

VLR-10/18/83 NRHP-3/8/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Boxley Building Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 128-47

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 416 Jefferson Street, S.W. N/A not for publication

city, town Roanoke N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county (city) code 128

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like public/private, occupied/unoccupied, agriculture/commercial, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name Boxley Building Trust c/o Mr. Abney Boxley

street & number 215 Jefferson Street, SW

city, town Roanoke N/A vicinity of state Virginia 24011

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Roanoke City Courthouse

street & number 315 Church Avenue, SW

city, town Roanoke state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Summary Description

The Boxley Building is located at 416 South Jefferson Street at the intersection of Luck Avenue. The eight-story granite and beige brick building has signified W. W. Boxley's influence in Roanoke and in the State of Virginia since it was built in 1922. Its imposing Jefferson Street facade, and particularly its unusually fine top-story ornamented cornice, has been an important focus for the skyline of the City. As with most early skyscrapers, the building is divided into three principal sections following the proportions of a classical column: base, shaft and capital. The base is formed by the first story of granite; the shaft is formed by the next six stories of beige enameled brick with decorative terra cotta inserts; and the capital is formed by the ornate eighth story with its terra cotta panels and finely detailed copper cornice. The main entrance lobby remains in a good state of preservation, but the former story area has been altered.

Architectural Analysis

The Boxley Building is designed on the principle of base, shaft and capital. Built of expensive materials, granite on the first floor "base", buff pressed smooth surface brick, and terra cotta on the second through seventh floors "shaft," and ornate terra cotta panels with a copper cornice "capital". The main facade on Jefferson Street retains its original character after minor sensitive modification to the former Foreman's Clothing Store windows and entry.

The original entrance to the office building is a remarkable survival from 1922. The granite entrance with a finely detailed three-part copper window frame is above an imposing inset brass double door. Above this double door remains a period light fixture. On either side of this entrance are matching plaques cast with "Boxley Building". The former Foreman Clothing Store windows were lowered using the same granite cut to match. The original marble base panel with an ogee molding above and ornamental gratings were tastefully integrated into the renovation. Likewise a new entrance was made out of the third window. Capping the granite base is a terra cotta cornice of one band of flat molding, a small band above that supporting an ogee curved molding which goes beneath a rectangular "entablature" of terra cotta panels with eight vertically placed rectangles incised onto it. Above, and finishing this course, is a modified leaf and tongue molding.

The "shaft" portion of the building, five stories on the original architect's drawings, was modified to six stories prior to construction. This portion of the building has four bays of metal-framed, double-hung windows with only a horizontal division on the Jefferson Street elevation. At the corners, bricks stand forth to form a quoin pattern vertically through the six stories. This quoin pattern is repeated at the next vertical pier, from each side again through the six stories. The alternation of long above short "quoins" are even on the inner sides. The center pier is of unadorned pressed brick for its six story height. The horizontal elements of this "shaft" portion of the facade, delineating the floors, are terra cotta panels with a squared rosette design repeated in three layers between each window.

The "capital" of the Boxley Building is a fine display at the skyline for the City of Roanoke. A small three-part molding with plain brick above, and a four-part molding are below the eighth story. The eighth-story windows are surrounded with terra cotta panels. Four decorative terra cotta inserts surmount the quoin-ornamented piers below. These panels have a center "flower" above an urn-shaped support and a rinceau above. As seen on the original architect's drawings, these four panels have a vaguely Roman feeling. Above is a small molding (See Continuation Sheet #1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1921-22

Builder/Architect W. W. Boxley/Edward G. Frye

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roanoke's Boxley Building, built in 1921-22, is representative of the City's "Golden Age of Municipal Progress" in the decade following World War I. Eight stories high, with granite on the first story and beige-enameled brick with terra cotta decoration and a splendid copper cornice, the building designed by noted area architect, Edward G. Frye, in collaboration with Frank Stone, as a working monument to the contributions of W. W. Boxley to his city and his state. Builder, developer, quarry owner, railroad contractor, and mayor of Roanoke, at the time of its construction, Boxley ensured the use of the finest materials available for his building to make a statement which has lasted to this day as an outstanding feature of the city's skyline.

Historical Background

The Boxley Building on the corner of Jefferson Street and Luck Avenue stands as a reminder of the City's development after World War I. As the first skyscraper to appear in the second phase of Roanoke's twentieth century development, it became a pivot for the growth of the City under the auspices of its remarkable builder-developer, William Wise Boxley (1861-1940).

One of the great builders in Roanoke, Boxley was born in Louisa County and established residence in Roanoke in 1906. Beginning as a surveyor and construction worker he built on his experiences in the construction business to take an active part in local industry, forming companies that worked for the Southern Railway System in North Carolina, the New York Central, the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Baltimore and Ohio, the Virginian, and the Norfolk and Western. Branching out into quarries, he furnished much crushed stone for ballast on these railroads.¹ His construction firm also worked on a section of the aqueduct for New York City and worked on construction of a subway for Brooklyn, New York.

"Interested in everything related to the development of Roanoke,"² Boxley took part in founding the Shenandoah Life Insurance Company, the Colonial American, the Liberty Trust Company, and many other local institutions. He was intensely interested in Roanoke from both political and civic perspectives. He was elected in 1918 to Roanoke's City Council and then selected as the first mayor of Roanoke under the new city manager form of government. He held this post from September 24, 1919 until August 31, 1922.³ His civic work continued as a member of the Boards of the Baptist Orphanage, Roanoke College, and the Virginia Military Institute. For the latter, he was chairman of the building committee during an era of much construction. As president of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of many of its committees, he was an advocate of good roads as the best way of uniting Roanoke with its vast trade area. In all these activities he was a driving force during a period in which "Roanoke made its greatest strides . . . (D)uring his four-year term (as mayor) the real foundation for a modern Roanoke was laid."⁴

The best description of W. W. Boxley's contributions to the city appeared in the editorial in the Roanoke Times, on January 13, 1940, after his death:
(See Continuation Sheet #3)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 46' x 115' approx. 1/4 acre
Quadrangle name Roanoke, Virginia Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>593940</u>	<u>4125130</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point at the NE corner of the intersection of S. Jefferson Street and Luck Avenue; thence extending approximately 46' N along E side of S. Jefferson Street; thence extending approximately 115' E; thence approximately 46' S to N side of Luck Avenue; thence approximately 115' W to point of origin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet #4)

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. L. Whitwell and W. G. Kuthy

organization N/A date May 1983

street & number 308 2nd Street, SW telephone (703) 344-2044

city or town Roanoke state Virginia 24011

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *K. Suzanne Mitchell*

title _____ date October 18, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

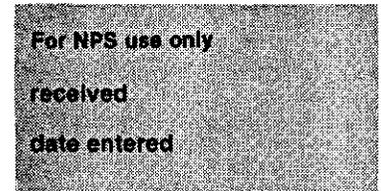
date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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Boxley Building, Roanoke, VA



Continuation sheet #1

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Page 1

7. DESCRIPTION --

Architectural Analysis (continued)

with a spiral design. The terra cotta entablature has six-part flowers alternating with attenuated double anthemion-like forms. Above this is a dentil molding supporting an egg-and-dart molding. A fine copper cornice caps the whole composition. This cornice features double brackets supporting a wide (four foot) overhang. At the skyline are 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch high copper rosettes spaced one foot, eight inches on center.

The Luck Avenue elevation features a wrap-around of one full bay of the Jefferson Street facade with all of its materials and decorative features. Today, the only modification to this wrap-around has been the filling in of the plate glass window with granite carefully cut to match that used on the original facade. The lower story beyond the wrap-around is of plain beige brick with three double bays of windows and a modified service door. Above is a slim terra cotta molding at the top of the "base". The Luck Avenue elevation above is of beige brick and has seven double bays and one single bay of double-hung, metal windows with simple terra cotta lintels and sills for six stories. The eighth story is separated by another simple terra cotta molding. The windows duplicate those below. Capping this elevation is a plain brick band the same height as the cornice.

The alley elevation was conceived as purely utilitarian. There is no ornamentation on this facade which is constructed of common brick painted beige with one entry and five bays of windows on the first floor. The next two floors have five bays of windows, above there are four bays of windows on each floor. All window lintels and sills are terra cotta.

The north side elevation is occupied by a party wall three stories high at the front, one story high in the middle and three stories high in the back. The front facade wraps around the length of one of the Jefferson Street facade's quoins. There are eighteen of these quoins of pressed brick repeating the pattern of the front facade. Above a terra cotta molding there is one terra cotta ornamented panel, which repeats the panels on the front facade. Above is a small repeat of the front cornice. Again, the architect's concern for the skyline of the City of Roanoke is evident.

The center of this north facade is recessed approximately eight feet from the side property line to create a light well. There are nine bays of windows in this recessed section. To the right of the recess is blank elevator shaft which is braced on the exterior, while to the left is an extension with two bays of windows. This whole facade is of common brick painted beige and all windows have terra cotta lintels and sills.

The inside lobby of the Boxley Building reflects the builder's concern for restrained use of fine materials. Retaining all its significant original features, the lobby is paneled in grey Tennessee marble for a height of six feet, eleven inches, with a base Verde Antique marble in dark green with black and white veins. A splendid brass building directory is in front of the door. It has Academic-Classical details of egg-and-dart molding with flat pilasters surmounted by paterae. A fine brass Cutler mailbox and chute also remains and is used. The box, which is a standard design, is ornate in the Academic-Classical manner. The elevator and main entry are surrounded by the original marble, but the ceiling has been dropped, new recessed lighting has been installed and unobtrusive wallpaper applied above the marble paneling. (See Continuation Sheet 2)

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Boxley Building, Roanoke, VA
Continuation sheet #2

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7. Description ---

Architectural Analysis (continued)

The original upper seven office stories of the building contained nineteen offices each, with the exception of the second floor which contained eighteen. Remarkably all except two floors, the sixth and seventh, are virtually unchanged. The major changes are dropped ceilings for air conditioning and lighting, new water fountains on the original ice-water refrigerator system, floor covering and some light partitions. A typical floor still retains its office doors with transoms and wire translucent glass. With the exception of floors six and seven, the restrooms are unchanged. Typical of the period, there was one facility for the women and five for the men. Yet there was only one sink in each.

When the Boxley Building was about to open, The Roanoke World News, on Wednesday, September 29, 1922, ran an article entitled "Boxley Building Stands as Model Office Structure". The article describes the building "as an example of the latest methods in office building construction." There was to be no formal opening owing to delays of certain finishing materials. Yet, the article continued, "No expense has been spared in making the building both fireproof and up-to-date in every respect." Characteristically, Mr. Boxley "declined to make any estimate of the cost of the structure." The article continued to describe many of the "interesting and convenient features" in the structure. There was a refrigerating plant for ice water and many fireproofing features.

9. Bibliography

Barnes, Raymond. A History of Roanoke, Radford, VA, Commonwealth Press, 1968.

"Boxley Building Stands as Model Office Building", The Roanoke World News, September 27, 1922.

Chambers, S. Allen, Lynchburg: An Architectural History, The University Press of Virginia, 1981.

"MAYOR BOXLEY TO ERECT BUILDING", The Roanoke Times, September 3, 1921.

Parrott, Mary Wise Boxley, Roanoke, VA: Interview, February, 1983.

Roanoke City Directory, Hill Publishing Company, 1922-1923.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA, A CITY OF ENTERPRISE, ENERGY AND PROGRESS, Pamphlet published for Roanoke Booster Club, Association of Commerce, 1922, N.P. (Roanoke Public Library, Virginia Room).

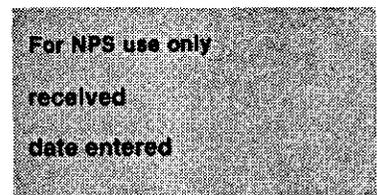
Thompson, John, Roanoke, VA: Interview, August, 1982.

White, Clare, Roanoke: 1740-1982. Roanoke, VA, Roanoke Valley Historical Society, 1982.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Boxley Building, Roanoke, VA



Continuation sheet #3

Item number 8

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8. Historical Background (continued)

Although one of the busiest citizens of Roanoke, his varied business interests demanding his time and attention, he gave practically all of his time and thought to the city's affairs during the four years that he was at the municipal helm and his administration reflected the sound business acumen and fine executive ability which made him a highly successful business man in far more than the ordinary sense of the word.

Imbued with a keen sense of civic obligation, he gave most generously of his time and also of his means to worthy enterprises and his philanthropies, known only to a very few, were many.

Edward G. Frye (1870-1942), who executed the drawings for the Boxley Building dated May 1921, had an interesting career in Virginia. He was a graduate of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where he majored in mathematics. He then moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where he apprenticed in an architect's office. By 1890 he had his own practice in Lynchburg which by 1900 had become so large that he was able to hire assistants. Frye's later association with Frank F. Stone, between 1921 and 1939, was extremely important for the City of Roanoke, they designed such important local landmarks as the Roanoke City Municipal Building, the First Baptist Church, the Virginia Heights Fire Station, Trinity Methodist Church, the Colonial National Bank Building and Saint Andrew's School. The firm also designed residences for a number of prominent citizens.

The plans for Mayor Boxley's new building were made public in the Roanoke Times on Saturday, September 3, 1921, in a notice of his award of the contract for the erection of the building to Pettijohn and Company of Lynchburg. The article stated, "That the ground floor will be used as a storeroom" with the other floors used as office space. The building was to be fireproof and the floors of composition material similar to that in the Municipal Building.

Upon its completion in 1922, the building was featured in the center of an "Airgraph" of Jefferson Street looking north from Elmwood Park and public library and it appeared in a promotional brochure of the Association of Commerce. On September 27, 1922, The Roanoke World-News accurately noted its status in downtown Roanoke by headlining "BOXLEY BUILDING STANDS AS MODEL OFFICE BUILDING." During the following few years, Roanoke would see the construction of a number of structures modeled after the commercial success of the Boxley Building. Among the first tenants Boxley attracted to his building were the Atlantic Bridge Company; Eubank and Caldwell; B. Foreman and Sons Clothing, in the "storeroom"; Funkhouser and King; Izard and Company; Roanoke Webster Brick and Company; and Woods, Chitwood, Cox and Rogers. Many of these firms are still prominent in Roanoke.

W. W. Boxley is still regarded as an important mayor of Roanoke in its golden age. His building is a constant and tangible reminder of his prominence and progressive influence in industrial, civic, and educational affairs.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

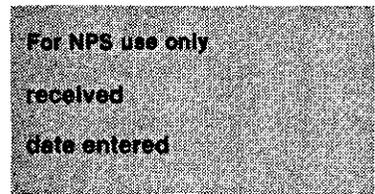
**National Register of Historic Places
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Boxley Building, Roanoke, VA

Continuation sheet #4

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8. SIGNIFICANCE --

Historical Background (continued)

Historical Background Footnotes

¹W. W. Boxley Passes After Brief Illness; The Roanoke Times, January 13, 1940.

²Interview Mary Wise Boxley Parrott, February 25, 1982.

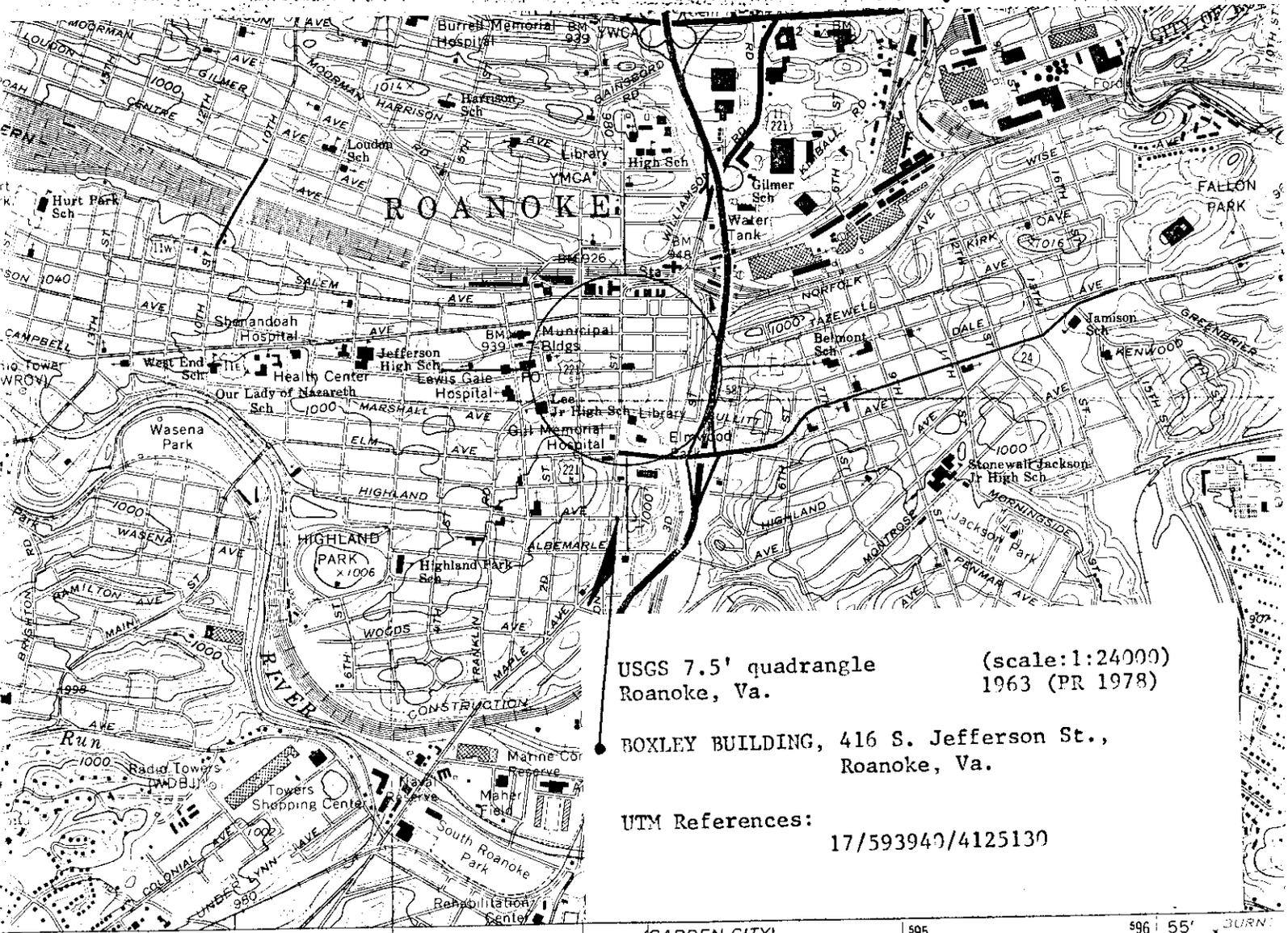
³Resolution -- City Council of Roanoke, January 29, 1940.

⁴"W. W. Boxley Passes."

⁵Chambers, Page 357.

10. Justification:

The boundaries have been drawn to encompass the city lot on which the building stands.



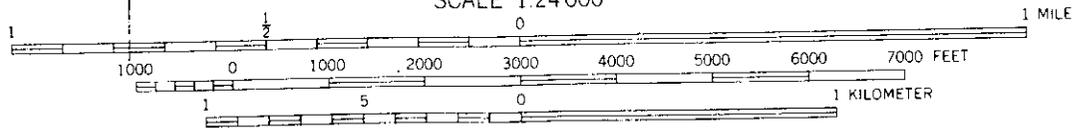
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Roanoke, Va. 1963 (PR 1978)

BOXLEY BUILDING, 416 S. Jefferson St.,
 Roanoke, Va.

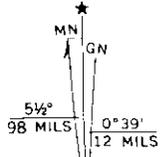
UTM References:
 17/593940/4125130

592 57'30" (GARDEN CITY) 595 596 55' JURN
 5058 III NW

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



1983 AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DIFFERENCE AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Boundary line
 information as

