

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 9/5/17
NRHP 11/20/17

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hicksford-Emporia Historic District (109-0019)
other names/site number Emporia

2. Location

street & number South Main Street and Brunswick Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Emporia vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 595 zip code 23847

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 _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____ Date 11/20/17
Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
- ____ determined eligible for the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register
- ____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>36</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>38</u>	<u>13</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Financial Institution</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Financial Institution</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Commercial Style
- Neo-Classical
- Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Brick</u>
roof	<u>Metal</u>
walls	<u>Brick</u>
other	<u>Vinyl</u>

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Politics and Government

Architecture

Period of Significance 1831-1957

Significant Dates 1887, 1940, 1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Hicksford-Emporia Historic District
Emporia, Virginia**

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Summary Description

The Hicksford-Emporia Historic District is located along South Main Street in Emporia, Virginia. In 1887, the neighboring towns of Hicksford and Belfield merged together to form the town of Emporia. Geographically separated by the Meherrin River, Emporia serves as the county seat of Greensville County. The topography of the district is generally flat with a slight decrease in elevation along the northern section of the district. The historic district is approximately four blocks long and two blocks wide and encompasses 19.7 acres. This town reflects its agricultural economy, its role as county seat and its railroad-related growth. The small city served as the hub of Greensville County until the mid-20th century, when an economic decline depressed the town.

Although Hicksford and Emporia no longer experience the economic boom of the early 20th century, Hicksford's historic buildings along South Main Street still convey the story of a small agricultural town's development into a booming 20th century commercial city and center of government. The Hicksford-Emporia Historic District is recommended eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early to mid-20th century commercial and governmental development of Greensville County and Criterion C for its early to mid-20th century commercial architecture.

Detailed Description

The town of Hicksford-Emporia is laid out in a linear pattern, with South Main Street serving as the chief thoroughfare through town. Within the district, School Street, Spring Street, and Brunswick Avenue intersect with South Main Street. These streets are each named for the location they lead to or the establishments located along them. The courthouse square is the nucleus of Hicksford-Emporia and the town is laid out around the governmental center.

Hicksford-Emporia is dominated by a central courthouse green and its Classical Revival style courthouse. The green is one block in size and occupies a central block of South Main Street. Built in 1831, the courthouse is constructed of Flemish bond brick painted white and has a two-story pedimented portico supported by fluted Ionic columns. Three columns support the corners of the portico, while two single columns support the center of the portico. The tympanum has a central oculus with a six pointed star tracery and a wooden drip mold accented by pendants. The words "Greensville County Courthouse 1781" are painted upon the entablature. The courthouse commands the 400 block on the east side of South Main Street. This resource and its ancillary buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (DHR File # 109-0002).

South Main Street also served as the commercial district for the town. The 300 and 400 blocks of South Main Street are located west and south of the courthouse square and provided commercial services which coincided with the county government. Approximately 26 brick buildings occupy these two blocks west of the courthouse. Each building is between one and three stories in height with the majority of the buildings constructed with six-course common bond brick. The large display windows on the first floor advertise the wares of the commercial businesses. Large transoms generally top most of the display windows and doors, allowing light to reach deep inside the building. Most buildings have brick lintels and sills and double-hung windows. A corbelled brick cornice provides distinction between buildings and highlights the brick façade.

Several buildings which stand out from the typical brick commercial style buildings include the Merchant's and Farmer's Bank Building, Citizen's National Bank and the Widow's Son's Masonic Lodge.

The Merchant's and Farmer's Bank Building, located on South Main Street, south of Brunswick Avenue, was constructed in 1902 to cater to the growing number of businessmen in Emporia. Eclectic in design, the one-story

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building stands out from other buildings in the area with its concave mansard roof and its metal cornice. The bank occupied the building until 1914, when it outgrew the space and moved further south on Main Street. This building is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places (DHR # 109-0008).

A second bank constructed in Hicksford-Emporia was the Citizen's National Bank Building, located at the southeast corner of Brunswick Avenue and South Main Street. The Neo-classical-style building has a central entrance and engaged fluted Ionic columns are located in the center of the facade. Segmented multi-light windows are located behind the columns. "The Citizens National Bank" is carved in the frieze above the columns.

In addition to business facilities, Emporia's citizens began to create intellectual and social outlets. The Widow's Son Masonic Lodge No. 150 was established in Emporia as early as 1829, and built their own temple in 1905. The Masonic Temple is located on the outskirts of the Hicksford-Emporia Historic District, on South Main Street. The building is three stories in height, making it one of the tallest buildings in downtown Emporia. Neo-classical in style, the building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The west elevation serves as the façade, which is three bays wide, while the building is five rooms deep. The arched entryway has a central keystone. The arch is topped with a closed pediment which has "Masonic Temple" and the Masonic symbol attached to the entablature.

The majority of the buildings constructed along South Main Street were built in the late 19th century or early 20th century, when Hicksford-Emporia began to evolve from a small agricultural outpost to a large commercial and governmental center. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel damaged many buildings, and several were demolished as a result of the devastation. These buildings, however, were replaced with mid-20th century adaptations of brick commercial buildings. Although these buildings are not clear reproductions of the existing building stock, they do retain the massing, location, design, and setting of the previous historic fabric. These modern buildings retained the commercial style of the neighboring edifices and have large, plate glass display windows with transoms as well as a central entrance, mimicking the original designs.

The first block of Brunswick Avenue is also included within the study area. Many buildings along Brunswick Avenue catered to the community's working men and had numerous saloon and pool hall establishments. These buildings were transformed into businesses and house independent shops and entertainment facilities. Several storefront churches currently occupy the buildings along the street. The building located at 105 Brunswick Avenue is typical of the types of buildings and businesses located along that street. This is a large, two-story building constructed of brick laid in six course common bond. The first floor of the building houses five separate storefronts occupied by the following businesses/organizations: Ann's Novelties, Buildings of Zion Apocalyptic Faith Church and the Southside Pool Room. The building has a metal cornice above each storefront. A corbelled cornice runs the length of the facade and a stepped parapet wall covers the two-story portion of the building.

In addition to the commercial district, the Hicksford-Emporia Historic District has ecclesiastical and educational facilities in town. Two large churches dominate the 200 block of South Main Street. Both buildings are set back from the road and occupy large, grassy expanses. Constructed circa 1910, Christ Episcopal Church is built of brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. Located on the northwest corner of School Street and South Main Street, Christ Episcopal Church as has a front facing clipped gable and is clad in slate shingles. The central entrance is located in the protruding tower, which is supported by capped buttresses. A rose window with detailed tracery is centrally located above the lancet arched entrance and below the belfry. Both the east and west elevations have five lancet arched stained glass windows with brick lintels and sills.

The First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Spring Street and South Main Street in Emporia. The brick

building was constructed circa 1907-1908 according to its date stone. The façade, which faces east, is comprised of

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three distinct sections: a belfry, a gabled sanctuary, and a one-story, side gabled addition.

The early twentieth century also saw the construction of educational facilities in downtown Emporia. In 1907, the Greenville County School was built as a three-story school building, educating students in grades 1-12. By 1925, a second building was constructed to serve as the high school. In 1953, the entire complex became known as the Emporia Elementary School. The school is actually two separate buildings connected by a one-story brick addition.

The Great Depression caused the local economy of Hicksford-Emporia to slow along with the rest of the country. In response to the widespread economic hardship throughout the United States, President Roosevelt established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program. Three buildings within the Hicksford-Emporia Historic District were constructed under the WPA: the Armory, the Greenville County Auditorium, and the Post Office.

The Emporia Armory, currently occupied by the Boys and Girls Club of America of Greenville/Emporia is located at the northernmost edge of the historic district. Built in the mid 1930s, this building is 11 bays wide and is two stories in height. The building is constructed in a Flemish bond brick pattern. Ornamentation on the façade includes two carved panels with an eagle holding a rifle in its talons.

The two-story Greenville County Auditorium, located adjacent to the school complex, is constructed of brick laid in an unusual three-course Flemish bond pattern. The Neoclassical-style building has a large central recessed entrance flanked by two smaller entrances. Each entrance has a double door topped with a webbed fanlight. The imposing building has two Doric columns which support a wide entablature and parapet with the word "Auditorium" etched in stone.

The Emporia Post Office was also built during the Depression. Constructed in 1938, the one-story side-gabled building is constructed of five-course common bond brick. Inside the building, a Works Progress Administration mural adorns the south wall. Artist Andrée Ruellan painted the mural in 1941. The artwork depicts a scene of a local sawmill which was operational in Emporia in 1941.

Although some alterations to the historic district resulted from natural disasters, including hurricanes and floods, this district is still intact and retains many of its original aspects of integrity. Several modern buildings were constructed within the historic district boundary and are considered non-contributing elements to the historic district. These buildings include, but are not limited to, the Emporia Municipal Building and the Greenville-Emporia Library, which were both constructed in the 1970s. The period of significance extends until 1957 when I-95 came through Greenville County and bypassed the town of Emporia.

Historic District Inventory Report

Hicksford-Emporia Historic District

The inventory is alphabetical by street then numerical by address. The majority of the resources are considered contributing. The non-contributing buildings either were not constructed during the historic district's period of significance, or they did not retain sufficient architectural integrity or commercial or governmental significance to be considered a contributing element in the historic district. Many of the still contributing buildings have been modified along the street façade, but in such a way as to express the evolution of commercial resources typical into the mid-20th century.

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Brunswick Avenue

100 Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0040: Commercial/Office, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890

The two-story tall brick building is currently occupied by the Emporia-Greensville 4-H organization along with the neighboring one-story building on the north side of Brunswick Avenue. The building is two-bays wide with a corbelled brick cornice, stepped parapet roof, and a decorative brick beltcourse between the second story windows and the cornice. The first story of the building has been remodeled to include a faux brick façade, aluminum framed plate glass windows and a recessed off-center entryway. The windows on the second story are original nine-over-nine double-hung wood sash. The arched lintels and sills are constructed of brick. Between the first and second stories is an asphalt shingle pent roof with a wood band extending across both this building and the one-story building next door. From an adjacent parking lot, two second story arched windows, a modern wooden fire-escape, a side entry door, and nine star-shaped tie-rod ends are visible along the west elevation. Since the brick façade along street level is applied over the original brick and most of the original character exists everywhere else, this building is considered contributing to the district.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial/Office

Contributing

--- Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0041: Commercial/Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890

The one-story brick building is currently occupied by the Emporia-Greensville 4-H organization along with 100 Brunswick Avenue. This three-bay building has a modern brick façade along the street level with three single plate glass windows. The windows have rowlock brick sills, and entry to the building is by way of 100 Brunswick Avenue. Above the asphalt shingle pent roof and wood band extending across both buildings is the original brickwork with corbelled brick panels and parapet roof. Since the brick façade along street level is applied over the original brick and most of the original character exists everywhere else, this building is considered contributing to the district.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial/Office

Contributing

105 Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0037: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, ca 1890

From east to west, the first storefront under 105 Brunswick Avenue is a two-story brick building. It has a single steel, off center door and three, three-light casement windows on the first floor, and two rounded arched windows with decorative brickwork above on the second floor that have covered with plywood from the interior. The roof is flat with a parapet and a corbelled brick cornice, and there is a metal cornice above the storefront.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

---Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0042: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca. 1900

The second building under 105 Brunswick Avenue is similar to #109-0019-0037, in that it has a corbelled brick cornice in front of a flat roof with parapet and metal cornice above the first floor storefront. However, its roofline is clearly different from its neighbor, and there is a visible break in the brickwork on the façade. The second floor has three bricked in, segmentally-arched windows, and the first floor has a recessed entry with a single leaf door next to a narrow display window, and one, three-light casement window.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

---Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0043: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca. 1900

The third brick building under 105 Brunswick also has the corbelled cornice, flat roof with parapet, and metal cornice above the first floor storefront. However, its façade and roofline appear lower than the other two, so that its three segmentally-arched, bricked in windows on the second floor and metal cornice above storefront are

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noticeably lower. Two brick chimneys are visible on its roof from the west. Its first floor has a three-part plate glass display window and a single leaf door with a six-light transom above. It is separated from the building to its east by a brick pilaster.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

---Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0044: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca. 1900

This final building associated with 105 Brunswick Avenue is a one-story brick building incorporating two storefronts, with the corbelled cornice and metal cornice above storefront common to the others. However, it has a flat roof but no parapet. The easternmost storefront has three plate glass display windows and a single leaf entry door on the far east end of the façade, while the western storefront has two plate glass display windows and a single leaf modern door. The western façade is covered in vertical wood siding painted gray.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

115 Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0038: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, ca 1890

The two-story brick building has three bays with a storefront on the first floor and what appears to be vacant residential housing on the second floor. The storefront includes an aluminum framed, glass central entrance door and a single light transom above. The display windows were made smaller through the use of brick infill in the lower window panel and vinyl siding. A modern steel door on the façade leads to the upper story. An unadorned metal cornice separates the first and second floors. The fenestration on the second floor is the original, eight-over-one double-hung sash wood windows. The three windows have stone lintels and sills. A brick corbelled cornice and parapet wall provide architectural embellishment on the second story. Enough of the original integrity exists to keep this building contributing to the district.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

119 Brunswick Avenue 109-0019-0039: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890

This two-story brick building is similar in alteration to that of 115 Brunswick. The first floor is occupied by a shop. Double glass entry-doors framed in aluminum provide access to the building. A single light transom is located above the doors, and flanking plate glass display windows were made smaller through the use of brick infill and vinyl siding. A metal cornice extends across the center of the building. The fenestration on the second floor consists of two original two-over-two double-hung sash wood windows. These windows have segmental brick lintels and wood sills. A corbelled brick and dentil molding cornice provides architectural embellishment along the parapet wall. The west elevation, visible from an adjacent parking lot, has five similar second story windows, a stepped parapet wall, and a double row of star tie-rod ends accenting the building. Enough of the original integrity exists to keep this building contributing to the district.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

School Street

105 School Street 109-0019-0001: Armory, Stories 1.00, Style: Art Deco, ca 1937

The Boys and Girls Club of America of Greensville/Emporia is located in the former Emporia Armory. Built in the late 1930s, this building consists of 11 bays, divided by brick buttresses, and stands two stories in height. The building is

constructed in a Flemish Bond brick pattern. The central entrance is flanked by brick buttresses with three four-light vertical casement windows on each side. Original fenestration on the façade consists of paired six-light casement windows each with a four-light transom above. All these windows have soldier course lintels and rowlock sills.

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Centered above the double glass door entry is a single glass transom and a sign stating "Boys & Girls Clubs of Emporia Greenville." Above this is a large multi-light casement window with a decorative brick arch. Ornamentation on the façade includes two carved panels with an eagle holding a rifle in its talons. A false front parapet roof obscures the front gable, slate-clad roof. The parged foundation is visible from this elevation as is a soldier course beltcourse. The building is laid out in the shape of an "H," with the rear elevation mirroring the front façade.

Individual Resource Status: Armory

Contributing

South Main Street

South Main Street 109-0019-0027: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1940

This two-story brick building is constructed of six-course common bond brick. The building's façade is clad in aluminum panels and has an off-center entrance with numerous plate glass display windows across the front. Above the storefront is a large pent roof awning crossing the entire façade. This building is considered non-contributing because from the rear and aerial view it appears to have been originally two commercial buildings though the details and brickwork of two separate buildings are not visibly intact.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Non-Contributing

South Main Street 109-0019-0002: School, Stories 3.00, Style: Other, 1907

The three story school building was built in 1907 as the Greenville County High School, educating students in grades 1-12. By 1925, a second building was constructed to serve as the high school. In 1953, the complex became known as the Emporia Elementary School. The two school buildings are actually two separate buildings connected by

a one story brick addition. The original grade school building is the northernmost section of the edifice. The three story brick building is rectangular in shape with a rear ell and has a slate clad hipped roof. The main façade faces east. This elevation originally had a symmetrical façade with a protruding front gabled entrance. The only recognizable feature that remains of that original facade is the gabled pediment with a webbed oculus flanked by torch lamps and the wide frieze at the soffit. The façade is obscured by a one story brick addition laid in a five-course common bond pattern. The window openings in the addition are covered over in plywood. A central entryway leads into the building and a denticulated entablature is supported by two engaged columns and four freestanding columns. Three entrances into the building are topped with two and four light transoms. The north elevation is three stories in height with paired and single window openings which are enclosed with brick or plywood that is decorated with different murals. Stone keystones and sills are still visible on this elevation. The hipped roof and frieze remain prominent features. A concrete patio leads to a flat grassy field. The west elevation continues the pattern of enclosed windows, but several original two-over-two double hung sash windows remain. The east elevation again has painted, enclosed windows, as well as an engaged exterior brick chimney. A similar building is located west of the original structure, which is similar in style and form. The attached two story brick building has a slate clad hipped roof and a wide frieze. The fenestration in this building is enclosed with painted plywood murals as well with only brick lintels and several stone lintels and sills still visible. This brick building is mostly obscured by the addition on the front façade. The one story addition also connects the two school buildings to the auditorium, which was built in 1934.

Individual Resource Status: School

Contributing

South Main Street 109-0019-0003: Auditorium, Stories 2.00, Style: Other, 1934

This two story auditorium is constructed of brick laid in a unique three-course Flemish Bond pattern. The Neoclassical style building has a large central recessed entrance flanked by two smaller entrances. Each entrance has a double door topped with a webbed fanlight. The imposing structure has two Doric columns which support a wide entablature and parapet with the word "auditorium" etched in stone. Five arched windows dominate the west elevation. Each window is accented with a stone keystone and is severed with a carved stone panel in between its lights. Brick lintels and stone sills also provide definition to the windows. Five buttress-like engaged pilasters accent this elevation. A

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protruding brick side entrance has a wide frieze to mimic the entablature on the façade. The side entrance has a seven-light transom above the steel door. Carved swags and urns as well as the word "culture" and the date "1934" are also set into stone panels. A one-story addition is located on the rear (north) elevation. Constructed of five course common bond brick, the addition has window openings which were enclosed and painted with murals by townspeople and stone sills. A small, shed-roofed hood hangs over the side door.

Individual Resource Status: Auditorium

Contributing

109 South Main Street 109-0019-0036 (Other DHR ID#: 109-0010): Post Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, ca 1925

The one-story side gabled Post Office is constructed of five-course common bond brick. The building is five bays in width and has a central entrance comprised of double aluminum doors with single light sidelights and a transom which has since been covered. The fenestration on the west façade includes one-over-one double-hung sash vinyl replacement windows. Dentil molding and the words "United States Post Office" are located along the frieze. The building has a slate roof and is situated on a brick foundation. The north elevation of the building has a semi-lunette in the gable. An aluminum door with a single light transom serves as the entrance to the building. A wooden handicap ramp is also attached to this elevation. The south façade illustrates that the building is six rooms deep. A semi-lunette is located in the gable. The rear or east elevation has a one story steel loading dock as an addition. A parking lot surrounds the building. Inside the building, a Works Progress Administration mural adorns the south wall. Artist Andrée Ruellan of Pennsylvania painted the mural in 1941, which depicts a scene of a local sawmill.

Individual Resource Status: Post Office

Contributing

200 South Main Street 109-0019-0004: Church, Stories 1.00, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, 1915

This one-story church is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish Bond pattern. The roof has a front facing clipped gable and is clad in slate shingles. The central entrance is located in the protruding tower, which is supported by capped buttresses. A rose window with detailed tracery is centrally located above the lancet arched entrance and below the belfry. The tower has a castellated parapet roof from which a steep, conical slate covered steeple rises, topped with a copper cross. Lancet arch stained glass windows flank the entrance. Decorative lancet arched brick openings are located below the truncated front gable. The east elevation has five lancet arched stained glass windows with brick lintels and sills. A soldier-course watertable wraps around the building. Wrought iron grates serve as basement vents. The west elevation is symmetrical to the east side. The north elevation has a small one-story brick addition, which appears to be original. The elevation has two round arched doors and one lancet arched window. This elevation also has an engaged brick chimney with a corbelled cap. The parish house is a one-story, three bay, front-gabled brick building constructed of 5-course common bond brick. It has a front-gabled brick front addition, containing the recessed, double-leaf entry under a brick arch. Above the entry are three lancet-arched vents. It was built circa 1960.

Individual Resource Status: Church

Contributing

Individual Resource Status: Parish House

Non-Contributing

201 South Main Street 109-0019-0035: Civic, Stories 1.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1975

This one-story brick building was constructed circa 1975. Built in a curvilinear modern style, the building has a brick

facade. The building has a flat roof and fixed single pane windows. The building is situated opposite the Greenville County High School building.

Individual Resource Status: Civic

Non-Contributing

204 South Main Street 109-0019-0005: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Other, ca 1980

This two-story building is situated on a brick foundation and is of frame construction with an asphalt shingle hipped roof. The building, which is three bays wide, houses the firm of Creedle, Jones and Alga, certified public accountants.

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The building is clad in wide vinyl sheathing. A central entrance is located on the east elevation and protrudes slightly from the main façade. The entrance has a faux copper concave hipped roof. The second-story has two 15-light doors with faux shutters that open to small cantilevered balconies which flank a central faux leaded elliptical oculus.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Non-Contributing

210 South Main Street 109-0019-0006: Church, Stories 2.00, Style: Late 19th, 20th Century Revivals, ca 1907

The First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Spring Street and South Main Street in Emporia. The building was constructed circa 1907-1908 according to a datestone. The façade, which faces east, is comprised of three distinct sections: a belfry, a gabled sanctuary, and a mid-20th century two-story, side gabled addition. The church is constructed of brick. The belfry is square in shape and rises above the central gable. A double door entrance with an arched stained glass transom is located above the door which is surrounded by decorative brickwork. A single lancet arched double-hung window with a brick lintel and stone sill is located above the entrance. Paired louvered vents in a lancet arch shape have brick lintels and stone sills. The belfry has a castellated parapet roof and is supported by brick buttresses. The dominant feature in the sanctuary section of the church is a large stained glass window with tracery. The window is comprised of three distinct lancet arched features. A brick lintel surrounds the window which sits on a stone sill. Above the window, a stained glass oculus adds additional interest to the building. The façade of the addition is one-story, and has a central entrance flanked by paired rectangular windows surrounded by crenellated limestone also found around the modern entry door, which has a three-light transom and sidelights. To the rear, the addition appears as two-stories, with two-over-two double-hung sash aluminum windows. A brick chimney rises from the intersection of the original church and the addition.

Individual Resource Status: Church

Contributing

300 South Main Street 109-0019-0007: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, ca 1970

This one-story building is not original to the 300 block of South Main Street. Located at the corner of South Main and Spring Street, the building has a brick façade. The aluminum door in the central entrance is flanked by two sets of three-light ribbon windows. The building had a flat roof which has a later shed roof addition. The building is occupied by a law office. The north elevation has no ornamentation or fenestration while the rear of the building is unornamented yet has three vents placed into the brickwork. 300 South Main Street adjoins 304 South Main Street.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Non-Contributing

304 South Main Street 109-0019-0008: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Other, ca 1970

This two-story brick building is not original to the 300 block of South Main Street. The three-bay building has a central entrance flanked by two display windows. Both the windows and the door are formed from aluminum. The two windows in the second-story consist of two-over-two double-hung sash horizontal aluminum windows. The building is constructed of ten course common bond brick. The building has a flat roof and a ghostmark of a Coca-Cola advertisement on the south elevation. The rear of the building (west elevation) has a bricked in window, and a rear entrance. A small brick chimney rises from this elevation.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Non-Contributing

306 South Main Street 109-0019-0009: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1915

This one-story brick building houses two businesses along South Main Street. The brick building is laid out in stretcher bonds. A central entrance is flanked by two plate glass windows with brick kick-plates. A wooden frieze accents the top of a canvas awning, which partially obscures the decorative brackets under the frieze. The building has a false front parapet roof which is otherwise flat. This building is situated in between 304 and 308 South Main Street.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

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308 South Main Street 109-0019-0010: Commerce/Trade, Stories 1.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1960

This one-story brick building houses Jim's Pawn and Variety Shop. Located across the street from the County Courthouse, the building has a recessed central entrance comprised of a modern aluminum door and display windows. The masonry building is comprised of five course common bond brick. The building has a flat roof with a parapet wall. According to the owner, the building was constructed circa 1960 after the 1954 Hurricane Hazel demolished much of the 300 block of South Main Street.

Individual Resource Status: Commerce/Trade

Non-Contributing

314 South Main Street 109-0019-0011: Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, ca 1960

The one-story building at 314 South Main Street serves as the law office for C. Butler Barret and Alvin Alockerman. This building has a brick façade, a recessed entrance and a faux copper pent roof. The resource appears to have a flat roof with a parapet wall. Two multi-light fixed windows accent the façade which has a recessed central entrance with a four light transom. A second door is also located on the façade. This resource appears to have undergone a major renovation.

Individual Resource Status: Office

Non-Contributing

316 South Main Street 109-0019-0012: Office, Stories 1.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1960

This one-story building formerly housed the C.S. Livesay and Company office, although the building currently appears to be vacant. The yellow brick façade has two entrances which are identifiable by the change in brick pattern. The building has aluminum plate glass windows and a recessed entrance. The building has a flat roof with a parapet wall. The adjacent office, which houses the Waldrop Attorney office, has an address of 318 South Main Street. The

southern portion of the building has a recessed entrance and fixed aluminum windows. An aluminum frieze runs along the entire building.

Individual Resource Status: Office

Non-Contributing

320 South Main Street 109-0019-0013: Commercial Building, Stories 3.00, Style: Late Victorian, 1887

The Phoenix Building is a three-story brick building located along the west side of South Main Street across from the Courthouse square. The façade of the building is covered in stucco, obscuring the brick bond. The first-story of the building has 14 display windows fixed in wood surrounds, showcasing mercantile and commercial goods and services which include the Emporia Chiropractic Clinic, a knitting and chocolate boutique, Warren Bail Bonds, and Adams Footcare. A wooden balustrade separates the first and second stories. The fenestration includes two-over-two and six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows. Each window opening has a stucco hood/ drip mold. A stucco cornice accents the top of the building with faux corbelling and rectangular relief. An original feature of this building is the datestone, which reads, "Phoenix Block 1887." Half of this datestone is suspended in the air, as the other portion of the building suffered damage from a 1954 hurricane that destroyed many buildings along the 300 block of South Main Street. The south elevation illustrates a stepped parapet roof and brick sills and lintels which accent six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The rear of the building (west side) reveals an altered elevation. The six bay building

has a three bay wide metal fire escape which occupies the center of the building. Numerous windows have been enclosed with brick, altering the design of the building. The parapet walls are also visible on this elevation. The north elevation is unadorned without windows or accents and is clad in textured stucco.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

324 South Main Street 109-0019-0014: Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement, ca 1900:

The building at 324 South Main Street in Emporia is a one-story building abutting the south elevation of the Phoenix Block, constructed of five course common bond brick. The façade is accented by a wood shake-covered pent roof with denticulated molding. The building has a recessed central entrance with an aluminum door. Former display

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windows are covered in vinyl siding. One display window was replaced with a smaller, fixed window with mullions that create a faux 16 light window. This window is flanked by fixed faux shutters. A five course brick kickplate serves as a small foundation for the building. An ornate brick cornice accents the parapet roof. The building at 324 South Main Street serves as the law office of Hudson, Robinson and Newsome.

Individual Resource Status: Office

Contributing

326 South Main Street 109-0019-0015: Office, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

The Walston Building is a two-story, five bay brick building at 326 South Main Street. The edifice is constructed from ten-course common bond brick. The fenestration on the second story appears to consist of replacement windows with mullions creating a nine-over-six appearance. Brick sills and lintels accent the building as does a soldier course serving as a beltcourse. The first floor fenestration appears to consist of fixed single pane replacement windows. The first floor has an off-center entrance with a concave stylized hipped roof hood accented with pendants. The entrance consists of a modern aluminum door with large, single pane sidelights. The corbelled cornice gives the building its distinct appearance which draws the eye upward.

Individual Resource Status: Office

Contributing

332 South Main Street 109-0019-0016: Medical Business/Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

The Clay Home Medical Building (332 South Main Street) is a one-story brick building with a corbelled cornice. The building has a recessed central entrance flanked by two fixed glass storefront windows with a corrugated metal clad lower window panel. The west (rear) elevation has a central door flanked by two boarded windows. This elevation has

brick arched lintels and brick sills and reveals a parapet roof. This small, one-story building is situated in between 326 and 334 South Main Street.

Individual Resource Status: Medical Business/Office

Contributing

334 South Main Street 109-0019-0017: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890

Anderson's Emporia Pharmacy is located at 334 South Main Street, at the corner of Brunswick Avenue. The two-story building is constructed of six course common bond brick. The building is five bays in width with storefront windows on the first floor and one-over-one double-hung sash wood windows flanked by fixed shutters on the second story. The

arched lintels are constructed of brick, while the sills are comprised of wood. The center window appears to be retrofitted from an earlier door-opening. A wrought iron balustrade separates the first floor from the second as does a canvas awning. Two entrances lead into the building with one consisting of a centrally located modern steel door and the second consisting of an off-center recessed aluminum frame door flanked by two windows. The corbelled cornice is the most ornate feature of this building.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

337 South Main Street 109-0019-0034 (Other DHR ID#: 109-0002): Courthouse, Stories 2.00, Style: Classical Revival, 1831

(From 1982 NRHP nomination): The primary building of the complex, the Greensville County Courthouse, is the architectural focal point of Emporia's Main Street. The two-story, Flemish Bond brick building was erected in 1831 to replace an earlier courthouse of 1787. While extensively altered and enlarged, early photographs show the building in what is presumed to be its original appearance. The three-bay façade had a pedimented gable-end front with the tympanum containing a lunette with intersecting tracery. A full entablature ran the perimeter of the eaves. The main entrance of the temple-form building was found in the center bay of the first floor. One-story, two-bay wings also laid in Flemish bond, each contained an entrance in the bay closest to the center. The wings also had shallow, hipped roofs. The fenestration consisted of 12/12 hung-sash windows with louvered shutters. The principal openings on the façade were topped by square lintels with turned corner blocks.

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In its present form, the portico has fluted Ionic columns on pedestals and a frieze with the words "Greensville County Courthouse, 1781." The inner columns are single while the outer columns are in a cluster of three. A round window with a Star-of-David tracery in the tympanum of the 1907 portico has been replaced by a clock. The portico shelters the main entrance which consists of a paneled double doors topped by a transom flanked by brackets supporting a broken pediment. The façade's first and second-story windows are also pedimented and have 12/12 hung sash windows. The pediments were apparently added during or prior to the 1907 remodeling. Hung-sash windows are also found on the rear and side elevations. Secondary entrances are located in the 1934 rear addition and consist of paneled doors topped by transoms sheltered by small porches. When the rear addition was built, the first floor entrances in the wings were filled in with Flemish-bonded brick. Chimney stacks project from the roof line on the north and south elevations.

The county administrator's office sits on the northernmost point of the courthouse square. The office is actually two former commercial buildings-- the Greensville Bank Building of 1900 and the Virginia Public Service Building of 1907--sharing a party wall. The two-story, three-bay Greensville Bank Building is constructed of brick, painted white. The four-bay former Virginia Public Service Company building shares a common cornice and brick parapet with the former bank building. The shop front has been filled in and the second story has been made smaller, but the building has been included because it has its offices joined with those in the bank building and could be restored to its original appearance.

The County Clerk's office is located on the southwest quadrant of the courthouse square. The one-story building was constructed in the early 20th century. The brick building was constructed circa 1916 and later enlarged in the mid-20th century. The building was built in a Georgian style and matches the architectural appearance of the other courthouse buildings.

The courthouse square contains numerous memorials. A cannon bears honor to the county's residents who participated in World War I. To the north of the courthouse, a Confederate monument commemorates the county's citizens who fought in the Civil War. A stone marker with a brass tablet was erected in 1981 to honor the county's bicentennial. The lawn around the courthouse is planted with trees and shrubs.

Individual Resource Status: Courthouse
Individual Resource Status: Bank Building
Individual Resource Status: Administration Building
Individual Resource Status: Clerk's Office
Individual Resource Status: Confederate Monument
Individual Resource Status: Cannon

Contributing
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400 South Main Street 109-0019-0018: Business, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890

The building at the south corner of Brunswick Avenue and South Main Street is occupied by a variety store known as the "Four Seasons." The five bay two-story brick building has display windows on the first floor and bricked in windows on the second floor. The lower window panel is bricked in. The first floor has vertical aluminum siding surrounding the display windows. The central entrance is recessed and flanked by the plate glass windows. The building has a detailed corbelled cornice as well as a corbelled belt-course. The north elevation has a stepped parapet roof and paired one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

Individual Resource Status: Business**Contributing****401 South Main Street 109-0019-0033: Bank, Stories 2.00, Style: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, ca 1910**

The Citizen's National Bank Building is located at the southeast corner of Hicksford Avenue and South Main Street.
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The Neo-classical style building has a central entrance with double wood panel doors and single glass. A three-light transom is located above the door. The bank building appears to be situated on a granite base and is constructed of limestone. The entrance has a central gabled pediment with dentil and egg-and-dart molding, and modillions. Engaged fluted Ionic columns are located in the center of the building. Segmented multi-light windows are located behind the columns. "The Citizens National Bank" is carved in the frieze above the columns. The large pediment is adorned with modillions, dentils, and rosettes. A square stone parapet wall is built behind the gabled pediment. The north elevation of the building has five sets of paired windows with one-over-one double-hung sash windows with brick lintels and sills. Three arched windows are bricked in, with keystones in the stone arched lintels. A gabled hood hangs over a side access door. Three arches also accent this elevation. A one-story addition is attached to the rear (east elevation) which served as the drive through. This building appears to be vacant.

Individual Resource Status: Bank**Contributing****404 South Main Street 109-0019-0019: Business, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900**

The one story building at 404 South Main Street is a brick building with an arched brick parapet covered with vertical aluminum siding. An off-center aluminum sided entryway is recessed with a concrete step leading to it. A large display window is to the left of the entryway. The building serves as the office for Moore's Home Care Service, Inc. The west elevation has a bricked in window and a steel door.

Individual Resource Status: Business**Contributing****405 South Main Street 109-0019-0032: Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900**

Curves is located adjacent to the Lollipop Kids building at 407 South Main Street, which shares its cornice design. The five-course common bond brick, two-story building has an off-center entrance and large, fixed plate glass windows. The entrance consists of a double aluminum door entrance with a single light transom. A canvas awning extends the length of the building. The second floor windows are bricked windows. A corbelled cornice runs across the length of the building. The rear (east) elevation has three windows with two-over-two double-hung sash windows with bars across the windows. A bricked in window with a segmental arch is visible on this elevation. A steel door provides rear access to the building. The rear elevation also allows the building's flat and hipped roof with parapet wall to be visible.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building**Contributing****407 South Main Street 109-0019-0031: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1890**

The two-story building has a central entrance with aluminum double doors with a single-light transom. Display windows were reduced in size through the use of Vitrolite and corrugated aluminum panels. A canvas awning hangs

over the entrance with three lights. The upper portion of the building has two recessed brick panels which are distinguished through paint color. Three corbelled cornices, including one with dentil molding, accent the parapet roof. The rear elevation is constructed of seven-course common bond brick and has three window openings; two with hopper windows and one bricked in. The sills are constructed of brick and two of the windows are protected by steel bars. The building is topped by a hipped roof.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Contributing

408 South Main Street 109-0019-0020: Business, Stories 2.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

The two story brick building at 408 South Main Street houses "Originals by Randi." This building has a storefront on the first floor and residential space on the second floor. The storefront has a central entrance flanked by two display windows. A transom is enclosed over the display windows and transforms into an arch above the entryway. A brick pilaster separates the storefront from a wood panel doorway which provides access to the upper stories. A transom above the door is also enclosed. A wooden cornice separates the first story from the second story. Four windows with four-over-one double-hung sash windows are located on the second story. The brick lintels are arched while the brick

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sills are straight. Recessed brick panels are also located above each window. A corbelled cornice tops the building. A ghostmark advertising "G.B. Taylor: Jeweler" is present.

Individual Resource Status: Business

Contributing

409 South Main Street 109-0019-0030: Specialty Store, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1920

G & A Salon is located at 409 South Main Street, sandwiched in between two separate buildings. The one-story brick building has a central aluminum entrance with a single-light sidelight and a single light transom. The display windows were reduced with vertical aluminum siding and brick façade. A large stuccoed parapet wall is located above the display windows and is unadorned. Ghostmarks reveal the location of a former cornice or awning on the building.

Individual Resource Status: Specialty Store

Contributing

410 South Main Street 109-0019-0021: Business, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

Gene's Music, located at 410 South Main Street is a one-story brick building with a faux Mansard aluminum roof. The building has a central entrance flanked by display windows with bricked in lower window panels. The original transom is covered with a sign advertising the store. The building is sandwiched in between two buildings, obscuring the north and south elevations. The west elevation has bricked in windows and a central rear entrance with a modern steel door. A flat roof and parapet walls are also visible from this location.

Individual Resource Status: Business

Non-Contributing

411 South Main Street 109-0019-0029: Specialty Store, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1940

Belmonte's Red Dog Gift Shop is located at 411 South Main Street. The one-story brick façade building has an off-center entrance. Large display windows occupy the façade while the recessed entrance is comprised of a modern aluminum door with single pane sidelights and transom. The building has a brick façade covering the lower window panels. A cantilevered aluminum awning extends across the length of the building while a sign advertising the store hangs from the parapet. The façade is otherwise unadorned. The south elevation is constructed with concrete block and is painted with a mural depicting a street scene in downtown Emporia. A brick chimney and flat, parapet roof is also visible from this elevation.

Individual Resource Status: Specialty Store

Contributing

412 South Main Street 109-0019-0022: Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

The Virginia Legal Aid Society is located at 412 South Main Street. The one-story brick building is clad in aluminum siding. The off-center entrance is framed in aluminum and is flanked by display windows. The lower window panel is

clad in brick façade. A Vitrolite-like material covers the remaining wall space. An aluminum cornice is located just above the windows. The building is sandwiched in between two buildings, obscuring the north and south elevations. The west elevation of the building has three six-over-six double-hung sash wood windows with iron bars across them. The view from this elevation also reveals a stepped parapet roof with a brick chimney cap.

Individual Resource Status: Office

Non-Contributing

414 South Main Street 109-0019-0023: Restaurant, Stories 1.00, Style: Commercial Style, ca 1900

Logan's Diner is located at 414 South Main Street. The one-story building has a brick façade. The off-side entryway is trimmed in aluminum and is adjacent to the plate glass windows. A canvas awning offers visual interest to the façade, which has no other ornamentation aside from a hanging sign. A parapet wall is located on the east elevation. The

south elevation has a stepped parapet roofline and no additional ornamentation. The west elevation has a shed roof hood over a rear door and an enclosed window.

Individual Resource Status: Restaurant

Contributing

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419 South Main Street 109-0019-0028 (Other DHR ID#109-0008): Museum, Stories 1.00, Style: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals, 1902

The Old Merchants and Farmers Bank, now the Greensville County Historical Museum, is located in the midst of the downtown commercial district on South Main Street in Emporia. The building is a one-story, concave mansard-roof brick structure set on a low brick foundation. Eclectic in style, the edifice was erected in 1902. The west façade contains the principle entrance. The yellow brick segmental-arch doorway consists of a simply framed, glass-paned and paneled double door surmounted by a multi-paned, crisscross-patterned transom. The doorway is flanked by yellow brick segmental headed windows containing 1/1 hung sash. A simple recessed brick panel is found under the windows. Paired brick pilasters define each of the façade's three bays. Each bay features a recessed spandrel panel of yellow brick containing a red brick insert. A noteworthy feature of the façade is a galvanized sheet-metal cornice which may have been manufactured by H.T. Klugel, an architectural sheet metal concern located in Emporia. Typical of Klugel's work, the cornice consists of paired brackets and modillions supporting a molded fascia. Above the fascia rises a central pediment dated "1902." The façade is laid in stretcher bond. The south elevation consists of four bays, with 4/4 hung-sash, segmental-headed windows. The north and south elevations, laid in seven-course American bond, are both ornamented by a finely executed corbelled brick cornice. Fenestration on the north elevation consists of three windows identical to those found on the east elevation. An exterior chimney stack is found between the northwestern windows. The rear (east) elevation, also executed in seven course American bond, remains unpierced.

Individual Resource Status: Museum

Contributing

425 South Main Street 109-0019-0026: Commercial Building, Stories 1.00, Style: Other, c. 1980

This one story "L" shaped structure is one story in height. Situated around a large asphalt parking lot, the frame building is clad in brick facade and vinyl siding. The building is designed to mimic a colonial village with eight "individual" structures which are attached to each other. The fenestration includes 1-over-1 double-hung sash windows which usually flank the doorway or are located in dormers. The side gabled and/or gambrel roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. The entrances all have modern steel doors which are flanked by faux pilasters.

Individual Resource Status: Commercial Building

Non-contributing

427 South Main Street 109-0019-0025: Meeting Hall, Stories 3.00, Style: Colonial Revival, 1905

The Masonic Temple is located just beyond downtown Emporia, on South Main Street. The building is three stories in height, making it one of the tallest buildings in downtown Emporia. The building is constructed of brick laid in

stretcher

bond. The west elevation serves as the façade, which is three bays wide, while the building is five rooms deep. The façade is marked with a central entrance with a limestone surround. The arched entryway has a central keystone. The arch is topped with a closed pediment which has "Masonic Temple" and the mason symbol attached to the entablature. The fenestration includes paired, one-over-one double-hung sash vinyl replacement windows. The first and second story windows have segmental arched limestone lintels and stone sills. The second story windows have single light transoms. The center bay, second story window appear to be casement with a single-light transom. The third story is separated from the lower levels by a limestone beltcourse. The paired windows on the third floor do not have segmental arch lintels and instead have faux arched transoms. A gabled pediment, enclosed oculus and quoins provide a Neo-classical style to the building. A small, one-story flat roofed brick addition is also located on this elevation.

Individual Resource Status: Meeting Hall

Contributing

429 South Main Street 109-0019-0024: Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Late Victorian, ca 1876

The Tiller Building is located at 429 South Main Street. Built in 1876, the dwelling is constructed in the Victorian style with Colonial Revival influences. The balloon frame dwelling has a recessed entrance under a full height shed-roofed porch supported by Doric columns. The central entrance is flanked by 10 light sidelights and a 14 light transom. French doors lead out to a balcony located above the entrance. The fenestration includes two-over-two, double-hung

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sash windows flanked by fixed shutters. A gabled ell with imbricated shingles protrudes from the front of the dwelling with a full height canted bay window. The windows in the bay are one-over-one double-hung sash and have an arched central window, which consists of two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Dentil molding accents the roof and wall junction. A gabled dormer with six-over-six double-hung vinyl replacement windows is located in the center of the patterned slate shingle-clad hipped roof. The dwelling is clad in aluminum siding. The north elevation has an exterior brick chimney attached to a protruding gable, while a second brick chimney is located in the center of the hipped roof. Two gabled dormers with paired double-hung windows are also located on this elevation. Lush foliage obscures much of this elevation. The east elevation of the building has a hipped dormer clad in slate shingles. A wrought iron widow's walk appears to be situated at the crown of the hipped roof. A single brick chimney is located on this elevation, which is also obscured by dense foliage. The south elevation was not visible at this time due to foliage.

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling

Contributing

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Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The Hicksford-Emporia Historic District is historically significant as a small town in southern Virginia that transformed itself from an agricultural area to a center of commerce and government. Hicksford served as the county seat until it merged with neighboring Belfield in 1887 to form the city of Emporia. The small city served as the hub of Greensville County until the mid-20th century, when an economic decline depressed the town. Although Hicksford - Emporia no longer experiences the economic boom of the early 20th-century, Hicksford's historic buildings along South Main Street still convey the story of a small agricultural town's development into a booming twentieth century city. The Hicksford-Emporia Historic District is recommended eligible under Criterion A for its association with the early-20th-century governmental and commercial development of Emporia and Criterion C for its early 20th century commercial architecture. The period of significance runs from 1831, construction of the courthouse, through the I-95 highway construction that bypassed the town in 1957.

Historical Background and Significance

The Hicksford section of Emporia is located southwest of the Meherrin River, opposite Belfield which was founded on the north side of the Meherrin. Though not the first town platted, Hicksford was the first town to develop along the river in what is today Greensville County. Captain Robert Hicks established a small home and outpost along the Tuscarora Path Indian trail circa 1700, which later developed into the Halifax Road (McDonald 1987:3). This river crossing became a popular point to begin expeditions into the wilderness of western Virginia and North Carolina, which was still considered wild and dangerous in the late eighteenth century. Soon the region transformed into a crossroads village with the establishment of the Fort Christianna Road running east and west (Brown 1968: 81). Taverns and inns developed along the crossroads to cater to the traveler, although they were considered by some to be less than hospitable.

The difference between Hicksford and Belfield in the early eighteenth century was nearly indistinguishable. The two villages were both small and unremarkable. As the years passed, however, the small villages grew simultaneously. Both towns grew organically along lots and streets, but were not laid out in a strict grid pattern (McDonald 1987: 3).

In 1799, one year after a plan for Belfield was submitted to the state, landowner Alexander Madill plotted 36 lots of his land across the Meherrin River and established the neighboring town of Hicks Ford. According to a survey drawn by Hardy Pritchett in 1799 (and copied from the original by Betty Daughtrey), Hicks Ford did not have any houses or buildings located within the town limits, although a large plot of land is clearly reserved for the future county courthouse (Brown 1967:104).

Evidence of the amount and type of agriculture in Greensville County in the late-eighteenth century is described by a visitor to Virginia in 1770:

The land, an immense forest, extended on a flat plain; almost without bounds...The agriculture on the plantations is different from everything in Europe being either tobacco, three feet high, with plants a yard apart; or Indian corn, at the distance of six feet between each stalk, in regular rows or avenues, frequently 12-15 feet in height...

A planter raises his own meats, beef and bacon, his own corn and bread, his drink, cyder [sic] and brandy, his fruit, apples, peaches, etc. and a great part of his clothing, which is cotton. (Brown 1967: 45)

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It is unknown when the spelling of Hicksford was transformed from Hick's Ford but, by 1834, Hicksford's townscape consisted of the county courthouse, a jail and several residences. The population of Hicksford by this time consisted of 35 Caucasians and 30 slaves (Independent Messenger 4/23/1937 as found in Brown 1967: 89). Although Hicksford served as the county seat, the town did not grow at a fast pace and remained a sparsely populated agricultural community.

In 1831, Daniel Lynch constructed the original portion of the current courthouse in a "Jeffersonian style, three-part, Palladian-type building" (Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff 1982). With the courthouse completed, Hicksford became a destination for outlying farm families, although travel was arduous over the unpaved roads.

Southern Virginia in the early 19th century was very rural, and travel between settlements was laborious and at times dangerous. Because early road-building technology was not yet universally established, most roads were cut paths through the woods, which followed the contours of the land (Brown 1967: 147). Most farmsteads were subsistence farms and excess goods were difficult to bring to market. The coming of the railroad provided a vital link to transportation and the development of a commercial and industrial economy.

The Petersburg Railroad gave Hicksford a needed economic boost. Chartered in 1830, the Petersburg Railroad completed its line between Petersburg and Belfield in December 1832. This north-south line enabled goods and produce to be shipped to and from neighboring Hicksford. Four years after the railroad was established, less than half of Hicksford's 36 lots were occupied and improved and, by 1865, only twelve lots in Hicksford were occupied (McDonald 1987: 14). However, according to maps drawn in the 1860s, Hicksford had at least two churches and numerous buildings lining its main street.

Hicksford began to grow as farmers moved from the countryside into the town, bringing their livestock and agrarian ways with them. The Ingleside farm is an example of a small farmstead located within the town limits which has since been developed into commercial and residential lots:

Situated on the P and W RR (Petersburg and Weldon Railroad) reaching 2/3 of the way down Halifax Street [present day Main Street] in the Village of Hicksford. Contains 510 acres-about 1/2 cleared-very fertile. Has 100 acres cotton lot that will bring a bale an acre-Two very pretty spring apple orchards and a peach orchard. Also pears and grapes...The outbuildings are all new and good. The tenant houses are frame. Garden and well attached to each...A cottage of five rooms, crib, stable, and outbuildings. An excellent garden...Another cottage of four rooms, two of which have fire-places and the others constructed for a stove...On west another tenant house and settlement with stables and two other tenant houses. Garden and well of water in back... (Dr. John A. Smith as found in Brown 1967: 90).

While the Civil War raged throughout the nation, Hicksford and Belfield were not immune to the conflict. Remnants of the war are reflected in the geographic names of Hicksford streets: Battery Avenue is named for a Confederate battery raised to protect the citizens of Greensville County from attacks by Union soldiers (Brown 1967: 161).

Hicksford and Belfield became the center of the conflict on December 10, 1864, when 30,000 northern troops marched toward the Meherrin River. Confederate General Wade Hampton's troops defended the two towns and the Federal troops did not enter Hicksford. Aside from several soldiers who were killed in the attack, the major loss stemmed from the destruction of the bridge over the Meherrin River (destroyed by the Home Guard), as well as sixteen miles of railroad track (Brown 1967: 164).

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After the war concluded and peace prevailed throughout Greensville County, Hicksford and Belfield began to prosper. The establishment of the Norfolk and Danville Railroad put Belfield and Hicksford on the map, then a legislative act combined the two. On April 28, 1887, the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act merging the towns of Hicksford and Belfield into a single town called Emporia (Brown 1967: 284). Emporia received its name thanks to Benjamin D. Tiller, a representative to the Virginia General Assembly, as well as the President of the Norfolk and Danville Railroad. In choosing the name Emporia, Tiller paid homage to his friend, Senator Preston Plumb of Emporia, Kansas, and provided an optimistic name for the new town and railroad stop (McDonald 1987:10). The legislative action also altered the plan of the town, ordering that it be laid out into specific lots and streets.

After the South's difficult years during Reconstruction, Emporia blossomed during the late nineteenth century as boosters began to tout the beauty and bounty of Virginia. Emporia's agricultural wealth overflowed into the city as the products were shipped to urban markets from Emporia.

Emporia and Greensville County were described as a utopia to farmers and businessmen alike. Published in 1893, the Handbook of Virginia described Greensville County as follows:

The surface is level or gently rolling; the soil mostly a sandy loam, easily tilled and freely responding to ameliorating culture. The Nottoway River, on its north line, and the Meherrin, which flows through its central parts, with numerous affluents, drain its surface and furnish ample water-power and abundant supplies of fish.

There are ten grain mills in the county. The productions are varied and valuable, and include tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, cotton and peanuts. There are some stiff clay soils well suited to wheat. Lands are cheap, and the people kind and hospitable. The climate and health are all that could be desired. Wild animals: deer, foxes, raccoons, opossums, squirrels and hares. In the streams: beavers, otters, musk-rats and minks. Wild fowl, etc.: turkey, pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, mocking-birds, robins and many others...

The timber of this county is abundant and very valuable, and consists mainly of white oaks, ash and pine. There is a tram-road, nine miles long, on which steam-cars are run, leading from the Petersburg Railroad to a very fine body of white oak timber. Marl is found in this county, and is abundant and convenient, and is very

valuable in the production of peanuts, one of the staples of the county. The transportation facilities are very good, and are furnished by the Petersburg and Atlantic and Danville Railroads, which traverse the county, and by the Seaboard and Roanoke, which is near its southeast corner (Commissioner of Agriculture 1893: 251 as found in McDonald 1987: 11).

The first Sanborn Map recorded in Emporia was drawn in 1888, when both the Belfield and Hicksford sides of Emporia possessed a total of 800 residents. The one-page map illustrates the blocks between Main Street and Brunswick Avenue on the Hicksford side of the river, while the Belfield side was represented by a small area at the intersection of Baker and Halifax Streets. On the Hicksford side of the river, the Sanborn map indicates that the crossroads between Main Street and Brunswick Avenue were substantially populated. The courthouse clearly commands the eastern side of Main Street.

The west side of Main Street was the commercial center. Four dry goods stores, two furniture stores, a hardware store, a black smith shop, a drug store, a jewelry store, a bank, a cobbler and two gentleman's shops occupied the

street. Also visible are the Central Hotel, the Emporia Hotel and the Phoenix Block (Sanborn and Perris Map Company 1888). The Phoenix Block was constructed in 1887 after a devastating fire destroyed much of the block. The name "Phoenix" was chosen for the mythical bird which rose from the ashes. (Many of these buildings still line the 300 block of South Main Street, except where Hurricane Hazel demolished several buildings in the 1950s).

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Brunswick Street had several grocery stores, two restaurants and a livery. These buildings remain important features of the west side of Brunswick Avenue. On the east side of Brunswick, a large livery catered to the courthouse crowd

(this building is no longer standing). Dwellings occupied both the northern and southern extremes of the town (Sanborn and Perris Map Company 1888).

In response to a shift away from home-based agriculture, the city of Emporia, and Hicksford in particular, transformed itself to meet the needs of the growing population. The level of growth experienced in Emporia by 1900 encouraged city officials to raise revenue to fund major public works projects. Bonds were issued in 1900 to subsidize the establishment of a water plant, electric service and street improvements. The 1900 Census reveals that the railroad had helped stimulate the local lumber industry with a large number of citizens employed in the lumber yards. Many of Emporia's citizens were employed as box makers, loggers, basket makers, inspectors and wagon drivers. The 1900 census also indicated that there was an increase in professionals living within the area including lawyers, dentists, and accountants as well as trade professions such as butchers, blacksmiths and cobblers.

Only two years later, Emporia's population grew to 1,400 people. Belfield was now known as North Emporia and Hicksford was now known as Emporia. The Sanborn map illustrates that the new businesses that moved into the area catered to the growing populace. A bank, post office, and barber shop catered to the needs of the townsfolk, while a new pool hall provided a recreational outlet. Additionally, numerous residential dwellings appeared on the outskirts of the town.

In 1902, the Greenville Bank Building appeared on the map and the courthouse complex now had an armory, two warehouses, and several office buildings. Several dwellings are also located along Main Street, as well as a Baptist Church and a Methodist Episcopal church (Sanborn Map Company 1902).

According to the entries on the 1902 Sanborn Map, lumber and cotton continued to be important industries, although other industries were established in Emporia as well. The JC Lifsey and Company Cotton Gin is located along South Main Street approximately 3/8 mile south of the post office. The WW Roberts and Company Cannery and Storage facility was located approximately 1/2 mile northeast of the post office (although the facility was located outside of the historic district boundaries). Although Emporia was growing, it did not have a fire station or municipal water works (Sanborn Map Company 1902). Emporia did establish its first electric power plant, which was built on the Meherrin River and provided the growing town with both water and electricity (Brown 1967: 292).

The diversity of the population became apparent on the Sanborn maps as well. By 1904, "negro dwellings" were located behind the row of buildings along South Main Street and north of Brunswick Avenue (Sanborn Map Company 1904). By the time the Sanborn Company recorded the town in 1908, the land to the west of South Main Street was labeled as cultivated land instead of vacant field.

The new town of Emporia passed legislation in 1906, and amended it in 1908, governing liquor production and distribution. In 1906, the city passed an act which "provided that a dispensary board would 'provide two suitable

buildings, or two places, one place so provided on the north side of the Meherrin River and the other place shall be on the south side of the Meherrin River, both in the town of Emporia...”(Brown 1967: 290). The town of Emporia would be the only producer and distributor of spirits within the town limits. The net profit from the sale of liquor would be divided between public schools (1/8), the state of Virginia (1/8) and the town of Emporia (6/8). Two years later, the act was amended to include that 1/8 of the profits be directed toward the upkeep of the public infrastructure located within Greensville County, with the town of Emporia only receiving 5/8 share of the proceeds (Brown 1967: 291). Although North Emporia/Belfield appeared to be the major supplier of spirits in Emporia, the 1908 Sanborn Map indicates that the Hicksford neighborhood also had a dispensary located on Brunswick Avenue.

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In 1907, T.M. Fowler published his Birds Eye View map of Emporia. The map illustrates the layout of the town, much of which remained the same in the year 2007. The map indicates that numerous dwellings lined South Main Street up to the intersection of Spring Street, where the downtown business section occupied South Main Street between Spring Street and Brunswick Avenue. The large water tank east of the courthouse is also visible on the map, and remains a fixture in the landscape of downtown Emporia.

Emporia’s role as a center for county government also became more visible in 1907, when the 1831 county courthouse was remodeled with a “two-story tetra style Tuscan portico” which was added to the façade. The wings on the north and south elevations were raised to two stories in height and a rear addition was added to the building (Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1982). These alterations visually emphasize Emporia’s wealth and governmental power. As Emporia’s importance as the county seat grew, additional conveniences were brought to the emergent town.

In 1908, Emporia also increased its entertainment offerings. At the corner of Spring Street and South Main Street was the electric theatre. The theatre was located adjacent to the Greensville Bank Building. The Masons occupied their temple on South Main Street and shared their space with the post office. An opera house also began sharing space in the Armory building (Sanborn Map Company 1908).

With the town of Emporia gaining a more sophisticated atmosphere, the town council passed an ordinance governing the location of hog pens. Before this time, citizens that lived within the town limits continued to utilize their plots of land for agricultural pursuits. By 1910, residents of Emporia were required to place their hog pens 250 feet back from the street, and soon thereafter hogs and livestock were prevented from living within the town limits (McDonald 1967: 20).

Between 1908 and 1913, the landscape of Emporia changed. The county courthouse still occupied the southeastern block of South Main Street, although several outbuildings were demolished, including the Armory/Opera House and several warehouses. New occupations and services such as plumbers, department stores, and insurance offices opened along Main Street. The Greensville County High School occupied a large plot of land adjacent to the newly marked School Street. The Central Hotel at the corner of south Main Street and Brunswick Avenue became a bank (Sanborn Map Company 1913).

After the First World War, Emporia’s population stood at 3,800. The December 1919 Sanborn Map illustrates the extension of the town boundary both north and south. The town constructed a new high school adjacent to the grade school. A rectory was constructed for the Christ Episcopal Church along School Street. The Weiss Movie Theatre opened along South Main Street and a soft drink parlor opened next door. Ancillary buildings catering to the new automobile were constructed behind the Phoenix Block along South Main Street. The Emporia Auto Repair Company opened a business along Brunswick Avenue and Engleside Avenue (outside the study area).

In 1919, the municipality furthered its civic authority with the expansion of the waterworks, which was located approximately two miles north of the courthouse in North Emporia. The waterworks was located on the Meherrin River and had numerous pumping stations and sedimentation stations to purify the town's drinking water (Sanborn Map Company 1919).

Numerous entries in the 1920 US Census indicate that the brick-making business employed many local citizens due to high demand from the growing city's busy building trade. Many buildings built in Emporia during this time were constructed with locally made bricks laid in a six-course common bond.

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The last Sanborn map documenting Emporia was drawn in 1925 and showed a landscape that had not altered much since 1919. It is clear from the drawing that South Main Street had become the downtown shopping area for Hicksford/Emporia. However, although South Main Street was still dominated by shops, business-related services such as printers and general offices were also more common. These buildings most likely catered to the increasing governmental presence of the county court.

The automobile changed the landscape of many American cities and towns and Emporia was no different. Trucks allowed the transportation of local goods and continued to help shape the commercial economy of Emporia. The transformation of transportation also altered the aesthetic look of the town. Architecture of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s was deeply rooted in the growing importance of the automobile in popular culture. New materials such as aluminum, chrome, and Vitrolite came into use and changed the appearance of the town. The early commercial storefront facades of the late 19th and early 20th centuries gave way to modern facades which obscured the original brick buildings with newer materials. Several buildings along South Main Street were modernized with aluminum siding, aluminum framed windows, and faux finishes.

During the 1930s, Emporia, like numerous other small towns throughout the United States experienced economic hardship during the Great Depression. As part of President Roosevelt's recovery plan, the Works Progress Administration constructed several buildings in Emporia to put citizens back to work. An Armory was constructed on the outskirts of town near School Street, while a large Auditorium was built along nearby Battery Avenue. Under the WPA program, Emporia's two post offices were combined into one, which was constructed on South Main Street and opened in 1938 (Gobble 1980: 132). Joining the post offices helped to bridge the geographic divide of Emporia.

In the post-Depression era, the town continued to grow and prosper, assuming the duties of a self-governing entity. By 1948, the town assumed control of the streets within the Emporia city limits from the Virginia Highway Department (Brown 1967: 293). The bustling little town continued to grow until the interstate (I-95) was created in 1957. The interstate bypassed Emporia and the completed construction of a bypass in 1959 drew both people and businesses out of downtown.

The bypass, combined with mid-20th century weather catastrophes such as winter storms, hurricanes, and flooding, helped to destroy much of Emporia's economy as well as some of its historic building stock. In August of 1940, the Meherrin River flooded the town and the lower lying areas of Emporia were devastated. The Post Office was surrounded by approximately 5 feet of water. A second disaster occurred with the force of Hurricane Hazel. In 1954, Hurricane Hazel nearly demolished South Main Street in Emporia. Numerous buildings were damaged beyond repair, including most of the 300 block of South Main Street, which was replaced with modern interpretations of the buildings.

In 1967, the former agricultural community of Emporia became a city. A census of the town indicated that the new city had a population of 5,376 citizens (Brown 1967: 299). In 1976, a new municipal building and library were constructed in the Hicksford section of Emporia to serve the new city. Emporia continues to be the governmental anchor for Greensville County.

The 21st century, however, is bringing new life into the city. Groups of dedicated citizens are working toward revitalizing the economy of this once vibrant community. Although some of the historic buildings in Emporia were altered, many continue to represent the commercial growth and development of Emporia during its early twentieth-century productive period. Architectural elements such as metal cornices and corbelled parapets accent the commercial buildings which continue to tell their story. Small businesses are moving back downtown with the desire to give back to the community which has given so much to them.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Belfield-Emporia Historic District is shown on the attached scaled aerial map entitled "Hicksford-Emporia Historic District, Emporia, Greensville County, Virginia."

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes buildings that relate to the commercial and social growth and development of Hicksford-Emporia as a town as well as retain sufficient integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

This boundary is drawn to include the highest concentration of contributing resources for the context of this district and follows most often the parcel lines of the included resources.



42'30"

4065

4064

4061

Hickford - Emporia HD
169-0019

- 1. 17 272743E 4063344N
- 2. 17 272704E 4063256N
- 3. 17 272759E 4062637N
- 4. 17 272675E 4062803N

(ADAMS GROVE)
5557 III NW

CAPRON 17 MI. V

FRANKLIN 33 MI. V