Merritt Building, 301-307 N. Main (SR0319). View facing northwest.
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: Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Documentation)
Other names/sit number: SR066

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: All or portions of Brown St., Cherry St., W. Church St., Franklin St., Gilmer St., Granite St., N. Main St., S. Main St., Market St., Moore St., W. Pine St., Rockford St., W. Wilson St., and Worth St.
City or town: Mount Airy
State: North Carolina
County: Surry

Not For Publication: N/A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

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X_ A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: , Deputy SHPO 7/30/2021
Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of commenting official:</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Title:</th>
<th>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</th>
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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:) ______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
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5. Classification
Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)
Private: [X]
Public – Local: [X]
Public – State: [ ]
Public – Federal: [X]

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)
Building(s): [ ]
District: [X]
Site: [ ]
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property

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Surry County, N.C.

County and State

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Structure

Object

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>46</td>
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</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _192_

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
(no change)

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Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
(additional functions)

LANDSCAPE: park

---
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Gothic Revival
Italianate
Victorian
Queen Anne
Romanesque
Renaissance
Colonial Revival
Classical Revival
Tudor Revival
Spanish Colonial Revival
Craftsman
Modernist
Moderne
International Style
Art Deco
Ranch
Other: Minimal Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: (no change)

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

Summary Paragraph
The Mount Airy Historic District remains much as it was when originally nominated to the National Register in 1985, with the changes described in the paragraphs to follow. The district embraces the historic commercial and residential core of the city of Mount Airy, an area of 130 acres, and is organized around Main Street, the city’s principal historic throughfare, which runs approximately north-south. The district also includes several major residential cross streets, namely Franklin, West Pine, and a portion of Rockford Street on the west side of Main Street.
and Cherry Street on the east side, as well as several smaller streets and sections of streets. Main Street follows a ridge, the location of a ridge road that predates the city’s major development beginning in the 1880s, with the various cross streets descending gradually from the ridge. The ridge, approximately 1,100 feet above sea level, is drained by the Ararat River on the east side and Lovills Creek (a tributary of the Ararat River) on the west side. The resources in the district date from the 1880s to the twenty-first century and include commercial buildings, generally of brick construction and one- to three-stories in height; residences, generally of frame or brick construction and one to two stories in height; the community’s principal historic churches; and a lesser number of other building and functional types, both primary resources and secondary resources such as sheds and garages. The mix of resource types is very similar to what was present when the district was originally created. Two-hundred-eight-one resources (235 contributing and 46 non-contributing) currently stand in the district.

Narrative Description

The following inventory updates the original 1985 inventory. The primary focus is updating the contributing/non-contributing status of resources and adding information on new construction or resources that were missed in the original inventory. Most status changes are non-contributing to contributing owing to the extended period of significance. The original 1985 inventory used an old classification system which assigned the designation “intrusive” to resources deemed non-contributing; an ambiguous designation, “fill,” for resources also usually deemed non-contributing; and the designation “pivotal” for contributing resources deemed to be of special importance. This inventory reclassifies these resources as either contributing or non-contributing depending on such factors as age and integrity. Most resources have changed somewhat from 1985, however the alterations usually are not so substantial as to warrant a change of status from contributing to non-contributing. In other words, these resources remain sufficiently intact to be considered contributing.

A total of 22 primary resources, approximately 9 percent of the 240 inventory headings (roughly correlating to primary resources) in the original nomination, have been demolished since 1985. Approximately seven of the 22 resources have been replaced by parking lots and approximately four have been replaced by parks or pocket parks. Some of the parking lots have a hardscaped parklike character, for example the Carlos Jones Blue Ridge Park on the 200 block of North Main Street (SR1492). Many resources classified as non-contributing (“fill” or “intrusive”) in 1985, generally on account of age or alteration after the period of significance of the original nomination, have been reclassified as contributing due to the extended period of significance. The number of these status changes is difficult to determine exactly, since the original nomination included several vaguely addressed buildings and some headings included multiple properties that have been separated in the additional documentation, but a count yields 44 non-contributing to contributing conversions. This number is a substantial percentage (approximately 18 percent) of the 240 inventory headings in the original nomination that enhances the overall integrity of the district and offsets the loss of 22 primary resources. A few resources that were contributing in 1985 are now non-contributing owing to subsequent major alterations, notably 926 S. Main and 217-219 Rockford. 519 S. Main, classified as F (fill) in 1985, has been
reclassified as non-contributing. Currently, of the 281 resources in the district, 235 or 84 percent are classified as contributing.

Inventory Introduction

The inventory is organized alphabetically by street and numerically by address. Each inventory entry begins with the address followed by the property name, date(s) (exact or approximate) of original construction and major remodeling as appropriate, NC HPO site number, the inventory number from the original 1985 nomination, the status of the resource as either contributing or non-contributing, and the resource type. The inventory notes buildings that have been demolished; buildings or structures built since 1985 (only two primary resources); and buildings and structures that existed in 1985 but were not enumerated in the original inventory. This latter category includes a number of secondary resources such as garages, carports, and sheds. The body of each inventory entry includes the information in the original nomination plus an update that provides additional descriptive and/or historical information generated primarily by a 2018 resurvey of the district. In some cases resources that were described as a single blockfront in the 1985 inventory have been noted individually. In the original information, a few stylistic terms have been changed to conform to standard National Register usage and in a few cases clarification, noted in brackets, has been inserted in the original entry. In some instances the original description was so brief or vague as to be insufficient and is replaced with the update text.

Date-range information in the original nomination was typically derived from Sanborn maps which exist for the district for the years 1891, 1896, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1916, 1922, 1929, and 1948 (revision of 1929 map). In addition to the Sanborn maps, primary sources for the 1985 nomination entries included data in NC HPO survey files compiled in 1982 and 1984-1985, documentary photos, information provided by property owners or tenants and local historians, and newspaper articles or various published or published local histories.

The contributing or non-contributing status of resources was determined by their age (they must date to the period of significance) and their level of integrity, which is discussed in general terms in the Integrity Assessment at the end of section 7. For a resource of requisite age to be classified as contributing it must retain its essential historic character. Some level of non-historic alteration is acceptable, for example vinyl siding alone would not necessarily render a resource non-contributing. However, a resource that has had multiple alterations, for example vinyl siding plus replacement windows plus replacement porch supports, would likely be classified as non-contributing. Vacant lots and parking lots are designated VL in the inventory.


Quaint, diminutive one-and-one-half story L-shaped Queen Anne frame cottage now sheathed with vinyl siding. Polygonal-roofed porch with turned posts and balusters shelters two front doors located at juncture of cross-gable roof. House retains multi-pane windows in the gable ends. The J. T. Smith family were early owners; C. B. and Sadie Ann Jones lived here for over
forty years (ca. 1938-1982). The house first appears on the 1916 Sanborn Map (earlier maps did not cover this area).

Update: The house may have some replacement windows but retains Queen Anne windows in the gables.


One-story rectangular brick veneered commercial building at the corner of S. Main and Cherry St. with an offset main entrance with stone panels facing S. Main St. Formerly the site of a frame residence.

Update: The building retains most of its character-defining elements. The recessed entry, formerly with plate glass doors and surround, has infill and a metal door. An aerial photo from the 1960s shows the building but does not show its rear (east) four-bay extension, indicating that part is an addition. An angled wall surface to the left of the entry is the front end of an addition made after 1985. Currently CenturyLink.


Restrained one-and-one-half story brick veneer and granite Tudor Revival style house dominated by the entrance bay with large front facing stuccoed gable with half-timbering, and round arched main entrance set in random course granite blocks. A front facing granite and brick chimney extends high above the gabled roof. The house was constructed for postal worker Howard R. Key.

Update: The house appears little changed from 1985 except the windows on the front have been replaced. In the case of the window sashes to the left of the chimney this has resulted in a reduction of the glazed area.


One-and-one-half story, L-shaped brick veneer Colonial Revival style house with shingle-clad gabled dormer, one-bay shed-roofed entry porch sheltering main entrance with six-panel door, side porch with square balusters and “Chippendale” woodwork and balustrade above, exterior end chimney.

Update: The house is virtually unchanged from its 1985 appearance except for the replacement of the windows; vinyl siding of the dormer; and an alteration, probably replacement, of at least
the lower railing on the side porch with simple balusters resulting in the loss of the Chippendale detail.


Charming, late 19th-century or early 20th-century one-story frame cottage with triple-A roof, slightly projecting front entrance, and wrap-around porch with turned posts and lacy sawnwork brackets. Associated with the Banner family, and the oldest house on Cherry Street.

Update: The house is little changed from 1985. A circular window on the angled front right corner, shown painted over in the 1980s photos, has had the paint stripped, revealing presumably original colored glass panes (red, green, and blue). A gazebo and pergola in the front yard and a latticed shed in the back yard do not appear to be shown in the 1980s photos and are therefore likely recent additions to the property.

   One-story frame shed with latticed sides.

b. Gazebo. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing structure.
   One-story octagonal frame gazebo of wooden construction.

c. Pergola. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing structure.
   Small one-story frame pergola of wooden construction.


Two-story brick veneer house with jerkin head roof, exposed rafter ends, stuccoed gable ends, exterior end chimney, and shallow pitch gabled entry porch supported by paired slender Doric columns. Constructed about 1928 by W. G. Lewis who owned a dry goods store. At a later date, a second main entrance was added and the house converted to a duplex.

Update: The principal change since 1985 is the replacement or substantial reconstruction of the front porch. The grouped Doric columns have been replaced with more widely-spaced square columns and the porch gable and main roof gables have been resided with what may be cementitious siding. The second front entry has been bricked up, suggesting the house has reverted to single-family use, and false shutters added to the windows.


Two-story, three-bay brick veneer Colonial Revival style house constructed in the late 1930s for F. Harris, an accountant and County Commissioner. One-story wings topped with metal balustrades flank the main gable-roofed two-story block. The classically inspired main entrance
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

is composed of a six-panel door with multi-pane sidelights and is sheltered by a portico carried by clustered Doric columns and surmounted by a wrought iron balustrade.

Update: The house has changed little since 1985.


Handsomely detailed two-story, five-bay brick veneer Colonial Revival style house with steep gable roof with parapeted chimney ends, segmental arched eight-over-eight windows with molded surrounds, round arch dormers, dentil cornice, elegant Federal entrance with broken pediment, paneled door, tracery fanlight, and Doric columns. The interior follows a center hall plan and features a graceful curved staircase, and mantel pieces and trim reflecting both the Federal and Georgian periods. According to the Sanborn Maps, the house was constructed by 1929; plans were drawn by the prominent Winston-Salem architectural firm of Northup and O’Brien. The house was constructed by Dr. Edward C. Ashby, Sr. and is currently owned by his son Edward C. Ashby, Jr.

Update: The house has changed little since 1985. A brick wall has been built around the front yard. The wall is punctuated with brick piers topped by concrete pineapples and there is a metal gate in line with the main entry. Edward C. Ashby Jr. died in 1995. After his widow, Susan P. Ashby, prominent local preservationist and founder of the Mount Airy Restoration Foundation, died in 1998, the house passed out of the family. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 2012.

      One-story brick or brick-veneered building with a gabled roof,


One-story T-shaped frame bungalow with wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. Shingled front-facing gable, engaged porch with paired box posts on weatherboarded skirt, corbelled granite chimney, granite foundation and steps, granite retaining wall. Offset front door of four lights and molded wooden panels. Constructed as an investment property by Dr. Campbell Baird, who lived next door.

Update: The house appears basically unaltered from its 1985 appearance except for what appears to be a recent rear addition which matches the Craftsman style of the house. The bottom course of wood shingles in the front gable appears to have been replaced by a frieze board. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 2010.

Two-story brick veneer Tudor Revival style house with steep, cross-gable slate roof, stucco and half-timbering, imposing granite trimmed front facing chimney, casement windows, round arched engaged porch formed by the sloped extension of the front gable. Constructed about 1935 for Bruce Yokley, one of the owners of the Mount Airy Furniture Company.

Update: The house appears the same as in 1985. The stucco and half timbering described in the 1985 nomination appears to be confined to a small area in the apex of the left gable. A stylized Y, present in the 1980s, still adorns the face of the chimney. The survey file for the property has a note that suggests a Yokley family member, possibly Bruce Yokley’s widow, stated the house was “built [a] little before 1937.”


Grand two-story frame Neo-Classical Revival style house constructed in 1917 for physician, Dr. Campbell A. Baird. The large, hip-roofed house is dominated by a colossal pedimented portico supported by paired Doric columns. A one-story full-facade hip-roofed attached porch is surmounted by a one-bay second story balustraded porch accessible from an exterior staircase or a second story door identical to the main entrance with sidelights and transom. The house is set in a large lot marked by a granite retaining wall.

Update: Contractor John Kidwell renovated the house in 2013. The columns, which Kidwell notes were made at the Mount Airy Furniture Company, were reglued and the rotted bases replaced. The front rooms of the house were used as waiting and examining rooms by Dr. Baird. Kidwell’s renovation included a new back porch with granite intended to match existing granite in or around the house, new flooring, a reworked staircase, and gas-burning fireplace inserts. Comparison to 1980s photos shows the removal of the room at the right front corner of the porch, which returned the porch to its original wraparound form, and the removal of a stair that rose from the first story of the porch to the balcony under the portico. A screened porch has been added to the one-story rear wing and a flue removed from same. An interior chimney no longer appears above the roofline.


Two-story, five-bay frame Colonial Revival style house with one-story Doric columned side porches. The well-detailed house has exterior end chimneys, denticulated cornice, six-over-six windows with molded surrounds, gabled entry portico with fluted columns, and paneled aprons. Constructed by 1929 for physician, Dr. Roy C. Mitchell.

Update: The principal change to the house is the enclosure of the two end porches. The fluted Doric porch columns were retained in the enclosure process. The enclosure wall has large multi-paned windows.
**Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)**

**Name of Property**

**Surry County, N.C.**

**County and State**


Spacious, unaltered one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with shingled dormer and gable ends, engaged porch supported by tapered box posts with molded caps and bases resting on a weatherboarded skirt, tall corbelled interior chimneys, exposed rafter ends, nine-over-one windows, multi-paned entrance with multi-pane sidelights and transom. Built between 1914 and 1917 for sisters, Helen Sparger Dixon and Jesse Gilmer Sparger. Furniture factory executive, Hairston Williamson, was a later, long-time resident.

Update: The exterior walls and porch railing have modern vinyl siding, although the gables and front dormer retain the historic wood shingles. The 1916 Sanborn map shows the house but does not show the outbuilding. The addition at the end of the rear ell appears to date to ca. 1960.

   One-story frame building with a metal-sheathed gable roof, two-over-two window, and what appears to be vinyl siding.


Boxy, two-story, three-bay wide, brick Colonial Revival style house built by 1922 for banker Frank Sparger. The house features a hip roof with hip-roofed dormer sheathed with diamond-shaped asbestos shingles, wide boxed eaves, six-over-one windows and full-facade hip-roofed porch with projecting pedimented entry porch carried by clustered Doric columns on brick piers.

Update: All parts of the porch—the projecting gabled center part (which is not fully pedimented) and the flanking hipped sections—have Doric-influenced classical columns, which are full height under the gabled projection and half-height on brick piers otherwise. The porch frieze is covered with vinyl. The dormer has a stucco finish. An outbuilding or gazebo-like structure behind the house, which may be shown in 1980s photos, no longer appears to be present.


Two-story frame Colonial Revival style house with three gabled wall dormers, paired nine-over-one windows, single-bay pedimented entry porch and enclosed one-story sunroom addition at the east (left). The house was constructed by 1929 for furniture company executive, Frank Carter, and was originally a single story. His brother, Archie Carter, a lawyer subsequently owned the house and was responsible for the addition of the second story.

Update: The windows of the so-called sunroom addition have been replaced with large multipane windows.

   One-story two-vehicle garage of unknown construction with a side-gable roof.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)  Surry County, N.C.
Name of Property  County and State


Large, rectangular two-story granite building constructed in 1914 by Mrs. A. E. Irvin as Irvin Hospital. According to local historians, Mrs. Irvin constructed it for her son, Dr. Sam Irvin who practiced medicine there only briefly before he left to practice in Panama. In August, 1915, Dr. Moir Martin, a native of Stuart, Virginia, purchased the hospital in partnership with local physician, Dr. Edward Ashby, Sr., and the hospital was renamed Martin Memorial. The building burned in May, 1953, but the random course granite shell remained. In 1984 the building was adaptively reused and rehabilitated as apartments. The original hip roof was replaced with a flat roof. Two flat-roofed entrance porticos [on the southwest side of the building], indicated on the 1916 Sanborn Maps, remain. The attractive rehabilitated building is set at a 90-degree angle to the street which minimizes the impact its scale would otherwise have on this quiet street of single-family residences.

Update: Martin Manor, as the building is currently known, appears virtually unaltered from its 1980s appearance. A current phone-booth-like wood and glass entryway at the south entry appears to be shown in 1980s photos. The sign on the pillar by the street has changed. The 1916 Sanborn map shows what appears to be the south end of the building and labels it Irvin Memorial Hospital. A 1976 newspaper article dates the building to 1913, as do some other sources. The 1929 Sanborn map shows the building as stone veneer, however the low one-story wing on the north end, which may have been a boiler room, is shown as solid stone construction. The long northeast side of the building faces S. Gilmer St. and features a porch with box posts that spans the facade between a frame two-story wing and the south end and a larger, original stone-veneered wing on a raised basement at the north end.


Handsome, two-story brick Tudor Revival style house with multiple steeply pitched gables; tall paneled brick chimneys, stuccoed and half-timbered gabled entry porch with chamfered posts and sawn balusters, bands of casement windows, round arched side entrance. The house was constructed ca. 1924 for Margaret and Randall Sparger. Sparger was an executive of the Mt. Airy Furniture Company. Margaret Ashby Sparger was the sister of Elizabeth A. Boyles and Edward Ashby who also lived on Cherry Street.

Update: The house appears unaltered. The historic and probably original winding walk is paved with irregular slate flagstones.


One-story Flemish-bond brick bungalow with shingled gables, exposed rafter ends and offset attached gabled porch supported by substantial brick columns. Built ca. 1920 by Dr. Edward C. Ashby, who lived here until his Colonial Revival style house at 302 Cherry Street was built ca. 1930. After that Ashby’s sister Elizabeth and her husband, Carlyle Boyles, lived here.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)
Name of Property

Update: The principal change is the replacement of the multi-pane windows of the right-side sunroom with plate glass windows. The octagonal vent in the front porch gable is added and the window in the house gable above appears to be a replacement. The brickwork, described as Flemish bond in the nomination, may be a type of rowlock brick construction popular at the time. The right-side sunroom is shown as a porch on the 1929 Sanborn map. The gable-fronted brick garage, which appears on the 1929 Sanborn map but apparently not the 1922 map, has unusual early or original doors with window panes above what appears to be novelty weatherboard.

The gable-fronted brick garage, which appears on the 1929 Sanborn map but apparently not the 1922 map, has unusual early or original doors with window panes above what appears to be novelty weatherboard.


One-and-one-half story brick bungalow with clipped gable roof, shed-roofed dormers and clipped gable Doric columned entry portico, paired six-over-one windows, porte cochere at west carried by brick columns, and wide, multi-pane sidelights flanking the main entrance. Built by 1929 for John Mitchell, who worked for the North Carolina Granite Corporation.

Update: Aside from the addition of vinyl over the porch friezes the house appears little changed from the 1980s.

One-story, frame, gable-fronted, appears similar to 1980s photo,


Interesting, one-story brick bungalow with Tudor Revival style detailing. Low hipped roof with side gable at the west. Wide overhanging eaves ornamented by triangular brackets and decoratively sawn fascia boards. Offset porch with stucco and half-timbering in front-facing gable; porch carried by granite trimmed brick piers on granite-trimmed brick skirt. Constructed by 1929 for a Mr. Daber who was employed by the quarry.

Update: The house retains most of its 1920s character. Alterations to the eaves of the house involving the addition of vinyl material resulted in the elimination of triangular brackets in the gables and the decorative rake boards in the front porch gable. Vinyl has been added as a sort of frieze across the bottom of the porch gable. In the 1980s the house had what may have been its original diamond-pattern asphalt or composition roofing, which has now been replaced by asphalt shingle roofing. The front yard is partly defined by a rockfaced granite retaining wall.

One-story hip-roofed building, which has a door with four-square design, appears to be portrayed on 1929 Sanborn map.

Fanciful one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with lavish granite detailing in the foundation, steps, chimney with incised date stone, and wrap-around porch with terrace and flower planters. The house also features shingled gable ends, overhanging eaves with triangular brackets and decoratively sawn fascia boards. Constructed in 1927 for Raymond Sargent, son of J. D. Sargent, the financial wizard of the North Carolina Granite Corporation. Raymond’s house shares some similarities, particularly the porch and chimney, with that of his father’s outstanding granite bungalow on North Main Street.

Update: The house exterior is virtually unaltered from its 1980s appearance. A possibly non-original pediment over the front entry has been removed and there is a small, high stained-glass window to the left of the entry which may or may not have existed in 1985 (a feature of the same size appears at the location but it is not clear that it was a window).


Update (original entry nearly devoid of information): This two-story, gable-roofed house is a secondary dwelling associated with 418 Cherry. The frame house has novelty weatherboard siding. A lattice vent at the top of the left gable and triangular brackets in the eaves of the gable are Craftsman features which may suggest construction before 1940 but not necessarily before ca. 1935 (the house does not appear on the 1929 Sanborn map). The house is situated behind 418 Cherry St.

Update: The elevations visible from the street appear to have altered little since the 1980s. False shutters have been added to the second-story windows and shutters for a first-story window appear to have been replaced.


Eclectic, two-story brick and frame L-shaped house with multiple cross gable roof and robust carved brackets supporting the overhanging large front facing bay. The recessed one-story entrance bay is faced with granite veneer. Six-over-six windows, exterior end chimney with paved shoulder. Constructed ca. 1930 for Clark Lackey, who worked for the granite quarry.

Update: The house is little changed from its 1985 appearance. Stylistically it appears later than ca. 1930, although it may be advanced.

One-story, gable-fronted, frame building sided with novelty weatherboard.

Plain one-story, three-bay, gable-roofed frame cottage with gabled entry roof supported by shaped bracket. Built ca. 1940 by H. M. Finch for his father, a missionary.

Update: The house is little changed from its 1985 appearance.


One-and-one-half story brick Cape Cod/Colonial Revival style house with brick-veneered gables, symmetrically placed six-over-six windows, six-panel main entrance framed by narrow pilasters and three-light transom, and a slightly projecting bay at the west. Constructed for H. M. Finch, principal of the Mount Airy High School.

Update: The gabled dormers and a long shed dormer on the back roof plane now have novelty vinyl siding. The 1980s photo shows paneled shutters with crescent moon cutouts; the current shutters are replacements. The first-floor windows have been replaced but the dormers retain their historic six-over-six sashes.


The 1960 John Sobotta Scout Hut is a contributing secondary building behind First Presbyterian Church. The simple, one-story, Modernist building is constructed of painted concrete block and has a composition-shingled side-gable roof. The eaves overhang on the front and engage wall projections that frame three entries with wood-framed glass panel doors. Other features include prow-like gables, a rear shed, an interior concrete block chimney, and high ribbon windows on the gable ends. Note: The building is on the same parcel with First Presbyterian Church which has the address 326 South Main Street.

In front of the building is a rectangular area delineated by a chain-link fence enclosing playground equipment.


Two-story brick commercial building with one of the two storefronts still intact, and retaining paired one-over-one second story windows headed by heavy granite segmental arches. Built between 1896-1897 for R. H. Leonard, jeweler. According to newspaper accounts of the construction, “Mr. John L. Banner has the contract for the brick work and Mr. W. B. Shelton the contract for the woodwork. Look out for something nice” (Mount Airy News, October 29, 1897).

Update: The building front has been painted but is otherwise the same as in the 1980s. The granite arches have also been painted. The 117 address appears over a stair entry and is for the upstairs. The Palace Barber Shop was the tenant of 113 in the 1980s and the red lettering in the
shop front windows may even be the same as then. The 115 storefront dates to the 1950s or 1960s and has a recessed entry flanked by aluminum-framed display windows with brick bulkheads. Not noted in the 1985 description is a small granite name block over the 115 storefront which is inscribed McNeil, presumably the tenant at the time the 115 storefront was remodeled ca. 1950 or 1960. The April 22, 1897 issue of the *Mount Airy News* noted that the town’s first concrete sidewalk was installed in front of the Leonard building. The Palace Barber Shop has operated on the block, possibly in this building, as far back as 1928. Photographer C. A. Cornett had his studio in the “Leonard Building” in 1897.


Two-story brick commercial building with much altered first story storefront. Intact second story features large, round arched central window and decorative corbelled cornice. Constructed between 1896 and 1900 and first used as a restaurant.

Update: The building was undergoing renovation at the time of survey (January 2018). The metal storefront and suspended flat aluminum awning present in the 1980s have been removed, as has the second-story window, although the arched window surround survives. A replacement of the tripartite window with double-hung sashes with multi-paned arched transom has been installed. It is identical to the original except that the larger, center double-hung sash is one-over-one instead of the original two-over-two. Bold, chamfered supports frame the storefront windows and entry.


One-story commercial building with stepped parapet and stuccoed main elevation. Molded wooden cornice above altered storefronts. Constructed between 1922 and 1929 for offices and stores.

Update: The county GIS date for the building, which originally had four narrow storefronts, is 1923. The façade has been redone, perhaps in the 1990s, to give the appearance of two storefronts, resulting in the removal of awnings present in 1985. The right half of the building has what appears to be an original door at the far end (118 Franklin), a segmental arch with keystone motif over the entry that has been converted to a window and large plate glass display windows. The other storefront has a similar arch motif at the narrow window that formerly was a door and a plate glass window to its left, while the recessed entrance (124 Franklin) and its flanking display windows appear to be original except for its metal shed awning. The parapet has been stuccoed and the name Dickson added.

**125-129 Franklin Street. Building. Ca. 1900. SR0702 (#156). Contributing building.**

One-story brick commercial building constructed between 1896 and 1900 and first used as a cobbler shop. The original brick is visible on the side (west) and rear elevations, while the main elevation was reworked with brick veneer at an undetermined date. The building retains the original glass entry doors with brass thumb latches.
Update: The storefront has been redone and now has round-arched windows and transoms, vinyl siding, and a curved fabric-type awning. The parapet above remains unaltered. The side elevation has been repainted with images promoting the historic downtown.


Squat, one-and-one-half-story, random-coursed granite commercial building constructed between 1910 and 1916 as an automobile garage and later used as an automobile painting store. Large rock-faced granite blocks form pilasters which mark the three-bay main elevation. A massive lintel above multi-pane transoms extends above the altered storefronts and recessed central entrance.

Update: Other than the removal of signage, the apparent replacement of the recessed entry doors with similar wood and glass panel doors, and the addition of a curved fabric-type awning, the building has changed little since the 1980s. The 1929 Sanborn map indicates load-bearing stone construction rather than veneer and shows a frame awning or porch. The September 28, 1934, issue of the Mount Airy Times may describe this building as the Nelson Building, noting that a branch of the Southern Auto Supply Stores was to open in it. Guy Hill, originally of Mount Airy but resident elsewhere from 1917 to 1934, was to be the proprietor of the branch.


Large three-story brick commercial building accented with granite window sills, a profusion of corner blocks, and a stone name plate centered in the frieze. First floor storefronts have been altered; the right (east) bay has been “colonialized” with applied broken pediment door surround and replacement fanlighted windows. Constructed between 1922 and 1929. The Moody Funeral Home was an early tenant.

Update: The building is similar to its 1980s appearance other than the removal and addition of storefront awnings, the replacement of windows, and the removal of the name Taylor from the name panel in the parapet.

VL.


Two-and-one-half story brick Masonic Temple with Art Deco styling. The verticality of the design is emphasized by the slender one-over-one square-headed windows, brick pilasters, windows in slightly recessed wall planes, stepped-back facade, and a decorative parapet treatment consisting of narrow recessed brick panels with pointed heads.

Update: The building was designed by Winston-Salem architect Harry Barton. The building is little altered. 1980s photos appear to show the current four-over-four windows. An article in the
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Surry County, N.C.

Name of Property

County and State

July 1, 1976 Mount Airy Times gives the history of the lodge, which was chartered in 1872 but dates its origins to 1854. The cornerstone for the current building was laid March 31, 1931.

VL.


Two-story brick veneer commercial building with angled corner entrance and large expanse of plate glass display windows on both stories.

Update: The building retains its overall former form and appearance. The original description pertains to the left half of the building; the right half retains its original brick front, large aluminum-framed display windows and recessed entry, and an early or original cantilevered flat metal awning. Windows (other than storefront windows) have been replaced and a new door with sidelights, with decorative woodwork and glass, has been added to the corner entry and the overhead transom covered over. Traces of painted signage on the right side elevation have been preserved and a sign reading Mount Airy Paint Store appears to be the historic signage repainted. A one-story concrete block wing at the back northeast corner may be an addition (hard to tell from 1980s photos). An exterior stair of treated wood construction, sheltered by a segmented awning, rises on the right side.


Three-story, three-bay wide, eight-bay deep brick commercial building with granite accents. Corbelled brick pilasters with vertical ribbons of granite blocks, granite cornice, and granite corner blocks on the paired six-over-one windows highlight the main elevation.

Update: The building was built as the New Willow Hotel in 1931 and is so named on the 1948 Sanborn map. The hotel was the project of Mount Airy businessmen S. A. Hennis Sr. and Hugh Hennis and was designed and built by contractor Matt Hines. Original features included a coffee shop, electric elevator, and thirty guest rooms. The establishment advertised itself as “Northwest North Carolina’s Newest and Finest Small Hotel.” G. C. Lovill and J. W. Lovill acquired the building in 1936. The building is named New Willow Hotel in 1949 and 1962 city directories. In 1965 the G. C. Lovill Company announced that it would close the hotel. The entry and flanking plate glass display windows shown in 1980s photos probably date to the building’s ca. 1965 conversion as the Professional Building, so named in a 1966 city directory. More recently the display windows have been replaced with sets of three windows with simulation muntins, although the entryway may be the same as in the 1960s-80s. The upper-story windows have been replaced and also have simulation muntins.

VL.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property


One-and-one half story brick and frame early bungalow constructed between 1916 and 1922. The broad engaged front porch is supported by large, battered brick and granite capped piers on a brick and granite skirt and shelters an exterior staircase to the upper story. The gable ends and gabled central dormer probably were sheathed with sawn shingles originally, but are now covered with vinyl siding. An early resident was J. Raymond Smith. Mr. Smith remembers living here as a child while his father constructed the house next door in 1905. Sanborn Maps indicate a much larger masonry house was here from ca. 1900-1916. The large house may have been extensively remodeled. Both the original house and this bungalow have a projecting polygonal bay on the east (side) elevation.

Update: The overall form of the house is unaltered. The paint has been removed from the brick of the first story and porch and the left chimney no longer appears above the roofline. The gables and porch roof ends have what appears to be historic wood shingles, suggesting the vinyl siding described in 1985 has been removed. Some windows may be replacements.

   Brick construction and a wood-shingled gable suggest this one-story building is contemporary with the house.


Update: The house has had vinyl siding applied since original survey and appears to have replacement windows. A carport has been added to the enclosed right part of the wraparound porch. A screened porch has been added to the back porch. Not readily apparent in the 1980s photos is an original or early brick wall or small brick room adjoining the back porch, perhaps a pantry designed to keep foodstuffs cool.

   One-story gabled outbuilding appears to stand on same lot with house but may be on adjacent lot.


Large, intact, two-and-one-half story frame late Victorian style house with Doric columned wrap-around porch with corner bell-roofed pavilion, high hip roof with shed-roofed dormer, projecting polygonal bay with pedimented gable, decorative sawn brackets supporting the eaves, one-over-one windows, and double-leaf glass and oak main entrance. The house was constructed about 1905 by A. E. Smith, head of the National Furniture Company and co-owner of the
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property: Hadley-Smith Tobacco Factory. The house is currently owned and occupied by his son, J. Raymond Smith.

Update: The house is virtually unchanged from its 1985 appearance. A 1905 photo shows the house with a polychrome paint scheme, more chimneys than at present (the chimneys were partly painted or rendered to emphasize detail), and a stained-glass Palladian window (now replaced) above the front entry in the second story. Alfred E. Smith was a co-owner of the Hadley and Smith Tobacco Factory.

   Impressive two-story brick garage with upper-level apartment and a hip roof with a shed dormer. The building was built between 1922 and 1929.


Well-preserved one-story frame cottage with novelty weatherboard siding, sawn shingles in the gable ends, and a projecting one-bay entrance portico with square posts that shelters flush sheathing around the entry. The interior follows a center hall plan and features Colonial Revival style trim and mantels. The house was constructed between 1916 and 1922 for use as an investment property by neighbor, J. Raymond Smith. Tommy Williams was a long-time resident.

Update: The main change to the house is to the front porch. The triple corner posts have been replaced with single posts, the board railing has been replaced with conventional picket-type balusters, and the flush-board sheathing in the porch gable has been replaced with a vertical picket-type treatment.

   One-story, gable-fronted, recessed infill in the garage bay.


L-shaped two-story three-bay brick house with gabled roof with returns, projecting right (west) bay, two-over-two segmental arched windows, shingled gable ends and replacement one-bay gable front entrance portico (porch originally extended across two bays). The house was constructed by 1900 for R. H. Leonard, jeweler.

Update: The house is little altered from its 1985 appearance. The windows may be replacements. According to longtime Mount Airy resident George Speight, this property was known as the Council House in the mid-twentieth century.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property


Three-story, eight-bay, brick-veneer Colonial Revival-style apartment building constructed about 1940 by J. Raymond Smith. The symmetrical building has eight-over-eight windows set in molded wooden surrounds; the center five bays on the second story feature blind fanlights in keystoned arches. An elaborate entrance surround with modillioned broken pediment with urn and reeded pilasters frames the paneled entrance with three-light transom. A stone belt course divides the first and second stories, with a molded stone string course above the third story windows.

Update: The Franklin Apartments building, so named in a 1941 advertisement and in 1949 and 1962 city directories, was designed by the Winston-Salem architectural firm of Northup and O’Brien and built by contractor Joe Greenwood. A front elevation drawing was prepared in June 1935 and the building is thought to have been built the same year, although because of the possibility of a construction delay during the depression a later date is possible, hence the 1985 non-contributing designation is retained. The architectural drawing is viewable online at the NCSU Libraries website. Other than replacement windows and the removal of air conditioner window units the building is little changed from its 1985 appearance.


One-story frame cottage with glassed in front porch.

Update: The house appears little changed from the 1980s although a chimney that formerly rose above the roodline is no longer apparent.


Two-story granite building with hipped roof, gabled dormers, gabled entrance porch with Doric columns, and one-over-one windows. Opened in 1918 as the nursing school serving Martin Memorial Hospital across Gilmer Street. The school graduated its first class of five nurses in 1921. A total of 298 nurses graduated before the school was closed in the mid-1950s. Today the building is in use as offices for the local health department.

Update: The building is basically as it was in 1985 although the windows and the tubular fluted porch columns may be replacements and a rear addition was added in 2007. The building appears as “from plans” on the 1922 Sanborn map, which also labels it “Nurses Home.” The map shows a one-story porch at the location of the multi-story rear addition. It is possible the nursing home in existence in 1918 was housed at first in the Martin Memorial Hospital across the street or some other building. The 1929 Sanborn map shows the building as stone veneer. According to research by architectural historian Heather Fearnbach contained in a 2021 Part 1 rehabilitation application for the building, it was completed and placed into service in December 1922. The school ceased operations in 1953 subsequent to a fire that gutted the hospital.

One-story brick and frame ranch house.

Update: The house appears little altered from its 1980s appearance. The county GIS date for the house is 1956. The house appears to have been built as a triplex and is largely intact from the 1950s period.


Boxy, two-story, three-bay wide, three-bay deep Colonial Revival style frame house with low hip roof, wide overhanging eaves, exterior end chimney, large eight-over-twelve first story windows and six-over-six second story windows, pedimented entrance portico, flat-roofed side porch topped by balustrade, paneled front door flanked by fluted pilasters. Built between 1916 and 1922.

Update: A number of minor changes have occurred to the house since 1985. The side porch roof balustrade, a series of cruciform panels, has been replaced with a picket-fence balustrade with decorative newels. Paneled shutters with curved tops have been added to windows.


Picturesque one-and-one-half story English cottage style stuccoed house with a steep front gable over the right (west) bays and engaged porch sweeping across the left of the main elevation and extending to form a porte-cochere. A shed-roofed dormer is lighted by a band of six-light casement windows. The round arched entryway to the porch is repeated in a “garden gate” entrance at the extreme right where the front gable extends almost to the ground.

Update: The house is little changed from its 1985 appearance. False shutters and a lintel detail appear to have been removed from the three first-story windows in the front gable end, leaving behind a ghost impression on the stucco that shows the shutters to have had unusual diamond-headed cutouts. The rear wing chimney is in poor condition compared to its former appearance and a porch or covered deck has been added to the south side of the wing.


One-and-one-half-story frame bungalow sheathed with asbestos shingles. Center gabled dormer on gable-end roof; decoratively sawn exposed rafter ends; engaged front porch with square posts and balusters; one-over-one windows; granite steps and retaining wall.

Update: The windows are replacements and have new false shutters, the front porch step railing has been replaced, and a chimney has been removed above the roofline on the left side.

Two-story frame building of domestic appearance, gable roof, T-111-type siding, six-over-six windows with slatted shutters, and a possible one-story garage wing.


One-and-one-half story brick cottage with high hipped roof, steep cross gables, pilastered walls, dentil cornice and front porch with turned posts and balusters and spindled frieze. The house was built for local physician, Dr. W. S. Taylor.

Update: The turned porch posts and balusters and the spindle frieze have been replaced by slender tubular columns (probably aluminum). The front and side gables have vinyl siding and the corrugated metal roofing appears to be a replacement of former composition-shingle roofing.


One-story brick veneered commercial building with later rear additions. Rubbed brick soldier course outlines twin flat panels above the reworked storefront.

Update: Hylton Auto Supply opened at the location in May 1937. A newspaper notice for the opening stated, “The building housing the Hylton Auto Supply Company is a part of the Lovill block and has been remodeled into one of the most modern storerooms in Mount Airy, giving ample floor space and roomy show windows for the company.” The 1929 Sanborn map shows the Banner Tobacco Sales Warehouse at the corner; whether the Lovill block was one and the same as the tobacco warehouse, or built between 1929 and 1937 and then remodeled in 1937, is unknown.

The building is little changed from its 1985 appearance. It retains a suspended awning, which looks somewhat altered from the 1985 appearance, and a storefront transom covered with corrugated material. The shop window at the south corner, facing East Pine Street, has been reduced in size; the signage on the south side elevation reading “Hylton Auto Supply” has faded; and the metal-framed south side windows have been replaced. A May 1937 photo of the store that appears in the January 30, 1994, issue of the Mount Airy News shows the building when it first opened. The transoms over the two storefronts were glazed with translucent square panes and painted signage in the shop windows advertised Auto Parts, Washers, and Refrigeration. In 1969 the Hylton Supply Company advertised its RCA color televisions.


One-story brick commercial building with handsome carved stonework ornamenting the eaves and cornice. Retains decorative iron hooks which probably originally supported a cloth canopy, now used for a suspended metal canopy. Located on the former site of the Banner Tobacco Warehouse.

Update: The building was built in 1932 to house Efird’s Department Store, a chain store operated by E. L. Efird and others of Winston-Salem. The building replaced the front portion of what was
described at the time as the Lovill Warehouse. The show windows were described as “unusually large.” The building is little changed from its 1985 appearance. It retains a suspended awning, which looks somewhat altered from the 1985 appearance, and a storefront transom covered with corrugated material. What is described as carved stonework in the 1985 nomination is actually terra cotta with a white matte finish and appears in the cornice above the storefront and at the top of the flat parapet. The detail appears more 1920s in date, perhaps early in the decade, than ca. 1930.


The building has been demolished and its site developed as a pocket park.


Handsome little-altered two-and-one-half story four-bay brick commercial building with multi-pane transom, two-over-two segmental arched windows, brick pilasters separating corbelled recessed panel frieze, and corbelled and mouse-toothed cornice. The 1891 Sanborn Map notes that the building was under construction then. It served as a general store and grocery for many years.

Update: The building’s second story is little altered other than the addition of replacement nine-over-nine windows. In the first story, the historic glass transom and awning present in 1985 have been replaced with the current awning and metal-sheathed transom, although the lintel may have been retained. The storefront may be a replacement, however it is similar in form and character to the one present in 1985. The building is two stories high; the brick is painted white or off-white.


The one-story building, built in the early twenty-first century on the site of a building demolished prior to 1985, provides public restrooms. It has a decorative front elevation with banded buff and red brick veneer and green tiles with flower-like blue accents. The building has a deep set-back, and in front of it is a pocket park with metal tables and chairs on a concrete slab fronted by low granite planters.


Altered one-story brick commercial building with reworked main elevation (possibly 1940s) with incised name plate centered near tile coped flat roof. The remnant of a corbelled pilaster (similar to the Snappy Lunch’s brickwork [125 N. Main]) remains at the right (north). The building has served as a post office, meat store, and grocery store.
Update: The façade over the storefront is unaltered, with exposed brick and the name plaque (apparently marble) reading “Marsh Building.” The double storefront has been altered although it retains the basic form present in 1985. The transom area and aprons beneath the display windows have an irregularly patterned stone-like facing like the one next door at 123 North Main.


Typical early twentieth century one-story brick commercial building with simple corbeled eaves above recessed panel frieze. Reworked storefront.

Update: Signage has been removed from the parapet and the metal roofing on the shed awning has been replaced with corrugated metal (or the entire awning was replaced in kind).


Heavily altered one-story commercial building. Main elevation obscured by panels set in narrow metal strips; brick veneer below plate glass storefront.

Update: When surveyed in the 1980s the name of the commercial tenant survived as a ghost impression on the panels, the letters themselves having been removed. The upper half of the façade is currently finished with textured stucco and the lower half with a stone-like facing in an irregular pattern. The stone-like material also covers the lower parts of the brick piers that flank the façade. The piers have decoratively corbeled tops (present in 1985) that appear earlier than the 1940 date assigned to the building. At the top of the façade runs a dentil-like strip. The current aluminum and plate glass storefront appears to be the same as the one present in 1985, although with the aprons finished with the stone-like material. The 1940 date specified for the building in 1985 may be an approximate date.


Little-altered one-story brick commercial building with chamfered wooden posts separating the three bays, a decorative heavily corbelled vertical paneled cornice, a recessed horizontal brick panel accommodating store sign, and (covered but intact) multi-pane transom. An early use of the building was as a grocery store. Since 1923 it has housed the Snappy Lunch restaurant.

Update: The façade retains most of the features present in 1985, although it has been improved by the uncovering of two “Queen Anne” transom panels with borders of square colored-glass panes. The entrance present in 1985 has been replaced with a new door and single sidelight. The Moderne flush sign over the transom has been repainted and its ends modified. The projecting sign below, which features a waitress and motorist, was present in 1985 and appears to date to the 1940s. In its early years, perhaps originally, the building housed the town post office. A photo from the mid-twentieth century published in the February 24, 1976, issue of the Mount Airy News (and other publications), shows the storefront in its original condition with chamfered
posts and the original three Queen Anne transoms in place. The shop windows flanking the center entry were bordered with small rectangular panes that appear colored in the photo. Subsequent alterations moved the entrance to the left side and installed smaller windows with wood infill above.


Two-story brick commercial building with reworked first story and replacement second story windows. Three diamond-shaped decorative basket-weave pattern panels decorate the main elevation below the concrete-coped eaves of the flat roof. The Sanborn Maps indicate this may have been one of two “stores” located in the first-floor north corner of the Banner Tobacco warehouses.

Update: The building retains the aluminum awnings that were over the three second-story windows in 1985. The wood-shingled shed awning over the storefront has been removed, as have the two entry doors with diamond-pattern glass upper panels. The current storefront has anodized aluminum-framed plate glass shop windows and stained-glass transoms with a pattern of orange lozenges on a blue field.


One-story brick, double store front commercial building built about 1900, with main facade reworked ca. 1920 with multi-pane transoms above storefronts and simple recessed panel below the concrete coped cornice. According to the Sanborn Maps the building served as a bookstore from ca. 1900 to ca. 1910 and as a stationery shop from ca. 1916 to ca. 1922. The City Barber Shop occupied the building from the late 1940s into the mid-1980s.

Update: The façade is virtually unaltered from 1985.


Two-story brick commercial building with severe, brick veneer replacement facade and two undersized metal casement windows. The building has served a variety of commercial purposes since its construction in the late 19th century including use as a general store, grocery store and a Chinese laundry.

Update: The façade has been modified by the replacement of the second-story windows with plate glass windows, the addition of a projecting lollipop sign, and the replacement of the door and window panes (although the brick aprons appear to be the ones present in 1985). Otherwise the façade is intact to the mid-twentieth century with its expanse of stretcher-bond brick articulated only by a double header course in the parapet.

Two-story brick commercial building with double storefront and second story band of metal-trimmed casement windows. A double row of brick soldier courses provides the only ornamentation near the eaves of the flat roof. Located on a portion of the former site of the massive Banner Tobacco Warehouses built between 1910 and 1916.

Update: The main alterations include the replacement of the second-story industrial metal-framed windows with plate glass windows, the removal of the awnings over the windows, and the removal of the suspended aluminum awnings over the two storefronts (the scars where the awning attached are evident). These features were augmented or covered over by alterations made in 2018. The banded or ribbon window treatment is characteristic of 1940s construction. The former address was 138 North Main.


This two-story brick commercial building is noted on the 1910 Sanborn Map as a “novelty theatre.” A large rear wing was added between 1922 and 1929 to house the Grand Movie Theatre, with the original building then serving as a long, narrow entrance foyer. The original brick, and the one-over-one sash windows with granite lintels and sills are exposed to view from the adjacent alleyway along the right (north) side elevation. The main entrance was reworked ca. 1950 with brick veneer and metal trimmed casement and projecting windows.

Update: The second story is virtually unaltered from 1985 and retains the comma-shaped Western Auto projecting sign from that period. A metal shed awning has been added below and the store front replaced with anodized aluminum-framed shop windows in a decorative tile surround. The façade is intact to the mid-twentieth century.


Relatively intact Moderne movie theatre with multi-colored stepped stucco panels with “reeded” end panels. More recent replacement marquee and entrances. A theatre has been on this site from at least 1916.

Update: The Earle was built in 1938 by partners Earl Q. Benbow and Percy A. Boone. The theater was renovated in 1958 under the ownership of Stewart and Everett Theatres of Charlotte. The renovations included the installation of a wide screen (presumably for Cinemascope movies) and air conditioning (to replace the “squirrel-cage” or swamp cooler). The renovation may also have included a new marquee and the addition of lozenge-set letters on the façade reading “Cinema.” The theater closed in 1985. In 1990 Carmike Cinemas donated the building to the Surry Arts Council. The council renovated the building with funding from the North Carolina Arts Council and under the direction of architect Michael Newman. The renovation returned the building more to its 1930s character with the addition of a new marquee with large red letters reading “Earle.” A ca. 1958 ticket booth to the left of the entry doors was retained. Movies resumed in 1994 and the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall opened in the building in 2011. The
radio program Merry-Go-Round, the second longest running radio program in the nation, broadcasts from the theater. According to research by historian Glenda Edwards, the Shirley Temple film *Just Around the Corner* premiered in the building in 1938.


Two-story, seven-bay brick commercial building with segmental arched one-over-one windows, paneled frieze, and corbelled and dentil cornice. The Sanborn Maps suggest this building was constructed by 1916 and was first used as a bakery.

Update: The building is currently visually treated as two buildings, as it was in 1985. The narrower south portion, which is painted light gray, is addressed 148 North Main, and the wider north portion, which is painted a darker shade of gray, is addressed 152-154 North Main on the first floor with a stair entry addressed 150 North Main. The building is relatively unchanged from 1985 with the exception that signage mounted at the location of the storefront transoms has been replaced by awnings (“Palladian” configuration at 148 and shed style at 152-154).

**147-155 North Main Street. Banner Building. 1906. SR0338 (#47). Contributing building.**

Large, three-story, ten-bay brick commercial building constructed 1906 with granite first story pilasters, cast iron entrance columns, brick pilasters separating the upper story bays, arcaded frieze, decorative pressed metal cornice, and the ghost of a second story center pedimented porch. The building is located on the site of a former dwelling (Sanborn Maps, 1891-1900) later converted to a boarding house (1905). For some years the building housed the post-office, and on the second story was the prominent Commercial Club with a ballroom and card rooms. During the flu epidemic of 1918, it was used as an emergency hospital.

Update: The character-defining features of the second and third stories that were present in 1985 remain in place. The scar of the former pedimented porch has been covered by an awning and a metal balconet-like treatment added below to evoke the former porch. The windows have replacement sashes but the former form of the sashes, including transoms over the second-story windows, have been retained. A historic photo of the Commercial Club interior appears in the February 24, 1976, issue of the *Mount Airy News* and shows the second-story windows with their transoms as viewed from the inside. Historian Glenda Edwards identifies George L. Mesker and Company as the source of the metal cornice. The Granite Lodge of Masons occupied the third floor. A 147 address has been added to the 153-155 address of the 1985 entry.


Note: This and two adjacent buildings (182 and 192 N. Main) were treated as one “intrusive” (non-contributing building) in the 1985 nomination but in 2018 the blockface was resurveyed and assigned three individual site numbers.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property: Roses
County and State: Surry County, N.C.

1985 Entry: Roses, one-story buff-colored brick and concrete panel commercial building with large first story plate glass display windows. On the site of the former Central Hotel, ca. 1905-16.

Update: The aluminum awning has been replaced by a shed metal awning. Roses Department Store moved to the location in 1963 and the building was presumably completed that year. Current tenant: Mayberry Antique Mall.


Late 19th century two-story brick commercial building with complex decorative corbelled stepped parapet. Replacement paired second story windows and reworked storefront. This first appears on the 1891 Sanborn Map. For many years the building served as the Wolfe Drugstore.

Update: The second story is virtually unchanged from 1985. A metal shed awning has been added over the storefront, which appears to be altered from 1985 (it currently has anodized aluminum-framed shop windows with brick bulkheads). The store in the building sold drugs, paints, and oils in the 1890s. The brickwork is painted, a treatment in place by 1985.


Imposing two-story granite commercial building constructed 1920 according to incised date stone, and used originally for automobile sales (Sanborn Map, 1922). Oversized rusticated granite blocks sheathe the fortress/castle-like building with two “turrets” and blind “balustrade” between. First story reworked but maintains stone sides; second story replacement windows.

Update: The second-story windows have been replaced (the new plate-glass sashes not too dissimilar to what was present in 1985) and a metal shed awning added. The aluminum and plate glass storefront may be the same as that which was present in 1985.


Diminutive, one-story infill commercial building constructed ca. 1940 in what was originally an alleyway (Sanborn Map, 1929). Slate “gable-side” roof above wood shingle and glass storefront shaded by suspended metal canopy. The present business located here about fifteen years; prior to that, housed Davis Shoe Store.

Update: The façade is little altered other than the addition of a fabric-type awning over or in place of the slate “transom” present in 1985.

175 North Main Street. Turnmyre and Lamm Drugstore. 1920s. SR0335 (#43). Contributing building.

Well-preserved two-story brick commercial building. First story reworked; second story intact with two well-defined tripartite round-arched windows headed by a broad fanlighted segmental
arch head. Blind panel frieze below modest corbelled cornice. A drug store and second story
dentist office are indicated on the 1896 Sanborn Map, however the present building is a 1920s
replacement. A masonry building is also indicated on the 1891 map, but is not labeled.

Update: Arthur Pleasant (A.P.) Turnmyre was a druggist. The 1949 city directory lists
Turnmyre’s business as Turnmyre’s Drug Store. The second-story windows have replacement
sashes although the radial-muntin fanlights, entirely painted in red, have been retained. The mid-
century aluminum awning present in 1985 has been replaced by a shed fabric-type awning. The
storefront and a side entrance added during the historic period appear to be the same as those
present in 1985.


The site formerly was occupied by a one-story freestanding restaurant built sometime between
1929 and 1948 and no longer standing by 1985.


Note: This and two adjacent buildings (160 and 192 N. Main) were treated as one “intrusive”
(non-contributing building) in the 1985 nomination but in 2018 the blockface was resurveyed
and assigned three individual site numbers.

1985 Entry: Baldwin’s, three-story pink brick veneered building “colonialized” with concrete
broken pediment surmounting the eaves, fluted pilasters extending the height of the second and
third stories, enormous wooden sign applied to the brick which obscures any previous windows,
and a suspended canopy faced with artificial turf and an applied wooden “baluster railing.”

Update: Baldwin’s (182 North Main): The core of this building probably dates to 1922 when a
building of the right form is labeled “from plans” on the 1922 Sanborn map. Documentary
photographs show the building to have had Craftsman-inspired details in keeping with a 1920s
date of construction. Jackson Brothers Department Store moved to the location in 1922 and
presumably had the building built. In August 1939 the local paper noted the building “will have
an entirely new face after the next two weeks, when a new construction-glass front, with cut
down, glass-covered columns and raised display windows, has been completed . . . over the
entrance and clear across the front of the store will be a strip of black glass, trimmed in beige,
with the recessed words ‘Jackson Bros,’ on its surface. A new awning enclosure, which will
completely conceal the store’s awning when not in use, will be installed.” The building formerly
featured a brick façade above the black-and-beige architectural glass sign, with piers, paired
windows, and what were probably name and date plaques. The retractable awning described in
1939 was later replaced by a suspended flat aluminum awning. Jackson Brothers was established
by J. A. and Reid Jackson in 1916. The firm was acquired by Baldwin’s in 1968, and Baldwin’s
presumably remodeled the façade at that time or soon after. The Baldwin’s name has been
removed from the façade and replaced with the current tenant name. The flat awning survives (or
is replaced in kind) but its decoration has been removed. The façade is sheathed with synthetic
shingles.

Two-story, seven-bay brick commercial building with heavy molded cornice, paneled corbelled frieze, one-over-one sash windows with transoms (second story), and broad granite keystone arch across what was originally the entrance to the Bank of Mount Airy. Built between 1900 and 1905 and originally used as a bank and jewelry store. The jewelry store site later served as a notions store, restaurant, and musical instrument store.

Update: The two-part character of the building present originally and in 1985 is still evident. A painted Coca-Cola sign on the south party wall, the top of which is visible in a 1985 photo, has been repainted in the same or similar design. According to research by historian Glenda Edwards, the sign was probably first painted on the building in the 1940s and was one of three Coca-Cola signs known to have been painted in the town. The left side of the façade has had a portion of the second-story brickwork revealed since 1985. The storefronts, including the suspended mid-century awning over the right storefront, appear little altered from 1985.


Note: This and two adjacent buildings (160 and 182 N. Main) were treated as one “intrusive” (non-contributing building) in the 1985 nomination but in 2018 the blockface was resurveyed and assigned three individual site numbers.

1985 Entry: Penny’s Department Store, two-story pink brick veneered building. No second story windows visible; large brick and stone panels and store sign.

Update: Correct spelling is Penney’s. The current address in the county database in 192 North Main. The building appears to have been built between 1922 and 1929. J. C. Penney moved to the location in 1949 at which time the façade was redone. A period description noted “the exterior of the building has been re-designed with new tile bulkheads below the show windows and to re-style the transom area in brick. A new show window treatment will help dramatize window displays.” The building had achieved its current appearance with a brick/stucco/brick façade by 1975. The Penney’s name has been removed from the façade and the suspended aluminum awning replaced by a large metal shed awning in three sections. The storefront appears unaltered from its 1985 appearance.


Note: The 1985 nomination counted 194 and 198 North Main Street as a single building, however it appears as two separate buildings with separate site numbers in the HPO’s survey database.

Update: Documentary photos reveal that a two-story masonry commercial building with a curved parapet and segmental arch windows stood on this site (194-198 N. Main) as early as 1896. It is
not certain whether the present two-story brick commercial building is part of this earlier building, remodeled ca. 1920 with a flat roof and simple corbelled cornice. There are indications the building was treated as two buildings or storefronts at one point. One segmental arch window remains on the second-story main elevation while the other five bays have simple rectangular one-over-one windows. The second-story windows have granite sills and replacement one-over-one sash. The storefront appears to be the one present in 1985.


Three-story, three-bay brick commercial building constructed by 1900 and continuing in its original use as a jewelry store for many years. All of the windows are currently bricked over; decorative corbelled cornice remains.

Update: The building has been rehabilitated since 1985, with the upper-story windows opened and appropriate one-over-one sashes installed. The storefront with its cutaway corner entry may be the same or little altered from 1985. A 1912 photograph suggests the third story of this building was added after 1912. Sanborn maps show a two-story building at the location in 1910 and a three-story building in 1916.


Note: The 1985 nomination counted 194 and 198 North Main Street as a single building, however it appears as two separate buildings with separate site numbers in the HPO survey database.

Update: Documentary photos reveal that a two-story masonry commercial building with a curved parapet and segmental arch window stood on this site (194-198 N. Main) as early as 1896. It is not certain whether the present two-story brick commercial building is part of this earlier building, remodeled ca. 1920 with a flat roof and simple corbelled cornice. The second-story windows have replacement six-over-six sash. The suspended aluminum awning, which bore the name Rees in stand-up letters, has been replaced with a hipped metal awning. The storefront appears basically unaltered.


Two-story commercial building, built in 1893 as a brick structure for the First National Bank, but slightly remodeled and veneered with rusticated granite blocks between 1910 and 1916, still for the First National Bank. Granite forms a wide cornice and oversized full-height pilasters on the main and side elevations. A notable four-face copper, brass and colored glass clock is suspended on the building’s corner. The First National Bank was organized by Thomas Fawcett who served as its first president.

Update: The metal shed awning extant in 1985 has been replaced by a metal awning of flared hipped form.
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Two-story classically-inspired granite bank building, highlighted by monumental Doric columns and recessed entrance. The main elevation is faced with ashlar granite, with the side elevation (along Franklin Street) of rock-faced granite. Smooth granite pilasters support the first-story cornice on both the front and side elevations. Oversize, symmetrical windows light the side elevation, and paired one-over-one sash windows encircle the second story. The date of the building’s construction, 1923, is incised above the main entrance. The Bank of Mount Airy was established in 1905 by W J. Byerly. This building served as the bank’s headquarters until 1934 when it became the site of the Surry County Loan and Trust Company. In 1961 this company merged with the Northwestern Bank, the current owner. Prior to the bank’s construction, this was the site of Mt. Airy Marble Works from ca. 1900 to 1916. A small grocery store occupied the site in the late 1910s.

Update: The Manufacturers Record of December 14, 1922 stated: “In the near future work will commence upon a two story stone building for the Bank of Mt. Airy, or which W. J. Byerly is president. The structure will cost approximately $75,000 and the banking equipment and vaults will be of the latest and most approved design. Plans have been completed by Harry Barton, architects of Greensboro.” The building is virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance.


Identical to building next door [212 N. Main] except that it retains multi-pane transom, somewhat obscured by suspended metal canopy.

Update: The second-story window sashes have been replaced with the current paired twelve-over-twelve sashes and the suspended aluminum awning has been replaced by a fabric-type awning. The storefront is the same as in 1985 except the door to the stair entry has been replaced. This building was part of the Joyce Block, the other portion of which is 218 N. Main.


Two-story brick commercial building constructed before 1891, but with a remodeled ca. 1920 facade. According to documentary photos this building was part of the Joyce Block. This building first housed a jewelry store and later served a variety of commercial purposes including a book store and clothing store. The first story has been reworked and the second story features paired nine-over-nine windows and a corbelled cornice.

Update: The second-story windows have replacement nine-over-nine sashes and their false shutters have been removed. The flared hipped awning appears to be the same as that present in 1985, although the roofing is metal rather than the former asphalt shingles (or possibly wood shingles). The shop windows with their fanlights were present in 1985.

This two-story, five-bay brick commercial building first appears on the 1922 Sanborn Map serving as the location of a drugstore, cobbler shop, dry goods store and telegraph office. The first story has been considerably altered with the application of various sidings including stone panels and aluminum. Second story replacement metal trimmed casement windows surrounded by decorative soldier course brick work and white stuccoed corner blocks. Above the molded metal cornice are small white stuccoed squares and stuccoed coping along the flat roof.

Update: The second story is unchanged from 1985. The band of brickwork below the second-story windows, formerly covered by various mid- to late twentieth century finishes, has been revealed, except over the north or right storefront where there is a stucco treatment. The brickwork has decorative brickwork and terra-cotta accents like the façade above. The middle and north storefront are relatively unchanged from 1985 whereas the south storefront is mostly or entirely redone with aluminum and plate glass shop windows (in keeping with mid-century style) and a surround of off-white and green tile. In 1985 the building had the single address 215 North Main.


Two-story brick commercial building, probably dating from the late 1800s, but with an Art Deco façade of smooth granite dating from the late 1930s. Distinguished by its recessed panels incised with stylized owls and squirrels, symbols of wisdom and thrift, fitting symbols for a saving and loan institution. A stylized Greek key/maze-like carved hand defines the cornice.

Update: The façade is virtually unaltered from its appearance in 1985 and retains its suspended aluminum awning and storefront with smooth granite piers and gray tile bulkheads (the tilework has more of a 1960s appearance than 1930s). Historian Glenda Edwards notes that the Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan Building is a remodeled portion of the Joyce Block, which she dates to 1891, and that the Kawneer Company, a supplier of aluminum building components, provided components for the building. The owl and squirrel motifs symbolize wisdom and thrift. The 1985 nomination dated the Joyce Block to ca. 1885.


This two-story brick commercial building originally was the site of a general store ca. 1895, later Johnson’s Cafe, and since 1943 has been the site of Leonard’s Jewelers, which was established in 1893. The first story of this buff-colored brick building has been reworked, but the second story retains a molded metal cornice and four, one-over-one sash windows.

Update: The second story has replacement windows and the molded metal cornice has been removed. The storefront retains its mauve enameled metal panels and inward-stepping form.
second-story brickwork has a 1920s appearance. The 1905 Sanborn maps shows a tobacco, fruit, and confectionary shop at the location.


Two-story, four-bay commercial building probably constructed in the mid-1880s (definitely appears on the 1891 Sanborn Map as the Joyce Block). Retains two-over-one segmental arched second story windows and decorative corbelled cornice and drip molds; reworked first story storefront. Documentary photographs and town records reveal that in 1894 the town clock was mounted on the roof of this store and R. T. Joyce was paid $20 a year to keep the clock “in proper working order.” The photographs reveal the substantial clock towered over all the other downtown buildings.

Update: Alterations include replacement of the second-story windows with one-over-one-sash windows and the removal of the hipped composition-shingled awning to reveal the framework of a storefront transom. A historic photo in the March 31, 1981, issue of the Mount Airy News shows the storefront of R. T. Joyce Hardware and second-story segmental-arched windows in rectangular recesses as appear on the Joyce Block. The building in the photo was much longer than the current building, suggesting one or more adjacent buildings are remodeled portions of the originally larger Joyce Block. Historian Glenda Edwards identifies the adjacent Workman’s Federal Savings and Loan building as a remodeled section of the Joyce Block, which she dates to 1891. The historic photo also shows what appear to be cast iron storefronts, one with a sign identifying it as the post office. An illustration of the building at the time of its construction was published in the December 27, 1894, issue of the Yadkin Valley News. The illustration shows the four-story clock tower which was ornamented with railings, brackets, and painted signage.


One-story commercial building, possibly a replacement building, but difficult to determine since the main elevation is totally obscured by vinyl “clapboard.” Neighboring merchants recall that this was once the site of a Piggly-Wiggly grocery store.

Update: When first photographed for resurvey in January 2018, the façade was unchanged from 1985, including a metal awning with concave shed form. The tenant or recently vacated tenant at the time was Remember When Antiques. In early March 2018 the building was re-photographed since the vinyl and storefront had been removed to reveal a well-preserved brick parapet with three recessed and corbeled panels. Revealed in the ongoing rehabilitation is a decorative pressed metal ceiling laid over a painted (red and white) beaded tongue and groove board ceiling. There is a ghost impression on the earlier ceiling of an angled entry recess that would have occupied the center of the former storefront. The 1920 Sanborn map shows a sheriff’s office at this location.

Two-story brick commercial building with rusticated granite second story lit by very large round arched window flanked by smaller rectangular windows, and paneled cornice. The first story retains its George L. Mesker & Co. cast iron pilasters and cornice while the interior retains a pressed metal coffered ceiling. Constructed about 1891 and site for many years of the Hale Dry Goods Store, and beginning in 1946 housed Holcomb Hardware.

Update: The building retains its Mesker storefront and its blank upper-story window openings. An early photograph of the storefront appears in Karen Hall’s history of Mount Airy granite, although if the same building is pictured, the second story was altered at an apparently early date.


This two-story brick commercial building first appears on the 1896 Sanborn Map as a furniture store, later serving for many years as a grocery store. The main elevation was reworked ca. 1950 with common bond brick, metal trimmed casement windows on the second story, and a simple panel delineated by a soldier course.

Update: The façade is mostly the same as in 1985, including the irregular-pattern stone facing at the two ends of the storefront. The shop windows may have been altered.


Two-story brick veneer contemporary commercial building with large bands of glass display windows dominating both stories.

Update: Alterations include painting of the brickwork, replacement of the shed awning with a metal awning of flared hipped form, and a reduction of the plate glass area of the shop windows.


Two-story brick commercial building with altered main elevation. Simple corbelled cornice and paired six-over-one sash windows seem to indicate the facade of this ca. 1895 building was reworked at undetermined date. First floor retains original double-leaf stair door at the right (north) set in a round arch with keystone. During the 1940s this was the site of McClenan’s Department Store.

Update: A rehabilitation of the building using rehabilitation tax credits was completed in 2015. The second story is similar to the appearance it had in 1985. The storefronts are new and feature transoms topped by a continuous molded and bracketed cornice in keeping with the ca. 1895 construction date.

Two-and-one-half story brick commercial building with Romanesque Revival-influenced rusticated granite block main facade, constructed between 1900 and 1905 as a wholesale grocery store. The first story storefront has been altered; below an intricate carved and stepped parapet and corbelled cornice is a band of small round arched windows with the center pair outlined by a narrow round arch which extends the height of the upper stories. The four rectangular second story windows are shuttered.

Update: The louvered shutters or panels over or in the second-story window openings have been replaced with smooth panels. The suspended aluminum awning, which bore the word Boyles in stand-up letters in 1985, has been replaced with a shed fabric-type awning. Portions of the storefront present in 1985 appear to survive, although the stair entry door at the right end has been replaced.


This two-story brick commercial building first appears on the 1891 Sanborn Map as a clothing store. During the 1950s it was the site of Hollingsworth Drugstore. Above the altered first story storefront is a heavy modillioned metal cornice. Quoined pilasters mark the two bays which are lit by paired one-over-one sash windows with granite sills and lintels. Recessed panels and corbelled brick work highlight the frieze and eaves.

Update: The façade is relatively unchanged from 1985. A concave hipped metal awning projects over the storefront.


Two-story, three-bay brick commercial building with reworked first story, granite string course marking the second story, fanlighted two-over-two second story windows set in recessed corbelled panels with pilasters delineating the bays, and a decorative corbelled cornice. The building is labeled “from plans” on the 1900 Sanborn Map and was to house a general store. For many years the building was the location of a dry goods store.

Update: The second-story window sashes have been replaced with corrugated panels. The transom panel, which bore signage reading AAA and Drugs in 1985, has been replaced or covered by a composition-shingled shed awning. The aluminum and plate glass storefront is the same as in 1985 with the addition of a take-out window at the right end. The building may have been known as the Burke Building in the mid-twentieth century.


Fine Renaissance Revival style two-story brick commercial building. The first known use was as the West Drug Store. The first story has been altered, but the second remains intact and features a heavy over-hanging denticulated cornice, brick quoining on pilasters topped with Ionic...
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capitals, three shuttered windows (the center bay has a pedimented hood and the two flanking windows have round arched hoods), a blind oculus and two smaller square windows near the eaves.

Update: Other than the replacement of the composition-shingled shed awning present in 1985 with a taller metal shed awning that covers the cornice above the storefront, the façade looks little altered.


Notable, virtually intact three-story, four-bays wide, eight-bays deep brick commercial building with random coursed granite foundation/basement. Constructed between 1905 and 1910 for use as a hardware store and still serving that use today. The building retains its cast iron shop front columns, remnants of an early canvas awning, round arched windows with fanlights, diamond paneled cornice, and recessed double-leaf entrance. The interior retains its row of decorative reeded cast iron support columns and pressed metal coffered ceiling.

Update: The building is currently addressed 248 North Main on the front and 245 City Hall Street to the rear. The front windows retain fanlights but the fanlight muntins and the two-over-two sashes below appear to be replacements. The cast iron storefront survives and has a cornice with small decorative brackets. The building has a long elevation along Oak Street with multiple square-headed, segmental-arched, and round-arched windows and an apparently early added stair enclosure with a decorative granite foundation. The basement level is also exposed on Oak Street and features a granite foundation and round-arched windows. The history of the building is the subject of an article in the September 17, 1995, issue of the Mount Airy News. The building housed the John H. Midkiff Hardware Company, a business which acquired the name in 1927. Historian Glenda Edwards notes that prior to the construction of the building its sloping site served as a campground for farmers who came to town to sell produce.


Update: Two-story brick commercial building with stuccoed main elevation. First story has large expanse of plate glass windows with applied wooden “muntins” shaded by a full-facade metal pent-roof canopy; second story features eight shuttered windows. A large parking lot adjoins to the north. The Blue Ridge Inn (later Hotel) formerly stood on this site. Reevaluation has demonstrated that this building, formerly thought to have been built in 1965 and assigned non-contributing status in the 1985 nomination, dates to ca. 1910. In the 1960s the building had the address 249-253 North Main. Its second story had a simple modernist planar appearance, possibly with a stucco finish, with a row of eight tall stack-pane metal-framed windows. The storefront had a tall covered transom with the ghost impression of letters reading “Roses” over a storefront with aluminum-framed shop windows. The building currently has a stucco-finish second story with eight tall windows with replacement sashes under concave metal shed awnings (two windows per awning), and a concave metal shed awning over a storefront with anodized aluminum-framed display windows with brick aprons. Similar awnings cover first-story plate
glass windows that look onto a park at the site of the formerly adjacent Blue Ridge Hotel. Roses Department Store occupied the building from about 1943 until the store moved to 160 North Main in 1963.

200 block North Main Street. Carlos Jones Blue Ridge Park. 2014. SR1492. Non-contributing site (constructed after the original nomination).

The main feature of this pocket park created on the site of the demolished Blue Ridge Hotel is a brick gazebo that references the architecture of the Merritt Building located across West Oak Street. The gazebo has a metal-sheathed hip roof and, on the north corner, a round turret with a conical roof, one-over-one sash windows, and a corbeled granite base. The gazebo has square-headed and segmental-arched openings, the latter with granite keystones, and metal railings. It ties into a system of low brick retaining walls with granite copings and piers. The Oak Street elevation of the wall has statues in carved brick representing historic personages posed as though sitting on bench-like sections of the wall.


Two-story brick commercial building erected by J. D. Smith between 1891 and 1896 as a general store on the site of his earlier frame store. Identical in detail to the Prather Block [316-322 N. Main, demolished], with remodeled first story.

Update: A 1943 newspaper notice referred to the building as the J. D. Smith Building. The Firestone Home and Auto Supplies Store opened in the building in 1943. A tax credit rehabilitation of the building, completed in 2012, resulted in the replacement of the second-story window sashes with the current nine-over-one sashes and the replacement of the former storefront and awning with the current storefront, which features tall plate glass windows with transoms, a double-leaf entry at the south corner with wood and glass panel doors, and a cornice with dentils and decorative brackets.


Impressive three-story brick Classical Revival commercial building built between 1905 and 1910 by William Edward Merritt for use as a hardware and furniture store. In plan the building conforms to its lot with a rounded corner, entrance set at an angle. Prominent features include a robust modillioned cornice, granite window sills and lintels, round arched door and stair windows with keystones, one-over-one sash windows with transoms. On the interior are beaded ceilings as well as pressed tin ceilings. The building was rehabilitated in 1983 for use as a furniture store and commercial bakery.

Update: The building was “just completed” according to a February 23, 1911, article in the Mount Airy News, which states it was “planned and supervised by Mr. J. S. Zimmerman, a leading architect of Winston Salem” and was built by local “mechanics” under the supervision of T. D. Roberts of Mount Airy. (By “just completed” the newspaper probably meant recently
completed, since the building appears on the June 1910 Sanborn map. An April 25, 1975, article in the same paper states the building replaced an earlier W. E. Merritt Hardware Company at the location which was destroyed by fire. In 1993 the building was acquired for use by the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History and adapted as its museum space. The building is today well preserved with signage and super graphics in the storefront windows relating to the museum use. The Cooper Building, which stood on the north side of the building, was demolished in the 1990s. A multi-story stair tower with a pyramidal roof and clock was added to the north side of the Merritt Building, possibly partly in the location of the former Cooper Building.


Three-story brick commercial building built between 1891 and 1896 as a clothing store. The main elevation was remodeled at an undetermined date with a new brick veneer façade and has replacement metal trimmed casement windows. An incised “Belks” nameplate is centered in the frieze.

Update: The building is three stories tall at the front and two stories at the rear. A tall signage panel with the word “Advance” in large letters has been removed revealing second-story front windows like those in the third story. The aluminum and plate glass storefront present in 1985 has been replaced by a storefront of anodized aluminum and brick. The fabric-type shed awning is supported by heavy wood brackets. Belk’s Department Store occupied the building from 1928 until 1970 when the store moved to Mayberry Mall. The building originally was classified as non-contributing because the façade dates to after 1935, the end of the period of significance in 1985. However, the building possesses good exterior integrity from the later (post-1935) historic period and therefore is now classified as contributing.


The Cooper Building (315 N. Main) was demolished in the 1990s and a pocket park created in its stead. Additions to the adjacent Merritt Building (Mount Airy Museum of Regional History) may also occupy a portion of its location.

VL (formerly 316-322 North Main Street. Prather Block. Ca. 1892. SR0316 (#88). Demolished.)


One-story with basement brick commercial building. Triangular shape conforms to its corner lot with main entrance on the diagonal. Main elevation probably reworked in the 1920s with brick veneer and herringbone brick work at the cornice. The building steps down on its Virginia Street elevation (south). This elevation retains the original red brick and paired one-over-one sash windows set in slightly rounded arches at both the street and basement levels. The Sanborn Maps indicate a grocery operated here ca. 1900-1910, followed by a sewing machine shop and jewelry store.
Update: The building is little altered from 1985.

VL (formerly 404 North Main Street. Samet Building. 1939. SR0315 (#87). Demolished.)


One-story brick commercial building which retains multi-pane transom stretching above a reworked metal-trimmed glass entrance and flanking windows. A general store operated here from ca. 1900-1916, followed by a grocery store at the same location.

Update: The building is little altered from 1985, although the windows, which have anodized aluminum frames, appear to be replacements. The projecting yellow-painted neon sign, which reads Leons, is still present.


Small, one-story, altered, brick commercial building. The main elevation was brick veneered and a plate glass display window installed in the mid-twentieth century. As early as 1910 this was the site for a meat store and restaurant.

Update: The building is little altered from 1985, although the shop window is an anodized aluminum-frame replacement.


One-story commercial building with reworked brick veneer main elevation. Storefront outlined with ribbed aluminum. Originally the site of a grocery store.

Update: The storefront surround present in 1985 has been removed but the display windows retain the slight inward cant present in 1985. The veneer appears to date to ca. 1920.


One-story commercial building with replacement brick veneer main elevation. The only decorative elements are the soldier course outlining the recessed storefront and modest corbelling at the eaves. A grocery store operated on this site for many years.

Update: The building is little altered from 1985. The segmental-arched window openings on the rear elevation support an early twentieth century date for the building. The elongated brick of the façade and the recessed storefront suggest a renovation in the 1950s.

Two-story, nine-bay brick commercial building with pilastered main and side elevations and stepped parapet with corbelling at the eaves. First story reworked, and replacement windows on second story. Brick pilasters define the slightly recessed bays. Built by 1891, the first story housed dry goods and general supplies, while the second story housed the Galloway Opera House, where traveling plays, other entertainments, school commencements and various other public programs were held. By 1922 the designation “opera house” was dropped from the Sanborn Map for that year, and in 1929, the building housed a wholesale grocery, feed store and notions shop.

Update: Façade alterations are few and include the removal of material in the long signage panel above the second-story windows (or possibly only a change of color) and the replacement of a mid-century suspended awning with a metal awning with a flared hipped form. According to extensive research by Randle E. Brim, the building was built in 1890 and hosted its first show, a performance by the New York Theatre Company, on January 6, 1891. Brim suggests R. R. Galloway, who owned a planing mill, served as his own contractor (Brim spells Galloway’s name Gallaway). An article about the opera house in the April 2, 1995, Mount Airy News states that the performance hall closed in 1909 and the building was acquired in 1912 by the G. C. Lovill Company, a wholesale house. According to businessman W. J. Monday, interviewed for the article, “the lower floor always had been used for stores of one kind or another. Mostly, they handled feed, seeds, groceries, dry goods and hardware.” The upstairs theater was illuminated first by gas lamps, then by electric lights. In 1912 the stage was removed and the theater space converted to storage. A ca. 1900 photograph of the 400 block of North Main taken from the former Blue Ridge Hotel suggests the stepped parapet was a natural brick color and the long recessed panel underneath contained a white material, perhaps a sign. The roofline is visible at the rear and appears to indicate a shallow gambrel roof, mostly hidden behind parapets.


One-story brick commercial building with recessed storefront outlined in ribbed aluminum. From 1910 to ca. 1929 this was the site of a wholesale grocery store.

Update: The building is little altered from 1985; for example, it retains a fluted aluminum facing on the north storefront recess. The brick veneer is identical to that of 415 N. Main though it has been painted. The storefront may have been recessed at the same time 419 N. Main was remodeled.


Two-story double storefront commercial building with reworked brick-veneered first story and replacement, metal-trimmed casement windows lighting the second story. Decorative corbelled brick eaves. The building first appears on the 1910 Sanborn Maps as the site of grocery and produce stores with a photography studio on the second story. It continued in use as a
grocery/produce/feed store until ca. 1929 when a plumbing store operated in the southern storefront.

Update: The second-story windows have paired plate glass replacement sashes. The storefront has been altered, with plate glass shop windows and brick piers and bulkheads (some of the piers may pre-date 1985).

**432-442 North Main Street. Frank Midkiff Store. Ca. 1906. SR0313 (#85). Contributing building.**

Two-story, eight-bay brick commercial building (5 to 1 bond) with segmental arched two-over-two windows and decorative corbelled and dentil cornice. The first story storefronts have been reworked and five replacement windows are located on south (right) half of second story. Constructed between 1905 and 1910, it originally housed two grocery stores, a jewelry store and a millinery shop. The 1922 Sanborn map indicates it then housed a furniture store, barber shop, and grocery.

Update: On the second story the four north windows have replacement two-over-two sashes whereas the four south windows have stack-pane sashes like those present in 1985. The storefront appears little altered and retains glass transoms.


One-story brick commercial building with concrete-coped, stepped parapet and decorative brick pilasters. According to the Sanborn Maps, this building is located on the former site of a small produce store (1910-16). Between 1922-29 the lot is vacant. The present building was probably constructed in the early 1930s.

Update: The façade is little altered from 1985, although the storefront apron has vertical wood boards in place of what may have been architectural glass or enameled metal panels in 1985.

**437-439 North Main Street. Building. 1940s. SR0758 (#20). Contributing building.**

Plain, one-story brick veneer double storefront commercial building. Simple, soldier course outlines panel stretching above store fronts.

Update: The recessed storefront has been altered, with anodized aluminum shop window frames, a single entry (there were paired entries in 1985), and a smooth transom panel (corrugated in 1985). The only address currently appearing on the building is 437 North Main.


Small one-story brick veneer commercial building. A shallow metal canopy marks the division of a large expanse of plate glass below, and a blue and white ribbed aluminum panel above which extends to the cornice.
Update: The building appears little altered from 1985; the current ribbed metal parapet appears to be the same treatment present in 1985, although it is partly covered by a cloth awning which replaces a cantilevered aluminum awning.

446-450 North Main Street. Building. 1900, mid-20th c. SR0760 (#84). Contributing building.

Two-story brick commercial building constructed 1900; main elevation reworked in the mid-twentieth century with replacement brick veneer facade and replacement metal trimmed casement windows. According to the Sanborn Maps the building was used as a wholesale produce store ca. 1900-1915 and is labeled a “grocery” on the 1916 map. The Chero Cola Bottling Works was located here in 1922, and by 1929 the building once again was a wholesale produce store.

Update: Other than the replacement of the second-story windows with two-over-two sashes, the building is little altered from its 1985 appearance.


One-story rectangular commercial building with large expanse of plate glass display windows sheltered by composition-shingled pent roof. The building now houses an army/navy surplus store; an eye-catching feature of the front parking lot is an aircraft drop tank propped up against the store. Residences extended about this far south on North Main as late as 1929.

Update: The building is little altered from its 1985 appearance. The Granite City Motor Company, a Ford dealership, stood in the general vicinity in 1949, according to a city directory, and the size and form of the building are consistent with a car dealership of the early post-war era. The building has a bow-truss roof mostly concealed behind front and rear parapets.

472 North Main Street. Trinity Episcopal Church. 1896. SR0312 (#83). Contributing building.

Picturesque, small Gothic Revival style church built in 1896 by contractor J. A. Tesh from granite donated by quarry owner, Thomas Woodruff. Reportedly Woodruff’s son, Frank, designed the church which is now the oldest church building remaining in Mount Airy and the first local building constructed with granite. The stone later became a distinguishing feature of the town’s architecture. Typically, the gable front church features lancet arched bays; a diminutive offset belfry is roofed and sheathed with pressed metal. On the interior a “rustic” effect is achieved by the stained woodwork which contrasts with the white plaster walls. A three-part lancet arch encloses the pulpit area. A flat-roofed, granite parish house was appended to the rear of the church in 1954.

Update: The church is little altered from its 1985 appearance.
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Plain, square one-story brick veneer commercial building, with main elevation composed largely of plate glass windows. Until at least 1929, this was the site of a former residence.

Update: Duke Power Company is listed at the address in the 1962 city directory and may have been the original owner. Some minor changes occurred to the building between 2018 and 2019.


One-story painted brick commercial building constructed by 1900 as a residence. The building continued in use as a residence (with rear addition added 1905) until about 1922. The 1929 Sanborn Map records a further rear addition and that the building was then in use as a “cleaning and pressing” business. The modest stepped parapet may have been added during the remodeling for commercial use. Along the north (left) elevation are three, two-over-one segmental arched windows set in recessed corbelled panels.

Update: The Mount Airy Savings and Loan Association appears at the address in the 1962 city directory. The shed awning and Colonial Revival entry surround may be modern and the side windows may be replacements.


Contemporary one-story bank building faced with small, rough cut granite blocks. Wrapped corners on the broad smooth frieze are reminiscent of the International Style.

Update: The Mount Airy branch of Planters National Bank, as the bank was originally known, was dedicated on March 26, 1974. The bank was built by Mount Airy contractor Blue Ridge Enterprises, Inc.


One-story, rectangular, gable-roofed Colonial Revival style bank building with splayed window lintels, dentil cornice and recessed entrance framed by fluted pilasters. Located on former site of ca. 1922 stone veneered residence.

Update: The building is little altered from its 1985 appearance.

VL (formerly 523 North Main Street. House. Ca. 1900. SR0766 (#15). Demolished.)

Two-story rectangular contemporary bank building with flat roof and exterior sheathing of polished granite panels.

Update: A photo in a 1966 city directory shows that the building is little altered from its 1960s appearance. A flat cantilevered metal awning over the south entry has been replaced with a fabric-type awning and the signage in front of the bank has also changed. The building occupies the site of the former Hennis Funeral Home.


Update: The ca. 1960 commercial building (SR0768, demolished) formerly on this site was replaced by this Post-Modern bank building designed by Hammill-Walter Associates Architects of Charlotte, according to City records. The one-story building features a nave-like front-gabled element with flat-roofed extensions on each side. The east extension has a window wall recessed behind rectangular pillars that form a wraparound colonnade. The main entry is situated in a recess under the end of the front-gabled element. A flat-roofed drive-through projects on the west side. The building is presumably steel and concrete block construction and has a cladding of white and gray stone, probably local granite, with the gray material cladding the front-gabled element and used as a base on other sections. The building may have been First Union National Bank originally.


Rectangular, two-story granite house with Colonial Revival style detailing built ca. 1907 by banker George Fawcett whose brother built the granite house next door. Both brothers were associated with the first National Bank, founded by their father, Tom Fawcett. Tall corbelled granite chimneys extend above a low hip roof with wide overhanging eaves. The most prominent feature of the house is the one-story wrap-around porch which encompasses a diamond-shaped pergola at the south end. A projecting pediment with returns marks the entry bay. The main entrance is distinguished by beveled and leaded glass sidelights and transom; this entrance is repeated above on the second story, but the original balcony or balustrade has been lost, apparently the only exterior alteration.

Update: The house is virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance. George D. Fawcett was president of the First National Bank in Mount Airy until his death in 1920.

One-story gable-fronted garage with brick lattice vent in gable and a side shed addition.

Two-story, L-shaped granite house of late Victorian/Colonial Revival style. High hip roof with shingled pedimented dormers. Hip-roofed attached wrap-around porch carried by paired Doric columns; an offset projecting pedimented gable marks the main entrance bay. The imposing house was built ca. 1906 by Garnett Fawcett, a banker associated with First National Bank.

Update: T. Garnett Fawcett succeeded his brother and next-door neighbor George D. Fawcett as president of the First National Bank in Mount Airy following George’s death in 1920. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 2015.


Large, two-story brick house of late Victorian eclectic styling with high hipped and gabled roof, decorative wrap-around porch with turned posts and sawn work (porch now partially enclosed sunporch), irregular plan, elaborate corbelled and paneled interior chimneys, heavy molded cornice, two-over-two windows and fine stained-glass window flanking the handsome main entrance. Built in 1901-1902 by W. E. Merritt for his parents, the A. H. Merritts, who had moved to Mount Airy from Chapel Hill, where A. H. Merritt taught at the University of North Carolina. Later owners or occupants have included Nell Gale, who operated a boarding house here ca. 1914, Jim Fulton, Mary Fulton Bennett, Carma Syndor, Garland Warren and Louise Llewellyn.

Update: The house is virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance. The brick is currently painted pale yellow.


Two-and-one-half-story frame Colonial Revival style house with projecting front and side bays. Tall corbelled chimneys extend above a high hip roof with gabled dormers; dormers accented by fanlighted windows and sawn shingles. Originally the house had a wrap-around one-story porch with sawn brackets; a portion remains as the south, side porch, where it was moved from the main elevation and replaced by an elaborate Federal style door surrounded by transom, sidelights and oversized dentils and metopes. Early in the 20th century, this was the home of R. L. Haymore, one of the founders of the National Furniture Company, and his sister Martha.

Update: The house is virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance.


Large, impressive two-story brick late Victorian style house with granite trim, dominated by a two-and-one-half story polygonal projecting bay and one-story wrap-around porch with spindle
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frieze. The virtually unaltered house also features decorative, tall, corbelled and recessed panel interior chimneys, one-over-one windows with granite lintels and sills, granite string course extending around the house above the second story windows, decorative sawn brackets supporting wide overhanging eaves and Colonial Revival interior features. Built in 1901 by contractor J. A. Tesh for W. E. Merritt, who owned a hardware store and brickyard, and was the founder of the Renfro Textile Company and one of the founders of the Mount Airy Furniture Company.

Update: W. E. Merritt’s full name was William Edward Merritt. Richard and Pat Mangels purchased the house in 1992 and rehabilitated it as the William Edward Merritt House Bed and Breakfast. In 2015 it became the Heart and Soul Bed and Breakfast. Construction of the house is said to have begun in 1900.


Extraordinary one-and-one half story granite bungalow with Tudor Revival exterior influence and Craftsman style interior. Built in 1919 by John D. Sargent, and still occupied by a family member, the house remains unaltered and is perhaps the best example of residential granite construction in Mount Airy. Sargent worked in the granite industry all his life, first in Vermont before moving to Mount Airy in 1910 to become superintendent of the N. C. Granite Corporation. In 1918 he purchased the company from Thomas Woodruff. Sargent was a financial and management mastermind and built the company into a national concern. His house, built the year after he became president of the corporation, utilizes both smooth and rock-faced coursed granite in the highly ornamented design. Applied half-timbering is found in the center gabled dormer and in the steeply pitched gable roof ends. Robust granite battered porch piers with scrolled consoles and x-shaped balusters, support the hip-roofed full-facade porch roofed with standing seam copper. Corbelled granite exterior end chimneys pierce the overhanging eaves. These eaves and the one under the porch are further ornamented by sawn exposed rafter ends. The richly detailed interior features high paneled wainscot, coffered ceilings, parquetry, built-in cupboards with leaded glass doors, and granite mantel with bronze relief sculpture overmantel. John Davis (Jack) Sargent’s wife was Flora Kimball Sargent.

Update: The house is virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance.

       Two-car garage of solid granite construction (according to Sanborn maps) with a hip roof, architecturally coordinated with the house.


Substantial two-and-one-half story frame Colonial Revival style house with high hipped roof, hipped dormers, wrap-around porch and wide molded frieze carried by tapered box posts, molded corner boards, one-over-one windows, and a well-defined Colonial Revival interior. The unaltered house is sheathed with German siding and the dormers are ornamented with sawn
shingles. The elaborate entrance surround features Doric pilasters set on paneled wooden plinths, projecting corner blocks and a heavily molded lintel. The house was built by Harry Galloway during the first decade of the 20th century, but owned by the James Lovill family for more than half a century.

Update: The German (novelty) weatherboard siding described in 1985 has been replaced or covered by vinyl siding except for a small area around the front entry. The windows are replacements. The left chimney is no longer apparent above the roofline. The back part of the wraparound porch has been enclosed and a deck and stairs have been added to the rear.

Small hip- or pyramidal-roofed building, appears historic but possibly modern.


Two-story, L-shaped brick veneer house with granite foundation and granite window lintels and sills nearly identical to the Brock House across the street. Retains slate roof, slate shingled front-facing pedimented gable, large one-over-one windows, tall corbelled interior chimneys, one-story wrap around porch carried by square posts with molded caps and bases and main entrance framed by leaded glass sidelights. Originally a one-story frame cottage, the house was remodeled between 1910 and 1916 by John D. Thompson, who owned a local furniture store and who, for some years, was mayor of Mount Airy.

Update: The house is relatively unaltered from its 1985 appearance, except for replacement windows and false shutters added around windows. The front gable window has stained glass, something not noted in the 1985 description. The 1985 description states that the house was remodeled from a one-story frame cottage to the current two-story house between 1910 and 1916. It may be true that the current house is the result of remodeling, since the current house is brick-veneered rather than solid brick construction, but its footprint bears little resemblance to the house depicted on the 1910 Sanborn map.


L-shaped two-story painted red brick veneer Colonial Revival style house constructed by 1910. Pyramidal roof with projecting front and side bays ornamented by shingled pedimented gables lighted by round arch windows with keystones. Fluted posts carry the hip-roofed wrap-around porch which shelters the handsome entry with oval beveled glass. A small, balustraded porch is set off-center on the second story. Granite is used for the entry steps and lintels and sills of the one-over-one sash windows. The Brock family lived here during the 1920s.

Update: Other than what appear to be replacement windows the house is little altered from its 1985 appearance.

One-and-one-half-story frame house with a combination of Gothic Revival, Italianate and Colonial Revival style features. The house features a steeply pitched roof with steep center gable, scalloped bargeboards, sawn wooden awning-like window hoods, paneled corner boards, hip-roofed full-facade porch supported by tapered wooden posts, with balustrade above, two-over-two windows and transomed and sidelighted main entrance. Around the turn of the century the house was owned by the Cody family, who were related to Buffalo Bill Cody. By 1908 the house was owned by Mamie Jackson who is believed to have remodeled the interior. The Hill family occupied it for almost a half a century.

Update: The house appears virtually unaltered from its 1985 appearance.


Two-story frame, asymmetrical late Victorian house with pyramidal and gabled roof, front and side projecting bays and wrap-around porch with slender Doric columns and turned balusters. Fish-scale shingles ornament the pedimented gable ends and the porch frieze. The intact house retains the original front door with oval beveled glass and molded horizontal panels. The house appears on the first Sanborn Map covering this area, 1910, and is believed to have been built by Jim Harrison, who owned a local dry goods store.

Update: The house has been vinyl-sided and has what appear to be replacement windows.

   Large, gabled, vinyl siding in gables, for multiple vehicles and machinery.


Two-and-one-half-story brick veneer Colonial Revival style house, very similar to the R. R. Galloway House. Two tall corbelled chimneys and hipped and gabled dormers pierce the moderately high hip roof; the central dormer is lighted by a Palladian style window. A sweeping wrap-around porch is carried by Doric columns set on granite plinths; granite is also used in the lintels and sills of the one-over-one sash windows. The handsome entryway is composed of an oval beveled glass door, topped with a leaded glass transom, and flanked by twelve-light beveled glass sidelights. The house was constructed by 1910 for Dr. R. W. Reece, a local dentist.

Update: The relatively minor alterations to this house include the loss of the porch balustrade and possible alterations to the back enclosed porch such as the addition of vinyl siding and replacement windows.
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Unaltered, large two-story frame house with a variety of late Victorian and Colonial Revival features including multi-sided projecting bays on the main and side elevations, shingled pedimented gables, Queen Anne style windows lighting the gabled dormers, decorative brackets with drop pendants at the eaves, one-story wrap-around porch carried by paired Doric columns on granite plinths and small second story side porch with spindle frieze. On the interior the house follows a center hall plan and is ornamented with a variety of Classical Revival and Victorian style mantels, wide fluted baseboards and robust molded crown molding. The house was built in 1903 by Jefferson Davis Smith, a local merchant and landowner who operated a clothing store, fertilizer plant, shoe store, wholesale house, and seven farms. The house was occupied by family members until 1982 and is now operated as a house museum.

Update: The house is more generally known as the Gertrude Smith House after J. D. Smith’s daughter Gertrude Smith (1891-1981). Gertrude studied art at Peace College in Raleigh and the Parson’s School of Design in New York and worked as an interior decorator in Greensboro in the 1920s. She returned to Mount Airy in the 1930s where she continued her work in interior design and where she helped found the Surry County Historical Society. Historian Glenda Edwards writes that Gertrude “helped outfit the homes of [Mount Airy’s] wealthier community members. Pier mirrors, brass stamped cornices over windows, and corner cupboards are all trademarks of Gertrude’s interior designs and can be seen inside the house.” The house is operated as a house museum by the Gilmer-Smith Foundation which conserves the furnishings and artwork assembled by Gertrude and other members of the family. Gertrude added Colonial Revival features such as Georgian Revival and Federal mantels (the Federal mantels appear to be salvage pieces although Federal Revival is possible) to some rooms, as well as dentil crown moldings, fluted pilasters, and molded wall panels. Rooms include a second-floor sick room (which may also have functioned as a sleeping porch) and the bedroom of longtime servant Myrtle Rogers. Room descriptions are posted in the rooms and copies of the descriptions have been placed in the HPO file. Changes to the exterior since the house was surveyed in the 1980s are minor and include such things as the removal of what may have been window boxes from the front bay window windows. It is possible the back porch roof balustrade has been replaced since the 1980s, although it appears similar in form to the balustrade shown in photos from the period. The side balcony railing may have been altered or replaced.

At the back corner of the lot is a story-and-a-half frame carriage house that has stood at the location since the early twentieth century, according to Sanborn maps. It has a gable roof, small windows through which horses could stick their heads, and T-111-type wood siding that suggests renovation in the late 20th or early 21st centuries.
Monumental Romanesque Revival style granite church with round arched windows and doorway and crenellated towers of unequal size which flank the recessed main entrance framed by large round arch. Originally built between 1906 and 1912 under the direction of contractor W. C. Stepp, with additions in 1921, the 1950s and an adjoining modern granite sanctuary in 1968. The congregation was organized in 1879 and land for the first frame church was donated by R. R. Galloway who lived across the street.

Update: Historian Glenda Edwards notes that the original church on the site was a frame building built with materials provided by Sam Greenwood. The granite for the current building was donated by the Woodruff family. Construction on the sanctuary (the current Fellowship Hall) began in 1906 but due to a recession was not completed until 1912. According to church historian Mary Webb, work began on the Sunday School rooms in 1906 but was interrupted by a financial downturn in 1907. An October 1, 1908 newspaper notice (probably in the Mount Airy Times) noted that contractor W. C. Stepp’s workmen were laying stone for the building. The stained-glass windows were made at the Von Gerichten Art Glass Company of Ohio. The principal alteration to the 1906-12 building since the 1980s is the addition of louvers to the belfry openings, which were formerly open.

a. Education Building and Current Sanctuary. 1953; 1968. Contributing building. The Educational Building connects to the 1906-12 building via a covered open-air walkway on the north side. The two-story building has a rockfaced granite veneer and shallow-pitched front-gable roof. It attaches at the rear to the current sanctuary, built in 1968, which is a Modernist one-story building with a steep-pitched front-gable roof, rockfaced granite veneer, and a tall semi-detached carillon of double pylon form.

715 North Main Street. Woodruff House. Ca. 1898. SR0290 (#5). Contributing building.

Large two-story frame Victorian house with Italianate influence. Decorative features include large wraparound porch with turned posts and sawn brackets, recessed panel corner boards, wooden hood molds, and polygonal, shingled tower topped by copper finial centered above main entrance. Queen Anne style multi-pane main entrance with brass hardware. The house was built ca. 1898 by Thomas Woodruff, developer of the granite quarry. A large downstairs room was planned as a music room and was used often for private musical events for the family and their friends. The Woodruff family moved to West Virginia about 1920 and the house was later owned by Joe Gwyn. About twenty years ago [mid-1960s] the house was converted to apartments and continues in that use today. The exterior remains virtually unaltered.

Update: According to historian Glenda Edwards, Thomas Woodruff Sr. and his sons formed a band which played at parties in the house. Thomas Sr. and son Frank played violin, son Thomas Jr. played viola, and son George played cello. One of the large downstairs rooms served as a music room. The house is little altered from its 1985 appearance, one change being the removal of a finial from the roof of the tower. Some replacement windows are observed, as are some...
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historic-period two-over-two windows. In the back yard formerly stood a story-and-a-half carriage house with overhanging eaves and a gabled upper-level extension supported by curved brackets. The 1980s file includes the information that the house was later owned by Joe Gwyn and Charles L. Sykes. The latter converted it to apartments. Joseph H. Gwyn lived at what was then 249 N. Main in 1949. The 1962 city directory identifies 715 N. Main as the Sykes Apartments with seven units.

According to research by Karen Jones Hall, Thomas Woodroffe (1829-1900; spelling on his tombstone and his obituary) was a native of Chiddingstone, Kent, England. His wife was Mary Ann Woodroffe. According to Woodroffe’s July 23, 1900, obituary in the Charlotte Observer, he was a “contractor and builder and extensive manufacturer of lumber” in Greensboro where he lived until ca. 1898 when he moved to Mount Airy. A 1913 city directory indicates that Thomas Woodruff Jr., who lived in the house that year, had changed his name to the Woodruff spelling.


Unusual, two-story frame Shingle Style house built ca. 1895 by Thomas Fawcett, organizer and first president of the First National Bank in Mount Airy and long-time county commissioner. The first story is sheathed with German siding, with fish-scale shingles on the second story. The asymmetrical house features bow, bay, one-over-one sash, and round windows, a broad arced porch, and sweeping roof lines. Rock-faced coursed granite is utilized in the entrance steps and porch apron. According to a documentary photograph, the house remains unaltered. A decorative wrought iron fence formerly surrounded the yard.

Update: The front and side elevations are virtually unchanged from 1985. The west end of the rear wing, consisting of a room with multiple modern windows and a porch, may be a new addition or a remodeling of older fabric.


Large, two-story frame Colonial Revival style house with hipped roof, gabled dormers, decorative corbelled interior chimneys, wrap-around Doric porch, one-over-one sash windows with leaded glass transoms, leaded glass sidelights with paneled aprons flanking main entrance. Wide, elegant side stair hall and paneled wainscot on the interior. Granite used for porch skirt and entrance steps. According to documentary photographs, this house may have utilized some elements of a Gothic Revival house which formerly stood on this site. The diamond-patterned balustrade formerly located on the side porch of the Gothic Revival house now appears to be used as the balustrade on present second story southwest porch. This house was owned originally by R. R. Galloway, who had previously owned the house next door. In addition to his large property holdings, Galloway operated the Opera House downtown. Later owners have included banker W. J. Byerly and Dr. and Mrs. Borden Hooks.
Update: R. R. Galloway, whose full name was Robert Richard Galloway, lived here with his third wife, Lucy Blackwell Galloway. He previously lived in the house at 739 North Main. The house is virtually unchanged from its 1985 appearance. Historian Randle E. Brim spells the Galloway name Gallaway.

   One of the historic district's largest surviving outbuildings. The frame building has a high hip roof with a cupola, weatherboard-type siding, and louvered vents in the eaves.


Two-story rectangular frame house with low hipped roof and pair of interior corbelled chimneys. Believed to have been built in the 1870s by R. R. Galloway, large property owner and donor of the land for the Baptist Church located across the street. House remodeled ca. 1930 by Ed Linville; he may have added the rear ell and the classically inspired full-facade hip-roofed porch carried by paired tapered box posts with molded caps. Leaded glass sidelights flank main entrance; two-over-two sash windows.

Update: According to research by historian Glenda Edwards, Robert Richard Galloway built the two-story one-room-deep house and lived in it with his second wife, Mary Virginia Caldwell Galloway. R. R. Galloway owned the Galloway Opera House and other businesses including a tanyard and general store. The house was acquired by R. R. and Mary’s youngest child, Robert J. Galloway, and was sold to the Linville family in 1918. The house has not changed much since 1985. Vinyl siding replaces or covers the weatherboards and some of the porch elements are covered with vinyl. The porch roof balustrade may have been replaced or modified. Historian Randle E. Brim spells the Galloway name Gallaway.

   The one-story frame building includes an enclosed storage unit.

805 North Main Street. Building. Ca. 1987. SR1018. Non-contributing building (the building was built after the original nomination).

Update: This one-story frame building is dated to 1987 in county records. The building has what appears to be vertical wood siding, a composition-shingled mansard parapet that projects over the front and side elevations, and narrow, vertical, plate-glass windows with false shutters.


One-story Mission style former service station with stucco walls and red tile roof, now adaptively used as a travel agency office.
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Update: The two garage bays at the south end have siding infill and relatively new doors and windows. The building was built between 1922 and 1929 according to the Sanborn maps. It is identified as a filling station on the 1929 map, although the 1928 city directory lists a business called the “Antiques Hospital” at the then-address (296 N. Main). Perhaps the discrepancy is an indication the service station was built in 1928 or 1929. The 1949 directory lists Terry’s Gulf Station at the address. In the 1960s the building housed Hiatt Television sales and service.


One-story brick-veneered office building with flat roof and large expanses of plate glass windows.

Update: The county GIS date for the building is 1958. A building of similar placement and footprint appears in 1960s aerial photos. In 1962 the Spur Oil Company was located at the address; in 1966 the business was called the Main Street Spur Service Center. The current building may be the same building, although greatly modified in a renovation that appears to have occurred after 2000. The current appearance is loosely based on a railroad depot, with a hipped roof, curved brackets in the eaves, and a projecting gable with a half-round cutout over the front entry. The front and side elevations have stucco finish and the rear elevation is painted concrete block.


Handsome two-story granite post office and federal building with Art Deco-influenced Classical styling. Built in 1932-33 from plans drawn by architect George R. Berryman; James A. Wetmore acted as supervising architect; general contract was Algernon and Blair of Montgomery, Alabama. The hip-roofed five-bay center block is flanked by slightly projecting one-bay flat-roofed wings. A foliate carved stone band encircles the building above the second story metal trimmed paired windows. A carved Greek key string course encircles the building just below the first story windows. Fine stone carving also accents the main entrance; the design of the cartouche which surmounts the entrance pediment is repeated in the lintels of the first story windows in the wings. The stone carvings were executed by Vincenzo “Big Jim” Alfano, an Italian immigrant who moved to Mt. Airy in 1915 to work for the North Carolina Granite Corporation. The classical influence is seen also in the interior woodwork; the Deco influence is seen in the floral bronze grills which decorate the area above the individual post office boxes. The Jenkins Hotel occupied the site during the 1910s-1920s.

Update: The building is little changed from its 1985 appearance. A ca. 1939 newspaper clipping in the survey file gives the history of the post office in Mount Airy and notes that the current building was occupied in the first week of April 1933. In addition to the post office it contained other federal offices. The contractor was the Algernon Blair firm of Montgomery, Alabama.

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Update: One-story contemporary municipal office building sheathed with panels of ashlar granite. Building sited on a slight rise and surrounded by spacious lawn and parking areas. During the 1890s this was the site of a dwelling with extensive outbuildings and a small private school. During the 1910s several large residences were located here, including the Neo-Classical style John Lee Banner House. By 1922 a large portion of this block was occupied by the Mount Airy High School and athletic field. The school was razed in 1978 and replaced by the present municipal building.

   One-story amphitheater designed by architect Christopher Price while he was an intern architect at the Mount Airy architectural firm Design Inc. under the supervision of architect Anthony Eugene Chilton.


Two-story three-bay brick house with granite trim, pilastered walls, hipped roof with front shingled gable, tall corbelled interior chimneys, wrap-around porch with Doric posts set on a granite skirt, one-over-one windows, and frame and lattice outbuilding in rear yard. The house was constructed by 1905 (when the Sanborn Maps first cover this area) by J. C. Hollingsworth, lumberyard owner. According to family tradition, he remodeled a one-story frame house on the site. Hollingsworth’s son, John Raine, lived here with his wife Rena after their 1930 marriage.

Update: Other than the vinyl-siding of the gables of the main roof and porch and limited addition of vinyl elsewhere, the house is little altered from its 1985 appearance. A one-story frame outbuilding incorporating a latticed wellhouse formerly stood behind the house. It was in poor condition when surveyed in the 1980s and is now gone.


One-and-one-half-story frame house which may have been built ca. 1873 for Job and Sally Hollingsworth Worth. In the mid-1920s J. C. Hollingsworth had it remodeled in the Bungalow style, although many features, especially doors and mantels, remain intact. The attractive bungalow has shingled gable ends and dormer, tall corbelled interior chimneys, two-over-two windows and front door which retains transom, multi-pane sidelights and screen door with spindles.
Update: The principal change is the elimination of the chimneys above the roofline with the exception of a chimney which rises from the ridge of a one-story rear wing. The unusual bases of the front porch columns may appear in 1980s photos. A relatively recent exterior wood stair rises on the north side of the rear wing at the location of an earlier stair. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 2016.

326 South Main Street. First Presbyterian Church. 1907-1914. SR0397 (#57). Contributing building.

Handsome one-story Gothic Revival style granite church with steep pyramidal roof, corner crenellated tower, pointed arch doors and windows, and fine stained-glass windows. The granite education building at the rear of the church was added in 1957. Attempts to organize a Presbyterian church in Mount Airy were begun as early as 1848; the first, frame church was constructed in 1858 and was the second organized church within the corporate limits (the first was Lebanon Methodist Church, no longer standing). In 1873 a new frame church was erected on the site of the present church on a lot donated by R. S. Gilmer. The church bell was first hung in the Gilmer’s nearby stable, so that the congregation could be called to worship. In 1887, when the building was repaired from lightning damage, a bell tower was added to the front. This church appears on the Sanborn Maps from 1896-1905. In 1907 the present granite church was begun and was completed in 1914. The church women were instrumental in raising funds for the foundation, roof, and furnishings. J. A. Tesh was the contractor for the church. Tesh (1865-1944) built many structures in Mount Airy including the depot and Trinity Episcopal Church, as well as operating three lumber yards in town and serving as a Surry County Commissioner.

Update: The original and early portions of the building are little altered from their 1985 appearance. The fellowship hall and Sunday School addition at the northwest corner of the complex was built in 1990. The educational building, which the church website states was dedicated in 1951, has replacement windows. Some stained-glass windows were added in 1997-98. The courtyard on the north side of the sanctuary was renovated in 2013 and a Columbarium added. A notice in the May 6, 1909, issue of the local paper confusingly refers to the Presbyterians purchasing a lot on the corner of Main and Rockford streets for the construction of a new brick church. A facility known as the John Sobotta Scout Hut, which stands at the back of the lot facing West Church Street (street address is 118 W. Church, for which there is an entry above), was dedicated in 1960.


Classic one-and-one-half story brick veneer with granite trim bungalow with broad gable-side roof, wide overhanging bracketed eaves, large center gabled dormer, engaged front porch carried by robust battered brick piers, and a matching garage in the rear yard. The house was constructed between 1916 and 1922 for John Banner, real estate broker and large property owner.

Update: Changes since 1985 are relatively minor, such as the removal of the left chimney above the roofline and encasing the eaves and triangular gable brackets in vinyl.
a. Garage. 1920s. Contributing building. The brick-veneered garage behind the house coordinates with it architecturally, with double-decker triangular eaves brackets, exposed rafter ends, nine-over-one windows, and a gabled dormer for a storage loft.


One-story brick veneer hip-roofed ranch house with picture window, and glass block sidelights framing main entrance. Constructed in the early 1960s by physician Renzo Sutter for use as his residence. The house is presently used as a doctor’s office. This is the former site of Dr. Bob Hollingsworth’s antebellum homeplace and office. According to the 1905 Sanborn Map, Dr. Hollingsworth had a separate small office in the side yard of his spacious lot.

Update: The principal change since original survey is the replacement of windows.


Located on the former site of the antebellum Thomas Prather House, this one-and-one half story brick veneer Colonial Revival style cottage was built for Robert M. Smith, comptroller for Renfrow Mills. The three-bay house features one-story flanking wings, gabled wall dormers, six-over-six windows, corbelled exterior end chimney, and an entrance surround composed of fluted pilasters, broken pediment with urn, and multi-pane sidelights. The house is approached by a boxwood lined walk and is set amidst mature landscaping.

Update: The house is virtually unchanged since original survey.


Gracious, little altered L-shaped two-story frame house with hipped roof, two-over-two windows, simple corner boards painted a contrasting color (house red, trim white), and broad hipped-roof porch with Doric columns, simple molded frieze, square balusters and rose trellis. According to the Sanborn maps the house originally had a wrap-around porch which was altered between 1922 and 1929. The house was built by Dr. Edwin Moore Hollingsworth.

Update: The house has had several additions made to it that do not compromise its overall character. The additions include a one-story sunroom wing on the right side, a rectangular bay window to replace the double windows on the first story of the front wing, and, possibly, the small Colonial Revival entry porch on the left side. The rear deck and pergola are also an addition. The windows are replacements and have added false shutters. The weatherboards have been replaced or covered with vinyl siding and the porch frieze is encased in vinyl.

Monumental, two-story frame Neo-Classical Revival style house with hipped roof and dormers dominated by central two-story Ionic portico and one-story Doric porch which runs beneath the portico for the full length of the three-bay facade. A balustrade on the roof of the porch under the shelter of the portico creates a small second story porch. The main entrance is a double-leaf door with sidelights and transom. Exterior and interior granite chimneys extend above the moderately pitched hipped roof. The interior follows a center hall plan; well-developed Colonial Revival detailing decorates the interior which boasts nine fireplaces in eight variations of Classical, Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. According to family tradition and the Sanborn Maps, the Carter House in its present form took shape around 1907 or 1908 when a previous house on the site was moved back from the street and remodeled. The Carter House was the home of a prominent Mount Airy family who made substantial contributions to legal, political, business and general community life during the late 19th and first three quarters of the 20th centuries. William F. Carter Sr. (1856-1944), a lawyer for over 60 years, served as the first president of the Surry County Bar Association, Superior Court judge, and three-term Mount Airy mayor. His son, W. Frank Carter, Jr. (1890-1969), was also a long-time mayor and an authority on local history, co-authoring with his wife *Footprints in the Hollows*. In 1983 the house was sensitively adapted for use as five apartments. The Carter House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Entry adapted from the National Register Nomination prepared by Laura A. W. Phillips, 1983.) A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 1983.

Update: The house exterior (front and sides) is virtually unaltered since original survey.

One-story frame building with a gable roof and weatherboard-type siding (possibly vinyl).


Unaltered, one-story frame bungalow with full-facade gable front porch carried by square posts with molded caps resting on weatherboarded apron which extends to cover the foundation. The gable ends are sheathed with sawn shingles and have lattice work ventilators. An unusual river rock interior chimney rises above the asphalt shingled roof. The house is believed to have been built by Frank Carter, Jr. between 1910-1916. It was the home of Dr. Moir Martin, founder of the Martin Memorial Hospital, for over forty years and was later owned by his daughter, Virginia. The house is built on the site of Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth’s home and office. The 1896-1910 Sanborn Maps show his antebellum house and separate office in the side yard.

Update: The house is virtually unaltered since original survey.

Impressive early 20th century, late Victorian, two-story house with granite first story, brick second story with granite trim, multiple shingled pedimented gables with round arched windows, two-story projecting bays on the front and sides of the house and spacious wrap-around Doric columned porch with pedimented entrance bay with transomed and side-lighted main entrance. Constructed between 1910 and 1916 for T. Benton Ashby, physician.

Update: The front and side elevations are virtually unaltered since original survey. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 1993. The 1929 Sanborn map suggests the house is solid brick with a stone veneer (on the first story).


One-story frame cottage (now brick veneered) with Triple-A roof with shingled gables, two-over-two windows with pedimented surrounds, and decorative cornice with sawn work and drop pendants at the corners. Fanciful nearly full-facade porch with turned posts connected by sawn arches ornamented with applied wooden sunbursts. A small sunroom addition has been added at the right (north) rear.

Update: The principal alteration since original survey is the removal of the chimneys from above the roofline. The 1929 Sanborn map shows the house without brick veneer. Note: This house is apparently incorrectly addressed 400 S. Main in the original nomination.


Unaltered one-story brick house with granite trim and Neo-Classical Revival detailing, including a pedimented entrance porch supported by paired fluted Doric columns, lunettes in the pedimented gable ends, twelve-over-one windows, granite foundation, and fanlighted main entrance. Home of Daniel E. Hoffman, who was associated with the granite quarry.

Update: Changes are minor, consisting of the replacement of the window in the front dormer with louvers and the addition of a slender metal railing along a part of the right terrace. The 1916 Sanborn map shows the house but the 1910 map shows a smaller house or building that may or may not be a constituent of the current house. The 1929 Sanborn map shows the rockfaced concrete block garage behind in place of earlier outbuildings shown on the 1922 map.

Wide one-story garage of rockfaced concrete block construction with a front gable roof (clipped on the front).

Two-story frame house with simple Colonial Revival detailing. Two, tall brick exterior end chimneys, gable-side roof with gabled dormer, four-over-four windows, nearly full-facade attached hip-roofed porch with pedimented entrance bay, and replacement wrought-iron second story balustrade. Constructed between 1916 and 1922 on the site of an earlier house and owned for many years by Central United Methodist Church for use as a parsonage for presiding elders. Later owners have included Alma Owens, a jeweler, and painter George Worth. The house is currently in use as two apartments.

Update: The house has been vinyl-sided and the balcony railing on the front porch removed.


One-story frame house constructed by 1905 and much altered by the application of vinyl siding and the enclosure of the front porch. The high hip roof and center gabled dormer are the only clues to the house’s turn-of-the-century construction date.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey.

   One-story gable-roofed frame shed.


This charming Gothic Revival style granite church was constructed in 1904 by contractor Lee Jones on the former site of a large, unidentified masonry warehouse. The church features wood-shingled gables with decorative exposed truss system, corner crenellated tower, and large stained-glass tracery windows. The Quakers settled in Surry County about 1769. They had established a church in Mount Airy by the end of the 19th century and had sponsored a school in the Surry County community of Westfield early in that century.

Update: The church’s official name is Mount Airy Friends Meeting. The meeting house is virtually unchanged from its 1985 appearance. A small picnic-type shelter has been built behind it and to the left, next to the ancillary back building which was built in 1966 according to its cornerstone. Notices from 1904 tracing the planning and construction of the church appeared in the Mount Airy newspaper on February 24 (noting the choice of granite) and March 9 (purchase of lot). The building was formerly addressed as 109 W. Wilson St.

   The one-story granite-faced building stands behind the meeting house with a gable-end entry facing Wilson Street. The entry has plain double-leaf doors sheltered by a flat metal
roof on slender steel supports. Similar porches shelter a side entrance and two basement stairwells, one on each side elevation. Other features include composition-shingle roofing and replacement windows.


615 South Main Street. R & H Motor Sales Garage and Boyles Service Station. 1940. SR0772 (#122). Non-contributing building (the street address has changed or the property was incorrectly addressed in the original nomination).

Update: When surveyed in the early 1980s, the one-story brick building, which historically served as a service station, had a white Moderne front with several garage bays and large display windows. The building had a triple stripe at the base of its flat parapet. The 1948 Sanborn map shows a building of similar form with a long back section extending along East Wilson Street, identified as Auto Sales and Service. The 1949 city directory refers to the building as Haymore’s Service Station and Hodge Motor Company. The 1962 city directory identifies it as Burton-Jones Dodge Inc. (the Hodge name in the 1949 directory was not a typo for Dodge).

According to the Roadside America website, the building was built as a gas station in 1937 and converted to a tourist attraction known as Wally’s Service Station and Mayberry Courthouse in 2001. The 1937 date is incorrect, however, since an April 1940 article in the local paper notes that the R & H Motor Sales Garage and Boyles Service Station was recently completed on the site of the Hodge (or Gilmer) House, which was moved back to make room (the Hodge House was surveyed in the 1980s and has since been torn down). D. S. Hodge and his son Norwood Hodge ran the dealership and Ott Boyles ran the service station. The article states, “The new building is of brick and steel construction, with a show room at the side. The service station is finished in white stucco.” Traces of the original features are visible in the remodeled building such as the ghost of former garage and window bays, the Moderne triple parapet stripe, and a ceramic parapet coping. In its current form the building has the triple stripe, each stripe projecting slightly and gray in color, as well as one-over-one windows, a small storefront with multi-pane windows at the left corner (with a sign reading Emmett’s Fixxit Shop), and a small gabled entry porch with square posts and a sign reading Mayberry Courthouse. The setback right side of the front elevation retains an early display window, a modern entry with sidelights, and an awning with Mayberry Hotel on it. The elevation along Wilson Street preserves more of its early character with large metal-framed windows, wood and glass panel garage doors, and a stepped parapet. A sign on this elevation reads Little David’s Carpet Outlet. Though the setback sections of the building retain good integrity, changes to the front wing including stucco removed and replacement of one garage bay with a storefront and another bricked in with a window added render the building non-contributing.

One-story, frame shed with vertical board siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof and vertical-board siding. Barrels with copper tubing on a platform next to the building represents a moonshine still. The building may be a portion of one of several outbuildings.
shown on the 1948 Sanborn map. More likely it was built in recent decades or is an older building recently moved in from another context.


Two-story three-bay frame house with two-story rear ell, gable-side roof with shallow center pedimented dormer, one-bay classically-inspired entrance porch surmounted by second story balustraded porch serving center second story door. The first story of the house is sheathed in German siding and the second story is shingled. According to the Sanborn Maps a one-story house with a similar configuration stood here until 1922. It is not known if that house was remodeled and a second story and new siding added. Mrs. Vogler, a seamstress, was an early owner of the present house.

Update: The principal change to the house is the replacement of the porch posts with simpler columns of square section and the replacement of the porch roof balustrade with one of similar design. Some of the first-story windows are replacements. The gabled Craftsman dormer-like feature on the front of the roof is similar to the triple-A roof design of earlier years. According to longtime Mount Airy resident George Speight, there is a tradition that a school for girls occupied this house or was located at or near the site.

625 South Main Street. Blue’s Esso Service Station. Ca. 1930. SR0783 (#124). Contributing building (the building was identified as 631 S. Main in the original nomination).

Good example of a typical 1930s Spanish Mission style gas station with robust, stepped stucco pilasters and red tile roof. Still in use as a gas station.

Update: The 1949 city directory identifies the building as Blue’s Esso Service (Station). In 1962 it was the Atkins Esso Service Center. In 2001 the building became part of a tourist attraction known as Wally’s Service Station and Mayberry Courthouse. Additions since original survey include a wraparound porch or awning supported by steel poles and a small rear wing with a corner pier with a top modeled on the piers or pilasters of the original section. The gas pumps present in the 1980s have been removed and two older models are displayed out front.


Much altered one-and-one-half story bungalow now converted to commercial use. This house first appears on the 1929 Sanborn map and it may have been built for Jay Cockerham, a florist. The engaged porch has been enclosed, vinyl siding now sheathes the house and replacement, large casement and fixed windows light the remodeled interior.

Update: A photo of the house in 1937 when it was the Cockerham Flower Shop shows a very different arrangement of the front with a gable-fronted wing with triangular brackets, large display windows, and an entry fanlight. A greenhouse once extended behind. The 1937 photo
was accompanied by the caption “our new showroom.” The house and flower shop may have been altered again in the 1940s. The house has changed little since it was surveyed in the 1980s.

VL (formerly 629 South Main Street. Hodge House. Ca. 1890. SR0404 (#123). Demolished.)


Update: The one-story brick or brick-veneered building has a standard commercial form with stepped side parapets and a storefront on the street. The storefront has wraparound display windows without bulkheads, a metal shed awning, and a flat parapet faced with long, narrow off-white textured bricks (or possibly granite blocks) of a type popular in the early 1950s. The left side elevation has one surviving industrial-type metal-framed window (the others are bricked up or boarded over) and an L-shaped rear section sheathed with novelty weatherboard siding and extended by a concrete block addition.

The 1962 city directory lists the building (addressed 638 S. Main) as Cockerham’s Printing and Litho Company. In 1949 the building was identified as J. E. Cockerham Printing and it shows as a print shop on the 1948 Sanborn map. It was not present in 1929. In the 1949 city directory the shop advertised “For 15 years we have been serving the printing needs of this community.” This may indicate the building was built in 1934, or the print shop occupied another building briefly, since the county date for the building is 1938 and that date seems more likely considering the economic conditions of the period. A clipping in the Mount Airy Museum subject file for florists may show the front of this building in its original form, with flanking chimneys or false chimneys, forward projecting flanking walls overgrown with ivy, and large display windows and a center entry across the front. Signage above the windows identified the Cockerham family’s printing and florist businesses. The L-shaped frame rear section appears on the 1948 Sanborn map, although with a slightly different relationship to the front section. Probably the frame section was shifted southward a dozen or so feet and attached to the end of the brick-veneered section after the 1948 map. This may have been done when the building was given its current modernist façade in the 1950s.


Update: This one-story building of standard commercial form was probably built in the 1950s or early 1960s. The long, narrow building is constructed of concrete block which is exposed and painted on the left side elevation and is veneered with stretcher-bond brick on the front and right side elevations. The building is modernist in design, with a brick pylon rising above the flat parapet at the front left corner and a pattern of regularly projecting stretcher bricks to the left of the storefront, which has a plate glass window and doors sheltered by a metal shed awning. Two brick planters at the front may be original. The 1962 city directory lists the Blue Ridge Finance Corporation at the location. The building was built in place of a filling station (probably Seal’s Gulf Service) which appears on the 1948 Sanborn map. The county date for the building is 1963. Perhaps the finance corporation occupied the filling station building before constructing the
current building in 1963, or the 1963 county date is an estimate and the building was standing by 1962.


One-story three-bay wide, one-bay deep frame house with low gable roof, wide overhanging eaves, interior end chimneys, center bay entrance porch carried by square posts with molded bases and caps, flush-sheathed porch walls and gable, double-leaf front door with sidelights and transom and rear ell. Interior has center hall plan, simple Greek Revival mantels and fourteen-foot ceilings. The house is believed to have been built in the third quarter of the 19th century by William A. Estes, who owned a lot of land in the Mount Airy vicinity. A later owner was W. H. Spain who may have replaced the windows on the main elevation in the 1930s.

Update: The front of the house has changed little since the original survey. Flowerboxes have been removed from under the front windows. An addition has been made to the end of the rear wing, enclosing the formerly exterior end chimney. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 1998.


Spacious, handsomely detailed one-and-one-half-story brick-veneered bungalow constructed between 1922 and 1929 by E. Q. Benbow, who owned a downtown theatre. According to the present owner, Benbow married late in life and had no children to fill the five-bedroom house. The large attached front porch, with wide, gabled entry bay, extends across the main elevation to the north to encompass a porte-cochere; heavy, battered brick piers support the porch. Both the porch gable and an offset gabled dormer feature rough stucco and applied wooden trim imitative of half-timbering and are lighted by Palladian windows. The main entrance is composed of leaded glass sidelights and multi-paned door. An enormous oak tree shades the front yard (an earlier house was formerly located here); a matching garage stands in the rear yard.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey.

On-story gable-roofed brick-veneered frame building.


Rectangular, one-story gas station with three service bays.

Update: The building is little changed from its 1985 appearance. The building has a clipped corner which gives it a Moderne appearance. A modernist gas pump canopy has been removed since 1985. In 1948 the Key Amoco Service Station was located here in a building that preexisted the current building. In 1962 the building was the South Main Amoco station. It was

Two-and-one-half story brick industrial building with stepped parapet gable roof and round arched panels surrounding some of the replacement metal trimmed casement windows. It was built by 1891 for use as the Globe Tobacco Warehouse operated by Joseph W. Ashby. The Sanborn Maps indicate it continued as the Globe Warehouse until about 1905 when it was owned by S. C. Jones and leased by Rucker and Witten Tobacco Company. From 1916 to 1929 it housed the Sandusky Cooperage and Lumber Company. Later it housed Renfro Mills and currently is the site of another textile company, the Adams-Millis Corporation.

Update: The complex, now known as Globe Tobacco Lofts, underwent a tax credit rehabilitation finalized in 2008. Rehab Builders was the contractor for the rehabilitation and Landmark Group was the developer. On the Main Street elevation dual corner entries have been reduced to one opening, the other opening made into a window, and a cantilevered awning removed. A metal smokestack has been removed from the rear of the property. A prefabricated wood gazebo has been added to the back parking area. In the late 1940s the building housed the Granite Hosiery Mills, makers of men’s and boys’ hose. The large addition on the north side was made after 1948.


Rectangular one-story brick veneer and frame commercial building with large expanses of plate glass display windows and sizeable adjacent parking lot.

Update: Other than the replacement of one of the front entries the building has changed little since original survey. The county GIS date for the building is 1964. The treatment of the left half of the building looks like it may date to the 1970-85 period and renders the building non-contributing.


Late 19th century two-story L-shaped frame house with gable roof, dentil cornice, paneled corner posts, paneled window surrounds with corner blocks, awning-like wooden hood molds and one-story wrap-around porch with turned posts, simple balustrade, and sawnwork brackets, two-over-two sash windows, and main entrance with transom and sidelights. The house is named for its earliest known owner, J. M. Fulton.

2018 Update: The house retains its overall form although virtually all exterior features and finishes have been altered. Vinyl siding has been added, the windows have been replaced, the
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section 7 page 67 front porch posts have been replaced by tubular fluted aluminum supports, and the porch railing
has been replaced by turned balusters. The lozenge vent in the front gable has been covered but the
cover has a lozenge form. The fringed window hood on the front second-story window has
been removed and false shutters added around windows. One of the two interior chimneys is no
longer visible above the roofline. The parged exterior chimney on the one-story rear wing
remains. A modern prefab carport attaches to the rear.

   The one-story frame building has vinyl siding and a front-gable roof.


Angled one-story, three-bay brick commercial building with stuccoed main elevation. Pilasters
dividing the bays are surmounted by stylized globes. Decorative paneled friezes above the
altered storefronts.

Update: The building does not appear on the 1929 Sanborn map. Other than new paint, signage,
and fabric awnings the building appears little changed from original survey. A tax credit
rehabilitation of the building was finalized in 2014.


Two-story, four-bay plain brick commercial building with paired four-over-four windows on the
second story.

Update: The building may have been built in conjunction with the Moody Funeral Home which
occupied the adjacent building on Franklin Street (140-150 Franklin). The storefronts were
formerly garage doors and the funeral home’s fleet of ambulances may have parked inside. The
ground floor was still occupied by garages in 1969. The storefronts and garage door are as
originally surveyed but the upper-level windows are one-over-one replacements.

building.

Two-story brick commercial building constructed 1927 to house a wholesale store in the left
(west) bay and a garage at the right. Granite corner blocks and sills accent the four-over-four
sash windows which light the second story; granite corner blocks also accent a slightly recessed
panel defined by a soldier course and an incised granite name and date stone. The little-altered
building is now in use by a taxi company.

Update: The inscribed granite plaque in the parapet reads 1927 Nelson-Moody. The garage doors
and small office storefront have been replaced by (to the left) a storefront with large plate glass
windows in metal frames and (to the right) a window wall that evokes the character of the wood
and glass panel garage doors that were replaced. The upper-level windows have been replaced.
The stair entry at the right corner retains the door and transom that were present in the original survey.


One-story brick commercial building with granite coped stepped parapet ornamented with patterned brick work, granite block accents, and incised granite date stone.

Update: The parapet and storefront aprons are unchanged from their appearance in the original survey. The storefront transom, which was boarded up, has been reopened and new glass and window frames inserted. The storefront has new glass and frames and a new wood and glass panel door. The bracket-supported metal awning has been replaced by a fabric awning.


One-story, double storefront brick commercial building constructed between 1922 and 1929 as a wholesale produce store, now in use as a seed/plant/feed store. A simple paneled frieze ornaments the main elevation which retains the original multi-pane transom (partially obscured by signage).

Update: The basic simple form of the building is unchanged. The storefront transoms have been reopened by the removal of signage and new glass and frames inserted. The storefronts also have replacement glass and frames although the display windows rest on the original aprons.


Two-story brick commercial building built between 1922 and 1929. Main elevation has been reworked with a brick veneer façade and second story replacement casement windows.

Update: The aluminum-frame plate glass storefront and cantilevered flat metal awning appear to date to the late 1950s or early 1960s. The stretcher-bond brick façade above may date to the same period or earlier. The principal exterior change is the replacement of the two second-story windows and the removal of their false shutters and lintels.


Two-story brick commercial building built between 1916 and 1922 as a garage and used by 1929 as an automobile sales office. Building retains a one-bay garage opening (now used as a drive-through to the alley behind) at the east (left) and two-over-two sash windows with granite sills on the second story.

One-story brick commercial building constructed between 1922 and 1929 and site for many years of the Hennis Motor Company, a Chrysler Plymouth automobile dealership. One garage bay remains while others have been reworked as storefronts. The building features modest brick corbelling [dentils] at the eaves and along recessed panels typical of 1920s commercial building.

Update: The building has undergone a few modifications since original survey but has retained its overall character. The right storefront, which must have been recently renovated at the time of survey, retains its display windows, entry, and metal hipped awning from that period. The recessed storefront to its left has been infilled. The garage bay next to it remains as such and retains its transom. The storefront at the far left is the same but now has a metal hipped awning.


Two-story brick Colonial Revival style commercial building built between 1922 and 1929 as the Coco-Cola Bottling plant. The intact five-bay building features keystone-centered, round-arch, fanlighted bays on the first story, paired six-light rectangular windows on the second story, a dentil cornice and stepped and curvilinear parapet end gables. Small wrought iron second story balconies mark the end bays.

Update: The building is virtually unchanged from the appearance it had when originally surveyed.


One-story brick commercial building with reworked storefront; above the ribbed metal pent roof canopy is a recessed panel ornamented by brick dentils. Single soldier course marks the eaves of the flat roofed building. Constructed between 1910 and 1916 as a printing office, and now in use for attorney’s offices.

Update: The building is unchanged other than replacement of the display windows (more frame divisions than before).


Two-story brick municipal building which assumed its present form between 1916 and 1922. As early as 1920 this was the site of the local water works “supply storage.” By 1916 this building had been expanded to house the fire department and a “lock-up” on the second story. By 1922 the greatly expanded building is labeled as “City Hall” and included the fire department, water works, a second-floor courtroom and lock up. A one-story wing, which appears to have
incorporated an earlier free-standing structure, housed the city stable and wagon shed. This building served as the City Hall until the new Municipal Building was constructed in 1978. The old city hall is square in shape and features a modest stepped parapet on the south and east elevations. It retains the original six-over-six sash windows and a row of brick dentils at the eaves. The one-story wing which formerly housed the stables retains one of the large round arched openings which accommodated wagons; second arch has been filled in to create a door and window.

Update: The building preserves the same rhythm of door and window openings as originally surveyed but the windows are replacements. The large window-wall opening onto Moore Street (possibly originally a fire engine opening) has a storefront (139 Moore) with tall plate glass windows under a metal hipped awning.


One-story, long, rectangular brick veneer commercial block housing eight small businesses. Simple, soldier course outlined panels below the tile coped flat roof mark the bays. The display windows, which flank the glass and wood panel entrances, are set in simple wooden surrounds.

Update: A two-story house appears to have occupied the site of this building in 1932 photographs of the construction of the nearby post office. A photograph of the west two storefront units of the current building was published in the June 24, 1949 issue of the Mount Airy Times. The caption stated, “A bakery and barber shop will be housed in the new building located on Pine street . . . The new bakery, the ‘Roll-Chess’, is expected to open in the near future . . . The Pine Street Barber Shop, which opened about the middle of this week, is owned by Rich Mosley and Paul Branch.” The photo seems to show a break in the parapet line at the left corner, suggesting the west end of the building is the original 1949 end and the east end is later. For a time the west end may have abutted the back wing of a service station that fronted on Main Street. The 1949 city directory lists the barber shop and bakery but not other businesses at the location, which confirms that the east end of the building did not then exist.

The building has changed little from its appearance when originally surveyed. A seam and color change in the brickwork relates to the building’s two-phase construction. There are seven storefronts: five consist of a central door flanked by plate glass display windows while the storefront at each end has only one display window. At the back, facing onto a small parking lot at the corner of Pine and Main streets, is a small wing or addition housing Mayberry Auto Sales. The concrete block construction and ceramic parapet coping of the wing suggests it was present at the time of original survey but it does not appear to have been photographed. It has a shed-roofed porch that engages a small room.


Two-story brick commercial building with later one-story wing at the west (left). Multi-colored brick soldier course enlivens the main facade, along with decorative flat panels near the eaves.
which contain incised name and date stones. First-story storefront retains multi-paned transom; second story balconied entrance is flanked by one-over-one windows topped with recessed molded wooden panels.

Update: A change that has enhanced the integrity of the building is the uncovering of the storefront transom on the two-story section, revealing the original frosted clear and amber transom glass. It is uncertain whether the front upper-story windows are the originals but the upper-story left side windows with their four-over-one sashes are. The building is also known as the Davis Arcade Building.


Two-story Colonial Revival style brick commercial building built by 1929 and, according to the Sanborn map, in use at that time as the post office. The building is very similar to the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Moore Avenue. The first-story windows of the Pine Street building have been bricked up, but it retains paired six-over-six second story windows, dentil cornice and stepped parapet end gables.

Update: Historian Dean Brown notes that the town post office was located in the building from about 1924 to 1933. In 1934 the building was remodeled for use as the Ashburn and Calloway Funeral Home. Changes to the building since original survey have tended to enhance its character, such as the creation of a new storefront where the original storefront was lost and the reopening of windows on the side elevations. The new storefront has wood-framed display windows and a recessed entry in the style of storefronts from the turn of the twentieth century. Other changes include the replacement or reroofing of the shed awning, which is now metal, and the replacement of the upper-story front windows.


Two-story brick veneer commercial building constructed in 1948 by L. W. Tickle, according to an incised granite stone set in a slightly recessed paneled frieze. Flanking one story wings were added in 1955 and 1959. On the interior, the flooring on both stories is built of 6,600 2x4x8 boards laid on steel I beams; this strong construction was utilized so that the building could be expanded to ten stories. The building has always housed Tickle Auto Parts.

Update: The building is relatively unaltered from its appearance when originally surveyed. The upper-story windows have been replaced and a suspended flat aluminum awning has been replaced by a fabric-type awning. The storefronts appear to be unaltered other than the replacement of a door or two.


Large two-story frame house constructed ca. 1900 and now divided into twelve apartments. Simple paired sawn brackets support the eaves of the high hip roof which is pierced by corbelled...
and paneled brick chimneys. The second story is sheathed with fish scale shingles, with German siding on the first floor. The original wrap-around porch was enclosed at an undetermined date and is ornamented with Colonial Revival style trim and includes applied simple pilasters and dentils framing the double-leaf, multi-pane main entrance.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey. A few windows may have been replaced.


One-story rectangular blond brick funeral home with gabled and flat roofs and wrap-around flat-roofed canopy and porte cochere. A large parking lot adjoins at the east (right). The business was established in 1902, originally located on Virginia Street and later on Franklin Street.

Update: The Moody Funeral Home, which dates its origins back to 1870, opened its Pine Street facility on February 1, 1959. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Echols, Sparger and Associates of Marion, Virginia, and was built by the J. W. Nichols Construction Company of Toast. Mount Airy granite and Holiday Hill stone was used in the construction. The front office section, east chapel, and the wing at the northeast corner are the original sections of the building. In 1972 the business had branches in Dobson and in Stuart, Virginia. The large west chapel and the porch at the office section were added after 1985.


One-and-one-half-story brick veneer cottage exhibiting late Victorian and Colonial Revival style influences. Multiple shingled and pedimented gables sprout from the high hip roof which is also pierced by tall corbelled interior chimneys. One-over-one windows with granite lintels and sills, including one with a stained-glass transom, light the first story; the gables are lighted by a variety of window types including one-over-one sash, round, and round-arched with keystone. The engaged wrap-around porch flares out from the main roof and is supported by pairs and trios of slender Doric columns set on granite plinths. The main entrance is composed of an oval glass pane set in a molded oak door. A contemporary one-story brick wing has been added at the rear, but does not detract from the virtually unaltered house, now in use as offices. Early occupants of the ca. 1908 house were the Shepherd family and later owners include Willie Wolfe.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey.

One-story, gabled, brick-veneer garage harmonizes with house, built between 1922 and 1929 in place of a smaller outbuilding.

Handsome one-and-one-half story Craftsman style bungalow constructed sometime between 1922 and 1929, according to Sanborn Maps. Owned by the Kochtitzky family for many years and now in use as a florist shop. A replacement main entrance is the only exterior change on the house which is sheathed with German siding and sawn shingles in the gable ends. Wide, overhanging eaves are supported by decorative triangular brackets and exposed rafter ends. The gable front porch is supported by robust paneled posts set on brick plinths connected by square balusters. The interior is largely unaltered and contains a simple mantel upheld by square posts; the stairway rises against the west wall of the hallway behind the front room.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey.


Late 19th century two-story L-shaped frame Italianate style house similar to others in town with overhanging eaves, classically inspired decorative frieze, tall corbelled chimneys (now stuccoed), prominent paneled corner posts and awning-like wooden window hood molds. Hip roof front porch carried by tapered box posts and paneled skirt. The paneled skirt is repeated on the side (east) two-tier porch with an enclosed sleeping porch above.

Update: The house has undergone a few changes since it was originally surveyed but its overall character and important features like the fringed window hoods remain intact. The front porch has turned posts and a sawn balustrade, historic elements from another house, inserted in place of the Craftsman tapered posts and low paneled railing that were earlier replacements formerly on the porch. Windows have been replaced, the historic siding covered or replaced with novelty vinyl siding, and a large deck has been added to the rear, reached by an elevated walkway on the left end of the house. Stained glass has been installed in the second-story window over the entrance. The lower level of the side porch was enclosed in 2019. The house currently serves as Bee’s B&B, taking its name from the Aunt Bee character in the 1960s television series The Andy Griffith Show.


Two-story, L-shaped, late Victorian frame house set in a very large lot on a high knoll well back from the street. Although the house has been sheathed with asbestos shingles in recent years, it retains a wealth of sawn work and turned ornamentation. Lacy bargeboards ornament the side gables and projecting three-part front facing bay; this bay is further enriched with graceful spindle arches at the eaves. The house boasts a large wrap-around porch with turned posts and balusters, fancy porch brackets with drop pendants, and lattice work at one end. The house was built by 1905 and long associated with the Binder family though they are not thought to have been the original owners.

Update: From the street the house appears to have changed little since original survey.

One-story frame cottage with high hip roof with very steep gabled dormers sheathed with sawn shingles. Hip roofed porch supported by tapered box posts on brick skirt. Sanborn Maps indicate that the rear ell was added in the 1920s.

Update: The house appears to have changed little since original survey.

      One-story, gable-fronted, x-braced hinged doors, possibly concrete construction.


One-and-one-half story painted brick Colonial Revival/late Victorian style cottage with shingled upper story, multi-gables with broad gable facing the street and Doric columned porch. Associated with the Shepherd family and constructed between 1905 and 1910.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey.

      Front-gabled frame building, either weatherboard or vinyl siding.


Late 19th century two-story, L-shaped frame house of Italianate style with bracketed eaves, paneled corner posts, paneled window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks and wooden awning-like window hood molds. Believed to have been built for the Robert Hines family. A later owner, Buck Moore, replaced the original one-story porch with a full height monumental portico with oversized paneled posts and intricate sawnwork brackets. A handsome wrought iron fence and second-story balconet were added by a later owner, Mrs. Llewellyn.

Update: Other than the application of vinyl siding and the replacement of the original two-over-two windows with one-over-one sash, the house has changed little since original survey.


Two-story Queen Anne style frame house with high hip roof, center circular bay with conical roof, and shingled, diagonally placed entrance bay. Decorative full facade hip-roofed porch which wraps in a half circle around the turret; porch ornamented by unusual stick frieze and
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balusters. The house, constructed about 1900, was owned for almost fifty years by P.S. Rothrock and is currently divided into apartments.

Update: The front of the house has changed little since original survey. The one-story rear wing (with basement level) has gained a shed dormer, sided with novelty weatherboards, and a shed porch on square posts at the basement level. The combination of the L-shaped plan of the house and high hipped roof is unusual. The entire second story is shingled and the entrance bay is tucked in the angle of the two wings.

   Small one-story gabled shed of unknown construction.


Impressive, eclectic two-story brick house with Colonial Revival styling. The house has a low roof, Doric columned entrance porch, side porch and porte-cochere with flat roofs, and a stunning wrap-around floral and geometric pattern tile terrace. The handsome main entrance is framed by leaded glass sidelights and fanlight and topped by a granite block segmental arch with keystone. The house is set in a generous lot on a slight knoll, well back from the sidewalk and the property is marked by a low granite retaining wall. Built about 1914 for Ed H. Kochtitzky, one of the founders of the Mount Airy Furniture Company. After the death of his wife, Alice Sparger Kochtitzky in 1971, the house was donated to the town for use as a public library.

Update: From the street the house appears to have changed little since original survey.


Charming one-and-one-half-story frame bungalow, constructed between 1922 and 1929, with shingled gabled dormer with returns, engaged porch with paneled posts on brick piers and turned balusters, paired one-over-one windows, and glass and molded panel front door. Matching one-car garage in rear yard.

Update: Other than the replacement of at least some windows the house has changed little since original survey.

   One-story, gable-fronted, small windows with granite sills and lintels.


Nicely detailed two-and-one-half story brick Tudor Revival style house with beautiful solid walnut interior woodwork. Typical of this period revival style, the Sobotta House features half-timbering, numerous prominent gables, expanses of casement windows including two with small panes set in lead fixed casements which flank the multi-pane and paneled front door, robust
carved brackets supporting overhanging bays, and large chimneys. A highlight of the interior woodwork is a Tudor arch with spindle frieze in the hallway. A formal garden in the rear yard is a focal point of the large, well-landscaped lot. The house was constructed in 1930 for John Sobotta and his wife, Blanche. Sobotta (1875-1974) was vice president of the National Furniture Company and a highly regarded local philanthropist, financial, civic, and church leader.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey. According to the website of the Sobotta Manor Bed and Breakfast, the house was built in 1932. Frank Hines was the contractor. John Sobotta, a native of Germany, emigrated to the United States in 1880 and moved to Mount Airy in 1904. John’s first wife was Claire Sobotta; his second wife was Blanche Sobotta (1910-2004).

Side-gabled garage with shed dormer, appears larger than a garage shown on the 1929 Sanborn map and may be shown on the 1948 Sanborn, or is a modern reproduction in keeping with the era of the house.

Long, side-gabled one-story garage with garage bays flanking a center storage unit with board-and-batten siding.

Prefab structure.


Exotic Spanish Colonial Revival style two-story stuccoed house with red tile roof, casement windows, arcaded porch with twisted columns, three-stepped central “campanile” extending above the hip roof and a patio which extends to the right (east) elevation and forms the roof of the basement garage entered from McCargo Street. Built ca. 1925 by James F. Yokely, one of the founders of the Mount Airy Chair Company and his wife, Sallie, daughter of James A. Hadley who lived next door.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey. In 2018-2019, the stucco exterior was restored. The 1929 Sanborn map shows the house as frame construction.


Large, L-shaped, two-story frame house with hip roof and shallow one-story front and side projecting bays. House is dominated by a two-tier wrap-around porch with square posts and balusters, and an exterior staircase to the second story porch.

Update: The house has been vinyl-sided and had its windows replaced. The railing on the upper and lower tiers may have been replaced although the posts may have been kept.


Magnificent Queen Anne style mansion, built between 1894 and 1900 by James Alfred Hadley, co-owner of the Hadley-Smith Tobacco Factory, real estate developer, and several-term mayor of Mount Airy. One of the finest Queen Anne style houses in Surry County, its first story is rusticated granite, second story is brick with granite trim, and has a three-story central tower with bell-cast roof and finial. The house also features wood shingled gables, bracketed eaves, abundant stained glass (four panels were stolen in the early 1980s and replaced by local artisan, Ed Atkins), a broad wrap-around porch with Doric columns and dentil frieze, segmental and flat arch granite-trimmed windows (most one-over-one and some colorful multi-pane), tall corbelled chimneys, standing seam metal roof, double-leaf carved oak main entrance doors with etched glass, and granite retaining wall marking the large lot. On the interior are handsome, robust staircases, paneled wainscot, ornate mantels with mirrored overmantels, plaster ceiling medallions, original lighting fixtures, and a pair of marble columns between the foyer and hallway.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey. Historian Dean Brown notes that J. A. Hadley, which the September 11, 1891, Yadkin Valley News described as “our new and aggressive citizen,” purchased a lot on Pine Street in 1891. The April 7, 1892, issue noted that work would begin on the house “in about six weeks,” indicating construction may have begun before 1894. Plans and apparently elevations for the house existed by April 1892. The house was rehabilitated in 1992 by then-owners Jimmy and Alice Cavallos and Pilot Mountain Restorations. According to historian Karen Hall, Hadley also owned a cotton mill in Siler City, and there is a tradition that the granite for the house was quarried on the site.

   One-story two-bay garage with hip roof shown on 1920s Sanborn maps but may originally have belonged to adjacent property at 410 W. Pine.


Asymmetrical, late Victorian style two-story brick house with granite trim, high hipped roof, hip-roofed polygonal projecting front bay, wrap-around porch which follows the contours of the bay and is upheld by trios of slender posts, and granite foundation and steps. Home of George O. Graves, one of the founders of the Mount Airy Mantel-and Table Company, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of James A. Hadley who lived across the street. Sanborn Maps indicate that the main block of the house was complete by 1905 with the wrap-around porch and a side projecting bay added by 1910.
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Update: The house has changed little since original survey. The curved cornice brackets are picked out by a polychrome paint scheme. There are a number of stained-glass window sashes not mentioned in the original nomination entry.


Turn-of-the-century one-and-one-half-story brick late Victorian house with steep hipped roof, very steep cross gables sheathed with decorative wood shingles, dentil-like brick course under the eaves and nearly full facade front porch with decorative sawn work baluster and paneled posts. Slightly projecting entrance bay with mitered brick corners. Home of William Hadley, son of James Hadley, who lived in the brick mansion next door.

Update: The windows have been replaced and the intricate lattice at the left end of the front porch removed. The basement-level carport on the left side was present during original survey.

VL.


One-story, three-bays wide, one-bay deep with rear ell, gable-roofed frame cottage. Ornament on the modest cottage is confined to the Queen Anne style colored glass multi-pane and wooden panel front door, and the attached hip-roofed porch with turned posts and decorative sawn work brackets. Constructed by 1910.

Update: The house retains its basic appearance although the chimneys have been removed from above the roofline, the front door has been replaced, and the turned posts and sawn brackets have been replaced by simple square posts (the turned pilasters and their brackets survive).


Small, one-story, L-shaped gable-roofed asbestos-shingled cottage with one-bay flat-roofed entrance porch supported by tapered box posts on brick piers.

Update: The house has changed little since the original survey.


Boxy, two-story, three-bay frame American foursquare type house with hip roof, hip-roofed shingled dormer, shingled second story, stuccoed first story (probably originally weatherboard), full-facade one-story hipped-roof porch with Doric columns, and six-over-six windows. Sanborn Maps indicate it was built sometime between 1922 and 1929.

Update: The house has changed little since the original survey.
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Handsome, one-story contemporary library with irregular rectangular massing which conforms to its site on a sloping knoll. The building is sheathed with polished panels of the indigenous granite. The library and neighboring Municipal Building form a striking complex of contemporary public architecture rendered in granite.

Update: The library was designed by J. N. Pease Associates of Charlotte with input from the solar architecture firm Mazria/Schiff, also known as Edward Mazria & Associates. The library stands in a park-like setting with a war memorial near the corner of South Main and Rockford streets and, between the war memorial and the library, a sports hall of fame memorial. Both memorials are constructed of granite and have wall-like forms. The library occupies the site of the former Jesse Franklin Graves House (SR0672), an Italianate two-story frame house probably built in the late nineteenth century. The library is essentially unaltered from its original form.

   Granite memorial.

   Granite memorial.

150 Rockford Street. Mount Airy Police Department. 1968. SR1495. Contributing building (the building was not inventoried in the original nomination).

Update: This flat-roofed Modernist building of steel frame and/or concrete block construction is faced with polished Mount Airy granite. The building has two sections: a one-story section facing Rockford Street, which may be a ca. 1980 addition, and a two-story section on West Pine Street, which may be the original 1968 building (the building is dated 1968 in county records). The two-story section has an interesting decorative feature on the east end, a layered geometric arrangement of granite forms reminiscent of the flag bases that appear on certain classicized Moderne buildings of an earlier era (the feature may have served such a function originally although it does not currently hold a flag). The two-story section has mostly tall aluminum-framed plate glass windows and it adjoins a fenced parking area and a granite retaining wall on the street. The angular one-story section recalls I. M. Pei’s design for the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, a popular design from the late 1970s. The wing is cutaway on two sides to create an entry porch with recessed aluminum-framed window walls.


One-and-one-half story bungalow with broad gable roof with exposed rafter ends, center gabled dormer, corbelled interior chimneys and wrap-around porch carried by tapered square posts on brick apron. A portion of the porch has been enclosed, and the spacious house has been divided into four apartments. Sanborn Maps indicate it was built by 1910.

Update: The house retains its historic form but it has been vinyl-sided and its windows replaced. Details such as exposed rafters and outriggers have been lost. If the house was built by 1910 then it was presumably remodeled in the Craftsman style between 1916 and 1922, as suggested by Sanborn maps. More changes occurred between 1948 and 1985.


Large rectangular one-story brick building formerly used as the gymnasium/auditorium of the ca. 1905 Rockford Street School (school now destroyed), and now adaptively reused by the Surry County Arts Council as the Andy Griffith Playhouse, a community theatre. The only ornamentation on the austere building are bands of simple corbelling near the granite coped eaves of the flat roof, and an attached one-story arcaded portico added about 1980. Fanlighted double-leaf glass and wood panel doorways flank a central ticket booth. Documentary photographs reveal that main facade originally had three double-leaf entrances set in recessed corbelled arches. A large parking lot adjoins the buildings at the left (south), where the school formerly stood.

Update: The Rockford Grade School auditorium/gymnasium building was designed by the Winston-Salem architectural firm of Northup and O’Brien in 1930, though it does not appear to have been completed until 1934, the date that appears on the 1948 Sanborn map. Elevation and section drawings are viewable online at the NCSU Libraries website, and they indicate that the building as constructed differed somewhat from the 1930 design. The auditorium occupied the front (south) end and the gymnasium the rear (north) end. The building attached to the east side of the school building that has since been demolished. An arcaded brick porch was added to the front about 1980. The Andy Griffith Museum, dedicated in 2009, attaches to the east side of the auditorium/gymnasium. The museum is housed in a brick-veneered building of simple boxy design.


One-story, L-shaped frame house with gabled projecting bay, corbelled interior chimney, two-over-two windows and attached hip-roofed porch with paneled posts and square balusters. Constructed by 1910.
Update: The house retains its historic form, which is its defining feature, but changes include vinyl siding that completely wraps the house and its details, replacement windows, the replacement of the porch supports and railing with tubular aluminum supports and a decorative metal railing, and the loss of the right chimney above the roofline; a second tall, corbeled chimney is extant. A wheelchair ramp has been added to the right side.


One-story rectangular brick veneer triplex with hip roof.

Update: The Ranch house-like building, which has additional basement units, has changed little since original survey.

**240 Rockford Street. Fitzhugh Lee Smith House. 1903. SR0371 (#192). Contributing building.**

Intact, asymmetrical two-story frame house of late Victorian/Colonial Revival design, with projecting polygonal bays, German siding, wood shingled gables, bracketed eaves, wrap-around porch, which follows the contours of the projecting bays, with paired slender Doric columns set on granite plinths, and pedimented entrance porch. Constructed in 1903 for the Fitzhugh Lee Smith family and still owned by a family member.

Update: The house retains its overall character but has been resided in novelty vinyl siding and has had its porch columns and balusters replaced, the former with tubular aluminum supports and the latter with skinny builder-mart turned balusters. It appears the stone pedestals for the porch posts have been rebuilt in granite although the granite underpinning the porch appears unaltered. The windows may have been replaced. The small sawn brackets in the cornice and the simple pendant sawn trim under the projecting front gable have been changed, the new details approximating the historic elements (the new brackets may be reused from another period house). The shingles in the front gable, formerly square-edged and staggered, have been changed to beveled shingles.


Boxy, two-story, three-bay frame Colonial Revival style house with a hip roof, corbeled interior chimney, two-over-two windows, gabled entry porch with Doric columns, and main entrance flanked by sidelights.

Update: The house has changed little since original survey. Portable shed behind.


One-and-one-half-story brick Colonial Revival style house with two front facing gabled dormers with projecting windows. Projecting, attached gable front entrance porch with twin segmental arch openings.
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Update: The only change observed is the replacement of the jalousie windows in the dormers with sash windows.


Late 19th century two-story, L-shaped frame house with gabled roof, drop-pendant bracketed eaves, decorative frieze with applied sawnwork ornamentation, German siding, doors and windows with rounded lintels, elaborate double-leaf front door with colored glass panes and ornate pierced and carved trim, bay windows on front and side elevations, and wrap-around porch with paired turned posts and sawnwork frieze of stylized fleur-de-lis design. Early owners of the house include Virgil Holcomb and W. B. Partridge.

Update: The overall character of the house and much of its decorative trim have been retained, but several changes have been made. The arched window heads have been altered to square heads and most or all window sashes have been replaced. The transom over the front entry has been replaced with or hidden behind a Colonial Revival pediment. The paired porch posts have been replaced with single tubular aluminum supports and the balustrade has been replaced with a metal fence-type railing. The house has novelty vinyl siding and the chimneys have been replaced or encased in brick above the roofline.

      One-story gable-roofed building of unknown construction.

255 Rockford Street. Caleb H. Haynes House. Ca. 1900. SR0374 (#196). Demolished (the location is not indicated as a vacant lot on the map because it is on a consolidated parcel shown on the Mount Airy Historic District (Boundary Increase II) map).

209 Spring Street. Hutchens Laundry and Cleaners. Ca. 1939. SR1005. Contributing building (the building was not inventoried in the original nomination).

Update: “A mother’s care for your wear,” advertised Hutchens Laundry and Cleaners in 1949. Leonard Zeno Hutchens operated his laundry on South Main Street in the 1920s and in 1939 moved to the current location; presumably the original portion of the current building was built at that time. He handed the business over to his son Reuben C. Hutchens in the early 1970s. Reuben sold the business to Roger Routh in 1984 and the Routh family continues to operate it. The laundry is housed in a one-story brick building of standard industrial form, with a stepped parapet shed roof and rows of windows along the right side, some replacements, others original and barred. The building appears to have been extended to the front and rear, and the 1948 Sanborn map suggests the expansion occurred by 1948. A January 18, 1946, notice in the local paper noted plans to enlarge the building and add laundry service (an undated photograph on the company website shows the front of the building before this expansion). The expansion included a Moderne curved corner that is reminiscent of The Derby Restaurant, a 1947 Moderne building in Bannertown designed by Mount Airy architect Dwight Kenneth Cooke Sr. (Cooke’s wife was
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Frances Hutchens Cooke, suggesting a family connection to this building.) Other features of the laundry building include a post-1948 concrete block addition on the right side, modern metal-framed plate glass windows and entry on the front, some under a fabric-type shed awning, and additions on the left side.


Update: This one-story brick-veneered building, probably built in the 1940s (perhaps between 1945 and 1948), has an irregular four-sided footprint that conforms to its irregular site. In 1949 the building housed Hiatt’s Radio Shop, which advertised radio and television sales and service including Motorola auto radios. The building is simple in form and finish, with dual front entries flanked by plate-glass display windows and stepped side parapets. The 1948 Sanborn map appears to indicate concrete block construction, suggesting the stretcher brick veneer was added later. In 1962 the Granite Barber Shop operated here.

110 West Wilson Street. House. Ca. 1950. SR1493. Contributing building (the building was not inventoried in the original nomination).

Update: This story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional house has granite veneer and an asphalt-shingled side-gabled roof. The facing blocks are long and rectangular in form and some are narrow, a treatment current in Mount Airy around 1950. On the front of the roof are three gabled dormers. The recessed entry has a panel door that appears to be a replacement and a granite landing and steps with a decorative metal railing. The front windows, including picture windows, are plate glass and appear to be replacements, though wood sash windows survive on other elevations. A granite-faced chimney with stepped shoulders rises on the south gable end. The 1938 date listed for the house in county records is clearly too early. The house was extant at the time the district was created but was not counted in the inventory.


Unaltered one-and-one-half story frame bungalow with German siding, gable roof, gabled dormer, three-over-one windows, exposed rafter ends, full-facade engaged porch with tapered box posts and beaded tongue and groove apron, multi-pane main entrance, and granite retaining wall marking the front property line. Constructed by 1922.

Update: According to longtime Mount Airy resident George Speight, this was the Davis House. Mr. Davis had a barn on the site of the adjacent commercial building. The house has changed little from original survey.


Late 19th century two-story frame house with gable roof, wide overhanging eaves, pair of interior corbelled chimneys, front entrance with sidelights and transom, hip-roofed front porch.
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with decorative sawn brackets, turned posts and balusters, and one-story rear ell. Believed to have been built by William Midkiff, and later owned by his son, Frank Midkiff.

Update: The house has replacement windows, porch balustrade, and front door and sidelights. There is currently no transom. The chimneys are no longer visible above the roofline.


Update: This one-story frame house, which was built in the early twentieth century, has a composition-shingled side-gable roof, vinyl siding, and replacement windows. The wraparound porch has square wood posts and turned balusters. Other features include a parged foundation and a rear wing with a modern octagonal window. When originally surveyed in the 1980s the house had a small shed dormer on the roof, which is now missing, and square balusters instead of the current turned ones. W. S. Beasley lived here in 1928 followed by Florence O. Beasley (presumably his widow) in 1949 and Maude B. Cook in 1962. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Update: Cora F. Beasley, who lived here with her husband, William M. Beasley, was a third-grade teacher at Flat Rock School. On February 22, 1957, fire broke out in the school and Cora sustained fatal burns while helping to evacuate the school’s 400 students (a student also died in the fire). On February 22, 2018, the main building of the Flat Rock Elementary School was named the Cora F. Beasley Building in her honor. Cora’s husband William operated a small grocery store around the corner on South Main Street, possibly in the building known as the Welch Block. William is listed as the owner of the house in 1928, 1949, and 1962 city directories. The house was built in the early twentieth century.

The Beasley’s one-story frame house has a composition-shingled side-gable roof, novelty vinyl siding, and replacement windows. The engaged front porch has square posts and balusters (the right posts and balusters were recently replaced). Other features include a small shed dormer (a Craftsman-style influence), a rear wing and deck, an interior brick chimney, and a brick and stone foundation. Other than replacement of the porch posts and balustrade, the overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.
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Intact one-story frame bungalow sheathed with German siding. Exposed rafter ends in the wide overhanging eaves; six-over-six windows; multi-pane main entrance sheltered by gabled porch carried by tapered box posts.

Update: The house has novelty vinyl siding and replacement windows. An open shed shelter at the back has been removed.


Update: This one-story frame house has a composition-shingled side-gable roof, weatherboard siding, and replacement windows. The engaged front porch has turned posts with sawn brackets and no balustrade. Other features include a rear wing, an interior brick chimney, and a masonry foundation. The overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. Former occupants of the house include R. R. Collins (1928), Woodrow S. Morrison (1949), and Odell E. Parker (1962). The house was built in the early twentieth century. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Update: This story-and-a-half 1920s Craftsman bungalow has novelty weatherboard siding and a composition-shingled side-gable roof with a gabled front dormer. The dormer and gables have triangular brackets and wood-shingle sheathing. Most windows are four-over-one. The engaged front porch has slightly tapered square wood posts and square wood balusters. Other features include an interior brick flue and a brick foundation. Other than the addition of the porch balustrade, the overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. James W. Carpenter lived here in 1928 and 1949, followed by Woodrow W. Whittaker in 1962. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Late 19th or early 20th century two-story frame house with multiple broad gables, second story window hood molds, tall corbelled and paneled interior chimney, and wrap-around porch with turned posts, sawnwork brackets and paneled skirt in place of a balustrade.

Update: The house, which is actually a story-and-a-half, has an unusual cruciform plan. Changes include the replacement of windows, the creation of a basement entry sheltered by a shed roof on the right side of the front wing, and the addition of an open shed shelter on the back.
Update: This one-story frame house has a composition-shingled side-gable roof, vinyl siding, and two-over-two windows. The front porch has a hipped roof and square wood posts. The front entry is contained in a small, slightly projecting rectangular bay. Other features include an interior chimney of parged brick and a concrete block foundation. The overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. T. C. Davis lived here in 1928 and Myrtle O. Dollar lived here in 1949 and 1962. A tax credit rehabilitation of the house was finalized in 1986. The house dates to the early twentieth century. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Update: This one-story frame house has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof and weatherboard siding. The hipped front porch has modern square wood posts. Other features include an interior chimney (parged, probably brick), a rear wing with a deck, and replacement windows. The overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. C. F. Poore lived here in 1928. Herman C. Ball was the resident in 1962. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Update: This small one-story frame house, built about 1950, has composition shingle siding and a composition-shingled side-gable roof with a flat roof. The composition shingled flat roof has a front gabled wing. On the front is a picture window; other windows may be replacements. Other features include a small shed porch over the entry and an exterior brick chimney. The overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since original survey in the 1980s. Frank C. Gilbert lived here in 1962. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.


Update: This one-story frame house, built in the early twentieth century, has a composition-shingled hipped (almost pyramidal) roof and vinyl siding. The hipped front porch has recently replaced square wood posts. Other features include replacement windows, a brick foundation, and a brick chimney at the rear. When the house was originally surveyed in the 1980s it had two brick chimneys or flues rising from the interior of the front section. These have been removed, but otherwise the overall form and appearance of the house have changed little since the 1980s. S. P. Turney lived here in 1928, followed by Gaston A. Jones in 1962. Note: This house and other small frame houses on the north side of the 100 and 200 blocks of Worth Street were assigned number 234 in the original nomination inventory.
Integrity Assessment

The district possesses a high level of integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The majority of resources date to the period of significance and possess exterior integrity of design in that they retain their historic form, structure, and style. A change that has affected integrity of design in the central business district is the addition of fixed metal awnings to a number of the district’s commercial buildings after the end of the period of significance. A rough count yields approximately fifteen buildings with such awnings, usually over the entire storefront but occasionally over only a portion. Despite these awnings, the historic character of the central business district remains strong, and the majority of buildings with the awnings are classified as contributing owing to the overall integrity of the façade. In most cases, especially for multistory buildings, the buildings retain sufficient historic character through the retention of façade elements and/or storefronts to be classified as contributing despite the addition of a metal awning. The area possesses integrity of setting in that it retains the character that developed during the period of significance. The majority of resources possess integrity of workmanship in that the physical evidence of the crafts involved in their construction and ornamentation remains evident. This is especially true in the downtown commercial area where a majority of buildings retain historic-period detail in their upper stories. The majority of resources possess the materials that have characterized them since the end of the period of significance, though approximately thirty-five houses have been vinyl-sided. Vinyl siding alone is rarely cause to classify a building as non-contributing, though if other major or systematic changes are present such as replacement windows and loss of historic detail, cumulatively the changes may result in non-contributing status. The area as a whole conveys a sense of the particular period of time during which it was developed and gained its historic associations. The area possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical and architectural developments that formed it.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

No statement of archaeological potential was included in the 1985 nomination. However, the Mount Airy 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 Mount Airy Historic District include those of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century enterprises such as the c. 1830 Blue Ridge Inn and subsequent Blue Ridge Hotel, Schaub Wagon Works, Mount Airy Marble Works, the R. Roberts, Graves, Ashby, Smith, and Gwyn tobacco factories, and the Mount Airy News. The district may also contain archaeological resources associated with a variety of businesses including boarding houses, restaurants and barbeques, grocers, banks, jewelers, liverys, laundries, cobblers, barbers, and an array of specialty shops. Also present may be remains of community institutions such as the
iteration of City Hall near the intersection of Franklin and Main Streets. Archaeological remains of domestic residences in portions of the district later converted to commercial use may also be present.

Information can be obtained from archaeological investigations to address topics significant in Mount Airy’s history, such as commerce 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. In addition, the fifteenth-century American Indian archaeological site 31SR1 is located approximately a half mile from downtown Mount Airy, and ancestral or subsequent sites associated with this community may be present in the district. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the Mount Airy 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.
8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] 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 commemoratory property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
(no change)
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

Period of Significance
1880-1968
____________________________________
____________________________________

Significant Dates
(no change)
____________________________________
____________________________________

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A
____________________________________
____________________________________

Cultural Affiliation
N/A
____________________________________
____________________________________

Architect/Builder
(no change)
____________________________________
____________________________________
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.) Surry County, N.C.  
Name of Property County and State

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 Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Documentation) updates the original Mount Airy Historic District (NRHP 1985) located in the city of Mount Airy, North Carolina. The 1985 district embraces the historic commercial and residential heart of the city, which grew from an antebellum village to a prosperous marketing and industrial center during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The 1985 listing classified largely intact resources built through the mid-1930s as contributing, but the district’s architectural and historical development continued through the mid-twentieth century with the construction or remodeling of buildings in various Historicist and Modernist styles. Key Modernist buildings from the era include the 1963 International Style Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan and the dramatic granite-faced 1950s sanctuary and bell tower of First Baptist Church. The additional documentation extends the period of significance for the district to 1968, the date of the most recent substantial historic-period construction, addition, or remodeling in the district (the construction of the Mount Airy Police Department), and reclassifies many of resources built or remodeled between ca. 1935 and 1968 as contributing. The additional documentation also adds resources that were not noted in the original nomination and identifies ones that have been demolished or have become non-contributing due to alterations. The level of significance (local) and areas of significance (architecture, commerce, and industry) for the district remain unchanged. The commercial resources in the district support the district’s commercial significance for the period ca. 1935 to 1968. This additional documentation updates the 1985 nomination following the recent removal of four small areas and does not address the Mount Airy Historic District Boundary Increase area of 2012.

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

Mount Airy, located in northern Surry County, saw its earliest development with the construction of the Blue Ridge Inn about 1830, the designation of the Mount Airy Post Office in 1832, and the erection of a “few scattering roadside stores” about the same time. Growth accelerated with the arrival of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad in 1888. By linking the town to national and international markets, the railroad spurred industrialization which in turn stimulated rapid population growth, from approximately five hundred inhabitants in 1880 to approximately three thousand by 1893. Tobacco manufacturing, ranked as the chief industry in the late nineteenth century, was supplanted by textile manufacturing around 1920. Another important industry was the quarrying and finishing of granite at the North Carolina Granite Corporation quarry on the east side of town. The Mount Airy Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1985,

features the commercial and residential architecture that resulted from the economic activity of the era.²

The 1985 historic district designation implicitly capped the period of significance at 1935. The decade of the 1930s was a period of economic hardship and suppressed building activity in Mount Airy, as it was nationwide, followed by World War II which likewise suppressed construction during the first half of the 1940s. When building activity resumed in the late 1940s and 1950s, Modernism emerged as an alternative to the succession of Historicist architectural styles that had heretofore characterized construction. Modernism, which eschewed overt historical reference and traditional ornament in favor of a more elemental relationship to form, material, and technique, debuted in Mount Airy in the 1930s with such buildings as the 1931 Masonic Temple at 212 Franklin (SR0345), designed by Winston-Salem architect Harry Barton; the late 1930s remodeling of the former Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan at 218 North Main (SR0325); and the 1938 Earle Theatre at 142 North Main (SR0340). Each of these buildings are detailed in the Art Deco style, an early and more ornamental version of Modernism, and each is located in the historic district. In the 1940s another early Modernist style known as the Moderne style, which is generally more reserved than Art Deco, appeared, as illustrated by the 1940 R & H Motor Sales Garage and Boyles Service Station (Mayberry Courthouse) at 615 South Main (SR0772) and the 1946 remodeling of the 1939 Hutchens Laundry and Cleaners at 209 Spring (SR1005), possibly to designs by Mount Airy architect Dwight Kenneth Cooke Sr. These two Modernist buildings are also located in the historic district.

Modernist architecture from the 1950s and 1960s in the district looked to other sources of inspiration. Moody Funeral Home at 206 West Pine (SR0800), built in 1959 to a design by the architectural firm of Echols, Sparger and Associates of Marion, Virginia, recalls the work of the prominent American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in its planar composition, ribbon windows, and prow-like chapel gable (later changes and additions have rendered this building non-contributing). The 1963 Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan at 541 North Main (SR0767) is International Style, a version of Modernism characterized by simple flat-roofed massing and smooth surfaces. The two-story bank is clad in pleated slabs of polished Mount Airy granite interrupted by aluminum and plate glass window walls. Polished granite, earlier used as a facing material for the former Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan at 218 North Main (SR0325) and the 1951-52 Reeves Community Center at 113 Renfro (SR0900; outside the district), was subsequently used for such important community buildings as the 1978 Municipal Building at 300 South Main (SR0771) and the 1982 Mount Airy Public Library at 145 Rockford (SR0809), which are located in the district but are classified as non-contributing resources on account of age. The Modernist Planter’s Bank at 501 North Main (SR0764), also in the district but non-contributing due to age (1974), takes a more textural approach to granite, its facing consisting of small, rough, quarry-faced granite blocks. The Modernist 1968 sanctuary added to the First Baptist Church complex at 714 North Main (SR0292) juxtaposes polished and quarry-faced

² Patricia S. Dickinson, “Mount Airy Historic District” (National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1985).
grande. A building from the same year that makes use of polished granite is the Mount Airy Police Department at 150 Rockford (SR1495), which has late Moderne detail.

In domestic architecture, the linear Ranch house form was the dominant house type/style from the early 1950s on. Residential lots in the district were mostly built out by 1950, and most new residential development had shifted to suburbs; consequently, few Ranch houses were built in the district. An exception is the early 1960s Renzo Sutter house at 401 South Main (SR0775), a brick-veneered Ranch with a hipped roof and a recessed entry with glass block sidelights (a late occurrence of glass block). Sutter was a physician, and it seems possible his residence included his office, perhaps in the basement which has multiple windows and opens to a rear parking lot. A building that was not built as a residence and yet has Ranch affinities is the 1960 John Sobotta Scout Hut behind First Presbyterian Church at 326 South Main (SR0397). The small, Modernist, concrete block building has a Ranch-like linear form with prow-like gables, ribbon windows, and an entry flanked by planar wall projections. Nearby is the 1966 ancillary building of the Mount Airy Friends Meeting at 109 West Wilson (SR0403). The one-story granite-faced building evokes the materials of the 1907-14 meeting house behind which it stands.

Modernism was the dominant architectural style in the district during the 1935 to 1968 period, especially after 1945, but the Colonial Revival style, a Historicist style that evoked the classical architecture of the colonial and early national periods, played a supporting role. The ca. 1950 Robert M. Smith House at 410 South Main (SR0776) is an example of post-war Colonial Revival architecture in the district. The story-and-a-half brick-veneered dwelling features gabled dormers on the front of its side-gable roof and a symmetrical façade with one-story wings on the gable ends and a center entry with sidelights, a wood panel door, and a surround with dentils, fluted pilasters, and a broken pediment. The Franklin Apartments at 341 Franklin (SR0708) were designed in the Colonial Revival style by the Winston-Salem architectural firm of Northup and O’Brien. The three-story building has such embellishments as belt courses, round-arched window openings with keystones and impost blocks, and a main entry surmounted by a broken segmental pediment.

Downtown Mount Airy continued to serve as the city’s commercial center during the extended period of significance. A tally from the 1966 city directory of the kinds of commercial activity then represented in the district demonstrates the downtown’s continued commercial centrality and vitality:

- Accountants (3)
- Appliance/supply stores (3)
- Attorneys (6)
- Automobile dealers (1)
- Automobile parts/tires (4)
- Automobile repairs (1)
- Banks/savings & loans (6)
- Barbers (3)
- Beauty shops (10)
- Billiards (2)
- Book stores/newsstands (3)
- Bottlers (1)
- Building supplies (1)
- Cab services (4)
- Clothing stores (12)
- Cosmetic studios (1)
- Dentists/doctors/medical (13)
- Drugstores (3)
- Feed and seed (1)
- Freight carriers (1)
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Sporting goods stores</td>
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<td>Telephone/telegraph offices</td>
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<td>Television stores</td>
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The extended period of significance coincided with the initial development of commercial areas outside the traditional core. An early focus was West Lebanon Street, the federal highway that linked Mount Airy with areas to the north, which saw commercial strip development beginning in the late 1940s. (The innermost edge of this development is captured by the Lebanon Hill Historic District.)³ Construction of the Highway 52 Bypass on the west side of town paved the way for the community’s first large suburban shopping plaza, the ThruWay Shopping Center, followed shortly after by Mayberry Mall, both in 1968. Belk’s Department Store, located at 308 N. Main (SR0749) in the district for much of the post-war period, moved to new quarters at the mall in 1970, but the downtown absorbed this loss and others and continued to thrive through the end of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first.⁴ One aspect of the downtown’s modern vitality is Mount Airy’s association with native son Andy Griffith, star of the popular 1960s television show *The Andy Griffith Show*. The program’s fictional town Mayberry is largely based on Mount Airy.

Commercial construction, curtailed by the Great Depression and World War II, resumed after the war, a period that also saw the remodeling of a number of existing buildings. These remodelings typically imparted a simple planar appearance to building facades in keeping with the Modernist aesthetic. Uninterrupted expanses of stretcher-bond brick veneer, flat parapets, and metal-framed windows either punched in the façade or treated as bands are characteristic. Examples include 135 N. Main (SR0731), 140 N. Main (SR0732), 141 N. Main (SR0733), 229 N. Main (SR0744), 232 N. Main (SR0745), and 308 N. Main (SR0749).

Most new commercial construction during the post-war period was one story in height and located on the periphery of the already-established downtown. Representative examples include the mixed-use building at 117-139 West Pine (SR0795), the original part of which was built in 1949 and extended shortly afterward. The utilitarian brick-fronted concrete block building housed the Roll-Chess Bakery, Pine Street Barber Shop, and other small businesses in its multiple store spaces. South Main Street, which was largely residential but had already seen the construction of two service stations before the war, gained two Modernist commercial buildings: the ca. 1960 Blue Ridge Finance Corporation Building at 708 South Main (SR1021), which has a rectangular mass of brickwork that rises above the flat parapet and a pattern of regularly projecting stretcher bricks to the left of the storefront; and the J. E. Cockerham Printing Building at 636 South Main (SR1016), which is a ca. 1938 building to which a Modernist storefront was added ca. 1960. The west side of the 400 block of North Main Street has a row of small one-story brick commercial buildings, most built in the early twentieth century, that underwent extensive storefront remodeling at mid-century.

The district has experienced a number of demolitions and a few additions since 1985, but they have not compromised overall integrity. Losses in the downtown commercial district include the Acorn Store (SR0343) at the corner of North Main and West Pine and the Prather Block (SR0316) and Samet Building (SR0315) near the intersection of North Main and Oak. At the southern tip of the district the ca. 1890 Welch Block (SR0417), a block of up to a half dozen two-story brick commercial buildings, is gone. Residential losses include a group of four early twentieth century houses on Hines Avenue (209, 215, 218 and 219) and another three, dating to ca. 1920, on Cherry Street (117, 121 and 129). The loss of several historic resources on the periphery of the historic district was a factor in the decision to seek a boundary decrease, handled by a separate nomination. Some demolished buildings have been replaced by parking lots or pocket parks. Notable recent buildings added to the district include the aforementioned 1978 municipal building and 1982 library, the 1995 Blackmun Amphitheater (SR0771), a bandshell located behind the municipal building; and the First Union National Bank (Wells Fargo Bank) at 554 North Main (SR1491), a granite-clad Post-Modern building dating to ca. 1986.

Perhaps the most dramatic development in the district since 1985 is the growth of a strong preservation ethos in Mount Airy. The district’s National Register designation laid the groundwork by enabling property owners to take advantage of rehabilitation tax credits. Mount Airy Downtown, Inc., has been at the forefront of rehabilitation initiatives, its work aided by the city’s participation in the state’s Main Street Program since 2013. Rehabilitation highlights include the conversion of the Merritt Building at 301-307 North Main (SR0319) to the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History beginning in 1993 and the conversion of the Globe Tobacco Warehouse at 838 South Main (SR0416) into housing, a project finalized in 2008.
9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


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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:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property

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<th>Local government</th>
<th>University</th>
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Name of repository: __________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SR0661

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 130 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.508375 Longitude: -80.610544
2. Latitude: 36.508498 Longitude: -80.608250
3. Latitude: 36.499997 Longitude: -80.605526
4. Latitude: 36.501568 Longitude: -80.601859
5. Latitude: 36.499575 Longitude: -80.600066
7. Latitude: 36.495143 Longitude: -80.599234
8. Latitude: 36.492332 Longitude: -80.601916
9. Latitude: 36.496427 Longitude: -80.606046
10. Latitude: 36.495134 Longitude: -80.610902
11. Latitude: 36.497809 Longitude: -80.614180
12. Latitude: 36.500150 Longitude: -80.611809
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)          Surry County, N.C.  
Name of Property                                      County and State  

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

With the exception of the small areas deleted from the boundary through the recent Mount Airy Historic District (Boundary Decrease), this Additional Documentation does not change the boundary as verbally described in the original nomination. Due to the 2021 boundary decrease and discrepancies between the 1985 inventory list, written boundary description, and map, a 1:200-scale map is provided to clarify the boundary following the boundary decrease.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Except for the small areas deleted from the boundary through the recent Mount Airy Historic District (Boundary Decrease), this Additional Documentation does not change the boundary originally designated. The original boundary was drawn to include all those properties which contribute historically and/or architecturally to the district.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:  J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization: _Landmark Preservation Associates______________________________________________________________
street & number: _6 Houston St.__________________________________________
city or town: _Lexington_______________ state: _Virginia____ zip code: _24450___
e-mail  gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net__________________________________________
television: _ (540) 464-5315__________________________________________
date: May 17, 2021__________________________________________

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City or Vicinity: Mount Airy  County: Surry  State: North Carolina
Photographer: Dan Pezzoni  Date Photographed: August 2019.
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: House, 110 W. Wilson St. (SR1493), a resource that was in the historic district at the time of original listing but not inventoried. It is classified as contributing in the Additional Documentation. View facing west. Photo 1 of 16.

Date Photographed: August 2019.
Carlos Jones Blue Ridge Park, 200 block N. Main (SR1492), a non-contributing resource constructed since original listing. View facing east. Photo 2 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.
Workmen’s Federal Savings and Loan, 541 N. Main St. (SR0767), a resource that was non-contributing at the time of the original listing on account of age (built 1963) but is reclassified as contributing with the Additional Documentation. View facing northwest. Photo 3 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.

Date Photographed: January 2018.
First Baptist Church Educational Building and Current Sanctuary, 714 N. Main (SR0292), a resource that was not classified as a separate resource in the original listing but is so in the Additional Documentation and classified as contributing. View facing. Photo 5 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.
J. D. Sargent House, 619 N. Main (SR0300). View facing west. Photo 6 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.

Date Photographed: January 2018.
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Doc.)

Name of Property: Earle Theatre, 142 N. Main (SR0340). View facing east. Photo 8 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.


Date Photographed: January 2018.


Date Photographed: January 2018.


Date Photographed: January 2018.


Date Photographed: January 2018.


Date Photographed: January 2018.

Name of Property: Mount Airy Public Library, 145 Rockford (SR0809), a resource that was non-contributing at the time of the original listing on account of age (built 1982) and remains non-contributing on account of age. View facing east. Photo 14 of 16.

Date Photographed: January 2018.

Name of Property: Hiatt’s Radio Shop, 118 Virginia (SR1043), a resource that was in the historic district at the time of original listing but not inventoried. It is classified as contributing in the Additional Documentation. View facing northeast. Photo 15 of 16.

Date Photographed: February 2018.

Name of Property: Cockerham House, 628 S. Main (SR0782), a building from the original period of significance rendered non-contributing by modern alterations. View facing southwest. Photo 16 of 16.

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.
Mount Airy Historic District
Additional Documentation
Mount Airy, Surry County, NC
Locational Map
Mount Airy Historic District
(Additional Documentation)
Mount Airy, Surry County, NC
Boundary Map with Photo Key (Map 1 of 2)

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See Map 2 of 2

District Coordinates
C = Contributing resource
N = Non-contributing resource
VL = Vacant lot

Areas removed from the district in the Mount Airy Historic District (Boundary Decrease) nomination (listed 4/9/2021)
Existing Historic District