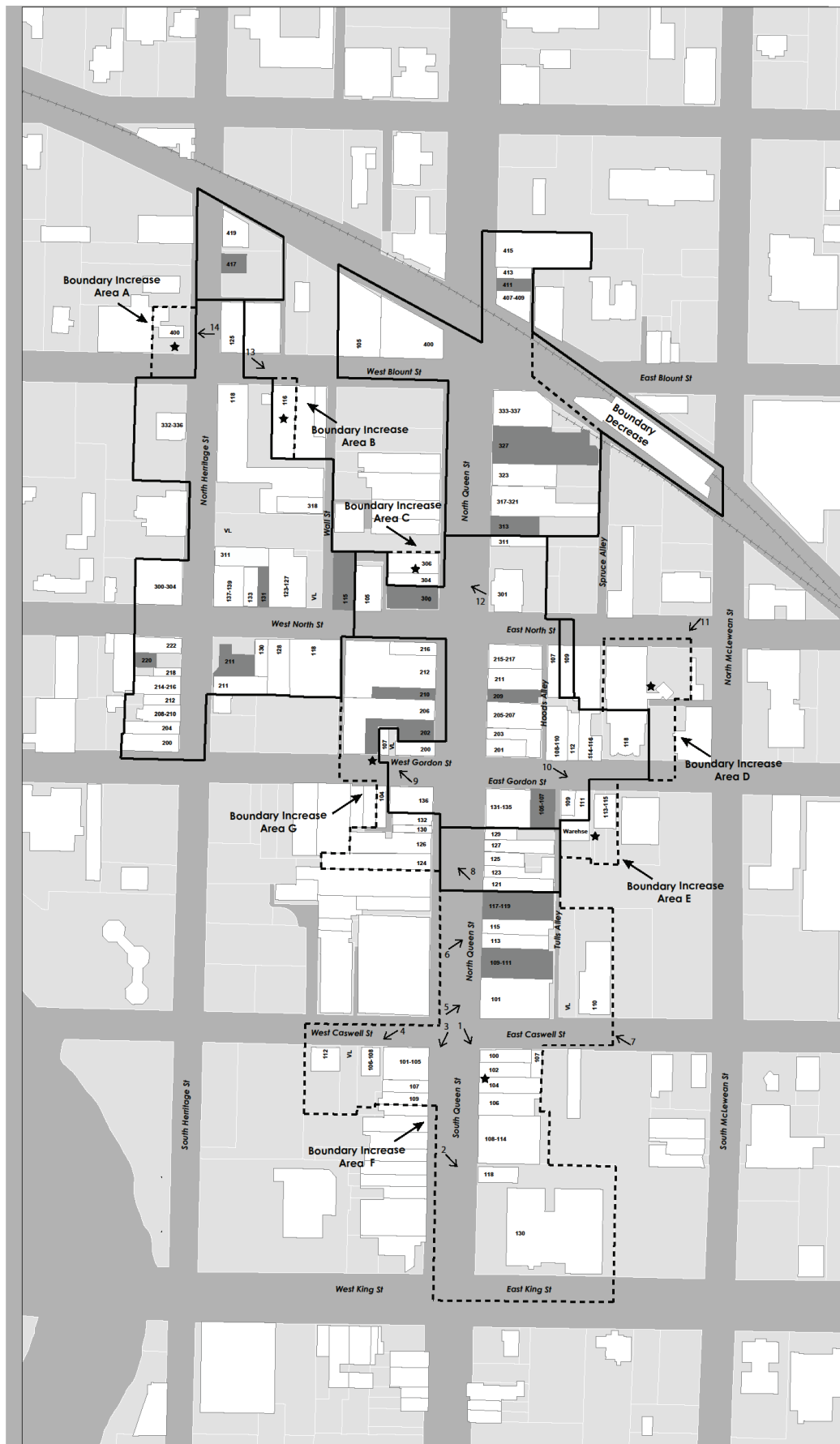
Photographs by Cheri Szcodronski, April 2018



100-106 S. Queen Street – facing southeast.



400 N. Heritage Street – facing west.



Map created by Heather M. Slane, hmwPreservation, December 1, 2020

Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Decrease and Boundary Increase Map

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: Kinston Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Decrease, and Boundary Increase)

Other names/site number: Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by East and West Caswell, West Gordon, North Herriage, East King, North McLewean, and South Queen streets; Spruce Alley, and the railroad right-of-way

City or town: Kinston State: NC County: Lenoir

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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

3/12/2021

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

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

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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**Number of Resources within Queen-Gordon Street Historic District Additional Documentation**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>19</u>    | <u>3</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>19</u>    | <u>3</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 19

**Number of Resources within Kinston Commercial Historic District Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>35</u>    | <u>8</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>35</u>    | <u>8</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 35

**Number of Resources within Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>28</u>    | <u>4</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>5</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>33</u>    | <u>4</u>        | Total      |

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

Lenoir County Courthouse, Listed 1979

Kinston Fire Station/City Hall, Listed 1989

Standard Drug #2, Listed 2014

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: hotel

Commerce/Trade: business

Commerce/Trade: financial institution

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Commerce/Trade: department store

Commerce/Trade: restaurant

Commerce/Trade: warehouse

Social: meeting hall

Government: city hall

Government: fire station

Government: post office

Government: courthouse

Religion: religious facility

Recreation & Culture: theater

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: business

Commerce/Trade: financial institution

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Commerce/Trade: department store

Commerce/Trade: restaurant

Commerce/Trade: warehouse

Social: meeting hall

Government: courthouse

Religion: religious facility

Recreation & Culture: theater

Recreation & Culture: museum

Agriculture/Subsistence: processing

Vacant/Not in Use



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Late Victorian: Renaissance Revival

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Beaux Arts

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Tudor Revival

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Modern Movement – Moderne

Modern Movement – Art Deco

Modern Movement – Modernist

Other – 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vernacular

Other – Standard Commercial

### Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Brick

Stone: limestone

Concrete

Stucco

Stone: granite

Terra Cotta

Metal: aluminum

Synthetics: vinyl

### Project Summary

When the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989, it included twenty-three of the most architecturally distinctive buildings at the core of Kinston's central business district (initially classified as twenty contributing resources and three noncontributing primary resources), centered on Queen, Gordon, and North streets (the building at 105 West Gordon Street has been demolished). Enlarged in 1994, the Kinston Commercial Historic District added forty-three vernacular commercial buildings to the boundary, initially classified as twenty-nine contributing and thirteen noncontributing primary resources (the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot was demolished in 2009). The districts had overlapping periods of significance: 1895-1939 and c.1896-1941, drawing from the information provided in the MPDF, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina," specifically from Section III: "Kinston's Era of Accelerating Prosperity, 1890-1941."

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This nomination addresses the limitations of the 1989 and 1994 nominations by providing both Additional Documentation and a Boundary Increase. It also provides a small Boundary Decrease.

Additional documentation for the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District includes updated inventories for both districts with additional description and a discussion of alterations made since 1989 and 1994, respectively. Dates for alterations, when known, have been provided. It also extends the period of significance to 1968 with a discussion of the continued commercial and architectural significance of the district into the mid-1960s. Thus, the period of significance for both districts, as established by this additional documentation, is 1895 to 1968.

This document also includes a boundary decrease, removing the site of the former Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot that was demolished in 2009. The site is located on the periphery of the district and thus, its removal does not result in the removal of any other above-ground resources.

This document also includes a boundary increase. Expanding the district in seven different areas and by thirty-five primary resources, the boundary increase areas include commercial and governmental buildings that are similar in size, scale, and setback to the buildings in the existing district, though are generally simpler in detail. Most retain medium integrity with replacement storefronts and upper-level windows and many were either constructed or modernized in the mid-twentieth century, after the end of the 1941 period of significance established by the Kinston Commercial Historic District. However, these areas illustrate the continued development of downtown Kinston, which experienced significant growth from the 1930s through the 1960s. The period of significance for the boundary increase aligns with the amended period of significance for the Kinston Commercial Historic District, 1895-1968, to include the 1895 Kinston Fire Station/City Hall (the earliest above-ground resources in the expansion area) as well as mid-twentieth century development.

## Narrative Description

### Summary Paragraph

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.)

The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District include the core of Kinston's commercial area. Located northeast of the Neuse River, the town is laid out on a grid, with Queen Street, the main thoroughfare through town, extending north-south. Herritage Street runs parallel to Queen Street and the other streets in the district extend east-west, perpendicular to Queen and Herritage streets. While building styles vary within the district, the commercial buildings are uniformly sited and are consistent in scale and massing. Buildings are typically masonry buildings, one to three stories tall, and all commercial buildings abut the sidewalk and have shared walls between buildings, creating a continuous façade, especially along Queen, North, and Herritage streets. Only the U. S. Post Office and the Gordon Street Christian Church are set back from the street with landscaped front lawns. Architectural styles, applied to standard commercial forms, include Italianate, Beaux Arts, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, Spanish Mission, Spanish Colonial, Art Deco, and Moderne.



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The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase expands the Kinston Commercial Historic District in seven separate areas labeled on the boundary map as Boundary Increase Areas A-G. It includes Thirty-one primary contributing resources and four primary noncontributing resources. The areas being added illustrate the continued commercial development of downtown Kinston through the mid-twentieth century, aligning with the significant growth of the town during that period. The expansion areas are within the same street grid and at the same elevation as the existing district. The commercial buildings are typically smaller in scale and less architecturally distinctive than their earlier, and larger, counterparts in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District, but replicate common forms for the area as well as nationally popular styles including: Italianate, Art Deco, Romanesque Revival, and Moderne. Many are vernacular commercial buildings without specific stylistic references and a number are more Modernist in design than their earlier counterparts with streamlined facades and minimal architectural detailing. All are of masonry construction, are one to three stories in height, and are uniformly sited with facades abutting the sidewalk, creating a continuous façade. The 1895 Romanesque Revival-style Kinston Fire Station/City Hall and the 1939-1940 Art Deco/Art Moderne-style Lenoir County Courthouse, represent changing preferences for institutional buildings in the early- to mid-twentieth century.

The Queen-Gordon Street Historic District, the Kinston Commercial Historic District, and the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase all retain medium architectural integrity with few significant additions or alterations to the historic buildings. Many changes that could be perceived as insensitive were in fact completed during the period of significance.

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**Narrative Description:**

**INVENTORY LIST**

The inventory list for the Kinston Commercial Historic District Additional Documentation, Boundary Decrease, and Boundary Increase is divided into four sections. The first section updates and expands the inventory included in the 1989 Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District nomination. The second section updates and expands the inventory included in 1994 Kinston Commercial Historic District nomination. Both nominations included an inventory list with the names, addresses, dates, and brief descriptions of resources within the district. The updated inventory includes a brief summary of the setting and character of the combined district, a list of demolished resources within the district boundary, full descriptions of all resources, and assigns an updated contributing or non-contributing status to each resource, based on architectural changes and an extended period of significance for the district.

The third section of the inventory provides a description and justification for the boundary decrease.

The fourth section of the inventory provides a complete inventory for the resources located within the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase. It begins with a description of the overall setting and character of the expansion areas. It includes full descriptions of all resources within the Boundary Increase areas and assigns a contributing or noncontributing status to each resource.

Property descriptions, separated by district, are arranged alphabetically by street name, then ascending numerically by building number along those streets. Building names and construction dates were derived from the original nominations, Sanborn maps, city directories, county tax records, architectural analysis,

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as well as from survey files held by the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office. Information not otherwise cited in the entries can be found in the survey files held by the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office. Properties individually listed in the National Register are identified in the individual entries.

Properties are coded as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing due to age or alterations) based on their date of construction and level of historic integrity. All contributing resources were constructed during the period of significance, 1895 to 1968, and retain sufficient integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship to contribute to the historic character of the district.

The alteration of commercial storefronts is common throughout downtown Kinston, in both the original and expanded historic districts, and illustrates the changing use of the buildings over time. The replacement of original storefronts is typical, with many replaced during the period of significance. Thus, if a building retains its historic roofline, massing, materials, and for multi-story buildings, its upper-level architectural detailing and fenestration, it contributes to the district's significance and is considered a contributing resource. The c.1902 Sumrell & McCoy Building #1 (108-110 East Gordon Street) features replacement, mid-twentieth-century storefronts at the first-floor level and a mid-century brick veneer with later, replacement windows at the second-floor level. Because the majority of changes fall within the extended period of significance, the building is contributing. The 1903 J. E. Hood Drug Store (203 North Queen Street) has an altered storefront and painted brick exterior, but retains the original window configuration at the upper floors and a paneled sheet metal cornice, and is thus contributing.

Within the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase, the c.1910 commercial building at 115 North Queen Street was modernized about 1959 with stucco applied to the upper part of the façade and paired metal casement windows installed at the second-floor level. Because the majority of changes fall within the extended period of significance, the building is contributing. The c.1914 Canady Barber Shop (104 West Gordon Street) has a replacement storefront and boarded transom, but retains original pilasters with corbelled caps and an inset sign panel below a corbelled cornice at the parapet, and is thus contributing.

However, significant changes to a building's upper floors can render a commercial building noncontributing, as is the case with the c.1925 Suggs and Rountree Store (209 North Queen Street), which was considerably altered in the 1970s with a replacement storefront and the application of modern metal sheathing over the upper floor. The c.1910 McClellan Stores Building (117-119 North Queen Street) was considerably altered in the 1970s with a replacement storefront and the application of modern metal sheathing over the upper floor.

**QUEEN-GORDON STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT AND  
KINSTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District include the commercial core of Kinston. The City of Kinston extends northeast from the Neuse River with the commercial core located on a relatively flat plain just a few blocks east of the river. The downtown is laid out on a grid plan that aligns roughly with true north. Queen Street, the main thoroughfare through town, is also North Carolina Highway 58. It is wider than the other streets downtown, wide enough to accommodate traffic lanes and diagonal, on-street parking on both sides of the street. Other streets in the

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district are two lanes wide with on-street parallel parking on both sides. Streets are paved with concrete curb and gutters throughout. Wide sidewalks abut the street with street trees extending along Queen Street, but absent from the other streets in the district. Lot sizes vary, but building setbacks are consistent with narrow commercial lots containing brick buildings that directly abut the sidewalk. Only the U. S. Post Office (301 North Queen Street) and the Gordon Street Christian Church (118 East Gordon Street) set back from the sidewalk with grass and foundation plantings between the sidewalk and building.

Extant commercial buildings in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District are predominantly standard one- and two-story forms with applied early-twentieth century Italianate or mid-twentieth century Modernist detailing. Other styles represented include: Beaux Arts, Moderne, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Spanish Colonial. Governmental buildings include the 1915 Neoclassical Revival-style Post Office and Federal Building.

Additional Documentation for the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District includes fifty-four contributing buildings, eleven non-contributing buildings, and three vacant lots. Within the Kinston Commercial Historic District is one property individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1909 Sumrell & McCoy Building (NR1989), 400 North Queen Street

A number of resources within the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District were altered between 1941 (the end of the original period of significance) and 1968 (the end of the extended period of significance). Those alterations now lie within the period of significance and the buildings are thus, now considered contributing. These include modern facades installed on Sidney's Department Store (123-127 West North Street) in 1954, Edwards Clothing Store Building (129 North Queen Street) c. 1962, and the commercial building at 317-321 North Queen Street c. 1959, as well as façade alterations to Henry Barnes Motor Company Building (128 West North Street) in the early 1950s.

Changes that have occurred since the listing of the Queen-Gordon Street Historic District in 1989 and the Kinston Commercial Historic District in 1994, specifically the demolition of historic buildings, are addressed below. Demolition dates were derived from aerial photos from 1993, 1998, 2010, and 2014-2017. Demolition of primary resources include:

- Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot on East Blount Street, demolished in 2009, site remains vacant
- LaRoque and Hewitt Building at 105 West Gordon Street, demolished between 2010 and 2014, site remains vacant
- Flowers Grocery Store Building at 218 North Herritage Street, demolished between 1994 and 1998, site is a courtyard for the building at the rear

Justification for the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Decrease, which removes the site of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot on East Blount Street from the district boundary, is provided at the end of the Kinston Commercial Historic District Additional Documentation inventory list.

There has been no new construction within the district boundaries since their listing. However, a number

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of buildings have been restored and several have had unsympathetic alterations reversed since the district listings. The Grand Theater (211 North Queen Street) and the commercial building at 127 North Queen Street have had metal sheathing removed from their upper floors since 1989. The City Drug Store Building (137-139 West North Street) and adjacent buildings on that block have been restored since 1994 to serve as a brewery, store, and tasting room. Only two commercial buildings have been considerably altered since the original listing. These include the J. C. Penney, Inc. Building (300 North Queen Street), which was altered between 1985 and 1995 with the installation of a modern, stuccoed storefront with corner entrance. The Courie Brothers Grocery was altered between 2007 and 2012 with the installation of a replacement storefront sheltered by a pent roof.

**QUEEN-GORDON STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**EAST GORDON STREET**

**105-107 East Gordon Street**

**Canady Building Annex – 1895, c.1925, c.2005, c.2015**

**Noncontributing Building**

The one-story, brick commercial building was ravaged by fire between 1995 and 2012, destroying the upper brick façade and cornice. The storefronts were subsequently removed between 2012 and 2018 and the building currently retains only the side and rear brick walls. In 2020, the building was converted to a parking garage with vertical metal panels at each end of the façade. Vertical metal also covers a pent roof that spans the façade over the wide, open vehicular bay, which is flanked by steel columns that support the façade above the bay. Prior to the fire, the building retained 1920s storefronts with brick corbelling above and a decorative cornice with recessed lozenge panel. The building was constructed immediately after the 1895 fire and housed B. H. Canady's hardware business until the construction of the adjacent corner building at 135 North Queen Street. The building was divided into two stores in the 1920s and from 1936 to 1989 the west section housed Green's Barber Shop, said to be Kinston's oldest continuously operated business.

**108-110 East Gordon Street**

**Sumrell & McCoy Building #1 – 1902, c.1955**

**Contributing Building**

Located on the north side of East Gordon Street, this two-story, brick commercial building features a gabled roof concealed behind a brick parapet and brick veneer on the façade that dates to c.1955. The building has two storefronts at the ground level and is two bays wide at the second floor, the storefronts and windows all likely dating from c.1955. Both storefronts feature slightly inset entrances with aluminum-framed doors. The aluminum-framed windows of the west storefront rest on stuccoed half-walls, while the display windows of the east storefront rest on a bulkhead faced with painted Masonite. An aluminum-framed glass door centered on the façade has a stylized classical surround with pilasters and leads to the second floor. A fabric awning extends the width of the storefronts. The second floor features two groups of four one-over-one windows, each group with a four-part transom and located in a basket-arched brick surround. Above the windows, two sign panels are bordered by soldier- and stretcher-course brick. Above the sign panels are two rows of basketweave brick beneath the corbelled brick parapet. The parapet steps down to the rear on the west elevation and is topped with terra cotta coping. This elevation retains one-over-one windows at the second-floor level and at least three entrances at the first-floor level. Sanborn maps confirm that the building was constructed between 1901 and 1908 and the 1908 city directory lists Sumrell & McCoy Wholesale Grocers. By 1914, the building housed two

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separate businesses and the National Guard Armory occupied the second floor for many years. Façade alterations appear to date to the mid-twentieth century. Occupants changed between 1949 and 1951 and again between 1953 and 1959 and the alterations were likely made during one of these changes in occupation.

**109 East Gordon Street**

**Parrott Building – 1903, c.1920, c.2015, 2020**

**Contributing Building**

A rare example of the Spanish Mission style applied to commercial architecture in Kinston, this two-story, brick office building is distinctive for its red-tiled pent roof and stepped, Mission-style parapet. The building has a blonde-brick façade with red tile detailing above the storefront and at the corners of the parapet. The building was damaged by fire between 2012 and 2018, though the building was rehabilitated in 2002. The full-width, inset storefront features two one-light-over-nine-panel doors, each flanked by two-light-over-one-panel wood-frame sidelights and topped by a three-part transom. The façade above the storefronts is supported by an arcade of Corinthian columns on brick piers with cast-concrete caps. Inset red terra cotta crosses above arcade were likely included as a reference to the building's first use as medical offices. Second-floor windows are replacement twelve-over-twelve wood-sash windows with a continuous brick header-course sill that extends the full width of the façade as a belt course. Above the windows, a pent roof is supported by highly decorative cast composite consoles and topped with red barrel tiles. The stepped parapet has a rounded arch in its center, typical of Spanish Mission-style buildings and has blonde-brick coping. The west elevation features a red-brick exterior and segmental-arch brick openings at the first-floor level and rectangular openings at the second-floor level, all with replacement vinyl windows, fixed one-light windows with applied interior grids. All north elevation windows have been replaced. The building was constructed in 1903 to house the medical offices for Drs. W. T. and J. M. Parrott and was enlarged to two stories between 1919 and 1925. After the death of Dr. W. T. Parrott in 1948, his son (W. Thomas Parrott, Jr.) operated a law office in the building. Despite the reconstruction of the interior structural system prior to 2000 and a c.2015 fire, the building retains sufficient material integrity.

**111 East Gordon Street**

**Parrott-Davis Building – 1901, c.1920, c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

The second of two distinctive medical office buildings on this block, the two-story, Spanish Colonial Revival-style building has a red brick exterior and a parapet roof adorned with a pent roof supported by paired sawn brackets. The highly decorative first floor features a fully inset storefront behind an elaborate arcade supported by paired Ionic columns creating an elevated in antis portico. Each pair of columns and the antae support an entablature that includes a denticulated cornice. These, in turn, support three rounded arches and associated recessed spandrel panels. A concrete stair with metal railings accesses the inset entrance via the center arch. There are three doors: a five-panel wood replacement door at the center bay that leads to the upper floor is flanked by twenty-eight-light French doors, each with an eight-light transom. Twenty-one-light sidelights with six-light transoms flank the outer two doors, resulting in a near-continuous wall of windows. Paired one-over-one wood-sash windows are the second floor. Each pair has a continuous brick sill and a header consisting of two alternating soldier and stretcher courses all topped by a header course that spans the façade at the base of the brackets. The areas around the windows from the header course beneath the brackets to the top of the arcade are recessed creating three shallow piers or pilasters. The original tile on the pent roof was replaced with asphalt shingle between 1994 and 2012. The east elevation has a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping and replacement windows. Constructed in 1901 to house the offices of Albert D. Parrott, Jr. and James M. Parrott, the brick-veneered



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office building was raised to two stories between 1919 and 1925. The current Spanish Colonial Revival facade is said to date from the mid-1930s. The building was purchased in 1935 by Dr. Rachel Davis, obstetrician/gynecologist and state legislator. The 1969 City Directory shows that Dr. Davis was still occupying the building.

**112 East Gordon Street  
U. S. Post Office – c.1904**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story brick commercial building has a distinctive paneled, semi-hexagonal bay window centered on the second floor. The building has a replacement aluminum-framed storefront with an inset aluminum-framed glass door and a three-part transom that spans the storefront, which is sheltered by a fabric awning. The later projecting bay window is of wood-frame construction and has three replacement one-over-one windows, each with two inset panels above and two below. The bay is sheltered by a hipped, metal roof. Portions of the extrados of the original round-arch window opening centered on the second floor are visible at the sides and top of the later bay window, providing evidence of the original second-floor fenestration. The arch rests on a corbelled band that spans the width of the façade between two pilasters on either end of the façade. A nearly identical corbelled band is located at the top of the second floor. The cornice at the top of the parapet features brick corbelling with shallow brick modillions. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1901 and 1908. The 1908 city directory lists the building as the Post Office with the dentist office of Dr. Dan Parrott on the second floor. The building housed a variety of public offices through at least the 1950s including the City Light and Water Works from at least 1928 to 1936.

**114-116 East Gordon Street  
Office Building – c.1910**

**Contributing Building**

Rusticated stone pilasters flanking the first-floor bays and projecting semi-hexagonal bays at the second floor are the most distinctive features of this blonde-brick, two-story commercial building. The first floor features a replacement storefront on the west bay (114 E. Gordon). The storefront is fully inset with fixed aluminum-framed windows flanking an aluminum-framed glass door, all sheltered by a fabric awning. Centered on the façade is an aluminum-framed glass door with narrow sidelights and a two-part arched aluminum-framed transom. The door, which leads to the second floor, is located in an arched stone surround and sheltered by a fabric awning. The east storefront (116 E. Gordon) has been more substantially altered with recessed, paired doors flanked by recessed fixed windows, the three bays separated by brick pilasters. The transom-level of the storefront has been infilled with brick matching that of the pilasters. The second floor is four bays wide. The westernmost bay has a replacement window with a covered transom, but retains original stone lintel and sill. A similar opening in the third bay retains the original one-over-one wood-sash window and one-light transom. The second and fourth bays have projecting bay windows of frame construction, each with three one-over-one wood-sash windows, metal sheathing covering the bay below the windows, and a hipped metal roof. There are two inset brick panels at the parapet level, with the top and bottom sides of each panel formed by corbelled brick. A simple metal cornice spans the width of the parapet at the top of the building. The parapet on the east elevation steps down toward the rear of the building and the red-brick elevation has replacement windows at the first- and second-floor levels. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1908 and 1914. The two-part building housed a variety of offices including longtime occupant Kinston Insurance and Realty Co. (later changed to C. Oettinger Inc. Insurance Co.) and the law firm Shaw and Jones, which occupied the east side (116 E. Gordon) in the 1920s.



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**118 East Gordon Street**

**Gordon Street Christian Church – 1912-1915, 1968**

**Contributing Building**

Anchoring the east end of the commercial district on East Gordon Street, the Gordon Street Christian Church is a large, blonde-brick Romanesque Revival-style church. The cruciform church with the nave in a central high-riding polygonal dome reflects Byzantine church architecture of the ninth century. The church has a concrete foundation and watertable; brick exterior; stone detailing including headers, sills, and belt courses; and slate roof throughout. The cross-gabled roof is topped by an octagonal dome with two-tiered roof and there are octagonal towers located at the front two corners of the building. A one-story, shed-roofed narthex spans the façade between the towers. It has two pairs of four-panel doors, each with a three-part, pointed-arch, stained-glass transom. The two entrances are inset within Tudor-arch openings that are topped by front-gabled roofs. They are accessed by a wide granite stair with metal railings and concrete knee walls. Two rectangular stained-glass windows on each side of the entrances have continuous stone lintels and sills. The front gable, above the narthex, has a large pointed-arch, stained-glass window in a pointed-arch surround set within an archivolt consisting of a corbelled extrados and imposts. Single rectangular windows on each side of the center window have stone lintels and sills with the lintels being part of the stone belt course that extends the full width of the façade and wraps around the octagonal towers. The octagonal corner towers have rectangular, stained-glass windows. First-floor windows rest on the watertable and have flat-arch brick lintels while the second-floor windows have stone lintels and sills that are part of the stone belt courses that wrap the towers. Each tower is topped by brick corbelling and a pyramidal slate roof. The side elevations have large, stained-glass windows in the gables and smaller, rectangular windows flanking the center window and at the first-floor level. A one-story, shed-roofed wing on the east elevation obscures the first floor of that elevation and has a pointed-arch stained-glass window on the façade and rectangular windows on the side elevation, all matching those on the main building. The two-tier octagonal dome atop the church has slate on the walls and roofs and has bands of rectangular stained-glass windows at the first level and louvered vents at the second level. The interior features an Akron Plan. The rear of the building extends northward where the gable roof terminates into a large two-story, hip-roofed portion of the building that houses classrooms and meeting space.

A large, freestanding, two-story education building was constructed at the rear of the church in 1924. This building was razed and replaced with the existing rear wing in 1968. The eastern half of the flat-roofed, Modernist-style addition is two stories, while the western half is one story. The building has a blonde-brick veneer; fixed metal-framed windows with operable hopper sashes below; projecting, header-course bands framing each vertical band of windows; and cast-concrete detailing. It is connected to the earlier building by a cast-concrete entrance hyphen with aluminum-framed glass doors at the first floor and fixed, arched windows at the second floor. The entrance is sheltered by an arcade and attached porte cochere, each supported by rounded arches on concrete columns. The rear of this wing fronts on East North Street where it has a recessed entrance with aluminum-framed glass doors, sidelights, and transom. Above the entrance are three fixed, arched windows. The east end of this elevation is two stories while the west end is one-story. The landscaped lot east of the church features a garden at the south end and a small parking area and vehicular drop off (through the porte cochere) on the north end.

**WEST GORDON STREET**

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**105 West Gordon Street – VACANT**

**107 West Gordon Street**

**Parrott-Foxman Building – c.1905, c.1915, c.1925**

**Contributing Building**

A rare example of the Tudor Revival style applied to a brick commercial building in Kinston, this one-story building has a brown brick façade with limestone detailing. A limestone segmental arch at the first floor is flanked by half-octagonal limestone pilasters that extend to the parapet, each with a limestone finial and quoins. Within the arch is a replacement, aluminum-framed storefront with glass filling the entire opening except for a nine-light-over-two-panel door centered in the opening and accessed by a concrete stair with metal railing. Two stepped limestone stringcourses span the façade between the pilasters. The upper stringcourse frames a stuccoed panel and supports a cartouche with letter P altered to F. A soldier course topped by limestone coping tops the parapet. The east elevation has a red-brick exterior and metal coping at the parapet. Constructed as early as 1908, the building was occupied in that year by shoemaker Morris Hobowsky. The building was expanded to rear between 1914 and 1919. The façade was remodeled in the mid-1920s by Dr. Albert D. Parrott, who was listed in the 1928 city directory as a surgeon. From at least 1936 to 1969, it was occupied by optometrist Ben Foxman, an optometrist, who altered the “P” on the façade to an “F.”

**EAST NORTH STREET**

**107 East North Street**

**West Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, yellow brick office building has decorative brickwork at the cornice and a lattice-work brick parapet. The first floor is three bays wide with two entrances flanking a center window. The entrances are each boarded, but retain classical limestone surrounds with simple cornices. A replacement aluminum-framed, three-part window is centered on the façade with a solid panel above, all set within an elliptical-arch brick surround with a limestone keystone. Two pairs of one-over-one wood-sash windows at the second-floor level have a shared rowlock course sill and are separated by a panel of header-course brick. The entire assembly is inset slightly in a brick surround. Above the windows is a band of herringbone brick with diamond-shaped cast-concrete inlays. Above the herringbone band is a projecting wooden cornice, above which is a three-part latticework brick parapet. The west elevation features a front section that is two bays deep at the first-floor level and has been whitewashed or painted and a rear portion of unpainted red brick. It retains most one-over-one windows at the second-floor level, though most first-floor level window openings have been boarded or infilled with brick or block. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. The 1928 city directory lists the building as the West Building, built for internist Dr. Clifton F. West. The 1969 city directory shows Dr. West continuing to occupy the building.

**WEST NORTH STREET**

**105 West North Street (formerly 109 West North)**

**Brown’s Wholesale Grocery – c.1926**

**Contributing Building**

This large, two-story, Classical Revival-style commercial building has a red brick façade laid in a Flemish bond and has a sheet metal cornice with dentils and modillions. The first floor features two replacement storefronts. The east storefront has an inset entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a one-light transom. The doors are flanked by fixed windows on a Roman-brick bulkhead. The west storefront

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has three fixed windows on a Roman-brick bulkhead and no entrance. Both have vertical vinyl sheathing covering the transom and are sheltered by a continuous flat metal canopy supported by metal rods. A soldier course punctuated by inset concrete squares extends the full width of the portion of the façade above the storefronts. The second-floor features ten replacement, fixed-sash windows with a continuous stringcourse at the sill level. Each window is topped by a cast-stone panel with swags. The main cornice extends across the base of the parapet. A more simple molded metal cornice tops the parapet. The east elevation has a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping and has sixteen-light metal-sash windows at the second-floor level, each with an operable eight-light sash. Sanborn maps indicate that this building, built by local contractor Robert L. Blalock for grocer Jesse Brown, was constructed between 1925 and 1928.

**NORTH QUEEN STREET**

**131-135 North Queen Street**

**Canady Building – 1899**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southeast corner of North Queen and East Gordon streets, this three-part, two-story commercial building was constructed in the Romanesque Revival style with arched second-floor windows and arched brick detailing at the cornice. The building is constructed of red brick, though the south two sections have been painted, and features brick pilasters separating the bays and stone detailing at the upper floor. The north storefront retains a largely intact storefront with an inset splayed entrance flanked by fixed windows and the upper floor supported by fluted iron columns with composite capitals. The storefront has an aluminum-framed glass door with one-light sidelight. Wood-framed windows rest on a knee wall that has been covered with vertical sheathing. Transom windows above the door and windows have solid panels in lieu of glass, but the framing remains intact. The storefront is sheltered by an aluminum awning, above which is a paneled cornice. The center storefront has an inset entrance, paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transom, that is flanked by aluminum-framed windows on a Roman-brick bulkhead. The center is supported by a single iron column and the entire storefront is sheltered by a flat metal canopy supported by metal rods. The transom and cornice have been boarded and covered respectively. The south storefront closely matches the center storefront, though without the iron post and with yellow brick bulkheads. The second-floor level of the three sections match, each with four one-over-one wood-sash windows with arched transoms, though windows in the north two sections have been boarded. Each window opening has a stone sill and is topped by a rounded stone arch. Above the windows in each section are two inset, rectangular panels. Above the panels are nine stone arches in each section, the arches resting on brick corbels. The parapet features a corbelled brick cornice with paneled frieze and is topped with metal coping. The second-floor façade detailing continues on the first (west) bay of the north elevation, facing East Gordon Street. The remaining second-floor windows on this elevation, one-over-one wood-sash windows with rectangular transoms, have been boarded, but stone sills and flat stone arches remain visible. Above the windows on this elevation are inset panels and a corbelled brick cornice with paneled frieze matching that on the façade. The west end of the first floor north elevation is blind, save for a storefront window that wraps the northwest corner of the building. A storefront on the east end of the north elevation has replacement aluminum-framed doors with a one-light transom in the west bay and a fixed aluminum-framed window with transom in the adjacent bay to the east, both with solid-panel transoms above. The east two bays have been infilled with brick and a paneled cornice spans with the width of the four combined bays. At the second-floor level are two pairs of windows with transoms. This portion of the building is separated from the rest of the elevation by a brick pilaster. The building was constructed in 1899 to house B. W. Canady & Son Hardware and Agricultural Implements, established in 1873 by Burwell W. Canady. The south section (131 N. Queen) was initially leased to

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William C. Fields, merchant and cotton buyer, with Canady Hall at the upper level.

**136 North Queen Street**

**National Bank of Kinston – 1908, c.1925**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southwest corner of North Queen and West Gordon Streets, this two-story, Neoclassical Revival-style bank is one of three high-style bank buildings at this intersection. The corner building, expanded and remodeled to its current appearance in the mid-1920s, has a blonde brick exterior, rusticated ashlar limestone foundation, and an elaborate stone entablature with modillions and dentils topped by a stone parapet. The façade is three bays wide with the bays separated by four monumental Corinthian columns resting on rusticated stone bases. The entrance, centered on the façade, has replacement aluminum-framed glass doors with a one-light transom and an exposed brick panel above where an original shallow stone balcony and pediment were removed prior to 1989. It is located within a stone surround with entablature that supports the sill of the paired, replacement windows above. Paired replacement windows flanking the entrance have rusticated stone lintels with brick panels above. Second-floor windows have flat-arch lintels with keystones, all constructed of rusticated stone. The cornice features both modillion and dentil courses. Stone piers at the parapet align with the columns below and between them is a paneled stone wall. The north elevation, facing West Gordon Street, is five bays wide with the bays separated by brick pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The east four bays feature single, fixed windows at the first floor with a flat stone lintel matching those on the first-floor façade. The west bay has a replacement aluminum-framed glass door with matching lintel and two small windows above, their lintel aligning with the tops of the other first-floor windows. The second floor windows have arched stone surrounds with keystones. The structure was built in 1908, the year Bank of Kinston (est. 1897) became National Bank of Kinston. Changes to the building, including the removal of a front pediment were likely completed about 1925, as the 1925 Sanborn map notes “to be bank.” Later owners include North Carolina Bank and Trust Co. and Branch Banking and Trust Co., who acquired the building in 1933.

**200 North Queen Street**

**Farmers and Merchants Bank – 1924**

**Contributing Building**

Standing five stories high, this Renaissance Revival-style bank building is among the tallest buildings in the district. Faced with ashlar limestone, the building was designed by Benton and Benton Architects of Wilson and features a three-part façade with tall base, three-story “shaft,” and one-story “capital,” an approach commonly used for early skyscrapers. The first floor has a slightly inset centered in antis entrance with paired modern three-panel doors in a classical surround with simple entablature set within a larger round-arched opening filled with a decorative grille. The entablature is topped by a shield supported by cast-stone swags. Ionic columns flanking the doors and adjacent matching pilasters support an entablature at the top of the first floor with the words “Farmers & Merchants Bank.” A shallow cornice wraps the building between the first and second floors and there is a large square lantern clock attached to the southeast corner of building. The second through fourth floors of the façade are three bays wide, each with one-over-one replacement windows with paneled spandrels, and separated by limestone pilasters. A dentil cornice wraps the building between the fourth and fifth floors. The fifth floor features three one-over-one replacement windows, each with a cast-stone panel above, all within an arched surround. The building is topped by a dentil cornice and a flat roof with deep overhang supported by elaborate brackets. The south elevation, facing West Gordon Street, is seven bays wide and similarly detailed on the upper floors. The first floor has a small window in the east bay, two-story, multi-light windows in the center five bays, and an entrance with small window above in the west bay. The second through fourth floors have single windows in the outer bays and paired windows with paneled spandrels in the center five bays.

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The fifth floor has rectangular windows in the outer bays and windows with arched surrounds and cast-stone panels matching those on the façade in the center five bays. The west and north elevations, facing the interior of the block, are constructed of brick and have minimal detailing. The Farmers and Merchants Bank formed in 1909 and erected this building in 1924. The builder planned to purchase adjacent properties, but when a deal couldn't be reached he instead decided to "build to the sky." The building was later occupied by Branch Banking and Trust Co. and First Citizens Bank and Trust.

### 201 North Queen Street

#### **Citizens Savings Bank/First National Bank Building – 1903    Contributing Building**

The oldest of three bank buildings constructed at the intersection of North Queen and Gordon streets, this three-story, Beaux Arts-style building has a blonde-brick exterior and granite detailing. The first floor has been altered with a stuccoed exterior and arched window openings with fixed aluminum-framed windows. An inset corner entrance has an aluminum-framed glass door and the corner of the building is supported by stout, square columns supporting stuccoed arches. Only the east bay of the south elevation, facing East Gordon Street and accessing the stairs to the upper floors, is relatively unaltered. It has an aluminum-framed glass door with sidelight and transom and a cast stone lintel. The entrance is flanked by blonde brick pilasters supporting a denticulated metal cornice. The upper two floors of the building remain largely intact, despite the installation of vinyl windows in the original openings. The second floor façade has one-over-one windows with one-light transoms and flat-arched granite lintels. Above the second-floor windows are terra cotta panels with bas relief festoons. The third floor façade has one-over-one windows with arched transoms in arched openings with granite voussoirs. The parapet is adorned with an elaborate double-tier sheet metal entablature with wide friezeboard and a dentil cornice on the lower tier. The upper tier consists of a paneled frieze with regularly spaced pairs of pilasters and a dentil cornice. A slightly projecting corner bay at the southwest corner of the building, facing the intersection, features two-story brick pilasters topped by paired pilasters, rising from the springline of the third-floor arched window openings. The small, paired pilasters have composite terra cotta capitals. The projecting bay has paired, narrow windows at the second-floor level of both the façade and south elevation; a terra cotta panel above each window pair; and a single window with arched transom in an arched stone surround at the third-floor level. The bay is topped by a four-sided convex dome with metal roof. Upper-level windows on the south elevation match those on the façade, though without the terra cotta panels between the second and third floors. The building opened in 1903 as Citizens Savings Bank, which was organized 1901 with N. J. Rouse as president. In 1908, it became First National Bank of Kinston under the same leadership, but closed in 1931 to prevent the institution from being ruined by withdrawals during the Depression. In subsequent years it has operated as a shoe store and clothing store.

### 203 North Queen Street

#### **J. E. Hood Drug Store – 1903**

#### **Contributing Building**

This, three-story, L-shaped brick commercial building features prominent facades, originally identical, on both North Queen and East Gordon streets. The North Queen Street façade has an altered storefront, painted brick exterior, and a paneled sheet metal cornice with corner brackets, small modillions, and a paneled frieze. The storefront has been infilled with red brick and has an inset aluminum-framed glass door on the south end and adjacent aluminum-framed windows on a brick half-wall. The second floor is three bays wide and features paired one-over-one windows with a limestone surround in the center bay, replacing an original bay window in that location. Single one-over-one windows on each side have flat-arch brick lintels. Window openings at the third-floor level, all with fixed plexiglass sashes, include two windows in the center with a continuous sill and a shared limestone lintel below a segmental brick arch.



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Windows on either side of the center window have arched transoms and arched brick surrounds with keystones. The East Gordon Street (south) elevation matches the Queen Street elevation with the following exceptions. The storefront has been completely infilled with brick, save for a single pedestrian door at the west end. Above the storefront is an original metal cornice supported by four decorative consoles. Single six-over-six windows at the second-floor level flank an original projecting bay window. The bay window has boarded window openings with transoms and a molded cornice beneath the hipped metal roof. Several deteriorated one- and two-light sashes remain at the third-floor level. The east elevation, facing a narrow alley, has a red brick exterior and several faded painted advertisements. Window openings on this elevation have been mostly infilled with concrete block. The building was constructed in 1903 for J. E. Hood and Company Drug Store, which became an important retail and wholesale drug company. Hood died in 1921, but the business remained in operation until 1959. From 1959 to 1981 the building housed B. W. Canady & Son Inc. Gift Shop.

**205-207 North Queen Street (formerly 205 N. Queen)**

**Barrett & Hartsfield Store – c.1905**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick, Beaux Arts-style commercial building was constructed with two matching sections, each with distinctive rusticated granite voussoirs and lintels over the second-floor windows. The south section (205 N. Queen) has an altered storefront, but remains largely intact at the upper level. The replacement storefront features deeply inset, aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transom. The doors are flanked by deep aluminum-framed display windows on a stuccoed bulkhead. The full-width transom has been boarded and the storefront is sheltered by a flat canopy supported by metal rods. Paired windows centered at the second-floor level have a continuous granite sill and lintel. Transoms above these windows have been boarded. Flanking the center window are replacement fixed-sash windows with rounded-arched transoms set in round-arch window openings with granite voussoirs. The main field of the façade is recessed and flanked on either side by a pilaster mass. The top of the recess has corbelled brackets. The parapet is adorned with a decorative sheet-metal cornice whose central semi-circular projection has been removed. The north section (207 N. Queen) is identical to the south section with the following exceptions. The storefront has a recessed entrance with aluminum-framed doors and windows on a low brick bulkhead. The transom has been covered with a pent roof and the storefront is sheltered by a flat metal canopy supported by metal rods. Corrugated metal sheathing that covered the upper story has been removed since 1995. The exposed second floor matches that of the south section though has replacement windows, shorter than the openings, and boarded transoms above. The metal cornice is no longer extant. The building initially housed two separate occupants including Barrett & Waters Clothing and Dry Goods (205 N. Queen) and Thomas & McRae, milliners (207 N. Queen) in 1908. However, E. G. Barrett joined with C. W. Hartsfield about 1909 to form Barrett & Hartsfield, a clothing store that occupied both parts of building for more than 15 years. By 1928, city directories list Belk's Department Store as occupying the building. The 1969 city directory lists A. J. Suttons and Sons, Inc. Department Store as the building's occupant.

**209 North Queen Street**

**Suggs & Rountree Store – c.1925, c.1970**

**Noncontributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building has been altered with a replacement storefront and the application of modern metal sheathing over the upper floor. The storefront features an inset aluminum-framed glass door with transom. The door is flanked by aluminum-framed display windows on a brick bulkhead and the entire storefront is sheltered by a metal pent roof. The property was purchased by George F. Suggs and Albert E. Rountree in 1922 and by 1928 the Suggs and Rountree sporting goods



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store was listed in the city directory. The building was occupied by The Pickwick (billiards) from 1936 to 1969 and the metal façade was likely installed after their tenure.

**211 North Queen Street**

**Grand Theatre - c.1915, c.1932**

**Contributing Building**

Mid-century metal screens have been removed from the upper part of the façade since 1995, revealing the original Art Moderne, stuccoed exterior of this two-story theater building. The building has an altered storefront, but retains a metal marquee that dates from early 1930s remodeling of the building when name was changed to Paramount Theatre. The storefront has two pairs of aluminum-framed glass doors, each inset and flanking a projecting ticket booth. Fixed windows flanking the entrances have been painted over and both display windows and ticket booth windows are above tiled knee walls and half walls respectively. The entire storefront is sheltered by the marquee, which is supported by metal chains and has the word "Paramount" on the sides of the rectangular marquee, visible from the sidewalk. The upper part of the building is covered with stucco and has two pairs of six-light metal windows near the center of the façade, lighting the projection booth on the interior. The façade is topped by a stepped parapet. Sanborn maps indicate that the building, initially occupied by the Grand Theatre was constructed between 1914 and 1919. It became the Paramount Theater sometime between 1928 and 1936, which is likely when the façade was altered to its current appearance.

**215-217 North Queen Street (formerly 215 N. Queen)**

**Grainger Building – c.1895**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southeast corner of North Queen and East North streets, this two-story, two-section brick commercial building was erected for prominent businessman and civic leader Jesse Grainger. The north section (215 N. Queen) facing the intersection has a replacement storefront, but retains upper-level detailing. The storefront wraps the northwest corner of the building and has been infilled with brick veneer. It has replacement fixed windows, inset aluminum-framed glass doors at the south end, and a shingled pent roof. Three segmental-arch window openings at the second-floor level have a continuous brick drip cap. The openings have been bricked in, though the brick has been inset so that the original outline of the window openings remains visible. Above the windows is an inset sign panel and a corbelled brick cornice extends the width of the parapet on both the façade and north elevation. The north elevation is seven bays deep at the second-floor level and retains six-over-six wood-sash windows with segmental-arch surrounds and a continuous brick drip cap. Painted advertisement on this elevation have been painted over since 1995. A shorter, two-story wing at the rear, facing East North Street has second-floor windows matching the rest of the East North Street elevation. An entrance at the first-floor level is sheltered by a metal awning and has a tall multi-light window to its east and a small three-light window to its west. A one-story, stuccoed wing at the far rear, also facing East North Street, has boarded window openings flanking a replacement door with metal awning.

The south section of the building (215 N. Queen) has been altered with the application of a thick layer of scored stucco to the upper part of the façade, obscuring the original recessed panels and brick corbelling, and the installation of paired four-light metal casement windows at the second-floor level. The replacement, Colonial Revival-style storefront features a deeply recessed entrance that is flanked by multi-light display windows on a low brick bulkhead. Above the storefront is a dentil cornice and a pent roof. The 1896 Sanborn maps indicates a new building on this site and the 1906 Kinston Free Press Industrial Issue ran a photo of the building as the "Grainger Building." Grainger partnered with D. V. Dixon who operated a general hardware and building supply business in this building until 1957. The building also housed the U. S. Post Office, C. T. Randolph Carriage Factory, and a variety of other

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businesses over the years.

**300 North Queen Street**

**J. C. Penney, Inc. – 1927, c.1990**

**Noncontributing Building**

Anchoring the northwest corner of North Queen and West North streets, this two-story, classically inspired, brick commercial building has cast-stone trim and an unadorned brick parapet above a sheet-metal cornice. The first floor was been significantly altered between 1985 and 1995 with the installation of a modern, stuccoed storefront with corner entrance replacing the earlier centered entrance. The outer corner of the building, over the deeply inset corner entrance, is supported by a stuccoed pier. Fixed display windows have stuccoed, paneled aprons below. The entrance and storefront windows are topped by a wide stuccoed band with six-light metal windows near the corners and is topped by a stuccoed frieze. A sheet-metal cornice extends across the façade and south elevations, separating the first and second floors. The second-floor façade is three bays wide with tan brick pilasters separating the bays. Replacement windows are paired, fixed windows with continuous cast-stone lintels and sills. The pilasters support a tall entablature consisting of a stone architrave and frieze and a molded sheet metal cornice below the parapet. The south elevation has bricked windows at both the first- and second-floor levels, all bricked in prior to 1985. An entrance at the west end of the elevation has a classical, cast-stone surround. Second-floor windows are separated by tan brick pilasters supporting an entablature that matches that on the façade. The 1925 Sanborn map shows several smaller commercial buildings at this location preceding the construction of the J. C. Penney department store in 1927. The building was designed and built by Robert L. Blalock. Medical offices, including the offices of Dr. F. Stanley Whitaker were on second floor through the mid-1930s, after which the entire building was occupied by J. C. Penney until the 1960s.

**301 North Queen Street**

**U. S. Post Office & Federal Building – 1915**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the northeast corner of North Queen and East North streets, the Neoclassical Revival-style post office and federal building has a monumental portico typical of the style. The building has a tall center section flanked by slightly lower one-story wings, all constructed of ashlar limestone. The center section is five bays wide, the bays separated by the five Tuscan columns and pilasters. Each bay features metal grills with crests having palmettes and a central anthemion screening the paired windows with transoms. The entrance, paired one-light-over-two-panel doors centered on the façade, has a two-part transom, each with a four-light window, and grills matching the other windows on the façade. It is accessed by granite steps flanked by cheek walls supporting original cast-iron light fixtures. The hexastyle Tuscan portico has a denticulated stone entablature with the words “United States Post Office” inscribed in the frieze. Greek fretwork extends between the pilasters on the façade. The side wings are each one bay wide and three bays deep. They feature paired four-over-four wood-sash windows with four-light transoms. A continuous limestone band serves as the lintels and extends around the building wings as a stringcourse. A simple molded cornice is found at the eave line. Detailing on the rear elevation of the main block matches that of the side wings. A small one-story wing on the rear is accessed by a modern concrete ramp and stair. According to the cornerstone, the building was designed by Treasury Department supervising architect Oscar Wenderoth. The building housed the post office with the Internal Revenue Service offices on the second floor. The building was sold to the county and used as public library from 1965 to 1983 after a new post office was constructed in town. It was later, and is still, occupied by the Chamber of Commerce.

**311 North Queen Street**

**Chamberlain & Braxton Building – 1923**

**Contributing Building**

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This one-story, brick commercial building has a modern replacement storefront beneath the original prismatic-glass transom and a stepped parapet with cast concrete coping. The storefront features a recessed entrance with a one-light-over-one-panel door with two one-light sidelights and a single-light transom. It is flanked by replacement aluminum-framed windows on a stuccoed bulkhead. An original prismatic-glass transom spans the façade above the storefront. The multi-level parapet has a cast-concrete cornice, a date panel that reads 1923, and inset concrete diamonds at the outer corners. Constructed in 1923, the building was occupied by Tunstall's, which sold women's clothing and hats, in 1928. From at least 1936 to 1959, Chamberlain & Braxton, also a millinery and women's clothing store run by sisters Laura Chamberlain and Bessie Braxton, was located here.

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**KINSTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**WEST BLOUNT STREET**

**105 West Blount Street**

**Kinston Garage, Inc. – c.1915, c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

Remodeled to its current appearance about 1928, the building is perhaps Kinston's best expression of the Art Deco style. The two-story, brick building is framed with vertical towers at each end. Each tower is comprised of two-story brick pilasters framing the end bays of the façade and topped by stuccoed caps. The ground floor of the building has been modernized with applied modern brick piers flanking the aluminum-framed display windows and doors. The main entrance is centered on the façade and inset slightly and there are two additional entrances, one at each end of the façade. Above the storefront, at the transom level, is a stuccoed band in the location of a flat metal canopy that has been removed since 1994. Above the band is a single, wide sign panel and there are corresponding square panels above the entrances on each end of the façade. Replacement five-light metal jalousie windows are located on the second floor, paired in the center six bays and single in the outer two bays. A wide stucco band fitted with red brick and tile diamonds spans the façade above the center windows on the second floor. The outer two windows have arched stuccoed panels above with inset diamond motifs. The brick parapet is unadorned and topped with metal coping. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. As early as 1923-1924, the Kinston Garage is listed in city directories as selling Hudson, Essex, and Cadillac motor cars. The business was converted to the City Garage by 1936, to Barnes & Cox Motor Company by 1949, and continued to serve an automotive-related function into the 1990s.

**118 West Blount Street (formerly 126 W. Blount)**

**Ellis Carriage Works – c.1911, c.1927, c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southeast corner of West Blount and North Herritage streets, the façade and west elevation of this two-story brick commercial building date to a 1930s remodel. The facade is three bays wide with brick pilasters separating the bays. The bays are inset slightly with brick corbelling above the storefronts and above and below the second-floor bays. The first floor has a replacement entrance with a three-part transom centered on the façade. The two western portions are operable double-leaf doors, while the eastern portion is fixed. The outer two bays have large display windows with multi-light transoms—a treatment similar to other period buildings in the district. The second floor features a single twelve-light metal-sash window in the center bay and two windows in each side bay. All windows have concrete sills and continuous soldier courses that extend just below the sills and at the lintel course. Stretcher course brick frames the vertical sides of each opening. The parapet is topped by concrete coping. The North Herritage Street (west) elevation has fifteen twelve-light, metal-framed windows on the second floor (matching those on the façade). The first floor features five fifteen-light metal-framed windows, three large display windows (matching those on the façade), and two pedestrian entrances. The west elevation is without the decorative brickwork found on the façade and has terra cotta coping at the parapet. The south and east elevations, facing the interior of the block, were less altered during the 1930s and still retain much of their integrity, including segmentally-arched, six-over-six wood-sash windows illustrating the Victorian appearance of the structure's original design. The first floor of the south elevation was altered to accommodate a garage entrance and window openings at this level were shortened to allow for a ramp leading up to a second-floor-level, concrete-block wing at the southeast corner of the building. The east elevation, facing an alley, features a large batten garage door centered on the first floor and a combination of wood six-over-six and twelve-light metal-framed windows on both levels, the second-floor windows retaining segmental-arch surrounds.

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Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1908 and 1914 as the Ellis Carriage Works. Between 1925 and 1930, the Heritage Street elevation was divided into multiple storefronts, though the 1930 Sanborn map and the 1936 city directory still list Ellis Carriage Works as the occupant. By 1948, the rambling, two-story brick building was converted to an automobile garage and showroom and the 1949 city directory lists Jenkins-Jones Motor Company as the occupant. In 1969, the occupant is listed as W. H. Jones Motors, Inc.

**125 West Blount Street/401 North Heritage Street (formerly 129 W. Blount)**

**Overland Garage Company Building – c. 1920, c.2000      Contributing Building**

Located at the northeast corner of West Blount and North Heritage streets, this three-story brick building is distinguished principally by its size and decorative embellishments, which include a rusticated red-brick exterior at the first floor and brown brick on the upper floors, which are delineated by concrete bands, a treatment found on other buildings in the expansion area. The two storefronts on the West Blount Street elevation have replacement wood-framed windows on a brick bulkhead, the windows dating to a c.2000 rehabilitation of the building. Above the storefronts are the original prismatic-glass transoms. Each has an entrance on its east end and each is sheltered by a fabric awning. The second floor features single and paired twelve-over-four wood-sash windows with continuous concrete bands at the sill and header levels. The third floor has arched twelve-over-four and six-over-four wood-sash windows with arched brick surrounds and continuous concrete sills, adding a decidedly Victorian appearance to what is otherwise a standard commercial design. At the center and outside corners of the second and third floors are inset rectangular brick panels. The parapet is adorned with a concrete band, brick corbelling, and has metal sheathing and metal coping at the top of the parapet.

The south end of the west elevation, facing North Heritage Street, has paired one-light French doors with an original prismatic-glass transom, three twelve-over-four wood-sash windows, and a modern overhead garage door at the first floor level. An entrance near the north end of the first floor, installed c.2000, has a one-light French door with one-light sidelights and a three-part transom all in an arched brick surround with cast-concrete keystone and springers. The second and third floors match the façade with twelve-over-four windows at the second floor, arched windows at the third floor (several replaced with one-light windows), brick corbelling at the parapet, and concrete bands delineating the upper two floors. The rear (north) elevation has twelve-over-four wood-sash windows at the first and second floors and segmental-arched windows at the third floor.

The building has historically been linked with the automotive industry--a function originally shared by several surrounding buildings. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. Known first as the Overland Garage Company, the business was, by 1928, operated as the Harvey Motor Company, and from at least 1936-1949 as the Spence Motor Company.

**NORTH HERITAGE STREET**

**200 North Heritage Street**

**Worthington's Grocery Store Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

Anchoring the south end of the 200 block of North Heritage Street is this two-story, red-brick commercial building features inset panels adorning the two-bay facade and three-bay south elevation. The façade features a replacement storefront with two entrances, each a six-panel door within a wide recessed center section of the façade. The doors are flanked replacement, aluminum-framed display windows on a painted brick bulkhead. The transom has been infilled with vertical wood sheathing and a shallow metal canopy separates the storefront from the transom. The second-floor features paired replacement windows



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with shared cast-concrete sills and lintels. Each pair of windows is located within an inset panel framed by stretcher-course brick on the sides, corbelling top and bottom, and defined by cast-concrete squares at the corners. Each panel is framed by a band of corbelling that separates the first and second floors, brick pilasters that flank the second-floor bays, and brick corbelling at the bottom of the parapet. The parapet features a single cast-concrete square centered above each bay and has concrete coping. The second floor and parapet of south elevation match the façade. The first floor has a metal-framed display window at the east end, adjacent to the façade. It retains burgundy-colored, pigmented structural glass covering the bulkhead and a shallow canopy between the display window and the one-light transom. To the west of the display window is a high, one-light window with cast-concrete sill and lintel. The two-story, shed-roofed addition centered on the rear of the main block is of frame construction and is sheathed with pressed metal panels designed to look like brick masonry. A one-story brick wing at the rear (west) of the building, facing West Gordon Street, has a gabled roof with a stepped parapet at the west end and modern metal roofing with skylights. Two wide openings on the south elevation have been infilled with pedestrian doors and plywood and the original pedestrian entrance that they flank has been infilled as well. According to Sanborn maps, a one-story building is located on this site in 1925 and the current two-story building appears in 1930. The building is listed as vacant in the 1928 city directory. The 1936 city directory lists Worthington Grocery in this location and by 1949 it was occupied by Dainty Maid Bakery, Inc.

**204 North Herritage Street (formerly 204-206 N. Herritage)**

**Dudley's Dry Cleaners Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, brick commercial building retains a high degree of material integrity with an original storefront. The storefront features recessed entrances at the outer corners, each a one-light wood door, with metal-framed display windows in the center that rest on a “ribbon” brick bulkhead. A six-light transom spans the storefront, but is obscured behind a fabric awning. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists Dudley’s Dry Cleaning and Dye Works at this address.

**208-210 North Herritage Street**

**Noble Grocery Store Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, two-bay, brick commercial building historically housed two separate businesses. The south storefront has three, aluminum-framed display windows on a brick bulkhead. The north storefront features an inset, aluminum-framed glass door flanked by fixed windows that extend all the way to the sidewalk. A metal pent roof spans the width of the façade, obscuring the transom-level. The parapet above has an inset sign panel and concrete coping. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists Jones Café at this address, but by 1936 it was occupied by Noble Grocery. By 1949 the building was occupied by Tyndall, Seed Feed & Supply Co.

**211 North Herritage Street (formerly 213 N. Herritage)**

**Commercial Building – c.1928, c.1965**

**Contributing Building**

Located south of Byrd’s Garage (211 North Herritage), this building was connected to the service station between 1948 and 1981. The one-story, brick commercial building is two bays wide with replacement storefronts within each bay and brick pilasters with molded capitals separating the bays. The south storefront features four aluminum-framed display windows on a brick knee wall. The north storefront features a recessed splayed entrance with aluminum-framed glass door flanked by aluminum-framed



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windows on a brick knee wall. Both storefronts are sheltered by a continuous metal awning. Above the awning, decorative metal ceiling tiles have been applied to the inset sign panels. A course of molded stone spans the base of the parapet, which has concrete coping. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists Dawson-Mitchell Company (213) and B. W. Peak (215) in the building. However, by 1949, the entire building, and the adjacent service station at the corner, was occupied by Lenoir Auto Parts.

**211 North Herritage Street**

**W. C. Byrd's Garage –c.1933, c.1965**

**Noncontributing Building**

Built as a service station, this building has been significantly altered by the enclosure of the service canopy with textured Roman brick walls. The building has replacement aluminum-framed glass in the original openings as well in openings in the later Roman brick. It has a modern ribbed metal roof; vinyl eaves, soffit, and fascia; and an unpainted wood pergola and deck attached to the southwest corner of the building. An original ell on the east elevation, facing West North Street had three garage openings, two of which have been enclosed with textured concrete block at the bottom and fixed, aluminum-framed windows at the top. The east opening has an overhead metal door. The building was connected to the adjacent building to the south (213 North Herritage) between 1948 and 1981. The connector was constructed to resemble an early-twentieth-century commercial building and features a brick veneer, a single flush storefront with aluminum-framed doors and windows, a metal awning shading the storefront, and a cornice at the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948 and the 1936 city directory lists W. C. Byrd's Garage in this location.

**212 North Herritage Street**

**Simmons Grocery Store Building – c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

Similar in form and detail to the adjacent commercial buildings at 214-216 and 218 North Herritage Street, this one-story, brick commercial building features a recessed, splayed entrance with original double-leaf one-light-over-one-panel doors flanked by original wood-frame display windows on a brick bulkhead. A metal pent roof spans the façade at the transom level, replacing the original eleven-light transom. The parapet features an inset sign panel with brick corbelling above and below. It has metal coping at the top of the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. The 1949 city directory lists Parrot Brothers Feed at this address.

**214-216 North Herritage Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

Though similar in form and detail to the adjacent commercial buildings at 212 and 218 North Herritage Street, this one-story, brick commercial building is two bays wide. Each bay features a recessed, splayed entrance with original double-leaf one-light doors flanked by original wood-sash display windows on a brick bulkhead with iron ventilation grills. A metal pent roof spans the façade at the transom level, replacing or obscuring the original transom. The parapet features inset sign panels above each bay, each with brick corbelling above and below. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. The 1949 city directory lists Coastal Motor Parts at this address.

**218 North Herritage Street**

**Hines Barbecue Building – c. 1935**

**Contributing Building**

Similar in form to the adjacent commercial buildings at 214-216 and 218 North Herritage Street, this one-story, brick commercial building features a recessed, splayed entrance with a replacement aluminum-

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framed glass door flanked by original metal-framed display windows on a brick bulkhead. Vertical metal fills the transom opening and is largely obscured by an awning that shelters the storefront. The parapet features an inset sign panel with brick corbelling above and below. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948 and the 1936 city directory lists Hines Barbecue at this address.

**220 North Herritage Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1995**

**Noncontributing Building**

The historic building with stuccoed facade has been demolished between 1994 and 1998. The façade of the current building, set well back from the street, appears to be the rear wall of the earlier building, constructed prior to 1948. Two brick piers, remnants of the original façade, abut the facades of the adjacent buildings and support a metal I-beam that marks the location of the façade of the former building. Below it is a modern brick knee wall with metal fence above it and brick piers supporting a metal gate that accessed a courtyard in front of the current building. The building itself has a brick façade with three segmental-arch openings. The center opening features a double-leaf one-light French door with two-light transom. It is flanked by triple-hung, eight-light windows. The parapet is covered with vertical plywood and has a wood dentil cornice and metal coping.

**222 North Herritage Street**

**Cash Supply Store Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

Anchoring the north end of the 200 block of North Herritage Street, the Cash Supply Store--a former hay, grain, and feed dealer--is the most decorative commercial building on the block. The two-story, brick building has a single storefront on the façade, is three bays wide at the second-floor level, and has a tall parapet with a molded brick cornice. The storefront remains remarkably intact with a double-leaf one-light door in a recessed, splayed entry with a tile floor. The entrance is flanked by metal-framed display windows on a bulkhead faced with marble. An original transom has been removed or obscured by the installation of a metal pent roof over the storefront. A soldier course and projecting brick stringcourse delineate the second floor from the first. Second-floor windows are twelve-over-one wood-sash windows, paired in the center bay, and sheltered by later metal awnings. The windows have a continuous cast-concrete sill that extends as a sill course across the façade and north elevation. A second concrete band serves as a continuous lintel course above the windows. The parapet features a corbelled brick cornice and wide frieze and has metal coping at its top. The north elevation, facing West North Street, matches the façade in detail and is six bays wide at the second-floor level. The easternmost window on the first floor is a two-light display window matching those on the façade and sheltered by a metal, pent roof. A single and double window on the first floor match those on the second floor of this elevation and the façade. Paired and single doors on this elevation are sheltered by metal awnings. A one-story building appears on this site in 1914, but was replaced by the current two-story building by 1925. The 1928 and 1936 city directories list Cash Supply Store at this location.

**300-304 North Herritage Street**

**Miller Brothers Fruit/Harris Supply Store Building – c.1933 Contributing Building**

Located at the northwest corner of North Herritage and West North streets, this substantial, five-bay-wide, two-story, brick commercial building is among the largest commercial buildings in the district. Brick pilasters divide the facade into five bays of unequal width--an unusual treatment for a building of this era. At the second-floor level there are four windows in the southernmost bay, three windows each in the next two bays, two windows in the next bay, and a single window in the northernmost bay above a

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pedestrian entrance that leads to a stairwell to the second floor. Upper floor windows are all eight-over-eight, wood-sash windows resting on a band of brick corbelling that separates the floors. Pilasters between the bays feature brick panels consisting of panel fields of dogtooth brickwork at the first-floor level. The pilasters support a rowlock stringcourse located just above the tops of the second-floor windows. The parapet is capped by a modest, corbelled brick cornice and has concrete coping. The south bay features a wide storefront with paired one-light doors in a centered, recessed, splayed entrance. The doors are flanked by original metal-framed windows on a brick knee wall. A cornice spans the storefront and the transom has been painted and is obscured by a metal awning. The middle two storefronts have inset entrances with one-light wood doors. The doors are flanked by original metal-framed windows on brick kneewalls with inset brick panels. Vertical wood sheathing has been applied at the transom level and modern metal awnings shelter the storefronts. The northernmost storefront has a flush storefront with a double-leaf one-light-over-one-panel door on its south end and a window opening, infilled with diagonal wood sheathing on its north end. Diagonal wood sheathing has been applied at the transom level and modern metal awnings shelter the storefronts. The south elevation, facing West North Street, has second-floor windows and detailing matching the façade. The easternmost bay of the first floor has a modified storefront with a single window on the east and a boarded entrance on the west, both sheltered by metal awning. Eight-light, metal-sash windows are located high on the wall, near the center of the first floor, though all but one have been covered or removed. On the west end of the elevation is a wide opening with later, paired batten doors sheltered by an aluminum awning. The original overhead garage door remains intact in the open position behind this later set of doors and awning. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. Miller Brothers Fruit (300) and Harris Supply Store (302) occupied the building in 1936. Occupants in 1949 included: Farm Bureau Insurance Company (300), Lenoir Farmers Co-Operative Exchange Seeds (302), and Carter & Southerland restaurant (304-306).

**311 North Herritage Street (formerly 307-309 N. Herritage)**

**C. A. Dawson and Company Building – c.1923, 2009**

**Contributing Building**

Originally operated as a cotton gin and farm supplies business, by the 1930s Pully's Barbecue restaurant was listed at this address and remained there until the 1960s as one of Kinston's most enduring eateries. The one-story, brick commercial building is two bays wide with a corbelled band above the replacement storefronts and a second corbelled band at the parapet. Original storefronts with inset entrances were replaced with fixed display windows over opaque spandrel panels. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. The 1923-24 city directory lists C. A. Dawson and Company (wholesale and retail feed, horses, mules, buggies, wagons, harnesses, seed, and cotton ginner) at this address. The 1928-1949 city directories list Pulley's Barbeque Stand at this location. The building was renovated with interior partition walls and finished removed and the storefronts replaced in 2009 when the building became part of Mother Earth Brewing, which occupies the adjacent buildings on West North Street.

**North of 311 Herritage Street – VACANT**

**332-336 North Herritage Street**

**Commercial Building – c. 1919**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, brick commercial building was historically three bays wide and retains a three-part sign panel and a simple corbelled cornice at the top of the parapet wall. The south bay has a centered entrance with boarded transom. The entrance is flanked by fixed, six-light, aluminum-framed display windows on

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a brick knee wall. The center bay retains an arched brick opening, the top of which has been infilled. The lower part contains a two-part aluminum-framed display window on a brick knee wall. The north bay has an entrance with boarded transom on the south end and a two-part display window on the north end. Transoms have been infilled and a continuous fabric awning spans the width of the façade over the storefronts. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. The 1928 city directory lists Lewis' Sea Food Market and Parham Wholesale in the building. By 1969 the building was occupied by the Kinston Fish and Oyster Company.

**417 North Herritage Street**

**Auto and Muffier Center – 1979, c.2005**

**Noncontributing Building**

This one-story brick building has been stripped of the Colonial Revival detailing noted in the 1994 nomination. The building has a hollow-core metal door on the south end of the façade and a two-part, fixed, aluminum-framed window on the north end of the façade, each with a soldier-course lintel. The south elevation has three overhead garage doors and a corbelled brick cornice. The north elevation is unadorned concrete block.

**419 North Herritage Street**

**Fowler Wholesale Company Building – c.1919**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southeast corner of the intersection of North Herritage Street and the railroad tracks, this wedge-shaped, two-story industrial building has two similar facades--one facing the railroad and the other facing North Herritage Street. The modest brick building is six bays wide, three bays deep on the south elevation, and five bays deep on the north elevation facing the railroad. The building has a painted brick foundation with projecting sill courses below the first- and second-floor windows, continuous soldier courses above first- and second-floor windows, and a corbelled brick cornice at the parapet. Windows are replacement, aluminum-framed windows throughout. The doors have been removed from the inset entrance, centered on the façade, which now has vertical wood sheathing and fixed windows. Two window openings on the north end of the façade were bricked in early and are partially covered with a faded, painted advertisement that reads in part, "Grain Bins - Tobacco - Cigars - Barn Vents - Paints." A loading bay is centered on the north elevation, facing the railroad tracks. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. There is no listing for the address in the 1928 city directory and the 1936 and 1949 directories list John S. Martin Company (wholesale grocers) at this location.

**EAST NORTH STREET**

**109 East North Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, red-brick commercial building features bands of cream-colored soldier-course brick at the flat parapet line and as a ribbon between and across the tops of the two pairs of boarded second-story windows. The first floor features a recessed one-light wood door the east end that accesses a stair to the second floor. There is an original copper-framed display window to its west and the remainder of the inset bay is covered with vertical sheathing. On the west end of the first floor is a recessed entry with two one-light wood doors leading to two adjacent commercial spaces. Original copper-framed display windows are located on each side of the doors. Several display windows have been boarded. There is vertical board-and-batten sheathing covering the transoms above the door and the bulkheads. A full-width transom spanning the storefronts has also been covered. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was

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constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists the Singer Sewing Machine Company at this address.

**WEST NORTH STREET**

**115 West North Street (formerly 113 W. North)**

**Courie Brothers Grocery Building – c.1905, c.1965, c.2010 Noncontributing Building**

This one-story, early twentieth-century brick building was remodeled in the 1960s with the application of a blonde-brick veneer, later painted, in a stacked bond. It was significantly altered between 2007 and 2012 with the installation of a replacement storefront and pent roof. The storefront features an inset entrance at the center with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with one-light sidelights and a three-part transom. The doors are flanked by aluminum-framed display windows on a low brick bulkhead. The entire storefront is sheltered by a metal pent roof. The upper part of the façade is unadorned with the exception of two small metal vents. The west elevation is mostly unpainted brick and has nine small windows near the top of the first floor and a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping. A building appears on this site as early as 1908, with Courie Brothers occupying the building from at least 1928 to 1936. By 1949, the building was occupied by Colonial Stores Inc. in 1949 and Furniture Auction Market by 1953.

**118 West North Street**

**Heilig-Meyers Building – c.1930, c.1945**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, brick commercial building is four bays wide and is adorned with a decorative parapet featuring recessed panels in each bay and a denticulated and molded sheet metal cornice. Below the cornice, brick pilasters with Doric capitals delineate the four bays, flanking recessed panels and supporting a simply molded sheet metal architrave. The east bay is nearly twice as wide as the other three and all bays have replacement storefronts. Apparently this configuration, if not the actual materials, dates to the beginning of the building's occupancy by the Heilig-Meyers Furniture Company in the early 1930s. The storefronts vary slightly in configuration, but all feature aluminum-framed glass doors and display windows with polished green marble or granite panels covering the bulkheads and the lower portions of the pilasters between the bays. Only the third bay is without an entrance. A flat metal awning spans the width of the façade, sheltering the storefronts. The interior retains its original metal pan ceiling. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930 as two separate stores and a bowling alley. Heilig-Meyers occupied 118-126 W. North Street by 1936 and according to Sanborn maps, the stores were combined, and the façade likely altered, by 1949.

**East of 123 West North Street – VACANT**

**123-127 West North Street (formerly 125-127 W. North)**

**Sidney's Department Store Building – c.1911, 1954**

**Contributing Building**

The original brick façade of this building can be seen in the upper part of the east one-third of the building, where a recessed panel topped by several courses of shallow corbelling appears above a later storefront. The western two-thirds of the facade were altered in 1954 by Sidney's Dry Goods Company with the addition of a blond brick façade, later painted, above the storefront. The east storefront features an inset entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a one-light transom. The entrance is flanked by aluminum-framed windows on a brick knee wall that projects beyond the windows as a planter. A fabric awning spans the storefront at the transom level. The west two-thirds of the building have a single storefront, a modern aluminum-framed storefront with a deeply inset entrance with one-light



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metal door. A fabric awning spans the storefront at the transom level and there are two bands of soldier-course brick across the parapet, which is topped with metal coping. The building, connected on the interior, is now part of Mother Earth Brewing, which occupies the entire west end of this block. A three-part, one-story commercial building was present on this site as early as 1914, though the west and center bays were combined between 1925 and 1930 and occupied by Sidney's Department Store from at least 1928 through the 1980s. The east bay was vacant in 1928. The 1936 city directory shows the Kinston Sport Shop occupying 123 West North Street and Sidney Army and Navy Store occupying 127-129 West North Street. By 1949, the building was occupied by Mozingo Brothers Hatchery.

**128 West North Street**

**Henry Barnes Motor Company Building – c.1906, c.1930, c.1950      Contributing Building**

Originally built to house a store, this one-story brick commercial building was converted into the Henry Barnes Motor Company in the early 1930s. In the early 1950s, when the building became part of the Heilig Meyers-Levine Furniture Company next door, the two storefront openings were bricked in. The west bay has an overhead garage door filling part of the bay. The upper portion of the façade features a single panel delineated by brick stretchers. The parapet is topped by cast stone coping.

**130 West North Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1933**

**Contributing Building**

First occupied by an ice cream shop, this one-story, brick commercial building has flat, rectilinear detailing evocative of the Art Deco style. The centered storefront features a recessed, splayed entrance with paired replacement doors with a shared transom. The doors are flanked by metal-framed plate glass display windows on ceramic tiled bulkhead. The full width transom has been covered and is also obscured by a fabric awning. Vertical courses of headers create the visual effect of full-height pilasters flanking the storefront. Immediately above the storefront, stretcher and soldier courses outline a sign panel with cast stone squares at the corners. Above the sign panel, three large cast stone diamonds adorn the upper parapet. A narrow storefront window on the west elevation has been infilled with a wood door and vinyl siding. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. The 1949 city directory lists Harrington's radios at this address.

**131 West North Street**

**Hodges Livestock Building – c.1933, 2009**

**Noncontributing Building**

This one-story, brick commercial building has a replacement storefront, installed in 2009, and solar panels that obscure the upper part of the façade. The storefront features paired aluminum-framed glass doors centered on the faced with a one-light transom. The doors are flanked by brick pilasters and fixed display windows on a brick knee wall. An exposed I-beam extends the width of the storefront, above which is a four-part transom. There is a vertically laid brick lintel above the transom and a flat parapet with a single rowlock course in it. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. Interior finishes were removed when the building was connected on the interior to the adjacent buildings. It is now part of Mother Earth Brewing, which occupies the entire west end of this block.

**133 West North Street (formerly 135 W. North)**

**United States National Resettlement Administration Office – c.1933, 2009      Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building was home to the local branch of the W.P.A. and the U.S. National Re-Settlement Administration during the 1930s. The storefront has two recessed, splayed entrances, each with a replacement paneled wood door with one-light transom. Between and flanking the



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doors are original metal-framed display windows on stuccoed bulkheads from which the structural glass has been removed. A full-width transom has been boarded and is topped by a course of vertically laid brick. The second floor is three bays wide with four-over-one, Craftsman-style wood-sash windows, paired in the center bay, and protected by storm windows. Stretcher, soldier, and rowlock courses outline each window. The parapet has a soldier course band and is topped with metal coping. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. Interior finishes were removed in 2009 when the building was connected on the interior to the adjacent buildings. It is now part of Mother Earth Brewing, which occupies the entire west end of this block.

**137-139 West North Street**

**City Drug Store Building – c.1923, c.1950, 2009**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, two-bay brick commercial building was altered in the early 1950s to a drive-through drug store by the Standard Drug Company, advertised as the "World's Only Drive Through Drug Store." By the 1980s, the facade of the building featured storefronts of brick and decorative concrete block with vinyl siding above. It was rehabilitated in 2009 with the brick and concrete block removed from the storefronts and new aluminum-framed storefronts installed. The fixed storefront windows are separated by pilasters and have one-light transoms and opaque spandrels below. At the second-floor level, vinyl siding was removed, original segmental-arch openings re-opened, and fixed windows installed. The west elevation, facing North Hermitage Street has had two fixed storefront windows installed, matching the façade, and has had second-floor window openings re-opened. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925 to house three separate businesses, two facing West North Street and one facing North Hermitage. The 1928 city directory lists Bloom Electric Shoe Shop (137) and Central Pharmacy (139). However, by 1949 the building was occupied by City Drug Store. Interior finishes and the second floor were removed when the building was connected on the interior to the adjacent buildings. It is now part of Mother Earth Brewing, which occupies the entire west end of this block.

**NORTH QUEEN STREET**

**121 North Queen Street**

**Carolina Theatre – c.1896, 1935**

**Contributing Building**

Constructed about 1896, this two-story, brick commercial building was altered for use as a movie theater in 1935. The upper part of the Art Deco-style façade is four bays wide, divided vertically by brick pilasters with V-shaped ribs created by a vertical dogtooth course. The pilasters extend up to a crenelated cornice. Each bay features two very narrow eight-light fixed windows, arranged vertically and separated by spandrels with cream and black tile. Above the windows are stuccoed panels with black tile laid diagonally to create a repeating diamond motif. A replacement storefront at the ground level has an inset, centered entrance. It has paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a shared transom. The doors are flanked by fixed aluminum-framed windows that extend all the way to the ground. The storefront is framed with green structural glass and sheltered by a flat metal awning. The 1928 city directory lists Stroud Brothers and Young's Mercantile Company, Inc. at this address, but by 1936 the building is listed as the Carolina Theater.

**123 North Queen Street**

**Smart & Thrifty Clothing Store Building – c.1896, 1938**

**Contributing Building**

The Moderne-style façade of this two-story commercial building, added in 1938 by the Smart & Thrifty clothing store, features large white and pink marble tiles covering the upper portion of the façade. Pink

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tiles at the outer edges of the façade that flank the slightly taller white expanse in the center, lends the facade a vertical emphasis. A replacement storefront at the first-floor level features an inset entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a shared transom. The doors are flanked by aluminum-framed display windows on a low bulkhead. The transom has been covered, but retains a narrow cornice immediate above it. The storefront is sheltered by a flat metal awning supported by metal rods. An earlier terrazzo floor, partially covered by the current storefront, reads “..GIE HALE.” The 1949 city directory indicates the building was occupied by Diana Shops Womens Clothing.

**125 North Queen Street**

**The Clothing Shop Building – c.1896, c.1990**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building features a replacement storefront with awning and a largely intact four-bay-wide second floor. The storefront features a deeply recessed entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transoms. It is flanked by metal-framed display windows projecting slightly beyond the bulkhead on which they rest. Narrow bands of black structural glass flank the storefront, which is sheltered by a later canvas awning. The second floor features three eighteen-light, fixed-sash wood windows with four-light fanlights, each in an arched surround. The northernmost bay is narrower than the others and is blind. Each of the slightly recessed second-floor bays is flanked by brick pilasters and topped by brick corbelling. The parapet features an inset sign panel and metal cornice. Constructed in the late 1890s, the building is listed as vacant in 1928 and occupied by The Ladies’ Shop and The Men’s Store in 1936. A rehabilitation of the façade, including the removal of a later false facade from the upper elevation and the recreation of a corbelled sheet metal cornice, were made prior to the 1994 nomination, completed under the local Facade Grant Program.

**127 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1910, c.2000**

**Contributing Building**

Vertically corrugated metal has been removed from the upper portion of this two-story, brick commercial building since the 1994 nomination, revealing original window openings beneath it. The building has a replacement storefront at the first-floor level. It features an inset, centered entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a shared transom. The doors are flanked by fixed, aluminum-framed display windows with concrete sills, separated by brick pilasters and resting on a low brick knee wall. Inset stuccoed panels are located above the storefront at the transom level and are largely obscured by a canvas awning. The second floor is three bays wide and flanked by brick pilasters. It has vinyl windows with concrete sills. The parapet has an inset sign panel and concrete coping. The building is present on the 1914 Sanborn map and the 1928 city directory lists the occupant as Block’s. By 1936, it was occupied by Stanley’s (clothing).

**129 North Queen Street**

**Edwards Clothing Store Building – c.1910, c.1962**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building was constructed before 1914, but was updated in the 1960s with a modern, Roman-brick veneer. The upper portion of the building is unadorned with the exception of two twelve-light metal-sash windows with rowlock sills and a band of rowlock brick atop the parapet. The first-floor storefront also appears to date to the 1960s remodeling with matching Roman brick above and below the storefront windows. It features a deeply recessed entrance with terrazzo floor and aluminum-framed door, sidelights, and transom. Display windows project slightly from the brick wall and features heavy aluminum framing at the top and bottom with the corners formed by abutted glass without framing. A solid wood door with one-light transom is located on the north end of the façade and leads to

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the upper floor. A flat metal canopy shelters the entire first-floor façade. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map and is listed as vacant in the 1928 city directory. In 1936, it was occupied by Eugene E. Edward's (clothier) and continued to be occupied by clothing stores and tailors through 1961. The façade remodel likely dates to c.1962 as the building transitioned from a clothing store in 1961 to a shoe store in 1963. The 1969 city directory lists the occupant as Rouse Shoe Store.

**313 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – 1990**

**Noncontributing Building**

Constructed in 1990, this one-story, commercial building is three bays wide with stuccoed, quoined pilasters separating the bays and supporting an entablature, modillion cornice, and paneled parapet. The three bays feature double doors or paired windows (of the same dimensions as the doors) under fanlights. The design of this recent infill is compatible with neighboring historic buildings in its scale, massing, and neoclassical motifs.

**317-321 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1905, c.1959**

**Contributing Building**

This two-part, two-story, brick commercial building was updated in the 1950s with a blonde-brick veneer. The upper portion of the façade is unadorned with the exception of inset brick dividing the façade into seven bays. The north storefront has a deeply inset entrance, paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transom, accessed by a multi-colored terrazzo floor. The floor contains a brilliant cut diamond motif and the words "The Jewel Box" and the street number "321" incorporated into the terrazzo. It is flanked by aluminum-framed display windows that cover roughly the middle one-third of the wall with marble veneer above and below the windows. The storefront is sheltered by a flat metal canopy. The south storefront is divided into two sections separated by a blonde-brick pilaster. The north section has a two-part aluminum-framed display window with transoms. The south section has an inset entrance flanked by aluminum-framed display windows with transom. A fabric awning spans the storefront. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1901 and 1908 as a three-part, three-story commercial building. As the Jewel Box storefront appears to have been installed over the brick veneer, the building appears to have been shortened and the brick veneer applied prior to 1959, the date when the Firestone Stores (317) and The Jewel Box (321) occupied the building.

**323 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, red-brick commercial building was designed by architect L.L. Mallard of Kinston. The storefront has a recessed, splayed entrance with paired aluminum-framed doors. The doors are flanked by original display windows on a kneewall that has been covered with later tile. Original molded concrete trim surrounds the storefront. The transom has been covered with vertical sheathing and the storefront is sheltered by a flat metal canopy. The upper portion of the façade remains largely intact. It is three bays wide with paired one-over-one wood-sash windows in the outer bays and a group of four windows in the center bay. All of the windows share a continuous cast-concrete sill. Below each group of windows is a decorative brick panel framed with soldier-course brick and having cast-concrete squares at the corners. Above the windows is a molded cornice and a stepped parapet with concrete coping. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. The 1928 city directory lists Efird's Department Store in this location and the 1936 directory lists the building as vacant.

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**327 North Queen Street (formerly 329 N. Queen)**

**Kinston Fertilizer Company Building – c.1929, c.1990, 2001-2002      Noncontributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building was significantly altered prior to 1994 with the application of brick and concrete covering the second floor. It was altered again in 2001-2002 with the installation of second-floor windows and stuccoed cornices. The three-part storefront has an inset center section with paired aluminum-framed doors with a shared transom. The doors are flanked by aluminum-framed windows on a paneled, stuccoed knee wall. The other two sections have matching aluminum-framed windows on paneled, stuccoed knee walls. Each of the three sections is sheltered by a fabric awning and an applied, stuccoed cornice spans the façade between the first and second floors. Second-floor windows are vinyl and the outer two windows on each end of the façade shared a stuccoed arch above. A stuccoed cornice adorns the top of the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930, but there is no listing for the address in the 1928 city directory. Kinston Fertilizer Company is listed at the address in 1936. The building was heavily altered to house the Kinston Enterprise Center, a business incubator, in 2001-2002.

**333-337 North Queen Street**

**T. W. Mewborn & Company Building – c.1900**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southeast corner of North Queen and East Blount street, this two-story, brick commercial building, originally constructed to house a department store, retains original brick quoins and a corbelled cornice with a dogtooth band on the façade, north, and rear elevations. The first floor has three matching modern storefronts, each with a recessed, centered entrance featuring a one-light-over-one-panel door with one-light-over-one-panel sidelights and a one-light transom. The entrances are flanked by fixed one-light windows on paneled knee walls. Each storefront is sheltered by a fabric awning above which is a stuccoed sign panel below a continuous stuccoed cornice. The second floor is six bays wide with replacement one-over-one windows with concrete sills and flat-arch lintels with brick keystones. On the north elevation, facing Blount Street and the railroad tracks, the quoins on the façade extend the full width of the first-floor elevation as horizontal brick bands. First-floor window openings have been reduced in size and feature fixed windows with infilled brick beneath the flat-arch brick lintels. Five second-floor windows match those on the façade. Two first-floor openings at the northeast corner of the building, on an angled elevation that follows the tracks, as well as those on the west elevation, have been partially or fully infilled with brick. Sanborn maps date the building's construction to between 1896 and 1901. T. W. Mewborn & Company is listed at the address in 1928. By 1936 the building housed the Lenoir County Farmers Co-Operating Exchange Service, which located there until 1946.

**400 North Queen Street**

**Sumrell & McCoy Building (NR1989) – 1909, 1989**

**Contributing Building**

Built by the Sumrell and McCoy Wholesale Company, this two-story-with-basement brick commercial building was individually listed in the National Register in 1989. The building, located at the northwest corner of North Queen and West Blount Street, has a corner entrance facing the intersection. The inset entrance, supported by an iron column at the corner, has an original prismatic-glass transom. Tiled steps lead up to a deeply recessed pair of modern French doors with transom. The façade, facing North Queen Street, is two bays wide. The south storefront has a large, fixed plate-glass window with a concrete sill and an original prismatic-glass transom. The north storefront has a matching window on its south end and a recessed entrance on its north end. The entrance retains concrete steps, but the opening has been infilled and covered with mosaic tile. Four-light, basement-level windows beneath the storefronts have metal bars. A corbelled stringcourse separates the first floor from the second, which features brick quoins at the

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corners and two groups of windows. Each tripartite window has a central four-over-four window with four-light transom flanked by three-over-three windows with three-light transoms. Each has a concrete sill and a projecting, brick hood mold with cast concrete keystone. There are two bands of brick corbelling at the stepped parapet, which has a gable centered on the façade and terra cotta coping throughout. The fenestration of the south elevation, facing West Blount Street, is eight bays wide at the second-floor level. Basement-level four- and six-light windows have metal bars. The first floor has three paired one-over-one windows, each with four-light transoms on the east end of the elevation. The west end of the elevation is irregular with smaller windows and a single modern entrance. The second floor has four-over-four windows with concrete sills. The north elevation of the building faces the railroad tracks. This elevation has evenly spaced windows and the same corbelled cornice found on the façade and south elevation. Sumrell and McCoy were listed at this address from at least 1928 to 1949. The wholesale grocery business was significant in the booming commercial economy of Kinston during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The building was renovated by the Kinston Community Council for the Arts in 1989 for use as an arts center. The large covered entrance on the north elevation dates to the 1989 remodel.

**407-409 North Queen Street (formerly 403 N. Queen)**

**T. A. Cobb & Company Building – c.1917**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, wedge-shaped brick commercial building--built to house a grocer--addresses both North Queen Street and the railroad tracks with storefronts on each elevation. The façade has a replacement storefront with a recessed entrance featuring two doors (both boarded) beneath one-light transoms. The doors are flanked by plate-glass display windows on Roman-brick knee walls, though windows on the north side have been boarded. An aluminum awning shades the storefront and the transom level above has been covered with corrugated metal. Two window openings on the second floor have replacement, fixed, one-light sashes (replacing original twelve-over-twelve windows) and concrete sills. The parapet has brick corbelling above and below a rectangular sign panel. The south elevation has a storefront window (now boarded) on the west end that matches those on the façade. A storefront on the east end of the elevation has a one-light-over-one-panel door with transom and a storefront window, matching those on the façade, that has been covered with plywood. Original one-over-one windows on this elevation are largely broken or missing. The corbelled cornice and sign panels on the parapet match the façade. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. Occupants changed frequently throughout the early twentieth century.

**411 North Queen Street (formerly 405 N. Queen)**

**Monticello Café – c.1917**

**Noncontributing Building**

This two-story brick commercial building has an altered storefront that has been nearly entirely infilled with brick. It has an inset aluminum-framed glass door flanked by a band of fixed windows between a brick knee wall and brick wall above. The upper floor remains largely intact with two vinyl windows in original openings with concrete sills. A corbelled stringcourse is located above the second-floor windows and there is a shallow brick corbelled cornice at the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. Occupants changed frequently throughout the early twentieth century.

**413 North Queen Street (formerly 407 N. Queen)**

**Peoples Cafe Building – c.1917**

**Contributing Building**

The upper floor of this two-story brick commercial building, remains largely intact with two one-over-



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one, wood-sash windows with brick sills, a full-width soldier course band above the windows, and a plain flat parapet. The replacement storefront has a recessed paneled door with a band of boarded display windows to its south. The windows rest on a brick half-wall and the area to the north of the door has been fully enclosed with brick. A glass-block transom spans the storefront above which is a plywood sign. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. It is listed as Peoples Cafe in the 1928 and 1936 city directories. The 1969 city directory lists the occupant as the Keg Restaurant.

**415 North Queen Street**

**Spear Motor Company Building – c.1908, c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

An original molded sheet-metal cornice, a row of eight small, decorative concrete diamonds, and nine evenly spaced second-story windows with cast stone rectilinear lintels and sills characterize the façade of this large buff-colored brick building. Second-floor window openings have replacement, single-pane fixed lights. Two courses of basketweave brick are located above the cornice. Below the windows, a modern sign has been installed within the original concrete-bordered sign panel. The first floor retains two modern storefronts. The north storefront has fixed aluminum-framed windows on a low concrete curb. The south storefront has a single, aluminum-framed glass door on its north end and fixed storefront windows to its south. Both storefronts are sheltered by a continuous fabric awning. The north elevation features a fixed storefront window at the west end, matching those on the façade, and replacement windows at both the first and second floors. The building was more than doubled in size with a large rear addition when it was converted to an automobile dealership, garage, and repair shop. This rear addition has replacement fixed windows on both the first and second floor. The rear addition is clearly discernible with large stepped parapets at the rear elevation and where it meets the original part of building. In 1936 the business was changed to the Harvey Motor Company. The Spear family originally occupied an upstairs apartment in the building. The building was outfitted with an elevator--a modern convenience in the early twentieth century. According to Sanborn maps, a two-part, two-story building stood on this property as early as 1908. The building was enlarged significantly to the rear between 1914 and 1925 when it became the Spear Motor Company. The 1969 city directory lists the occupant as Gurley-Dozier, Inc. (auto sales).

**WALL STREET**

**318 Wall Street**

**Warehouse – c.1911**

**Contributing Building**

*\*\*Located within the boundary of the Kinston Commercial Historic District, this building was not included in the original inventory.*

Located facing east to Wall Street, which bisects the block between North Queen and North Herritage streets, this one-story brick warehouse has a distinctive stepped parapet, behind which is a monitor roof. The building has two garage bays at the first-floor level, the south of which is enclosed with concrete block and has a single pedestrian door. A sign panel above the bays is outlined with rowlock-course brick. An arched, fixed window, centered in the parapet has a brick surround. The stepped parapet is arched at the center, above the arched window and extends above the monitor roof. It has a corbelled rowlock course of brick topped with concrete at the parapet. The south elevation is obscured by the remnant of the north wall of a now-gone brick building though the standing seam metal roof and fixed one-light windows at the monitor are visible on this elevation. The west and north elevations abut other buildings. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed as a warehouse between 1908 and 1914.

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**KINSTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY DECREASE**

**East Blount Street**

**Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot (GONE) – 1900, 2009**

The turn-of-the-twentieth-century brick depot was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 and was included in the Kinston Commercial Historic District in 1994. The building replaced an earlier depot on the site and represented the last extant railroad-related building in Kinston. The building was demolished in 2009 and the site remains vacant. The site is the only property on East Blount Street within the district boundary. Thus the removal of the property from the historic district boundary would not result in the removal of other listed properties, nor have an effect on the remainder of the Kinston Commercial Historic District.

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**KINSTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY INCREASE**

The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase expands the boundary of the Kinston Commercial Historic District in seven adjacent areas and by thirty-five primary resources. The boundary increase areas include: a c.1930 service station (area A); a c.1968 addition to the Gordon Street Christian Church (area D); commercial buildings and a warehouse immediately adjacent to the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic district, many constructed or modernized predominantly from the 1930s through the early 1960s (areas B, C, E, F, and G); and early twentieth century commercial and governmental buildings on the south end of the commercial core (area F).

The boundary increase areas were identified through a field survey of the Queen-Gordon Street Historic District, the Kinston Commercial Historic District, and all adjacent commercial areas. The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase represents the continued commercial development of Kinston through the mid-twentieth century. Buildings in the boundary increase areas were excluded from the original districts, because several buildings were either constructed or altered in the 1950s and 1960s, after the original period of significance, while other buildings were much simpler in form and detail than those in original districts. The Queen-Gordon Street Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District focused on the earliest commercial development in Kinston, associated with the growth of the city as a regional agricultural center and tobacco market and following a late-nineteenth-century fire. Though previously excluded, resources within the boundary increase are in keeping with the significance of the original district, representing the continued growth of Kinston through the mid-twentieth century. The existing districts together with the boundary increase areas more accurately reflect the full scope of twentieth-century building trends, including more modestly scaled and detailed early to mid-twentieth century commercial buildings.

The boundary of the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase was determined based on the density of contributing structures dating through 1968, the end of the period of significance, and by which time downtown Kinston was largely built out. The boundary excludes vacant land and parking lots on the east side of the district. Buildings on the west side of the district, particularly along the west side of Queen Street, have been significantly altered or replaced with newer buildings in the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Buildings to the north and south of the district and to the west of North Heritage Street do not retain sufficient integrity.

The period of significance for the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase aligns with the amended period of significance for the Kinston Commercial Historic District, 1895-1968, beginning with the construction of the 1895 Kinston Fire Station/City Hall (NR1989) and extending to 1968 the end of a campaign of mid-century building and remodeling in downtown Kinston.

The topography, street patterns and widths, sidewalk widths and materials, and presence of street trees in the seven boundary increase areas are consistent with that of the original Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District. Building and lot sizes and setbacks are also consistent throughout the existing districts and boundary increase areas. The exceptions are the setback of the Lenoir County courthouse on a large lot with landscaping between the sidewalk and building and the setback of the Standard Gas Station to allow for vehicular access to the gas pumps.

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**Boundary Increase Areas**

*A – 400 Herritage Street*

This expansion area includes a single resource: the very intact, c.1930 Standard Gas Station. The gas station is located at the northwest corner of the district expansion, adjacent to other automobile-related resources within the boundary of the Kinston Commercial Historic District.

*B– 116 West Blount Street*

This expansion area includes a single resource: the c.1920 Kinston Buick Company. The building is located at the northwest corner of the district expansion, adjacent to other automobile-related resources within the boundary of the Kinston Commercial Historic District.

*C – 300-block North Queen Street*

The two commercial buildings are the most intact buildings on this side of the block. Both constructed c.1928, the buildings have replacement storefronts, but intact upper floors. They are consistent with the architectural scale and massing of the adjacent Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District.

*D – 118 East Gordon Street*

This expansion area includes a single resource: the education wing of the Gordon Street Christian Church constructed c.1968. The building is not a separate resource, but is instead an addition to the Gordon Street Christian Church and located on the same parcel.

*E – 113-115 East Gordon Street and Tulls Alley*

The expansion area includes a single c.1948 commercial building facing East Gordon Street and a warehouse facing Tulls Alley, located to the rear of a building located within the existing Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District Boundary. Constructed within the extended period of significance, the buildings are consistent with the architectural scale and massing of the adjacent Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District.

*F – 100-blocks North and South Queen Street and 100-blocks East and West Caswell Street*

The largest of the seven expansion areas, the area includes nineteen buildings. The buildings are predominantly commercial buildings, though a 1955 Elks Lodge, 1895 Kinston Fire Station/City Hall, and the 1939 Lenoir County Courthouse are also located within the boundary increase area. Commercial buildings are all one to three stories in height, compatible with the scale and massing of those in the adjacent Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District. Several were constructed or modernized after 1941.

*G – 100- and 200-blocks North Queen Street and 100-block West Gordon Street*

The expansion area includes ten commercial buildings, the majority of which were either constructed or altered from the 1940s through the 1960s. The buildings date to the extended period of significance and illustrate the continued commercial development of Kinston through mid-century.

The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase includes thirty-one primary contributing buildings, five contributing objects, four primary non-contributing buildings, and two vacant lots. Three properties are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1939 Lenoir County Courthouse (NR1979), 120 South Queen Street
- 1895 Kinston Fire Station/City Hall (NR1989) 118 South Queen Street

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- c.1921 Standard Drug #2 (NR2014), 100 South Queen Street

**WEST BLOUNT STREET**

**116 West Blount Street**

**Kinston Buick Company – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

One of a number of automobile-related resources in this part of the district, this one-story, brick building is two bays wide and has a distinctive stepped parapet with concrete coping. The east bay has a modern, overhead garage door. The west bay has a large, modern eighteen-pane, aluminum-framed display window on a brick bulkhead. Above the first floor is a wide, stuccoed sign panel and a cast concrete cornice. The gabled roof behind the parapet is covered with metal and the west elevation, largely obscured by fencing, is blind. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925 as a Buick garage with repairs at the rear of the building. The 1923-24 and 1928 city directories list the Kinston Buick Company at this address. By 1948, the building was expanded to the east and continued to house “automobile sales and service” and the 1949 city directory lists Gurley Sales Company at this address.

**EAST CASWELL STREET**

**107 East Caswell Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building retains an original storefront and upper-level detailing. The storefront features two recessed entrance doors flanking a central display window. The entrance doors are each a one-light-over-one-panel door with four-light fanlight. The copper-framed display windows rest on a low brick knee wall. An original prismatic-glass transom spans the storefront, which is sheltered by flat metal canopy. Three replacement one-over-one windows at the second floor have concrete sills, are flanked by stretcher-course brick, a continuous soldier course brick lintel course, and soldier brick bands below. The stepped parapet has a soldier-course band and is topped with cast concrete coping. The east elevation is blind and has metal coping at the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. Among the earliest occupants were V. E. Weyher, physician, in 1928 and the Lenoir Beauty Shop in 1949. The 1969 city directory lists Dr. Mike Lee as the building’s occupant.

**108 East Caswell Street – VACANT**

**110 East Caswell Street**

**Elk’s Lodge No. 740 – c.1955**

**Contributing Building**

Originally constructed to house the Elk’s Hall, the large two-story, brick building features Modernist detailing including a Roman-brick veneer and flat concrete coping at the parapet. The west end of the first floor has an recessed entrance supported by a brick pier at the corner and sheathed with stacked-course brick. The entrance itself, paired metal-framed glass doors in a cast concrete surround, is obscured by concrete panels with a concrete surround on the façade. The terrazzo entry features the Elk’s seal and lodge number. The remainder of the façade is without doors or windows. The side elevations and a deep one-story rear ell have a plain, red-brick veneer and fixed one-light windows. Sanborn maps indicate that the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elk’s Lodge No. 740 occupied a house on this site as early as 1948. The organization constructed the current building in the 1950s.



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**WEST CASWELL STREET**

**106-108 West Caswell Street**

**Office Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building is four bays wide with brick pilasters separating the bays and brick dentil courses separating the first and second floors, above the sign panels at the second floor, and across the corbelled parapet. The first floor features fixed vinyl replacement windows above stuccoed panels in the center two bays. The outer two bays each have a replacement door with vinyl transom in a segmental-arch brick surround. Both are sheltered by fabric awnings. The center bays of the second floor each have a vinyl replacement window with a segmental-arch brick surround and a concrete sill that extends the full width of the bay between the pilasters. Blind segmental-arch panels are located in the outer two bays. Above each second-floor bay is a rectangular recessed sign panel located just below the brick dentil course. The east elevation has six second-floor windows, each a vinyl window with concrete sill and segmental-arch surround with projecting dripcap. Three segmental-arch brick openings at the first-floor level have been infilled with brick. The west elevation has matching windows, four at the first floor, four at the second floor, and one that is between floors, indicating that the entrance on the west end of the façade leads to a stairwell. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. The 1928 city directory lists Dr. I. M. Hardy and Benjamin Foxman, optometrist, at this location. By 1949, the building was occupied by Dr. Keffer's Chiropractic Clinic.

**110 West Caswell Street – VACANT**

**112 West Caswell Street**

**Lenoir Finance Company, Inc. – c.1960**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, Modernist-style brick commercial building is three bays wide with a plain brick veneer, two header courses on the upper part of the façade, and a parapet roof. The east bay has a recessed entrance with aluminum-framed glass door with one-light transom. To the east of the door are angled, aluminum-framed display windows on a brick knee wall with integrated brick planter. The center bay also has a recessed storefront, this one with an aluminum-framed glass door with sidelight and transom. An original brick planter with curved end is located under the aluminum-framed display windows. The west have has a twelve-light metal-framed window. The east elevation is blind, but the west elevation has an eight-light metal-framed window on its north end and three small, high windows to the south. The 1959 city directory lists the building as "under construction" and there is no listing for the address in 1961. The earliest known occupant is Lenoir Finance Company, Inc. in 1963.

**EAST GORDON STREET**

**113-115 East Gordon Street**

**Office Building – c.1948**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building is three bays wide at the first floor with storefronts flanking a centered entrance to the second floor. The east storefront is fully recessed with an aluminum-framed glass door on the west and large, plate-glass windows on the east with opaque panels below. The centered entrance is an aluminum-framed glass door. The west storefront is also fully recessed and features an aluminum-framed glass door with a single window to its west, resting on a brick knee wall. To its east is a brick wall with an integrated brick planter. The first floor is sheltered by a single fabric awning. The second floor is two bays wide, each bay with a three-part metal-framed window. The outer parts of each

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window are twenty-light fixed sashes and the center parts are twenty-light windows, which include a pair of operable four-light casement sashes. Projecting stringcourses span the façade above and below the second-floor windows. The stringcourses extend along the east and west elevations. Both side elevations have operable metal-framed casement windows and terra cotta coping at the parapet. The building appears on the 1948 Sanborn map and the 1949 city directory lists the occupants as physicians Bryan C. West (113) and Frank Sabiston (115) with two tenants at the second floor.

**118 East Gordon Street** – See inventory for Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District for description of the addition to the Gordon Street Christian Church.

**WEST GORDON STREET**

**104 West Gordon Street**

**Canady Barber Shop – c.1914**

**Contributing Building**

This small, one-story, brick commercial building is distinguished from the other buildings on this block by the brick corbelling above the storefront at that the parapet. The building has a replacement storefront with an inset entrance on the east end. The two-light-over-two-panel door has a one-light-over-one-panel side-light, a four-light transom, and is set within a paneled bay that is sheltered by an awning. To the west are two fixed vinyl windows on a vinyl-covered knee wall. The transom has been boarded. Pilasters flanking the storefront have corbelled caps and that align with a band of brick corbelling over the storefront. An inset sign panel is topped by the corbelled parapet. The east elevation has two door and two window openings. Windows are one-over-one wood-sash replacement windows. The south door is a solid metal door. The north door opening has been infilled with wood. All of the openings retain original segmental-arch openings with projecting dripcaps. The 1914 Sanborn map shows a “barber” at this address and the 1928 city directory lists F. B. Canady, a barber, at this location. The 1969 city directory lists the Kinston Barber Shop as the occupant.

**NORTH HERRITAGE STREET**

**400 North Herritage Street**

**Standard Gas Station – c.1930**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the northwest corner of North Herritage and West Blount streets, this one-story, box-and-canopy type gas station is located amidst a collection of historically automobile-related resources. The “box” has a brick base with stucco above. It has a one-light door centered on the façade and flanked by fixed windows. A five-part transom with three-light, Craftsman-style wood windows spans the façade under the canopy. The hip-roofed canopy is supported by vinyl-sided columns on brick piers and has a red tile roof. Vertical vinyl sheathing is located at the cornice. The building has paired windows on the north and south elevations. A one-story, flat-roofed, concrete-block wing extends across the rear (west) of the building and beyond the north elevation as a two-car service-bay garage with twelve-light-over-three-panel metal overhead doors. While a former owner noted that the building was constructed in 1926, by a Mr. Rouse, the 1928 city directory lists a residence at this address. The filling station, constructed for “Standard Gas and Motor Oil,” is in place on the 1930 Sanborn map. By 1969, the business was called Cecil’s Esso Service Station.

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**NORTH QUEEN STREET**

**101 North Queen Street**

**Wachovia Building – 1967**

**Contributing Building**

The two-story, flat-roofed Wachovia Building has New Formalist detailing including vertical aggregate concrete panels covering the façade and south elevation, each with segmental-arch openings at the first-floor level. Narrow windows are located between the panels at the second-floor level and the building is capped with a cornice with vertically striated concrete. The building is five bays wide and nine bays deep with fixed, aluminum-framed windows at both levels of the façade. First-floor arches on the south elevation are filled with vertically striated concrete matching the cornice, an original feature. County tax records date the building to 1967. While Wachovia is listed at this address as early as 1963, it is with other businesses at 103 and 105 North Queen Street, indicating that the current building had not yet been constructed.

**109-111 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1910, c.1965**

**Noncontributing Building**

Originally constructed as three separate storefronts, this two-story, brick commercial building was modified in the mid-1960s with the installation of a brick veneer on the upper part of the façade. The building has two replacement storefronts that likely date from the same remodel. The north storefront has a recessed entrance at the north end and fixed aluminum-framed windows on a black-brick bulkhead. The south storefront is nearly twice as wide and features a deeply recessed entrance with paired aluminum-framed doors with sidelights and transom. The doors are flanked by aluminum-framed display windows that project slightly over the stuccoed bulkhead. A continuous flat metal canopy shelters the storefronts. The brick above is divided into seven panels with projecting black brick separating the panels and flanking the upper part of the façade. According to Sanborn maps, a three-part, two-story commercial building appears on this site as early as 1914. The 1928 city directory lists the occupants as W. C. Fields and C. J. O'Quinn (107), Western Union Telegraph Company (109), Chamberlain & Braxton (111). From at least 1936 to 1963, City Barber Shop occupied the center space with Midyette Hardware in the north space from at least 1949-1963. As late as 1963 the building still had three businesses at 107, 109, and 111 North Queen Street, indicating that the current façade with only two storefronts post-dates 1963.

**113 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1910**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building has a decorative second floor with inset brick panels, segmental arch brick dripcourses over the windows, and a corbelled cornice. The first floor features an recessed storefront with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transom. A barrel-vaulted entry with tiled floor is centered on the doors, which are flanked by fixed windows on stuccoed bulkheads. There is a band of molded trim above the display windows at the transom level with the molding following the arch. The storefront is sheltered by a fabric awning. The second floor has three replacement one-over-one wood-sash windows, shorter than the original segmental-arch openings with blind panels filling the upper part of the openings. The windows are separated and flanked by inset square panels that when painted a contrasting color resemble shutters. A sign panel spans the top of the façade below the corbelled parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed prior to 1914. The 1928 city directory lists J. C. Dail & Company and W. D. LaRoque at this address along with the Tuxedo Club on the second floor. In 1969, the building was occupied by The Womens Co-Ed Shop and Lola Speight Alterations.

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**115 North Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1910, c.1959**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building was modernized about 1959 with stucco applied to the upper part of the façade. The building retains its original storefront configuration with a slightly inset entrance flanked by display windows. The paired one-light wood doors may be original and share a one-light transom. They are flanked by aluminum-framed display windows on a low metal-covered bulkhead. The storefront is sheltered by a flat metal canopy. The second floor features three pairs of four-light metal casement windows. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed prior to 1914. The 1928 city directory lists J. T. Skinner & Sons restaurant at this address with Baker Studio Photographers on the second floor. Skinner remained in the building through at least 1953 and the façade alterations likely date to 1959 when the building was occupied by Appliance Center Inc., a business that remained in the building through at least 1969.

**117-119 North Queen Street**

**McClellan Stores Building – c.1910, c.1970**

**Noncontributing Building**

A later brick veneer and metal screen cover the second floor of this two-story brick commercial building. The first floor features a replacement storefront with aluminum-framed windows separated by mirrored panels and resting on a low bulkhead. A recessed entrance near the south end of the façade has paired aluminum-framed glass doors. A flat metal canopy spans the width of the storefront. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed prior to 1914. The 1928 city directory lists McClellan Stores Company at this address with both second-floor units vacant. It is listed as a “10 cent store” on the 1925 and 1930 Sanborn maps and as late as 1963, the building was still occupied by McCrory-McClellans Corporation Variety Store, indicating that the façade changes may post-date McClellans tenancy.

**124 North Queen Street**

**H. Stadiem Building – c.1910, c.1965**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building appears on Sanborn maps as early as 1914, though the façade likely dates to the 1960s. The building features a recessed storefront with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and a three-part transom. It is flanked by fixed, aluminum-framed windows that overhang the bulkhead. The floor of the recessed storefront is multi-colored terrazzo with the words “H. Stadiem Since 1903” incorporated into the terrazzo design. The storefront is sheltered by a flat canopy. The second floor is covered with vertical metal sheathing that is framed by terrazzo panels. The walls on either side of the first-floor storefront are also the same terrazzo panels. The 1928 Sanborn map lists H. E. Moseley Hardware Company at this address, but by 1936 it was occupied by H. Stadiem (clothiers). Because H. Stadiem still occupies the building, the date of the façade is unknown.

**126 North Queen Street**

**Belk-Tyler Company Department Store Building – c.1935, c.1965**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story commercial building dates to the 1930s, but the current façade was likely installed in the 1960s. The building features a deeply recessed entrance with terrazzo floor, paired aluminum-framed doors on the south side, and a fixed display window on the north side (likely replacing the 1960s-era doors). The entrance and window are separated by a projecting bay with display windows on three sides. At both ends of the storefront are large display windows, all with aluminum frames resting on a polished marble-covered bulkhead. The walls on either side of the storefront, at the first-floor level, are also faced with polished green marble. The upper part of the façade features white tiles in a cast-concrete frame that is tinted green to match the marble. The building appears on Sanborn maps between 1930 and 1949,

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replacing a three-story building on the site. It was occupied by Belk-Tyler Company Department Store from at least 1936 to 1963.

**130 North Queen Street**

**John M. Little Jewelers Building – c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

This narrow, two-story commercial building features a Colonial Revival-style storefront sheltered by a fabric awning and a painted brick veneer at the second floor with three one-over-one wood-sash windows. The storefront has a multi-light, wood-framed, bay window on the north end that rests on a brick bulkhead. To the south is an inset nine-light-over-one-panel door with three-light transom. Board-and-batten covers the storefront above the door and windows. The building appears on Sanborn maps between 1930 and 1949, replacing a three-story building on the site. The 1935-1951 city directories list John M. Little Jewelers at this address followed by a string of bakeries in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

**132 North Queen Street**

**E. B. Marston Drug Company Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This one-story, brick commercial building has a replacement storefront with a slightly inset, aluminum-framed glass door with one-light transom flanked by aluminum-framed windows on a brick bulkhead. Above the storefront is a metal, pent roof that obscures most of the transom level. The upper part of the façade retains an inset sign panel set off by decorative corbelled and dogtooth brick bands above and below and brick corbelling at the parapet. The building appears as a drugstore on Sanborn maps as early as 1925. The city directories list E. B. Marston Drug Company at this address from at least 1928 to 1949.

**202 North Queen Street/109 West Gordon Street**

**Pearson's Building – c.1948, c.1990**

**Noncontributing Building**

Constructed about 1948 after a fire destroyed the earlier building on the site, this two-story brick commercial building was occupied by Pearson's, a men and boys clothing store, a business that remained in the building through at least 1969. The building has been significantly altered since 1985 with the installation of a new storefront featuring fixed windows on a concrete-block knee wall. There is a single aluminum-framed door on the south end of the façade, flush with the sidewalk. Cast-stone cornices over the storefront and atop the parapet may be original. The second floor is six bays wide and features replacement, fixed windows. The second and fourth bays have paired windows with blind fanlights outlined in tile and are located within shared, arched surrounds. The L-shaped building also has a storefront on West Gordon Street. This elevation also has a significantly altered storefront with an inset center section (a garage bay that leads to an interior parking deck), covered with inlaid wood and flanked by one-light doors that are flush with the sidewalk. A wide, stuccoed cornice spans the storefront. The second floor features a Roman-brick veneer and three fixed windows. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1948. The rear wing, facing West Gordon Street, was constructed after 1949, replacing or enlarging a one-story building on that site. The interior of the building was altered to serve as a parking garage with the shallow storefronts on North Queen Street concealing the parking behind them.

**206 North Queen Street**

**Rose's Department Store Building – c. 1955**

**Contributing Building**

The Roman-brick façade and bands of second-floor windows are typical of mid-century commercial architecture. The two-story building features an original aluminum-framed storefront with windows resting on a low bulkhead. The bulkheads on both the North Queen Street and West Gordon Street



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elevations are faced with a highly polished red marble or granite. The portions of wall on either side of the North Queen Street elevation are faced with the same material. The recessed entrance features two pairs of replacement doors and the entire storefront is sheltered by a flat canopy. The floor of the North Queen Street entrance is terrazzo and incorporates the name "Rose's" in the terrazzo design. A sign panel above the awning is framed with cast concrete. Two-light, metal-framed awning windows are grouped at the second-floor level and each group is framed with case concrete. The L-shaped building has a matching façade on West Gordon Street. The current two-story building replaced a one-story building on the site that is shown on the 1949 Sanborn map. City Directories indicate that the site/building was vacant in 1953 and was occupied by Rose's Department Store from at least 1959 to 1969.

**210 North Queen Street**

**Dave the Clothier Inc. Building – c.1943, c.1990**

**Noncontributing Building**

Likely constructed concurrent with the Nachamson's Department Store to the north, this one-story building has been altered with the installation of a replacement storefront and a large awning obscuring the original brickwork on the upper part of the building. The storefront features a recessed entrance and aluminum-framed windows on a stacked-bond brick knee wall. The building was occupied by Dave the Clothier Inc. from at least 1949 to 1969.

**212 North Queen Street**

**Nachamson's Department Store Building – c.1943**

**Contributing Building**

This Art Deco-style building is characterized by the glass block windows, vertical scoring in the cast concrete coping, and tiled bulkheads below the display windows. The two-story building features a recessed entrance with two pairs of aluminum-framed glass doors, each with a tall, shared transom. The doors are flanked by metal-framed windows resting on a tiled bulkhead of pink and grey triangular tiles. The window glass abut glass at the corners, with out metal framing. A metal awning spans the façade, sheltering the storefront. The second floor is sheathed with concrete panels and flanked by concrete pilasters with reeded tops. It features glass-block windows flanked by eight-light, metal-framed windows, all over a continuous concrete sill. The T-shaped building has a façade facing West North Street as well. This two-story façade has been altered with the installation of later aluminum-framed storefront windows and doors. The second floor has vertical metal sheathing and two-over-two horizontal-pane wood-sash windows. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1930 and 1949. Nachamson's Department Store is listed at the address in 1948 and 1953 with H. L. Green Company Department Store listed in the 1959, 1963, and 1969 city directories.

**216 North Queen Street**

**Standard Drug Company No. 1 – c.1945**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southwest corner of North Queen and West North streets, this two-story commercial building has an aluminum-framed storefront with a slightly inset entrance of paired aluminum-framed glass doors flanked by display windows. The bulkheads and the portion of the wall on either side of the storefront are faced with polished granite. The flooring within the inset is terrazzo. A flat metal canopy shelters the storefront and wraps the north corner of the building. The second-floor façade is blind with a Roman-brick veneer. The north elevation, facing West North Street, features three entrances near the rear of the building. The eastern most entrance access the first floor commercial space. The middle entrance (part of the vertical band of windows) provides access to the stairwell. The western most entrance appears to provide access to an area beneath the stairs or to a stairway to a basement. The second floor has a continuous band of grouped metal awning windows with each group of nine separate from the next by

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vertical metal sheathing. A vertical band of windows lighting the stairwell is located near the west end of the elevation. Though a drugstore stands on this site as early as 1914, county tax records date the building to 1945, which corresponds to a change in occupation from the Lenoir Drug Company, Inc. in 1936 to Standard Drug Company No. 1 in 1949. The building remained occupied by Standard Drug Company No. 1 until at least 1969.

**304 North Queen Street**

**Temple Drug Company Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building features a replacement storefront, but intact second-floor level. The storefront has a recessed entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with a shared transom and flanked by fixed windows on a stuccoed bulkhead. A transom spanning the storefront has been boarded and covered with an awning. The second floor features four one-over-one wood-sash windows with soldier-course lintels and cast concrete sills. A cast-concrete cornice spans the façade above the second-floor windows and below the parapet with concrete coping. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930, on which the building is listed as a drugstore with photos on the second floor. The 1928 city directory lists The Coble Studio in this location and from at least 1936 to 1963 Temple Drug Company is listed on the first floor. The 1969 city directory lists White Cross Drug Store as occupying the first floor and miscellaneous office tenants on the second floor.

**306 North Queen Street**

**Efird's Department Store Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building features a three-part façade with bays separated by stuccoed pilasters. The south bay has a single door leading to the stairs to the second floor. The center bay has aluminum-framed display windows on a stuccoed knee wall. The north bay has a recessed entrance with paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights, transom, and a display window to its north. The second floor has stacked aluminum-sash awning windows sheltered by fabric awnings. A narrow cast-concrete cornice spans the façade below the parapet. There are six bricked-in window openings on the second floor of the north elevation. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists Temple Brothers (306) and D. L. Bronstein (308) in this location. From at least 1936 to 1953 Efird's Department Store occupied the entire building.

**SOUTH QUEEN STREET**

**100 South Queen Street**

**Standard Drug No. 2 Building (NR2014) – c.1921, c.1950**

**Contributing Building**

Constructed between 1918 and 1924, Standard Drug No. 2 is a two-story, brick commercial building. A column, clad in mirrored panels, supports the northwest corner of the building, behind which is an inset corner entrance featuring paired aluminum-framed glass doors with sidelights and transom. To the south of the entrance are plate-glass windows on a brick knee wall. The transom level has been boarded and a flat metal canopy shelters the storefront and wraps around the north elevation. The second-floor features two sets of paired one-over-one wood-sash windows with concrete sills and soldier-course lintels that continue as a continuous band across the façade. An additional soldier course is located beneath the window sills and there are two matching courses in the parapet, which is topped with concrete coping. Display windows on the north elevation were enclosed with brick in the mid-twentieth century. A one-light door with sidelights and transom is near the east end of the north elevation with a two-part display window to its east. An aluminum-framed door at the far east end of the elevation has a one-light transom

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and leads to the second floor. The second-floor level of the north elevation is eight bays deep with paired one-over-one, wood-sash windows matching those on the façade. Brick soldier courses match those on the façade.

**101-105 South Queen Street  
Commercial Building – c.1928**

**Contributing Building**

Located at the southwest corner of South Queen and West Caswell streets, this large, two-story, brick commercial building has Art Deco detailing including panels with herringbone brick and cast concrete diamonds between the first and second floors. The façade is three bays wide with a recessed entrance between the south two bays. Storefronts retain original metal-framed windows on bulkheads faced with opaque black, pigmented structural glass. The storefronts are sheltered by a flat metal canopy and transoms above the canopy have been boarded. Bays on the second floor are separated by brick pilasters with cast concrete capitals supporting a concrete entablature. The decorative panels between the floors are framed with soldier-course brick. Original one-over-one wood-sash windows are arranged in groups of four on the façade, each group sharing a single concrete sill. The center windows in each group have been boarded. The parapet above the cornice has panels of stacked-bond brick framed with rowlock courses. The north elevation, facing West Caswell Street matches the Queen Street façade, though with slightly narrower bays that are only three windows wide at the second-floor level. Storefronts on this elevation have tiled bulkheads and two of the bays retain prismatic-glass transoms, though they have been painted. The concrete sidewalks on both elevations have glass vault lights or sidewalk prisms set into the concrete pavement, which serve to help light the building's basement space. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1925 and 1930. The 1928 city directory lists the building as partially vacant and partially housing the Farley Clothing Company. By 1936 it was home to the Stroud Drug Company (101), D. Pender Grocery (103), and New York Bargain House, dry goods (105). Through the mid-twentieth century it was home to a number of furniture companies.

**102 South Queen Street  
Rouse Building - c.1910**

**Contributing Building**

While the storefront has been replaced, this two-story, brick commercial building retains high material integrity at the second-floor level. The replacement storefront is fully inset with a single door on the north end, a one-light door with one-light sidelights and three-part transom; a fixed window near the center of the façade; and an inset door providing access to the second-floor on the south end of the façade. It is spanned by soldier-course lintel topped by a projecting cornice on cast-concrete cyma recta-shaped consoles. The second floor has two pairs of one-over-one wood-sash windows, each pair with a shared concrete sill and framed by soldier- and stretcher-course brick with concrete squares at the corners. A narrow inset sign panel spans the façade over the second-floor windows and above it is a tiled pent roof supported by paired sawn consoles. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map and is listed in both the 1928 and 1936 city directories as the Rouse Building. The 1969 city directory lists Larkins Clothing Store as the occupant.

**104 South Queen Street  
Commercial Building – c.1910, c.1957**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, commercial building has a mid-twentieth-century façade and a modern replacement storefront. The angled storefront features an inset, aluminum-framed glass door flanked by aluminum-framed windows on a brick bulkhead. It is flanked by fluted concrete pilasters and is sheltered by a flat metal canopy. The transom level above the canopy is covered with vertical sheathing. The upper floor is

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covered with aggregate concrete panels and has two window openings, each infilled with vinyl. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map the earliest known occupant is Abbott's Grocery & Market in 1936. The façade alterations may date to c.1957 when the building shared an address with the adjacent Brown Building. In 1969 the building was occupied by Oettinger Brothers Furniture.

**106 South Queen Street**

**Oasis Theater/Brown Building – c.1920**

**Contributing Building**

This three-story, brick commercial building with offices on the upper floors has a blonde brick veneer and a corbelled brick parapet. The building has a modern replacement storefront with aluminum-framed windows on a brick bulkhead flanking the slightly inset aluminum-framed glass door. A single door on the north end of the façade has an original glass block transom. A flat metal canopy spans the building, sheltering the storefront, and above it the transom has been boarded. The second- and third-floor levels are each three bays wide with paired vinyl windows with brick lintels and concrete sills. The top of the façade features an inset brick sign panel and brick corbelling at the parapet. According to Sanborn maps, the building was constructed between 1914 and 1925. It is listed as the Oasis Theater in the 1936 and 1949 city directories, however, city directories indicate that the building became known as the Brown Building sometime between 1953 and 1959.

**107 South Queen Street**

**Commercial Building – c.1910, c.1959**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story, brick commercial building has a distinctive blonde-brick veneer and concrete detailing. The building has a replacement storefront with aluminum-framed windows on a brick bulkhead and a single aluminum-framed door on the south end of the façade. A second door on the south end of the façade, leading to the second floor, is separated from the storefront by a brick pier. A wide concrete lintel spans the storefront. Stacked metal-framed awning windows at the second-floor level are stacked in groups of three and separated by brick panels. The entire "band" of windows is encircled with a concrete frame and there is a concrete cornice at the parapet. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map though the earliest known occupant is Yellow Front Market in 1936. The façade was likely installed about 1959 when the occupant changed from the Yellow Front Market to Lenoir Finance Company.

**109 South Queen Street**

**Caroon & Sons Grocery Building – c.1910**

**Contributing Building**

This two-story brick commercial building has a replacement storefront, but retains decorative geometric corbelled brickwork at the second-floor level. The storefront has a centered one-light door that is flanked by fixed windows on paneled aprons. A three-part transom spans the storefront and is sheltered by a fabric awning. Above the awning are stuccoed panels beneath a concrete cornice. Two replacement windows at the second-floor level are set within projecting bands of brick and angled brick above the windows replicates a stylized flat arch with keystone, though at a larger scale. A robust concrete entablature is located above the second-floor windows. The building appears on the 1914 Sanborn map, though the earliest known occupant is W. H. Caroon & Son, grocers, who occupied the building from at least 1936 to 1949. The 1969 city directory indicates the building was occupied at that time by the United Surplus Store.

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**108-114 South Queen Street**

**Caswell Hotel – 1906, c.1965, c.1990**

**Contributing Building**

Constructed in 1906 as an office building, the three-story, brick, Classical Revival-style commercial building was converted to a hotel soon after its construction. The building is five-bays wide at the ground floor level with two storefronts on each side of a centered entrance to the upper floors. Flanking one-story wings, each with a single storefront, were constructed later, but have been integrated into the façade of this building. The storefronts, separated by pilasters on rusticated stone bases, are sheltered by a continuous flat metal canopy. The north two storefronts likely date to the 1960s and feature aluminum-framed glass doors and display windows on Roman-brick bulkheads. The south two storefronts have been altered since 1985 and currently feature multi-light windows with rounded arch tops set in a stuccoed bay with a faux stone veneer on the lower one-third of the bay. The one-story wing on the south has the same façade treatment. The one-story wing on the north has a painted brick façade and an aluminum-framed storefront sheltered by a flat metal canopy. The center bay has a recessed entrance topped by a cast arch with embossed scrollwork and the date “1906.” A full-width cornice spans the façade, extending from each side of the centered arch. Upper level windows have all been replaced, but retain their original configuration with three windows each in the outer two bays and one window each in the center three bays. The upper window in the center bay has an arched surround, mimicking the first-floor arch. Windows have granite sills throughout. Second-floor windows have flat-arch granite lintels with keystones and third-floor windows have flat, continuous granite lintels that form a lintelcourse across the façade. Inset sign panels at the top of the façade are topped by a metal modillion cornice supported by paired consoles. Side and rear elevations are less decorative, constructed of red brick with segmental-arch window openings. A rear lightwell provides light to the second- and third-floor interior spaces, which remain largely intact.

**116-118 South Queen Street**

**Kinston Fire Station/City Hall (NR1989) – 1895, c.1920, c.1935**

**Contributing Building**

Constructed in 1895 to house the Kinston Fire Station with office for the city hall on the second floor, this two-story, brick building retains arched vehicular openings at the first floor level. The arched openings were infilled when the fire station moved to another building. They have arched wood doors with wide sidelights on paneled knee walls below a three-part arched transom. Two courses of rowlock brick are visible at the top of the arches, despite having been painted. A projecting stringcourse separates the first and second floors and three replacement one-over-one wood-sash windows at the second-floor level are bisected by two additional stringcourses. The windows have flat-arch brick lintels. The parapet, altered in the 1930s, has a dogtooth brick course and is capped by metal coping. Constructed between 1901 and 1906 to house an additional fire engine, a one-story bay on the north end of the façade now has a single pedestrian entrance and brick coping at the parapet. The south elevation, facing the Lenoir County Courthouse, is six bays deep, the west three bays featuring brick bands matching the façade. The east three bays are an addition that is simpler in detail with terra cotta coping at the parapet. The elevation has one-over-one wood-sash windows with flat-arch brick lintels. An entrance near the rear of the original building has a one-light transom and two entrances on the addition include one flanked by windows and sheltered by a metal awning on brackets and a second entrance, above the brick stoop, accesses the stairwell to the second floor. The rear wings were built in several stages, the earliest between 1908 and 1914. These, and later additions constructed between 1919 and 1925 were demolished and reconfigured over time. The fire department and city hall moved to a new building on West King Street in the 1930s and the building was renovated. A second floor at the rear was constructed after 1948. The building currently houses the Caswell No. 1 Fire Station Museum.



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**Lenoir County Courthouse (NR1979) – 1939-1940, 1983, 2011-2012 Contributing Building**

Designed by A. Mitchell Wooten and John J. Rowland, the 1939-1940 Lenoir County Courthouse was completed with the help of the Works Progress Administration. The building is prominently sited at the northwest corner of South Queen and East King streets, set back from the corner by a grassy lawn with several monuments. The three-story transitional Art Deco-Art Moderne-style building is accessed by a wide concrete stair. It is faced with limestone and accented by streamlined, stylized ornament. The clean modern design has a hint of classicism with its tetrastyle in antis portico of square fluted piers fronting the west façade. The frieze which is carried on the piers bears an inscription "Lenoir County Courthouse" and relief plaques of Native Americans smoking peace pipes frame the inscription. These unconventional ornaments are not only symbols of justice and peace, but also are associated with the history of the county. Tobacco leaf plaques, symbols of the backbone of the county's economy, appear in the spandrels of the main facade windows in the portico. The main entrance is centered behind the portico. A relief plaque of an Indian appears overhead and bronze geometric grilles line the transom and sidelights. The windows are arranged in vertical rows. On the projecting end bays and side elevations the metal spandrels are decorated with reeding and chevrons. A four-story, metal-framed glass wing projects from the rear of the building, connecting to a 1983 limestone wing that is similar in size and detailing to the main courthouse building. The south elevation of the wing has unbroken vertical bands of window with opaque spandrel panels between floors.<sup>1</sup> The area between the two limestone wings serves as a landscaped terrace. The rear wing has reeded limestone flanking the first-floor windows and vertical bands of fixed windows on the upper floors. A modern, five-story jail, constructed from 2011-2012, is located on an adjacent parcel to the east (outside of the district boundary). It is connected to the courthouse by a covered walkway.

**Town of Kinston Commemoration Marker, 1929 Contributing Object**

Located northwest of the courthouse, facing South Queen Street, the rusticated granite monument has an inset bronze plaque that commemorates the establishment of the town of Kinston in 1762, honors its first trustees, and notes the change of the town's name from Kingston to Kinston in 1784.

**Lenoir County WWI and WWII Memorial, c.1947 Contributing Object**

Located west of the courthouse, facing South Queen Street, the Art Moderne-style marble structure placed on a raised pediment base. The center is a vertical rectangle with an eagle etched in the top with outstretched wings. Below the eagle is an inscription, which is framed inside a recessed rectangle. The sides of the monument are plain marble panels that step down from the center face. They descend 2 and 1/2 feet shorter on either side of the center. These rectangular panels are also vertical and angle slightly back from the center face. On the left side panel facing the monument are the names of Lenoir County citizens who fought in WWI and on the right side panel are the names of those that fought in WWII. Slightly angled are slender vertical pieces of marble that finish the monument on either side. They are vertically etched down the front with long straight indentations to look like fluted columns.<sup>2</sup>

**Caswell Monument, 1908, 1934, unknown Contributing Object**

Located southwest of the courthouse at the northeast corner of South Queen and East King streets, is a granite obelisk honoring Richard Caswell, the first governor of North Carolina. The obelisk rests atop a darker granite plinth, with the entire structure sitting on a three-tier base. The top part of the base has

<sup>1</sup> Description based on the 1979 National Register nomination.

<sup>2</sup> University of North Carolina, "Lenoir County WWI and WWII Memorial, Kinston," *Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina*, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/commiland/monument/368> (accessed November 2020).

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“Caswell” written in raised lettering. The four sides of the dark granite plinth are inscribed with passages honoring Caswell and the Masonic symbol is located on the obelisk itself. An original monument to Caswell was constructed in 1881 and stood at the intersection of Queen and Caswell streets. However, after repeated damage, it was replaced in 1908, and eventually removed in 1934.<sup>3</sup> It was later erected on the site of the 1939-40 Lenoir County Courthouse.

**Drinking Fountain, c.1940**

**Contributing Object**

Located southwest of the courthouse, just northeast of the intersection of South Queen and East King streets, the concrete fountain was likely erected soon after the current courthouse was constructed. The fountain features a central, rectangular mass from which drinking basins extend to the right and left. A ground-level basin with spout provided water for animals.

**Old Courthouse Bell, c.1880**

**Contributing Object**

The large brass bell, hanging from a metal structure on a marble base is located south of the courthouse, within a small plaza created between the 1939-40 courthouse and the 1983 annex. A small brass plaque on the metal frame reads “Old Courthouse Bell.” Though the date of the bell is now known, it likely dates from the 1880 courthouse that stood on the site and was demolished for the construction of the existing courthouse. A marble bench, matching the marble base supporting the bell, is located to its west.

**TULLS ALLEY**

**Tulls Alley**

**Warehouse – c. 1920**

**Contributing Building**

Located to the rear (south) of 109 and 111 East Gordon Street, this small warehouse is accessed by an alley that bisects the block between North Queen and North McLewean streets. The one-story, brick building is constructed in a five-to-one common bond and has brick coping at the parapet. The north elevation is blind and the west and south elevations each have a single segmental-arch loading bay with metal-covered door. The bays have concrete sills and three courses of rowlock brick at the header. Constructed between 1914 and 1925, the building is listed on the 1925 Sanborn map as “Lime, Cement, & Implements Warehouse.”

**Integrity Statement**

The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District Additional Documentation and the Kinston Commercial Historic District Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase areas retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The districts and boundary increase areas retain their original street patterns, scale, and building setbacks. Individual buildings retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Although most buildings are vernacular commercial buildings, also present are sophisticated buildings that reflect national stylistic trends, demonstrating the town’s desire for modernization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All three areas also reflect periods of updating existing buildings to maintain a progressive and modern appearance, including 1930s additions of glass or metal panels, and 1950s and 1960s storefront replacements and brick veneer or metal coverings on upper floors. In some instances, what may appear to be unsympathetic changes to the buildings, in fact occurred within the period of significance (1895-1968). In spite of these changes the district retains integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, and feeling to convey the

<sup>3</sup> University of North Carolina, “Governor Caswell Monument, Kinston,” *Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina*, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/commiland/monument/210> (accessed November 2020).

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importance of downtown Kinston as a center of trade for the surrounding farming and manufacturing operations with a strong central business district of professional services, wholesale and retail businesses, banking institutions, and governmental organizations. Together the elements of the district and boundary increase areas retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey the district's historic feeling and association.

**Archaeological Statement**

The Kinston Commercial Historic District is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological deposits and remnant landscape features such as road beds and paths, infrastructural remains related to the management of water, waste, and energy, filled-in privies and wells, debris that accumulated in the district from commercial and domestic activities, and structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the district.

Structural remains likely present in the Kinston Commercial Historic District include those of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century enterprises such as the Kinston Machine Works, A. Harvey Tobacco Prize House, Central Tobacco Warehouse, and C.T. Randolph Carriage Factory. The district may also contain archaeological resources associated with a variety of businesses including a cotton exchange, peanut storage, bottling house, hotels and boarding houses, restaurants and barbeques, grocers, banks, jewelers, liveries, laundries, cobblers, salons, pool houses, undertakers, and an array of specialty shops. Also present may be remains of community institutions such as the Free Will Baptist Church, Masonic Lodge #2, a telegraph and later telephone exchange, post offices, a business college, and earlier iterations of the Lenoir County Courthouse. Archaeological remains of a broad socioeconomic spectrum of housing types in portions of the district later converted to commercial use may also be present, which are classified on Sanborn maps as dwellings, shanties, tenements, and after 1901 specifically "Negro tenements."

Information can be obtained from archaeological investigations to address topics significant in Kinston's history, such as commerce, politics and government, and industry. Information concerning the character of daily life in the district, changes in the relationship between commercial and domestic space over time, as well as structural details and landscape use, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Archaeological investigations can also yield details concerning pivotal moments in Kinston's history, such as redevelopment activities after the fire that gutted the commercial district in 1895. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the Kinston Commercial Historic District. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and these potential remains should be considered in any future development within the district.

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## 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Industry

Social History

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1895-1968

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Benton & Benton

Mallard, L. L.

Rowland, John J.

Wooten, A. Mitchell



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**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 Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. It is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Commerce, as well as Criterion C for Architecture. The district comprises the most concentrated collection of relatively intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and institutional buildings in the city. It represents the city's growth during the period of significance, 1895 to 1939, and its development as the Lenoir County seat, an important tobacco market, and a major commercial center in eastern North Carolina. The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District contains buildings representing popular architectural styles, including Italianate, Beaux Arts, Moderne, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Spanish Colonial.

The Kinston Commercial Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 and serves as a Boundary Increase for the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District. The Kinston Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Commerce, as well as Criterion C for Architecture. Since the expansion represented a much greater percentage of Kinston's commercial core than the original Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, the name was changed to the more applicable Kinston Commercial Historic District. The expanded district more fully illustrates Kinston's importance during the early twentieth century as a regional tobacco market and commercial center for eastern North Carolina. The expansion area includes buildings associated with the automotive industry, grocers, clothiers, restaurants, and offices, representing the commercial, service, and professional growth of Kinston during the expanded period of significance, 1896 to 1941. Architectural styles represented in this expansion area include the popular Art Deco, Classical Revival, and Moderne.

The period of significance for the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and the Kinston Commercial Historic District align with the years covered by the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina" Multiple Property Documentation Form, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Associated historic contexts include "Kinston's Era of Accelerating Prosperity, 1890-1941," and associated property types include "Late 19<sup>th</sup>/Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings" and Late 19<sup>th</sup>/Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Institutional Buildings."

The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Commerce. Kinston is located at nearly the geographic center of Eastern North Carolina, and therefore served as a natural center for trading, transportation, and professional services in the region. Located on important railroad and river transportation lines, Kinston served as the commercial hub for tobacco farmers in the region, as well as those who worked in the local buggy manufacturing, textile, and lumber industries. The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District represents the commercial growth of Kinston at the turn of the twentieth century and includes impressive buildings that housed hardware, grocery, drug, and department stores, professional offices, banks, theaters, and post offices. The Kinston Commercial Historic District represents Kinston's growth in the 1920s and 1930s, and includes additional clothing, grocery, drug, and department stores, restaurants, and automobile dealerships and service stations. The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase represents the continued growth of the city through the mid-twentieth century, as well as the operation of city and county government. The

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Boundary Increase is significant under Criterion A for Commerce due to the inclusion of the Sumrell and McCoy Building (NRHP 1989), which was listed for its representation of Kinston's early-twentieth-century wholesale grocery industry that served the surrounding farming population.

The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase is also significant at the local level under Criterion A for Industry as an important center for the tobacco industry in Lenoir and the surrounding counties during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Following a devastating fire in 1895, the establishment of the Kinston bright leaf tobacco market facilitated the regrowth of the city. Kinston's tobacco market became one of the largest in the state and operated from 1895 into the late twentieth century. Multiple railroads and the navigable Neuse River connected Kinston to other major tobacco markets in the Golden Belt. The success of tobacco agriculture brought a boom of growth to Kinston around the turn of the twentieth century and helped stabilize the Kinston economy during both World Wars and the Great Depression. Tobacco warehouses, as well as numerous stemming, redrying, and storage facilities, were constructed on the fringes of downtown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although few tobacco-related buildings remain extant, and none remain within the boundaries of the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase, tobacco remained the primary industry in Kinston throughout the period of significance and had a significant impact on the growth of the Boundary Increase area during that time.

The Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase is also significant at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District each retain representative examples of commercial architecture constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while the Boundary Increase also includes commercial architecture dating to the mid-twentieth century. These buildings follow the same styles and forms as those within the earlier historic districts and demonstrate the steady growth of Kinston from 1895 through the 1960s. Architectural styles prominent in the Boundary Increase include Classical Revival, Romanesque Revival, Art Deco, Moderne, and Modernist.

Two properties within the Boundary Increase have been listed individually in the National Register. Standard Drug No. 2, listed in 2014, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Social History for the role of its lunch counter as a meeting place for town leaders and as the site of Civil Rights activities in the 1960s. The Kinston Fire Station/City Hall, listed in 1989, is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Politics/Government as the earliest surviving building in Kinston built specifically to serve a municipal function. The Lenoir County Courthouse, listed in 1979, is also significant at the local level under Criterion A for Politics/Government as part of the Courthouses in North Carolina Thematic Nomination as an exceptional example of public architecture and for its importance as the center of power and law in rural Lenoir County.

Like the Queen-Gordon Street Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District, the earliest resources in the Boundary Increase also date to 1895. While the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District includes primarily civic and commercial buildings built 1895-1939, and the Kinston Commercial Historic District added additional commercial, social services, and manufacturing-related buildings dating 1896-1941, the Boundary Increase includes additional retail, professional, and civil buildings dating from 1895 to 1968. Therefore, the Period of Significance for the Boundary Increase begins in 1895, with the construction of the Kinston Fire Department/City Hall, and extends to 1968 the end of a campaign of

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mid-century building and remodeling. The revised Period of Significance for the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District Additional Documentation and for the Kinston Commercial District Additional Documentation align with the 1895-1968 Period of Significance for the Boundary Increase.

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

**HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CONTEXTS**

**Early Settlement – 1849 to 1895**

Kinston is located in the northeastern portion of Lenoir County in eastern North Carolina. It was established in 1791 and named for William Lenoir, a Revolutionary War soldier and statewide political leader from western North Carolina. Lenoir County is an irregularly shaped 400 square mile area with generally level terrain and sandy soil. The Neuse River runs west to east through the center of the county, passing through Kinston on its way toward the Pamlico Sound on the North Carolina coast.<sup>4</sup>

Kinston was first settled in the mid-1700s on the banks of the Neuse River, about two miles west of Dibble's Boat Landing, an important river crossing at that time located in Craven County. In 1746, Johnston County was created from a portion of Craven County, which included the future site of Kinston, and in 1758 Dobbs County was formed from a portion of Johnston County, which also included what would become Kinston. Kinston was established on 100 acres of land owned by William Herritage, for whom present-day Herritage Street is named. The town was sited on Atkins Bank, a bluff overlooking the Neuse River where a tobacco warehouse and church already stood. It received its royal charter in 1762 and was originally named "Kingston" in honor of King George III. The main streets were named King and Queen streets, while the boundaries of the town were East, North, and South streets, as well as the Neuse River to the west. Additional streets were named for the town's trustees, John Shine, Simon Bright, Richard Caswell, David Gordon, Francis McLewean, and Governor Arthur Dobbs, although Dobbs Street was later renamed Independent Street after the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows and is now known as Independence Street. In 1779, Wayne County was established from a portion of Dobbs County, and Kingston became the county seat of Dobbs County. Dobbs County was divided into Glasgow (later Greene) County and Lenoir County in 1781. In 1784, the town was renamed "Kinston," and it became the

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<sup>4</sup> Allison Black, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1989, Section B, 2 (hereafter referred to as "Black, MPDF"); Mike Kohler, "200 Years of Progress: A Report of the History and Achievements of the People of Lenoir County" (Kinston, NC: Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and Kinston-Lenoir County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 10, North Carolina Collection, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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county seat of Lenoir County.<sup>5</sup> Lenoir County's first courthouse was constructed at the intersection of Queen and King streets in the 1780s or 1790s.<sup>6</sup>

By 1800, the town had just over one hundred residents, both free and enslaved. Growth was slow over the next few decades, stunted by limited availability of farmland, poor soils from overuse, and epidemics of malaria, yellow fever, and typhoid fever. The General Assembly attempted to incorporate the town in 1826, however, the selected officials did not qualify for office.<sup>7</sup>

In the 1840s and 1850s, Kinston experienced a period of growth fueled by the introduction of commercial fertilizers, which resulted in the revitalization of Lenoir County's overworked soils, and the popularity of cotton as a major cash crop. Around 1830, a new brick courthouse was built at Queen and King streets on the site of the earlier building, but was destroyed by fire in 1878 when a clerk of the court set fire to the building and all its records.<sup>8</sup> Kinston was re-incorporated in 1849 and grew to 455 people by 1850, benefitting from its role as the county seat and its position on the Neuse River, an important trade route in eastern North Carolina. Growth was further facilitated by the construction of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in 1857, which connected Goldsboro to Morehead City through Kinston. By 1860, the population had grown to 1,333 people and the first industries had begun operations. Churches were constructed on the downtown landscape to serve the growing population during this time, including a frame church and parsonage for the Missionary Baptist congregation and a frame church serving the Methodist congregation.<sup>9</sup>

During the Civil War, Kinston was a contested town due to its location on the Neuse River and the railroad lines. As the armies marched through the area, many of Kinston's homes and businesses were occupied by both Union and Confederate officers. The Battle of Kinston took place in December of 1862, when Union forces under General John G. Foster attacked Kinston, shelling the town and driving out Confederates led by General Nathan Evans. In 1863, the *CSS Neuse* was built on Neuse River near

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<sup>5</sup> Janet Haseley, "First Kinston Streets Named," Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place, Lenoir Community College, Kinston, North Carolina (hereafter referred to as "Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place"); Jennifer Shrader, "Street names a reflection of history," Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 1936-1937, 3-5, 8, Heritage Place, Lenoir Community College, Kinston, North Carolina; Black, MPDF, Section B, 1-2; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 35, 54, 56. Note: William Herritage also has the alternate spelling "Heritage."

<sup>6</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 2, 6, Heritage Place; Mary Ann Lee and Joe Mobley, "Courthouses in North Carolina (a thematic nomination)," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1979, the courthouse was built in 1792; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 70; Lenoir County, "About Lenoir County," *Lenoir County, North Carolina*, <http://www.co.lenoir.nc.us/history.html> (accessed May 2019). Note: Several construction dates exist in the historical record. According to the Lenoir County website, the first courthouse was built in 1779; according to Kohler and Lewis School Sixth Grade, it was built in 1784; and according to Lee and Mobley, it was built in 1792.

<sup>7</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 4, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 2-3; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 58.

<sup>8</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 2, 6, Heritage Place; Mary Ann Lee and Joe Mobley, "Courthouses in North Carolina (a thematic nomination)," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1979; Black, MPDF, Section B, 4; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 70.

<sup>9</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 4, 11, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 3-5; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 58.

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Kinston, and then outfitted with iron from James Webb's machine shop on East Street. Once launched, the ironclad remained in service near Kinston, but was destroyed by its own sailors before it could be captured by General John M. Schofield's advancing Union forces in 1865. The Battle of Wyse Fork took place about five miles east of Kinston that March when General Schofield and General Jacob D. Cox faced General Braxton Bragg's Confederate troops. Although the Confederates captured 1,500 Union soldiers and three pieces of artillery, Federal reinforcements forced Bragg to retreat.<sup>10</sup>

The town struggled during the Civil War and its immediate aftermath, especially as Lenoir County's agricultural economy recovered from damaged fields and the loss of its labor force. Immediately following the war, cotton, turpentine, and lumber remained Kinston's primary products.<sup>11</sup> Rice was grown near Kinston as well during that time, and taken to New Bern for processing.<sup>12</sup>

By 1880, the town had begun to grow again, with the population increasing from 1,103 in 1870 to 1,726 in 1880. During this period of growth, the town's commercial center began to shift away from Heritage Street and the Neuse River toward Queen Street with the construction of several one-story frame commercial buildings.<sup>13</sup> Early businesses included a hotel operated by Dr. W.A.J. Pollack, Oettinger Brothers dry goods store, Lemuel Harvey's mercantile, insurance, and fertilizer businesses, the *Kinston Free Press* newspaper, and an Opera House with several businesses located on its first level, including the 1879 Loftin's Bank.<sup>14</sup> Jesse Willis Grainger started a sales business in 1880, offering carriages, wagons, farming machinery, and fertilizers. In 1898, Grainger partnered with D.A. Dixon, and by the 1930s the business was known as Dixon Sons & Company.<sup>15</sup>

The downtown commerce was supported in part by local industry, which started to become important to Kinston's economy in the late nineteenth century and which brought new residents to Kinston who patronized the downtown businesses. In 1891, a group of local businessmen established the Orion Knitting Mills, which produced hosiery, followed by the Kinston Cotton Mills in 1898 to supply the cotton to the knitting mill. The mills continued in operation together until about 1923.<sup>16</sup> The manufacture of carriages was another major industry in Kinston, with Ellis Carriage Works opening in 1886 at 126 West Blount Street near the railroad depot, which remains extant. Additional carriage factories were operated by the Washingtons, James and George Webb, the Dibbles, and the Randolphs. Other early industries included John and George Washington's shoe factory and the Hines Brothers Lumber Company.<sup>17</sup> The Weldon-Kinston branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was completed in 1890, and a naval battalion was stationed in Kinston as early as 1895 as well.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 11-13, 17-20, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 5-9. Note: The Battle of Wyse Fork is also known as the Battle of Wise's Forks or the Second Battle of Kinston.

<sup>11</sup> Black, MPDF, Section B, 9.

<sup>12</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 91.

<sup>13</sup> Black, MPDF, Section B, 5-9.

<sup>14</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 28-32, Heritage Place.

<sup>15</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 29, Heritage Place.

<sup>16</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 33-34, Heritage Place; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 101.

<sup>17</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 27, 32, Heritage Place; *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Powell, *Annals of Progress*,



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**Bright Leaf Tobacco – 1895 to 1920**

In February 1895, a major fire broke out in the downtown commercial core. The fire began in the stables owned by Bryan Fields, and destroyed most of the downtown stores and homes. This fire was followed by a series of additional smaller fires over the next few months. It was later discovered that Fields and an employee had hired four African American men to set fire to the buildings, although none were convicted.<sup>19</sup> However, the town recovered quickly, rebuilding with brick. By 1900, the downtown area again had hardware, furniture, grocery, jewelry, and drug stores, and banks for both white and African American patrons.<sup>20</sup> In 1896, a public library was established by the Literary Club, and the town's dentist offered space in his office at 202 North Queen Street (now replaced) to house the Club's books.<sup>21</sup> Oettinger Brothers had rebuilt their dry goods store and added a furniture department, the *Kinston Free Press* had acquired a new building, and Quinn and Miller furniture opened in 1898. George B. Webb served as the undertaker and had two hearses, as well as operating his father's carriage factory, inventing the Webb Ice Shaver and Crusher, and later serving as mayor of Kinston.<sup>22</sup> A fire station was built at 118 South Queen Street in 1895 in immediate response to the fire, and also housed city hall. It remains one of the oldest brick buildings in downtown Kinston, and now houses the Caswell No. 1 Fire Station Museum.<sup>23</sup> The Lenoir County Courthouse had been rebuilt in 1880 and survived the downtown fire. It was located at the intersection of Queen and King streets, which rapidly became the primary intersection in the downtown commercial district.<sup>24</sup>

The town invested heavily in its infrastructure in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Immediately following the 1895 fire, artesian wells were dug and water was pumped to eleven fire hydrants and as many as fifteen customers on Queen Street.<sup>25</sup> In 1897, the Board of Alderman established a Utilities Department to operate the town's power plant. Thirty street lights and five hundred lamps were installed for the downtown streets, businesses, and homes. Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company

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99, 101; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 27, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 12-14; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 100, 102.

<sup>18</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 89; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 83.

<sup>19</sup> Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 71.

<sup>20</sup> *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Black, MPDF, Section B, 12-14.

<sup>21</sup> Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 142.

<sup>22</sup> *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; "Ice Shaver Invented Here," Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>23</sup> "Caswell No. 1 Fire Station Museum" brochures, City and County Ephemera, Box 47, Lenoir County, Folder 2, North Carolina Collection, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (hereafter referred to as "North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH"); *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH.

<sup>24</sup> *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Lee and Mobley, "Courthouses in North Carolina"; Black, MPDF, Section B, 10-12; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 70.

<sup>25</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 93-94; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 38, Heritage Place; Talmage C. Johnson and Charles R. Holloman, *The Story of Kinston and Lenoir County* (Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1954), 176, North Carolina Collection, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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installed a telephone exchange in 1900.<sup>26</sup> In 1903, the electrical system was expanded and updated, and the town also made waterworks, sewer, and fire alarm improvements.<sup>27</sup> Street improvements began in 1904, paving Queen Street with brick, building wide concrete sidewalks, and installing water mains, sewers, and drainage. By 1915, most of the remaining major streets downtown had been paved as well.<sup>28</sup>

The downtown businesses benefitted further during this period from the establishment of a bright leaf tobacco market, an effort led by local businessman Jesse Willis Grainger. Cotton prices had been steadily dropping, and farmers in Lenoir County had already had some success with tobacco by the 1870s. In 1895, Grainger encouraged tobacco cultivation in Kinston by purchasing and distributing tobacco seed to local farmers, then building the Kinston-Carolina Warehouse at 112-116 East Washington Street in which to store and auction the crop locally. Although only forty-five acres were grown in the county that season, over 800,000 pounds of tobacco were sold at the Kinston-Carolina Warehouse from Lenoir and the surrounding counties. The following year, a second warehouse had been built, the Atlantic Warehouse at Herritage and Washington streets, and together the two warehouses sold around three million pounds of tobacco grown in Lenoir, Duplin, Jones, Onslow, and Greene counties. In 1898, the Eagle Warehouse became the third warehouse in Kinston, located at 200 East Lenoir Street, and the three warehouses sold approximately five million pounds of tobacco. The Central Warehouse was constructed the following year at 300 North Herritage Street, and by that time Kinston also had four stemmeries, five prize houses, and a steamery owned by the American Tobacco Company of Durham. Kinston's tobacco buildings were located just north of the downtown core.<sup>29</sup>

Access to a growing transportation network was important for Kinston's growth in the early twentieth century. Tobacco was shipped on the Weldon-Kinston branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad, and the Neuse River Steamboat line to processing facilities in other cities of the Golden Belt.<sup>30</sup> In 1911, the state approved funding for the Central Highway to be constructed from Morehead City through Kinston to Raleigh, Greensboro, Salisbury, and Asheville. The highway became NC Highway 10 and is now part of NC Highway 70.<sup>31</sup> In 1919, the Lenoir County Highway

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<sup>26</sup> "Telephone Expansion Here Keeps Pace with City Too," *Kinston Free Press*, November 23, 1957, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 14; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 138; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 176.

<sup>27</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 93-94; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 38, Heritage Place; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 176.

<sup>28</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 39, Heritage Place; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 176.

<sup>29</sup> *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 101; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 34-35, Heritage Place; "Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina," 2, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 10-12.

<sup>30</sup> *The Kinston Free Press – Industrial Issue*, September 2, 1899, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 101; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 34-35, Heritage Place; "Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina," 2, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 10-12.

<sup>31</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 90; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 88.

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Commission was established, and roads were constructed from Kinston to New Bern, Greenville, Goldsboro, and other Eastern North Carolina towns.<sup>32</sup>

Kinston's population grew from 1,726 people in 1890 to 4,106 people in 1900 and to 9,771 people by 1920.<sup>33</sup> This continued growth was due in part to the prosperity of the newly established bright leaf tobacco market and burgeoning local industries, but social services also became major employers that brought new residents to Kinston. The North Carolina School for the Feeble Minded opened in 1911 about two miles from Kinston to serve those with developmental disabilities. In 1915, the school's name was changed to Caswell Training School. The school admitted boys and girls ages six to twenty-one and women ages twenty-one to thirty.<sup>34</sup> The Kennedy Memorial Home, operated by the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage, was established in 1912 about seven miles from Kinston. The first dormitory was built by 1914 and the first seven children were admitted. A second dormitory was built in 1917, followed by a chapel in 1919.<sup>35</sup> In 1906, the McDaniel Memorial Hospital, later called the Parrott Memorial Hospital, was opened in a house on East Gordon Street. The hospital accepted a limited number of charity cases, and served both white and African American patients. In 1914, a nurses training school was added. This facility operated until 1973 and the buildings were demolished a few years later. In the late 1920s, Memorial General Hospital opened, and it was expanded several times in the 1930s and 1940s. The hospital was gifted to Lenoir County around 1950, and it was replaced by Lenoir General Hospital in 1973.<sup>36</sup>

To serve the rapidly growing population, new businesses and services came to the downtown commercial district. The First National Bank opened in 1906 at 201 North Queen Street, followed by the Bank of Kinston at 136 North Queen Street and the Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1925 at 200 North Queen Street. This intersection was complete with the construction of the Canady Hardware Store at 131 North Queen Street. The combination of these impressive buildings made this an important intersection of the white commercial district, and all four buildings remain extant.<sup>37</sup> Nearby at 301 North Queen Street, a

<sup>32</sup> Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 85; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 181.

<sup>33</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston, North Carolina," *Hill Directory Co.'s Kinston, N.C. City Directory, 1923-1924* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., 1923), 6-8, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1923-1924); Black, MPDF, Section B, 14.

<sup>34</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924; Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Black, MPDF, Section B, 18; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 178-179.

<sup>35</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 97; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 179-180.

<sup>36</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 96-97; City Directory, 1923-1924; Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston, North Carolina," *Hill's Kinston, North Carolina City Directory, 1928* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., 1928), 11-16, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1928); S. Bruce Petteway, "LMH got its start as Memorial General Hospital," *Kinston Free Press*, 2000, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place; Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 37-38, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 17; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 176-177.

<sup>37</sup> Black, MPDF, Section B, 15.

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new United States Post Office building was constructed in 1914 and also remains extant.<sup>38</sup> The town also had a police department, and newspaper by 1913, as well as twelve white churches.<sup>39</sup>

Meanwhile, the African American business district on Queen Street south of King Street, just outside the Kinston Historic District and Boundary Increase, was also experiencing significant growth. This area included hotels, barber shops, grocery stores, cleaners, shoe shops, a bakery, a drug store, restaurants, banks, and a theater.<sup>40</sup> The Dime Bank and the Holloway, Murphey & Co. Bank served African American patrons, and there were also six African American churches by 1913.<sup>41</sup> A Jewish population also came to Kinston in the early 1900s, and they opened dry goods and retail stores. A rabbi arrived in 1904 and established the Tiphereth Israel Temple, which utilized several downtown buildings before constructing a temple west of town on Vernon Avenue in 1954 and changing its name to Temple Israel.<sup>42</sup>

Industry and agriculture also experienced continued growth in the early twentieth century that brought new residents and helped fuel the growth of the downtown businesses. By 1913, four carriage factories were in operation, including Ellis Carriage Works, J.T. Whitfield Carriage Factory, J.E. Hudson Carriage Factory, and W.J. Redd Wagon and Cart Factory. New textile operations included Kinston Spinning Company's Silk Mill and Caswell Cotton Mills, in addition to the existing Kinston Cotton Mills and Orion Knitting Mills. Other industries included a furniture factory, wholesale groceries, a mattress factory, steam laundry, bakery, an oil and ice company, fertilizer companies, brick and lumber companies, woodworking plants, and iron and mantel works.<sup>43</sup> The tobacco market still had four auction warehouses, including the Kinston-Carolina Warehouse (operated by the Knott Brothers and sometimes referred to as the Knott Warehouse), Atlantic Warehouse, Central Warehouse, and Eagle Warehouse, which together sold over twelve million pounds of tobacco during the 1913 season. Four tobacco processing factories were operated by E.V. Webb & Company, the British-American Tobacco Company, Imperial Tobacco Company, and C.R. Dodson & Company, and the two storage warehouses were the British-American Warehouse and Kinston Storage.<sup>44</sup> Twenty thousand bales of cotton were sold during the 1913 season, and much of the cotton remained in Kinston's own cottonseed oil or textile mills. Kinston's farmers also produced rice, corn, beans, peas, cabbage, asparagus, lettuce, beets, celery, tomatoes, cucumbers, turnips, potatoes, and parsnips, as well as strawberries and other berries, cantaloupes and other melons, and peaches.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Black, MPDF, Section B, 15-16.

<sup>39</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH.

<sup>40</sup> Black, MPDF, Section B, 15.

<sup>41</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH.

<sup>42</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Black, MPDF, Section B, 15.

<sup>43</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; Black, MPDF, Section B, 14-15.

<sup>44</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston and Lenoir Co. N.C.," 1913, North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH; "Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina," 2, Heritage Place; Black, MPDF, Section B, 18.

<sup>45</sup> "Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina," 2, Heritage Place, Lenoir Community College, Kinston, North Carolina; "Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina," 2, Heritage Place

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**The Challenges of War and Depression – 1920 to 1950**

Growth began to slow in the 1920s, in part due to World War I and then later because of the Great Depression. Still, the population increased from 9,771 people in 1920 to 11,363 people in 1930, and the city annexed large areas of land to the west, north, and east of the original boundaries. Although economic difficulties caused banks to close and business to fail in Kinston, the tobacco market continued to thrive and helped stabilize Kinston's economy through challenging conditions.<sup>46</sup> During the 1921-1922 season, over eighteen million pounds of tobacco were sold in the Kinston market, growing to over thirty-two million pounds during the 1927-1928 season. The average price rose from \$18.80 per hundred pounds during the 1920-1921 season, to \$23.54 per hundred pounds during the 1921-1922 season, and \$25.23 per hundred pounds during the 1927-1928 season.<sup>47</sup> Kinston also made an important advance to the tobacco industry in 1929 when Forrest H. Smith, a Kinston tobacco farmer, developed an oil-burning tobacco curer that provided more steady heat for barn curing than the wood burning methods used to that point.<sup>48</sup>

Other areas of agriculture and industry also continued to experience some measure of prosperity, which provided continued support for the downtown businesses. Eleven thousand bales of cotton grown were grown in Lenoir County during the 1923-1924 season with twenty thousand bales sold in the Kinston market that year from Lenoir and the surrounding counties.<sup>49</sup> Kinston farmers also produced corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, livestock, grains, and hay. Industry included two cotton mills, a hosiery plant, three lumber plants, a large construction company, three ice plants, three ice cream plants, a fertilizer plant, four soda bottling plants, two brick mills, iron and mantel works, a meat packing plant, two concrete products plants, and more, totaling over fifty industries in the area by 1924.<sup>50</sup>

Social services remained stable employers for Kinston residents during the 1920s and 1930s. The state-operated Caswell Training School, formerly known as the North Carolina School for the Feeble Minded, had plans for an \$800,000 expansion of the campus in the mid-1920s.<sup>51</sup> In 1927, the State Farm Colony, later known as Dobbs Farm, was established just northwest of Kinston. It first served white girls, and later became the State Training School for Negro Girls.<sup>52</sup>

The relative stability of industry, agriculture, and social services in Kinston resulted in the success of many of Kinston's downtown businesses during the 1920s. The Hotel Kinston, Tull Hotel, Caswell Hotel, four white banks and two banks for African Americans, and the Mutual Building and Loan Association all continued to operate during this time. The fire department had grown to two motor companies, a hook and ladder company, and two reel teams by that time, all operated by volunteer firemen.<sup>53</sup> The United Daughters of the Confederacy dedicated the Confederate Monument in 1924, which was originally

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<sup>46</sup> Black, MPDF, Section B, 18-19; Aymez Castro-Baez, et. al., "Kinston, N.C. Neuseway South Queen Street Revitalization," North Carolina State University School of Design-Architecture, May 1983, Heritage Place, Lenoir Community College, Kinston, North Carolina.

<sup>47</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.

<sup>48</sup> Power, *Annals of Progress*, 92; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 194.

<sup>49</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924.

<sup>50</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.

<sup>51</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.

<sup>52</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 97; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 180.

<sup>53</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.



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located at Queen Street and Summit Avenue, but by the 1930s was removed to one of the town's parks and today is located at the Kinston-Lenoir County Visitor and Information Center on East New Bern Road.<sup>54</sup> The town benefitted from being the county seat during its economically challenging years as well, with an operating post office, two daily newspapers, electricity provided by the light and power plant located just outside downtown, paved streets and highways connecting to nearby towns, and four railroad lines, including Norfolk-Southern, Atlantic Coast-Line, Kinston-Carolina, the Carolina Railroad.<sup>55</sup> The telephone exchange expanded to include its first rural lines after 1928, with the first being installed at the Kennedy Memorial Home.<sup>56</sup> The Grand Theater, which remains extant at 211 North Queen Street, and the Oasis Theatre hosted movies, plays, and vaudeville shows.<sup>57</sup>

Two of Kinston's banks, several of its businesses, and nearly all its industries closed in the aftermath of the Great Depression. However, with the help of federal aid programs and the continued success of the tobacco market, Kinston did experience growth in the 1930s. The population grew from 9,771 people in 1920 to 11,362 people in 1930 and 14,036 people in 1936, leading to a second annexation of land west, north, and east of the existing town boundaries that took place in 1937. With the aid of the Rural Electrification Program, Kinston's electricity was extended to the entire county in 1935.<sup>58</sup> The first radio station, WFTC, was established in 1937 and operated first from the Hotel Kinston and later from the Temple Building.<sup>59</sup> The 1880 courthouse building was replaced with a new building in 1939, which was designed by A. Mitchell Wooten and overseen by the Works Progress Administration.<sup>60</sup>

Public recreation began in earnest in the 1930s, led by councilman Jack Skinner and city clerk T.W. Heath. The first public park was the Emma Webb Park on North Queen Street, which was a cow pasture where Skinner and Heath built a baseball diamond and bandstand, designed by L.L. Mallard. In 1935, the WPA funded a swimming pool at the park, as well as a new baseball field on East Grainger Avenue. For a short time, Skinner also operated a small zoo at Webb Park, but after a bear escaped into the community, it was replaced with paved tennis courts. Lovit Hines Park was the next to be built, and when the town's brick roads were replaced with asphalt in the 1930s, the bricks were used to build the Hines Park recreation center.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Lewis School Sixth Grade, "History of Kinston and Lenoir County," 15, Heritage Place; University of North Carolina, "Lenoir County Confederate Monument, Kinston," *Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina*, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/comm/land/monument/364> (accessed May 2019).

<sup>55</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.

<sup>56</sup> "Telephone Expansion Here Keeps Pace with City too," *Kinston Free Press*, November 23, 1957, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>57</sup> City Directory, 1923-1924, 1928.

<sup>58</sup> O.L. Wilson, Jr., "Kinston, North Carolina: City Progressive," *Baldwin's and Free Press Kinston, North Carolina, City Directory, 1936* (Charleston, SC: Baldwin Directory Company, Inc., 1936), 9-15, North Carolina City Directories, [www.digitalnc.org](http://www.digitalnc.org) (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1936); Aymez Castro-Baez, et. al., "Kinston, N.C. Neuseway South Queen Street Revitalization," Heritage Place; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 183.

<sup>59</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 94.

<sup>60</sup> Lee and Mobley, "Courthouses in North Carolina."

<sup>61</sup> "Program Started in Cow Pasture in Early 1930s by Local Men," Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place; Ruth Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina* (Kinston, NC: Lenoir County Historical Association, 1998), 157.

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At the same time, agriculture, social services, and industry continued to flourish in Kinston and support the growing downtown commercial district. In 1935, the Kinston tobacco market broke all previous sales records with over forty-eight million pounds of tobacco sold that year, which were auctioned, stored, and processed at eleven local warehouses and six local stemming and re-drying facilities. Area farmers also produced cotton, potatoes, grains, and hay, as well as raising livestock. Additional employment opportunities were provided by the State Farm Colony/State Correctional Institute for Women, located near Kinston.<sup>62</sup> New industry also came to Kinston, including Mallard Lumber Company, established in 1936 just outside downtown Kinston.<sup>63</sup> The Atlantic Coast Line and Atlantic and East Carolina Railroad also remained in operation.<sup>64</sup>

By 1940, Kinston's population had grown to 15,388 people.<sup>65</sup> Although World War II had an economic impact on Kinston, its relationship to nearby military operations helped the city continue to grow, albeit slowly, during those years. In 1940, an airport was constructed north of the town with the assistance of Works Progress Administration funds. At the start of World War II the following year, the federal government took over use of the airport for the military, and it became known as Stallings Field. It served primarily as an emergency landing site for Cherry Point Marine Air Station in Havelock (located approximately fifty miles southeast of Kinston) and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro (located approximately thirty miles northwest of Kinston). After the war, the airport returned to civilian use.<sup>66</sup> Due to its proximity to Cherry Point, Johnson AFB, and Camp Lejeune (located approximately sixty miles south of Kinston), Kinston was a popular destination for soldiers on leave during World War II. They traveled to and from Kinston on the bus lines, shopped at the downtown stores, attended church services, and visited theaters and dance halls. There were military police offices and the USO located in Kinston as well.<sup>67</sup>

Kinston's downtown businesses continued to draw patrons from those employed in agriculture and industry in the 1940s. Tobacco remained the primary economic driver, bringing in over twenty-nine million dollars in 1948 with twelve warehouses that could hold over one hundred million pounds of tobacco.<sup>68</sup> Livestock also was important to agriculture during this time, and a group of local businessmen formed a meat packing plant located just west of Kinston in 1945.<sup>69</sup> The city also continued to produce cotton and rayon yarn, lumber, concrete building supplies, paper boxes, feed, fertilizer, and woodwork products at more than fifty industrial plants and nine wholesale distributors.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> City Directory, 1936.

<sup>63</sup> "L.L. Mallard is an Alderman," *Kinston Daily*, May 1, 1939, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>64</sup> City Directory, 1936.

<sup>65</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1949* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., Publishers, 1949), VII-XII, North Carolina City Directories, [www.digitalnc.org](http://www.digitalnc.org) (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1949).

<sup>66</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 89; Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 87; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 191.

<sup>67</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 89; Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156; City Directory, 1949; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 184.

<sup>68</sup> City Directory, 1949.

<sup>69</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 92, 99; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 102.

<sup>70</sup> City Directory, 1949.

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Kinston's public services continued to expand to accommodate the growing population as well. Telephone service was upgraded from a telephone exchange to dial service in 1943, and the number of telephones in Kinston had grown from 1,754 in 1927 to over 3,000 customers by 1947.<sup>71</sup> By 1949, residents could obtain their news from one daily and one weekly newspaper, as well as two radio stations, WFTC, established in 1937, and WKNS, which operated from 1947 to 1949.<sup>72</sup> Recreation could be found at the Country Club and golf course, three local parks, or five movie theaters, and the present-day Grainger Stadium was completed in 1949. Thirty-two churches representing twenty-eight different denominations served the city's residents, as well as six public schools and two public libraries. Over four hundred retail stores were operating in Kinston in the 1940s, as well as a number of professional services, including doctors and dentists.<sup>73</sup>

### Modern Kinston – 1950 to Present

Many of the soldiers who spent time at Cherry Point, Johnson AFB, and Camp Lejeune chose to return to Kinston permanently after the war.<sup>74</sup> By 1950, the town's population had grown to 18,278 people, and large annexations of land north of the existing town boundaries took place in 1955 and 1958.<sup>75</sup> Tobacco was still the primary economic driver, but with mixed results in the 1950s. The Kinston tobacco market brought in over thirty-six million dollars in 1950 growing to over forty-four million dollars and seventy-nine million pounds of tobacco sold in 1951. That year, seven stemming and redrying plants were in operation in Kinston, employing over 3,000 people. In 1952, the market saw only about forty-one million dollars, dropping to about thirty million dollars in 1958 and just over twenty-seven million dollars in 1959.<sup>76</sup> The town's landscape continued to reflect the importance of the tobacco market with numerous prize houses, auction houses, and warehouses on the fringes of the commercial district.<sup>77</sup> The addition of new warehouses during the 1950s also reflects the overall success of the tobacco market, with twelve warehouses operating in 1950, increasing to fourteen warehouses by 1952.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> "Telephone Expansion Here Keeps Pace with City too," *Kinston Free Press*, November 23, 1957, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>72</sup> City Directory, 1949; Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 94.

<sup>73</sup> City Directory, 1949; Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 94.

<sup>74</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1951* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Company, Inc., 1951), IX-XII, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as "City Directory, 1951").

<sup>75</sup> City Directory, 1951; Aymez Castro-Baez, et. al., "Kinston, N.C. Neuseway South Queen Street Revitalization," Heritage Place.

<sup>76</sup> Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1959* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., Publishers, 1959), XIII-XVIII, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1959); Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1960* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., Publishers, 1960), VIII-XII, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1960); "World's Foremost Tobacco Center," *The News and Observer*, August 15, 1952, News Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>77</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156; City Directory, 1951.

<sup>78</sup> City Directory, 1951; Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1953* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., Publishers, 1953), 15-18, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1953).

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The postwar boom also benefitted local industry. Textiles were important to the postwar economy, with men's shirts, yarn, and hosiery among top products.<sup>79</sup> Shirt manufacturing was especially popular in Kinston, with the Kinston Shirt Company, Atlas and Lenoir Shirt Company, and the North Carolina Shirt Company among top employers.<sup>80</sup> The meat packing plant was leased to Frosty Morn Meats, Inc., in 1950, which expanded the facility and continued operations into the 1960s.<sup>81</sup> Most significantly, DuPont opened a fiber plant in 1953 about seven miles northeast of town, which was the first plant in the world to produce Dacron, a new polyester fiber.<sup>82</sup> The airport served as a flight training school for the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1957, which also helped to stimulate the local economy.<sup>83</sup>

The prosperity of local farmers and textile workers, as well as the presence of military trainees, supported the local businesses, so the downtown business district continued to thrive by the mid-twentieth century. In 1951, the Chamber of Commerce reported that downtown retailers attracted customers from as far away as forty miles, drawing on the 140,000 people living in and around Kinston at that time.<sup>84</sup> Many of the downtown businesses updated their early-twentieth century brick buildings with metal and glass storefronts.<sup>85</sup> The town invested in public improvements during the 1950s, including constructing a water tower in 1953 to provide water to businesses and homes. Other improvements included paving streets, installing street lights, and restoring the telephone system which had been lost after the Great Depression. New businesses opened downtown to address modern needs of consumers, including television repair shops, farm machinery repair shops, hardware stores, sewing centers, diners with modern equipment, and automobile sales and repair shops.<sup>86</sup> Two new radio stations went on the air, including WELS in 1950 and WISP in 1953.<sup>87</sup> The telephone system was again upgraded, and in 1957 customers began dialing long distance numbers.<sup>88</sup> By 1959, there were nine public schools, a main library with three branches throughout the county and a mobile library, and Lenoir Community College opened in 1958. Recreation included six public parks, four movie theaters, a country club with a golf course, and two swimming pools.<sup>89</sup> A National Guard unit had been established in Kinston in 1925, and a new armory was constructed on East Highland Avenue in 1954.<sup>90</sup>

African Americans also found new opportunities in postwar Kinston, although segregation remained in full effect. Although some African American businesses began to decline and some residents left for

<sup>79</sup> City Directory, 1951.

<sup>80</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156.

<sup>81</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 92; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 102.

<sup>82</sup> DuPont USA, "1950 Dacron," *Innovation Starts Here*, [www.dupont.com/corporate-functions/our-company/dupont-history.html](http://www.dupont.com/corporate-functions/our-company/dupont-history.html) (accessed May 2018); City Directory, 1953; Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 157; Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 95-96; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 103; Johnson and Holloman, *The Story of Kinston*, 191-193.

<sup>83</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 89; Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156.

<sup>84</sup> City Directory, 1951.

<sup>85</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 157.

<sup>86</sup> Gladys Price Nevin and Frances Adams Spears, *Cross Trails Remembered: A History of Kinston and the Greater Kinston Community* (Birmingham, AL: The Printing Press, LLC, 1998), 15-18.

<sup>87</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 94.

<sup>88</sup> "Telephone Expansion Here Keeps Pace with City too," *Kinston Free Press*, November 23, 1957, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>89</sup> City Directory, 1959; Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 157.

<sup>90</sup> Powell, *Annals of Progress*, 89.



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larger cities, many African American veterans returned to Kinston. They built ranch houses in East Kinston in the 1950s with the help of Veterans Administration loans, and found a niche employment opportunity in the establishment of taxi businesses, including Eagle Taxi and Globe Taxi, which remained in operation into the 1960s.<sup>91</sup> In 1947, the Carver Theater opened on East Washington Street for African American patrons, and in 1952, Holloway Park was developed as the first recreation center and swimming pool for African Americans in Kinston.<sup>92</sup> Kinston was also well-known for its African American music scene during the mid-nineteenth century, and touring jazz or rhythm and blues musicians performed on makeshift stages set up in the tobacco warehouses. Tobacco was moved to make space for these concerts, and sometimes the performers were famous enough to draw both white and black audiences, although they remained segregated by a rope dividing the room in half.<sup>93</sup>

In the early 1960s, sit-ins, boycotts, and pickets by local African American youth led to the desegregation of Kinston's downtown businesses. Standard Drug #2 at 100 South Queen Street (NRHP listed 2014) was the primary site of these activities. Located on the same block as the Lenoir County Courthouse, the lunch counter at Standard Drug #2 was popular among local business owners, professionals, and other white community leaders. The lunch counter was segregated and did not serve African American patrons, as was common at that time. In 1960, inspired by the Woolworth's sit-ins in Greensboro, three high school students staged a sit-in at the Standard Drug #2 lunch counter. A second, larger sit-in took place the following year, which successfully resulted in management choosing to serve the demonstrators. Boycotts and picketing at additional downtown businesses produced similar results, and downtown Kinston was desegregated as a result of these demonstrations.<sup>94</sup>

By the 1960s, the population had grown to 24,648 people, who were served by eleven public schools, eight public parks, fifty-eight churches, and new recreational opportunities in a skating rink and bowling alley.<sup>95</sup> The tobacco market seemed to recover somewhat from the 1950s, with just under thirty-five million dollars of tobacco sold in 1960 and over thirty-six million dollars brought in during the 1964 season.<sup>96</sup> Meanwhile, the DuPont plant grew significantly and became one of the town's principal

<sup>91</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 157-158.

<sup>92</sup> "Announcing the Opening of the Carver Theater," *Kinston Free Press*, March 10, 1947, Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place; "Program Started in Cow Pasture in Early 1930s by Local Men," Newspaper Clippings, Heritage Place.

<sup>93</sup> Sarah Bryan and Beverly Patterson, *African American Music Trails of Eastern North Carolina* (Durham, NC: BW&A Books, Inc., 2013), 2-5, 9.

<sup>94</sup> Sherry Wyatt and Sarah David, "Standard Drug #2," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2014, Section 8, 10-11.

<sup>95</sup> City Directory, 1960; Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1961* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., Inc., Publishers, 1961), VIII-XII, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018) (hereafter referred to as City Directory, 1961); Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1962* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Company Publishers, 1962), IX-XIV, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018); Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," *Hill's Kinston (Lenoir County, N.C.) City Directory, 1963* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Company Publishers, 1963), IX-XIV, North Carolina City Directories, www.digitalnc.org (accessed April 2018).

<sup>96</sup> City Directory, 1961; Kinston Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," City Directory, 1965, courtesy of the City of Kinston.



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industries, growing to employ about 2,000 people by 1962 and 3,600 people by the 1970s.<sup>97</sup> With the success of these industries, the downtown business district also continued to grow. In 1960, the Chamber of Commerce reported the retail trade area had grown to fifty miles and drew on a population of 750,000 people in Kinston and the surrounding area.<sup>98</sup>

The 1970s saw continued change and modernization in Kinston. The two-room town hall was replaced in 1972 with a modern municipal building in the brutalist style, which was quite fashionable for civic architecture of the day. Although the importance of the railroads had decreased by the late twentieth century, trucking became an important industry in Kinston by the 1970s. Additional automobile repair shops and gas stations were constructed in the downtown business district during the 1970s, responding to the significant growth of automobile ownership in Kinston during the 1950s and 1960s.<sup>99</sup> A new terminal was constructed at the Kinston-Lenoir County Regional Airport, as well as improvements to the runways, lighting and electrical systems, and fire and rescue facility.<sup>100</sup> Tobacco remained important to the economy, bringing in nearly seventy-eight million dollars during the 1978 season, although only eight of the fourteen warehouses of the 1950s remained in operation.<sup>101</sup> Farmers in Kinston and Lenoir County also produced corn, soybeans, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, wheat, oats, grapes, and strawberries, and raised beef cattle, dairy cows, chickens, and turkeys. Pulpwood, pine, and hardwood lumber were also important to the economy during the 1970s.<sup>102</sup>

The population had reached 25,603 people by 1970, and a large annexation of land north of the existing town boundaries took place in 1971.<sup>103</sup> During this decade, a number of new services came to Kinston. By 1979, recreational opportunities had expanded further to include eight public parks, a recreation center, nine playgrounds, four gymnasiums, and two golf courses. Nine public schools served Kinston's children. Kinston not only housed the main branch of the county library, by then located in the former Post Office at 301 North Queen Street, but also served as the headquarters for the Albemarle Regional Library system, a three-county regional library system. The earlier Parrot Memorial Hospital and Memorial General Hospital were replaced by a modern facility, the Lenoir General Hospital, in 1973, and three radio stations were in operation.<sup>104</sup>

Although Kinston's tobacco market had been growing since the 1890s, it went into decline at the end of the twentieth century. In 1997, five surviving warehouses sold about 60 million pounds of tobacco, but many of the tobacco companies had moved out of the downtown area after World War II. As a result, all tobacco-related buildings downtown were demolished by the late 1900s except the American Tobacco Company prize house at 619 North Herritage Street (now the Nantucket Warehouse), the Imperial

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<sup>97</sup> William S. Powell, *Annals of Progress: The Story of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina* (Raleigh, NC: State Department of Archives and History, 1963), 96; City Directory, 1960.

<sup>98</sup> City Directory, 1960.

<sup>99</sup> Nevin and Spears, 19-26.

<sup>100</sup> Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 88.

<sup>101</sup> Kinston/Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, "Kinston," City Directory, 1979, courtesy of the City of Kinston (hereafter referred to as "City Directory, 1979).

<sup>102</sup> Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 98.

<sup>103</sup> City Directory, 1979; Aymez Castro-Baez, et. al., "Kinston, N.C. Neuseway South Queen Street Revitalization," Heritage Place.

<sup>104</sup> City Directory, 1979; Kohler, "200 Years of Progress," 143.

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Tobacco Company offices at 420 North Herritage Street (now an apartment building), and the Jenkins Redrying Plant at 211 East Lenoir Street (now Kinston Building Supply), all located outside the historic district.<sup>105</sup>

By the 1990s, many industries had moved to the airport area to take advantage of the Global Transpark, which served as a business and transportation hub.<sup>106</sup> The town purchased the former Federal Building at 101 North Queen Street to serve as the City Hall Annex, funded upgrades to Grainer Stadium and the construction of a new fire station, and started a curbside recycling program in 1993. The first inclusive playground was also built in 1993, allowing children to play regardless of physical disabilities, and upgrades were made to several public buildings to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including ramps at City Hall and sidewalk curb ramps.<sup>107</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Kinston was founded on the Neuse River in the mid-1700s with a number of frame residential, commercial, and government buildings originally built in the downtown core. The 1895 downtown fire, and a subsequent series of smaller fires over the following months, destroyed nearly all of the downtown. As a result, the earliest buildings located within the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, the Kinston Commercial Historic District, and the Boundary Increase date to the late nineteenth century.

Although many building in these three areas display sophisticated stylistic elements, the overwhelming majority of buildings in these three areas are vernacular commercial buildings, usually of masonry construction, one- or two-story buildings with parapet roofs, minimal detailing, and storefronts with large, rectangular display windows flanking a centered, recessed entrance.<sup>108</sup> The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, located in the center of the three areas, consists of predominantly civic and commercial buildings. About a third of the buildings in this area are vernacular commercial buildings, while the remainder are examples of the Italianate, Beaux-Arts, and Moderne styles, as well as a great variety of revival styles, including Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival. The Kinston Commercial Historic District expanded the historic district to the north and west, adding buildings related to carriage, and later automobile, manufacturing, as well as additional retail and service-related buildings. The buildings in this area are almost entirely vernacular commercial buildings, with a few examples of the Art Deco, Classical Revival, and Moderne styles. The Boundary Increase further expands the historic district in all directions to the edges of the surviving historic commercial core, with additional civic, retail, and professional buildings. The buildings within the Boundary Increase follow the stylistic trends of the earlier historic districts, with about half the buildings exhibiting vernacular commercial forms and details and the remainder displaying a combination of nationally prevalent late-nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century styles, including Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Art Deco, Moderne, and Modernist. All three areas also reflect periods of updating existing buildings to display a progressive and modern appearance, including 1930s additions

<sup>105</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 159.

<sup>106</sup> Little, *Coastal Plain and Fancy*, 156.

<sup>107</sup> City of Kinston, "Kinston, North Carolina, Annual Report, 1993-1994," Heritage Place, Lenoir Community College, Kinston, North Carolina.

<sup>108</sup> "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles." *Good for Business, A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exteriors of Older Commercial Buildings*. Milwaukee, WI: City of Milwaukee, 1995 18.

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of glass or metal panels, as well as 1950s and 1960s storefront replacements and brick veneer or metal coverings on upper floors.

Over half of the buildings in the three areas are vernacular commercial buildings dating from 1895 into the 1940s. Usually of brick construction, most are one- or two-story buildings with parapet roofs, minimal detailing, and storefronts with large, rectangular display windows flanking a centered, recessed entrance.<sup>109</sup> The 1896 Clothing Shop Building at 125 North Queen Street in the Kinston Commercial Historic District is the oldest vernacular commercial building in Kinston. The storefront of this two-story, brick building was replaced c.1990 with a deeply recessed entrance flanked by large display windows, but it retains the original upper floor fenestration and detailing including three eighteen-light, fixed-sash wood windows with four-light fanlights, each in an arched surround. Each of the second-floor bays is flanked by brick pilasters and topped by brick corbelling, and the parapet features an inset sign panel and metal cornice. The 1901 T.W. Mewborn and Company Building at 333-337 North Queen Street is another early example also in the Kinston Commercial Historic District. Located at the southeast corner of North Queen and East Blount street, this two-story, brick commercial building, originally constructed to house a department store, retains original brick quoins and a corbelled cornice with dogtooth on the façade, north, and rear elevations. The first floor has three matching modern storefronts, each with a recessed, centered entrance featuring sidelights and transom and flanked by display windows on paneled knee walls. The second floor has replacement windows with concrete sills and flat-arch lintels with brick keystones.

The 1920 commercial building at 107 East Caswell Street is an example of vernacular commercial architecture within the Boundary Increase, and housed a variety of businesses including a physician's office and a beauty shop. The two-story, brick building retains its original storefront, which features two recessed entrances with fanlights flanking a copper-framed central display window resting on a low brick knee wall. An original prismatic-glass transom spans the storefront. The upper floor features replacement windows with concrete sills that are flanked by stretcher-course brick, a continuous soldier brick lintel course, and soldier brick bands below. The stepped parapet has a soldier-course band and is topped with cast concrete coping. In the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, the 1923 Chamberlain & Braxton Building at 311 North Queen Street, which housed women's clothing and hat retail stores, has a modern replacement storefront but retains an original prismatic-glass transom that spans the façade above the storefront. The parapet has a cast-concrete cornice, a date panel that reads 1923, and inset concrete diamonds at the outer corners.

By the 1920s and 1930s, buildings related to carriage manufacturing and the automobile industry were added to the downtown, especially at the northern end of downtown in the Kinston Commercial Historic District. The Ellis Carriage Works building at 118 West Blount Street was built in 1911 and updated in 1927. The first floor has a replacement entrance centered on the façade with a three-part transom and the outer two bays have large display windows with multi-light transoms. The second floor features a single twelve-light metal-sash window in the center bay and two windows in each side bay. All windows have concrete sills and continuous soldier courses that extend just below the sills and at the header level. Stretcher course brick frames the vertical sides of each opening. The parapet features a band of brick

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<sup>109</sup> Paul J. Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," in *Good for Business, A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exteriors of Older Commercial Buildings* (Milwaukee, WI: City of Milwaukee, 1995), 18.

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corbelling and is topped by concrete coping. By the 1940s, the building housed an automobile showroom and service station. The c.1920 Kinston Buick Company at 116 West Blount Street is a one-story, brick building with a distinctive stepped parapet with concrete coping. The east bay has a modern, overhead garage door. The west bay has a large, modern eighteen-pane, aluminum-framed display window on a brick bulkhead. Above the first floor is a wide, stuccoed sign panel and a cast concrete cornice. By 1948, the building was expanded to the east and continued to house automobile sales and service.

The remainder of the historic district displays styles popular throughout the United States during the period of significance, although there are few examples of each. Some of the earliest styled buildings exhibit Italianate detailing, though were constructed around the turn of the twentieth century. The Italianate style was developed as a Victorian interpretation of Italy's medieval Romanesque and Renaissance styles, and is characterized by multi-story forms, widely overhanging eaves with heavy brackets, tall, narrow windows, often arched with heavy molding, and sometimes square cupolas or towers. It was popular in North Carolina as early as the antebellum period in larger town and cities, gaining widespread use by the late nineteenth century. Its use in downtown Kinston demonstrates the town's desire to have a modern and progressive appearance as it rebuilt following the 1895 fire.<sup>110</sup> The 1895 Grainger Building at 215-217 North Queen Street in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District is one of the oldest buildings surviving in downtown Kinston and was built for prominent Kinston businessman Jesse Willis Grainger. Although the building has a replacement storefront with brick veneer, fixed windows, and a shingled pent roof, the upper floor retains original details of the Italianate style. Three segmental-arch window openings have a continuous brick drip cap, although the openings on the façade have been bricked in while the side elevation retains six-over-six wood-sash windows. Above the windows is an inset sign panel and a corbelled brick cornice extends the width of the parapet on both the front and side elevations.

Like the Italianate style, the appearance of the Beaux-Arts style in downtown Kinston demonstrated the town's desire for modern, progressive architecture. Characterized by classical elements, heavy masonry, elaborate detailing, and monumental scale, the style was common among civic and financial buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>111</sup> The 1903 Citizens Savings Bank/First National Bank at 201 North Queen Street in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District is a fine example. This three-story building at the corner of North Queen and East Gordon streets features a blond brick exterior with granite detailing. Although the first floor has been altered with the application of stucco and the addition of arched window openings with fixed aluminum-framed windows, the upper floors remain largely intact. The second floor has replacement one-over-one vinyl windows with transoms and granite lintels. Above the second-floor windows are decorative terra cotta panels. The third floor has one-over-one windows with arched transoms in arched openings with granite hoods. The parapet is adorned with an elaborate double-tier sheet metal entablature with wide frieze band and a dentil cornice on the lower tier. The upper tier consists of a paneled frieze with regularly spaced pairs of pilasters and a dentil cornice. A slightly projecting corner bay facing the intersection features two-story brick pilasters topped by smaller paired

<sup>110</sup> Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 447; John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers, Jr., *What Style Is It?* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 57-61; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 14.

<sup>111</sup> Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 440; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 90-97.

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pilasters, rising from the springline of the third-floor arched window openings. The small paired pilasters have composite terra cotta capitals. The corner bay is topped by a four-sided convex dome with a metal roof.

A variety of early-twentieth-century revival styles are also present, primarily in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District. The Romanesque Revival style drew inspiration from Italy's medieval Romanesque and early Byzantine architecture and evolved into the distinctively American Richardsonian Romanesque style. Characterized by round arches, heavy stone or brick walls, and terra cotta ornament, the style gained popularity nationally as early as the mid-1900s, becoming common in religious and civic architecture in North Carolina by the late 1900s.<sup>112</sup> The 1912-1916 Gordon Street Christian Church at 118 East Gordon Street exemplifies the heavy, monumental aesthetic of this style with a concrete foundation and watertable, brick exterior, and stone detailing including headers, sills, and belt courses. The entrance is accessed by a wide granite stair and features two entrances inset within Tudor-arch openings topped by front-gabled roofs, each with large, paired wood doors with three-part, pointed-arch, stained-glass transoms. Two rectangular stained-glass windows on each side of the entrances have continuous stone lintels and sills. The front gable, above the narthex, has a large pointed-arch, stained-glass window in a pointed-arch surround within an archivolt consisting of a corbelled extrados and imposts. The cross-gabled roof is topped by an octagonal dome with two-tiered roof and there are octagonal towers located at the front two corners of the building. A simplified example of the style is the Kinston Fire Station and City Hall at 118 South Queen Street within the Boundary Increase, which was built as an immediate response to the downtown fires in 1895. This two-story, brick building retains arched vehicular openings with two courses of rowlock brick at the top of the arches. A projecting stringcourse separates the first and second floors and three replacement one-over-one wood-sash windows at the second-floor level are bisected by two additional stringcourses. The windows have flat-arch brick lintels. The parapet, altered in the 1930s, has a dogtooth brick course and is capped by metal coping.

The Neoclassical Revival style is another monumental style common to financial and civic architecture in the early twentieth century and found in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District. It is characterized by the use of classical elements, especially façades dominated by full-height classical columns, heavy entablatures, Greek key or triglyph details, cornices ornamented with dentils or modillions, and heavy masonry, usually limestone.<sup>113</sup> The National Bank of Kinston at 136 North Queen Street was built in 1908 and renovated to its current Neoclassical Revival appearance in the 1920s with a blonde brick exterior, rusticated ashlar limestone foundation, and an elaborate stone entablature with modillions and dentils topped by a stone parapet. The façade features four monumental Corinthian columns resting on rusticated stone bases. The entrance is centered on the façade and is located within a stone surround with entablature that supports the sill of the paired, replacement windows above. Paired replacement windows flanking the entrance have rusticated stone lintels with brick panels above. Second-floor windows have flat-arch lintels with keystones, all constructed of rusticated stone. The cornice features both modillion and dentil courses. The 1915 Post Office and Federal Building at 301 North Queen Street is another example, featuring ashlar limestone with granite trim. The façade is dominated by a monumental portico typical of the style, with five Tuscan columns and pilasters. Metal grills with crests having palmettes and a central anthemion

<sup>112</sup> Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 450; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 54-56; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 16.

<sup>113</sup> Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 448; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 98-99; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 18-19.



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screen the paired windows with transoms between the columns. The entrance, a set of paired doors centered on the façade, has a two-part transom and grills matching the other windows on the façade. The hexastyle Tuscan portico has a dentiled stone cornice with the words "United States Post Office" inscribed in the entablature. Greek fretwork extends between the pilasters on the façade.

Similar to the Neoclassical Revival style, but simpler in its execution, is the Classical Revival style found in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District. This style also features classical ornamentation such as pilasters, entablature, dentil detailing, and modillions, but without the dominating porticos of Neoclassical Revival buildings.<sup>114</sup> The 1926 Brown's Wholesale Grocery at 105 West North Street is a large, two-story building with a red brick façade laid in a Flemish bond and has a sheet metal cornice with dentils and modillions. Although the first floor has two replacement storefronts, the upper floor retains elements of the Classical Revival style. A soldier course punctuated by inset concrete squares extends the full width of the portion of the façade above the storefronts, and the second floor features ten replacement windows with a continuous stringcourse at the sill level. Each window is topped by a cast-stone panel with swags.

Several additional distinctive buildings in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District feature elements of revival styles. The Parrott-Foxman Building at 107 West Gordon Street is an unusual commercial application of the Tudor Revival style. Built in 1900 with renovations c.1915 and c.1925, this one-story building has a brown brick façade with limestone detailing. A limestone segmental arch containing a replacement storefront is flanked by half-octagonal limestone pilasters that extend to the parapet, each with a limestone finial and quoins. Two stepped limestone string cornices span the façade. The upper stringcourse frames a stuccoed panel and supports a cartouche with letter P altered to F. A soldier course topped by limestone coping tops the parapet. The 1924 Farmers and Merchants Bank at 200 North Queen Street is an example of Renaissance Revival architecture and one of the tallest buildings in the historic district at five stories. Faced with ashlar limestone, the building features a three-part façade with tall base, three-story "shaft," and one-story "capital," an approach commonly used for early skyscrapers. The first floor has a slightly inset centered in antis entrance in a classical surround with a simple entablature set within a larger round-arched opening filled with a decorative grille. The entablature is topped by a shield supported by cast-stone swags. Ionic columns flanking the doors and adjacent pilasters support an entablature at the top of the first floor with the words "Farmers & Merchants Bank." The second through fourth floors of the façade are three bays wide, each with replacement windows with paneled spandrels and separated by limestone pilasters. A dentil cornice wraps the building between the fourth and fifth floors. The fifth floor features replacement windows with cast-stone panels above, all within an arched surround. The building is topped by a dentil cornice and a flat roof with deep overhang supported by elaborate brackets. The Parrott-Davis Building at 111 East Gordon Street was built in 1901, renovated c.1920, and renovated again c.1935 to its present Spanish Colonial Revival appearance. The highly decorative first floor features a fully inset storefront behind an elaborate arcade supported by paired Ionic columns creating an in antis portico. Each pair of columns and the antae support an entablature that includes a denticulated cornice. These, in turn, support three rounded arches and associated recessed spandrel panels. The entrance is inset and contains multi-light doors and sidelights that create a near-continuous wall of windows. Paired one-over-one wood-sash windows at the second floor have

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<sup>114</sup> Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 442; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 98-99.

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continuous brick sills and headers consisting of two alternating soldier and stretcher courses all topped by a header course that spans the façade at the base of the brackets.

The Art Deco style gained popularity in North Carolina by the 1920s and was commonly applied to theaters, gas stations, and utility companies. Arriving in Kinston in the 1930s, it is a highly geometric style that emphasized the future with a modern aesthetic. It is characterized by its verticality with parallel or zigzag lines, floral motifs, chevrons, and other highly decorative ornamentation applied to simplified building forms, usually some combination of concrete, stone, glass, or terra cotta.<sup>115</sup> The Carolina Theatre at 121 North Queen Street in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District was built in 1896 and then updated as a movie theater with Art Deco styling c.1935. Although the storefront has been replaced, the upper level retains the geometric character of the Art Deco style. Each of the four bays are divided vertically by brick pilasters with V-shaped ribs, and the pilasters extend up to a crenelated cornice. Each bay features two very narrow eight-light fixed windows, arranged vertically and separated by spandrels with cream and black tile. Above the windows are stuccoed panels with black tile laid diagonally to create a repeating diamond motif. The 1943 Nachamson's Department Store Building at 212 North Queen Street within the Boundary Increase also displays elements of the Art Deco style, including glass block windows, vertical scoring in the cast concrete coping, and tiled bulkheads below the display windows. The two-story building features a recessed entrance with two pairs of aluminum-framed glass doors, each with a tall, shared transom. The doors are flanked by metal-framed windows resting on a tiled bulkhead of pink and grey triangular tiles. The second floor is sheathed with concrete panels and flanked by concrete pilasters with reeded tops. It features glass-block windows flanked by eight-light, metal-framed windows, all over a continuous concrete sill.

Similar to the Art Deco style, there are a small number of Moderne style buildings in Kinston dating to the 1930s and 1940s. Unlike the angular, highly ornamented, vertically-focused Art Deco style, the simplified Moderne style emphasized the horizontal using streamlined forms with smooth curves and flat planes.<sup>116</sup> The Grand Theater at 211 North Queen Street in the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District was built in 1915 and renovated to its current Moderne appearance in 1932. The building has an altered storefront but retains a 1930s metal marquee. The upper part of the building is covered with stucco and has two pairs of six-light metal windows near the center of the façade, lighting the projection booth on the interior. The façade is topped by a stepped parapet.

Modernism was introduced to North Carolinians in the late 1940s, and most examples in Kinston date to the 1940s, 1950s, or 1960s and are located within the Boundary Increase. This style rejected ornamentation almost entirely, and is characterized by large banks of windows, aluminum storefronts with recessed entries, and natural materials. The most distinctive example of the transitional Art Deco/Art Moderne style in Kinston is the 1939-1940 Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 South Queen Street. The three-story building is prominently sited at the northwest corner of South Queen and East King streets,

<sup>115</sup> Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture* (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 481-482; Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 439; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 120-126; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 19-20.

<sup>116</sup> Bishir and Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*, 448; Poppeliers and Chambers, *What Style Is It?* 120-126; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 19-20; Jakubovich, "Historic Commercial Architectural Styles," 20.

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faced with limestone, and accented by streamlined, stylized ornament. The clean modern design has a hint of classicism with its tetrastyle in antis portico of square fluted piers fronting the front elevation. The frieze carried on the piers bears the inscription "Lenoir County Courthouse." The main entrance is centered behind the portico, and bronze geometric grilles line the transom and sidelights. The windows are arranged in vertical rows, and relief plaques of Native American, tobacco cultivation, and other aspects of Lenoir County history decorate the building. The 1967 Wachovia Building at 101 North Queen Street is another example of Modernism. Located at the corner of North Queen and East Caswell streets, it features New Formalist detailing including vertical aggregate concrete panels covering the North Queen and East Caswell Street elevations, each with segmental-arch openings at the first-floor level. These arches on the North Queen Street elevation contain fixed, aluminum-framed windows, while the first-floor arches on the East Caswell Street elevation are filled with vertically striated concrete panels matching the cornice. Narrow windows are located between the panels at the second-floor level and the building is capped with a cornice with vertically striated concrete.

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**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):** LR1561

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approx. 9.10 acres (Boundary Increase)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Boundary Increase Area A (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.263944 Longitude: -77.582963

Boundary Increase Area B (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.263493 Longitude: -77.582276

Boundary Increase Area C (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.262685 Longitude: -77.581432

Boundary Increase Area D (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.262101 Longitude: -77.579919

Boundary Increase Area E (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.261319 Longitude: -77.580259

Boundary Increase Area F (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.259989 Longitude: -77.580768

Boundary Increase Area G (less than 10 acres):

1. Latitude: 35.261700 Longitude: -77.581479

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

The Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and Kinston Commercial Historic District boundaries are shown by a solid black line on the accompanying district map. The seven boundary increase areas and the one boundary decrease area follow the tax parcel lines, are shown by a dashed black line, and are labeled areas A-G.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase were determined according to the density of contributing structures built between 1895 and 1968, by which time downtown Kinston had been largely built out and the commercial vitality of downtown Kinston had begun to decline. The Boundary Increase includes predominantly early to mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings representing the continued growth of Kinston as a commercial center for Lenoir County from the 1930s through the 1960s. It also includes the Kinston Fire Station/City Hall and the Lenoir County Courthouse, illustrating the town's importance as a governmental center for the county. The boundary excludes vacant land and parking lots on the east side of the district. Buildings on the west side of the district, particularly along the west side of Queen Street, have been significantly altered or replaced with newer buildings in the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Buildings to the north and south of the district and to the west of North Heritage Street do not retain sufficient integrity. Properties included in the Boundary Increase are in keeping with the commercial significance of the original districts and more accurately reflects the full scope of early- to mid-twentieth-century building trends, including more modestly scaled and detailed commercial buildings as well as Modernist-style buildings and alterations.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Heather Slane, Architectural Historian  
name/title: Cheri Szcodronski, Architectural Historian  
organization: hmvPreservation  
street & number: P. O. Box 355  
city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27702  
e-mail: heather@hmvpreservation.com  
telephone: 336-207-1502  
date: December 1, 2020

**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.)

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**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: Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase

City or Vicinity: Kinston

County: Lenoir

State: NC

Photographer: Cheri Szcodronski

Date Photographed: April 2018

Photo #0001:

100-106 S. Queen Street – facing southeast

1 of 14

Photo #0002:

118-130 S. Queen Street – facing southeast

2 of 14

Photo #0003:

101-107 S. Queen Street – facing southwest

3 of 14

Photo #0004:

106-112 W. Caswell Street – facing southwest

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Photo #0005:

101-111 N. Queen Street – facing northeast

5 of 14

Photo #0006:

113-121 N. Queen Street – facing northeast

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Photo #0007:



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110 East Caswell and 101 N. Queen Street – facing northwest  
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Photo #0008:  
124-130 N. Queen Street – facing northwest  
8 of 14

Photo #0009:  
Gordon Street elevations of 202 and 206 North Queen Street – facing northwest  
9 of 14

Photo #0010:  
111-115 E. Gordon Street – facing southeast  
10 of 14

Photo #0011:  
Addition to 118 E. Gordon Street – facing southwest  
11 of 14

Photo #0012:  
304-306 N. Queen Street – facing west  
12 of 14

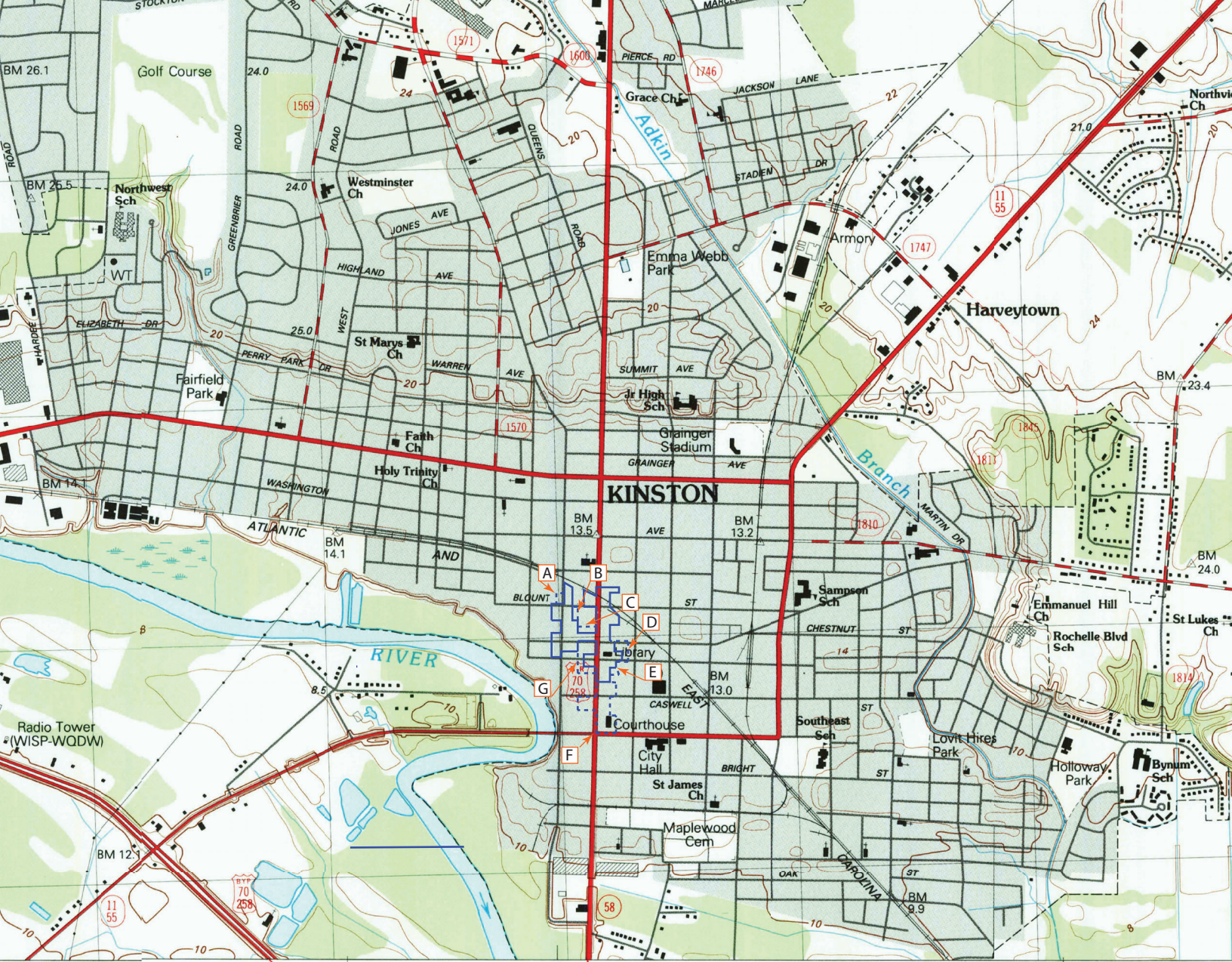
Photo #0013:  
116 W. Blount Street – facing southeast  
13 of 14

Photo #0015:  
400 N. Herritage Street – facing west  
14 of 14

**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.





National Register of Historic Places Nomination

## Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase

Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina

### National Register Location Map

- Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary
- - - - Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase
- A Boundary Increase Areas

**Lat/Long Coordinates:**

**Boundary Increase Area A**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.263944, -77.582963

**Boundary Increase Area C**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.262685, -77.581432

**Boundary Increase Area E**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.261319, -77.580259

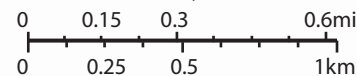
**Boundary Increase Area G**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.261700, -77.581479

**Boundary Increase Area B**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.263493, -77.582276

**Boundary Increase Area D**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.262101, -77.579919

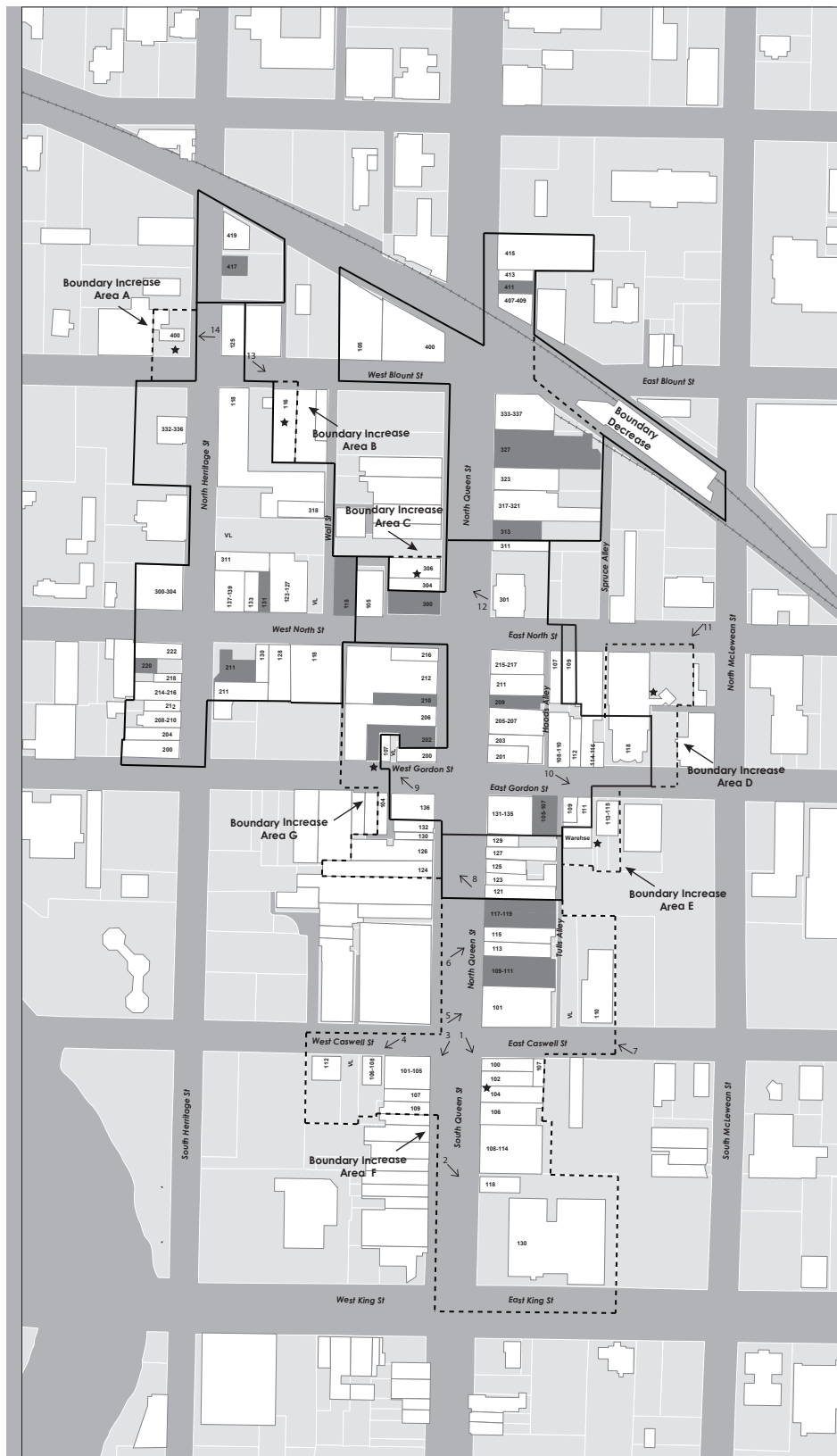
**Boundary Increase Area F**  
(less than 10 acres)  
1. 35.259989, -77.580768

1 : 24,000



Map created by Heather M. Slane,  
hmwPreservation, December 1, 2020  
Source: USGS 7.5 minute Topographic map,  
Kinston Quadrangle (NC) 1983





Map created by Heather M. Slane, hmwPreservation, December 1, 2020

## Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Decrease and Boundary Increase Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina

- Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District Boundary
- Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary
- - - Kinston Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase
- ▬ Contributing Building
- ▬ Non-Contributing Building
- 000 Street Address
- VL Vacant Lot
- ← 1 Photo View
- ★ Coordinate Marker for each Increase Area



1 inch = 100 feet  
250 125 0 250 Feet

### Lat/Long Coordinates:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Boundary Increase Area A</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.263944, -77.582963 | <b>Boundary Increase Area E</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.261319, -77.580259 |
| <b>Boundary Increase Area B</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.263493, -77.582276 | <b>Boundary Increase Area F</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.259989, -77.580768 |
| <b>Boundary Increase Area C</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.262685, -77.581432 | <b>Boundary Increase Area G</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.261700, -77.581479 |
| <b>Boundary Increase Area D</b><br>(less than 10 acres)<br>1. 35.262101, -77.579919 |   |