

VLR = 3/17/99
NRHP = 6/11/99

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 **ROCKY MOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT**
other names/site number **157-5002**

2. Location

street & number: portions of Angle Street, East & West Church streets, East College Street, East & West Court streets, Franklin, Hale, High, Main, Maple, Noel, Orchard, Randolph and Warren streets, and Claiborne and Floyd avenues.

city or town Rocky Mount not for publication N/A
vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Franklin code 067 Zip 24153

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

National Park Service Certification

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Rocky Mount Historic District (157-5002)
Franklin County, VA

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 Keeper

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

 173 65 buildings

 2 0 sites

 1 6 structures

 2 0 objects

 178 71 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **2**

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Government** _____ Sub: county courthouse; county jail; post office

Domestic _____ single dwelling

Commerce _____ business; professional; financial institution; specialty store;
department store; warehouse

Transportation _____ rail-related

Religion _____ religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **Government** _____ Sub: county courthouse; county jail; post office

Domestic _____ single dwelling

Commerce _____ business; professional; financial institution; specialty store;
department store; warehouse

Transportation _____ work-in-progress

Religion _____ religious facility; business

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival; Gothic Revival; Queen Anne;
Colonial Revival; Bungalow/Craftsman; Art Deco; Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: concrete, brick, stone

roof : metal, asphalt

walls: weatherboard, aluminum, vinyl, brick, glass, concrete block, cast-stone

other: wood, brick

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

Politics/Government
Commerce
Architecture
Transportation
Industry

Period of Significance: ca. 1820-1949

Significant Dates: ca. 1820; 1830; 1907; 1909

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

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: H.H. Huggins; Smithy and Boynton; George Ragan

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: approximately 110 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	598390	4095420	2	17	599260	4095440
3	17	599290	4094540	4	17	598400	4094540

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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Franklin County, VA

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: **Anne Stuart Beckett and Dr. John R. Kern**
Organization: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources**
street & number: **1030 Penmar Avenue, SE**
city or town: **Roanoke** state **VA** zip code **24013**

date: **January 12, 1999**
telephone **540-857-7586/5**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

see continuation sheet

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rocky Mount Historic District (157-5002)
Franklin County

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7. Narrative Description

Summary Description and Integrity Statement

Rocky Mount is a small service, factory, and courthouse town sited near the center of Franklin County in the rolling, rural terrain of the Piedmont plateau within view of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north. The district runs south to north on an uphill grade along Main Street, bordered by Franklin and Floyd streets to the west and Maple Avenue and E. Court Street to the east. The district is composed of relatively intact buildings ranging in date from the early and mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.

The approximately 110-acre district contains **184 primary resources**, including two contributing sites (Mary Elizabeth Park and High Street Cemetery), one non-contributing structure (Citizen Square), and two previously listed properties on the National Register of Historic Places (the **Woods-Meade House** (157-0003) and the **Greer House** (157-0023)). Of the primary resources, **132 (72%)** are contributing and **52 (28%)** are non-contributing to the historic district.

Sixty-seven secondary resources are also included within the district; including one contributing structure (picnic shelter), four non-contributing structures (two tennis courts, pool, and two carports), and two contributing objects (church bell and Confederate statue). Of these secondary resources, **49** are contributing and **18** are non-contributing.

A grand total of **251 resources** encompass the Rocky Mount Historic District. Of these, **180 (72%)** are contributing and **71 (28%)** are non-contributing resources. The non-contributing resources consists of either post-1948 buildings or buildings that have been irreversibly altered. The district continues to serve as the governmental and commercial center of Franklin County.

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Description (continued)

The oval shaped Rocky Mount Historic District contains three distinct areas: the governmental "Uptown" section surrounding the courthouse to the south, the commercial "Downtown" area forming the western border and northern tip, and residential neighborhoods bordering the eastern portion of the district. Most of the commercial buildings within the proposed district are two or three-story brick structures, lending a sense of self-assurance and permanence to the town. These buildings line the two predominant commercial routes through the district along Main and Franklin streets. Centered in "Uptown" is the well preserved and still functioning 1909 Franklin County Courthouse and 1934 Art Moderne Jail.

The commercial "Downtown" area along Franklin Street (which parallels the railroad tracks) forms the western boundary of the district. Agrarian influence and small-town life is still strongly reflected along this commercial corridor with its early twentieth-century buildings. "Downtown" represents small-town America life as reflected by its post office, hardware store, bank, general store, and department store. The Norfolk & Western freight depot, grain mill, and warehouse anchor the northern portion of the Franklin Street corridor.

Colonial Revival, Bungalow, and Queen Anne style residences dominate the hilly neighborhoods of the north and east Rocky Mount Historic District. Mature deciduous trees shading the concrete sidewalks, low stone retaining walls, and sweeping yards complement the architectural character of these houses lining Claiborne and Maple avenues and High and E. Court streets.

The smaller, one-story frame vernacular worker houses flank the short and narrow Scott and Hale streets.

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Description (continued)

While most of the historic buildings within the district are intact, many of the first-floor facades of the commercial buildings have been altered by modern material, a common occurrence in the majority of our historic downtown areas. Although two buildings within the district were built before the 50-year cut-off date of 1949, extensive modern alterations and/or additions have rendered them *non-contributing* buildings. These two buildings are the current **First Virginia Bank** (157-5002-96) at Main Street and Floyd Avenue and **Franklin Auto Glass** (157-5002-158) on Franklin Street. The application of modern material and an addition to Franklin Auto Glass in 1985 concealed a ca. 1928 Esso Gas Station. The majority of non-contributing buildings within the district, however, are commercial and residential buildings built after 1948, mostly between 1950 and 1960. Rocky Mount fortunately, is distinguished as a "Main Street" town, with numerous downtown property owners participating in the façade improvement grant program. This program encourages local business to remove modern material applications and restore historic buildings to their original appearance. A current example is the **Rakes Building** (157-5002-98) a 1929 auto dealership that will be converted into business spaces. The **N&W Freight Depot** (157-39)(157-5002-2) will be used for the Franklin County Welcome Center, with the help of Federal funding, the town of Rocky Mount, and the determination of its citizens.

Historic Development and Architectural Analysis

Two of Rocky Mount's influential industries are not included because they lie outside of the proposed historic district boundaries. Located south of the district on Main Street, is the remaining thirty-foot tall furnace of the 1770 **Washington Iron Furnace** (NRHP 157-0029).

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Description (continued)

Damaged in the flood of 1850 the furnace ceased to function after the Civil War. Located north of the district across the tracks from the N & W Freight Depot, the Bald Knob Furniture Company was absorbed and expanded by Lane Company after 1957, which subsequently moved across Main Street and was replaced by the current MW Manufacturing Company.

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Franklin County was established in 1786 from the counties of Bedford and Henry (Hill Studio 1996:22). The first court sessions were held in the home of James Callaway, the proprietor of the 1770 Washington Iron Furnace. In 1786, a log courthouse was then erected near the present day intersection of Court and Main streets (Salmon 1993:66). Divided by Maple Avenue, the southeast portion of the village was called Mount Pleasant, and the western portion known as Rocky Mount. In 1804, the courthouse village was divided into half-acre lots and was flourishing by the 1830s.

The oldest single dwelling in Rocky Mount is the 1828-9 **Mount Pleasant** (157-4) (157-5002-120). Situated on the boxwood lined corner of E. Church Street and Maple Avenue, this two-story, three-bay Flemish-bond, Federal-style brick house with a deck on hip roof was built on the highest plateau overlooking the 1786 courthouse to the south. The building's roof and interior wood was damaged in a 1856 fire and rebuilt to its current condition. (Anne Carter Lee, 1998). The square building with one-story wings and tall narrow 4/4 sash windows was the home of Caleb Tate, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Franklin County from 1797 to 1835. The oldest building in Rocky Mount is the ca. 1820 detached brick kitchen located to the side of the house, which may have served as a dwelling prior to the building of Mount Pleasant (FCLB 1820-29).

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Description (continued)

The most significant historic commercial structure in Rocky Mount is the 1827-28 **The Taliaffero Building** (157-30) (157-5002-105). Locally referred to as the Virgil Goode Law Office, this small, two-story, rectangular, brick residence/store fronts the eastside of Main Street one block north of the courthouse. Richard M. Taliaffero, the first physician to permanently practice medicine in Franklin County, owned this building. An adjoining building where General Jubal A. Early practiced law was razed in 1937.

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Two of Rocky Mount's most significant domestic buildings survive from this period. The ca. 1830 landmark **Woods-Meade House** (NRHP 157-3) (157-5002-0121), is one of the oldest single dwellings in Rocky Mount. This small, one-story, vernacular brick cottage-style house rests on a raised basement and is sheltered by a three-bay front porch supported by round brick columns. Located on Maple Avenue, the house overlooks the courthouse to the south, one block below Mount Pleasant (157-5002-120).

The Grove (157-2) (157-5002-134) is an imposing 1854 Greek Revival-style brick mansion built among several wooded acres at Floyd Avenue and Route 40 in the southwest corner of the district. The two-story, three-bay residence was built for Peter Saunder's daughter Margaret at her marriage to John S. Hale in 1850. The home later became the residence of Judge Edward Saunders. The interior remains intact with ornate plaster ceiling modillions. The largest and most substantial array of outbuildings in Rocky Mount surrounds the house on two sides; a tall brick smokehouse, a brick slave quarters, two frame storage buildings, a brick kitchen which was attached to the houses' rear wing, and a one-story, frame law office continuously used since 1854.

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Description (continued)

The Civil War (1861-1865)

Although no battles were fought in Franklin County, very little construction occurred here or elsewhere throughout the south during the Civil War. However, one house remains from that time period, the **Greer House (NRHP 157-23) (157-5002-181)** which is set back from E. Court Street. Originally built on thirty-five acres of land in 1861 for Dr. Thomas Greer, and completed after the Civil War, this two-story, frame Greek-Revival residence stands less than a quarter of a mile east of the courthouse (Lefever, DHR archives). Currently situated on less than an acre, this once thriving farmhouse serves as a reminder of Rocky Mount's early beginnings.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1914)

Although Rocky Mount escaped physical harm from the Civil War, the rapid development of the early twentieth-century swallowed much of its earlier nineteenth-century village appearance. In addition, a major fire in 1889 destroyed twenty-two buildings west of the courthouse. These two events left only a scattering of early to mid-nineteenth century and a concentration of 1890s single dwellings and stores. Thus, Rocky Mount's *predominant* period of architectural significance dates to the early-twentieth century.

After the Civil War, Franklin County and Rocky Mount had to recover financially, as well as in other ways. Two major factors encouraged Rocky Mount's new growth. In 1873, Rocky Mount became incorporated, with its boundaries extending in a one-half-mile radius from the courthouse. And in 1892, Rocky Mount was connected by 123 miles of rail line from Roanoke, Virginia down to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This Roanoke and Southern line was nicknamed the "Punkin

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Description (continued)

Vine” because of its weavy path (Salmon 1993:320).

During the nineteenth century and into the twentieth-century, Rocky Mount thrived on its number one cash crop, tobacco. And the advent of the railroad through Rocky Mount ushered in continued prosperity by establishing ready markets for tobacco to the cities of Roanoke, Danville, and Lynchburg. Many of Rocky Mount’s significant extant buildings were constructed during this period.

ARCHITECTURE

The various neighborhoods strongly anchor the Rocky Mount Historic District. Dating predominantly from the 1890s through the 1920s, these houses reflect the influence of the railroad and factories. Most of these houses display their original fabric with few modifications. Also there has been minimal modern infill. Many of the existing houses in Rocky Mount today were built during this peak period, especially after the railroad lines merged with the Norfolk & Western Railroad by 1896 and the establishment of the Bald Knob Furniture Factory in 1903. Two basic house types exist within the district, the factory worker’s vernacular cottages and larger more architecturally defined houses owned by professionals and management.

The smaller one-story frame worker houses were built close to the Norfolk Southern railroad and the Bald Knob Furniture Factory in the northern portion of the district where the residents worked. Tall frame garages complement some of these houses dotting narrow Hale and Scott streets. Hale Street rides the ridge overlooking where the Bald Knob Factory employed hundreds of local residents. Nathaniel P. Angle reportedly built four similar style houses on Hale Street for his factory workers

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Description (continued)

(Stanley, Divers, and Langford oral interviews 1998). The ca. 1907 **McCall House** (157-5002-0021) is a decorative example of a worker's house on Hale Street as a frame, one-story, gable-fronted and side wing house, with a steeply pitched gable roof clad with standing-seam metal accented with flat-sawn verge boards. These decorative boards along with abundant lumber were new items brought in on the train.

The short and narrow Scott Street, located between Randolph and Church streets, appears to be a forgotten part of town, but exhibits some of its best pre-1928 vernacular worker's cottages. A typical example is the **Worker's Cottage** (157-5002-0072), a rectangular side-gable, one-story, three-bay, frame dwelling with a low-pitched gable roof and a partial width front porch. Weatherboard siding covers the house, and standing seam metal sheaths the roof. An atypical exterior-end brick chimney in Rocky Mount once heated the house. A two-story frame garage towers behind the house.

The larger homes of managers and professionals line Claiborne Avenue. Many of the these Victorian-era houses that were built at the western end of Claiborne Avenue have been razed. Some of the best examples, however, still stand over the eastern end of Claiborne Avenue on tree lined and landscaped lots accented by rhythmic lines of stone retaining walls. Nathaniel P. Angle, Rocky Mount's preeminent businessman, built four of these large houses, including his home. The ca. 1915 **Angle House** (Wolfe Medical Clinic) (157-5002-049) is the largest twentieth-century home in Rocky Mount. This brick, two-story Colonial Revival style house is accented by an extended and modillioned hip roof with dormers, 6/6 sash windows, brick quoins, a curved one-story portico, and semi-circular driveway. Two, one-story brick servants quarters face High Street to the rear.

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Description (continued)

Claiborne Avenue contains the best Colonial Revival style houses set back on large landscaped yards. A good example is the ca. 1915 **Shearer, John C. House** (157-5002-0046), built by N. P. Angle on a spacious landscaped parcel overlooks Claiborne Avenue and High Street. This two-story house displays extended eaves, a portico entrance, and low-pitched hip roof and wings. Two vertical board covered workshops are hidden among boxwoods in the rear yard.

Overlooking eastern Rocky Mount along Maple Avenue are large, two-story, 1890s frame houses furnished with ornate Victorian details and porches. The ca. 1890 **Simpson, Sam House** (157-5002-0116) is a great example of a two-story, three-bay frame (vinyl siding) I-house with Queen Anne influence. A full-width three-bay wood front porch with a spindle frieze and turned balustrade accents the front elevation. Twin center chimneys (uncommon in Rocky Mount) once heated the house, large 6/6 sash windows light it, and standing-seam metal sheaths the gable roof. A stone retaining wall lines Maple Avenue.

From Maple Avenue down to E. Court Street, and to the east beyond the courthouse, neatly placed Victorian I-houses and Bungalows flank this wide curving residential road. A strong example of a frame (asbestos shingles) I-house is the ca. 1900 **I-House** (157-5002-0180), which is reminiscent of other I-houses found on Virginia's Eastern Shore. This house displays a small centered gable, narrow 2/2 sash windows, twin-centered chimneys, an entrance porch, a one-story rear wing, a coursed stone foundation, and a 1930s frame garage at the end of the driveway. The **Gothic Revival House** (Furrow Law Office)(157-5002-171) is a rare ca. 1900 Gothic-Revival/Queen-Anne style twin peak frame residence. Modified for an office, its full-width front porch has been replaced and covered with vinyl siding and its steeply pitched gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles.

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Description (continued)

The floor-to-ceiling double-leaf wood windows remain intact; the 6/6 sash windows have been replaced with vinyl.

Another rare house style found in Rocky Mount is the ca. 1874 **Episcopal Rectory** (157-5002-0173). This house was reportedly relocated to its present site on E. Court Street, and may have been built at the same time as the ca. 1874 Episcopal Church (157-5). This rare vernacular style frame (weatherboard) building rests on a fieldstone foundation, has two narrow bays, one-story with a loft, a steep gable roof, and a 4-course exterior-end brick chimney. The centered gable with a 6/6-sash window and wrap-around porch with turned and bracketed posts and balustrade are probably ca. 1890 additions.

An important African-American building in Rocky Mount's history is the ca. 1900 **Lodge Rooms (Colored)** (157-86) (157-5002-0141). This vacant building is one of the most intact downtown commercial structures. This two-story frame building (aluminum siding) has a shed roof, its original storefront, painted transom, 2/2 sash windows, and a second floor metal cornice, and is worthy of serving the community again. Located at the bottom of Warren Street, this building is one of the rare survivors of the historically African-American community along Warren and W. Court streets. All other associated buildings along W. Court have been demolished, including the pre-1898 M.E. Church and the Walter L. Young Livery & Feed Stable later owned by B.B. Dillard (1898 & 1902 Sanborn Maps). A blacksmith shop, restaurant, boarding house, and modest dwellings also vanished with this community. The ca. 1940 **Midway Cleaners** (157-5002-0136) still stands on Warren Street. This building replaced an earlier cleaners denoted on the 1928 Sanborn Map.

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Description (continued)

Some of the best architecture in Rocky Mount is displayed in its churches. The earliest extant church in Rocky Mount is the ca. 1874 **Trinity Episcopal Church** (157-5) (157-5002-0109) built on the corner of Maple Avenue and Main Street. Attended by Jubal A. Early, this church was originally built of frame with weatherboard siding. In 1906, the church was moved back from Main Street, extended in the rear, encased in a layer of quarried stone, and slate shingles were applied over the gable roof (DHR 1970/ Anne Carter Lee 1998). The Gothic- pointed interior metal trusses were inserted at this time to support the weight of the slat roof.

A good example of a Gothic Revival-style church in Rocky Mount is the **Rocky Mount Presbyterian Church** (157-7)(157-5002-109). Built by 1880, the brick and buttressed church reopened shortly after the fire of 1889. Today it stands alone along Floyd Avenue at the district's southern boundary. Most of its major features remain intact save for the bell tower and some of the stained glass windows. The church bell is displayed in the front yard.

The ca. 1907 **Baptist Church (Colored)** (157-5002-160) facing Franklin Street at High Street, is a rectangular, gable-fronted African-American church that was remodeled into a business. The weatherboard siding was covered with vinyl siding and the tall arched windows were infilled with siding and double-hung windows. Although its basic shape remains, modern changes have compromised its architectural integrity. An active African-American place of worship is **Bethel A.M.C. Church** (157-5002-0005) hidden behind the Little Hub restaurant off Franklin and Hale streets, was also built before WWI. Decorative shiplap style weatherboard siding (a popular early twentieth-century treatment but uncommon in Rocky Mount) covers this tall, frame vernacular church that still retains its historic fabric. Pointed arched windows light the interior,

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Description (continued)

and a steep gable roof with standing-seam metal tops the structure. Built into a grassy slope, the cornerstone on the poured concrete foundation/basement bears its 1913 construction date.

Behind Bethel Church, the **High Street Cemetery** (157-5002-0027) overlooks the town to the north towards the former Bald Knob Furniture factory (now the MW Manufacturing Company). About 300-500 markers, mostly polished granite headstones from 1885 to the present with one section surrounded by a cast-iron fence, claim the family names of Poindexter, Deyerle, Lee, Arrington, English, Holt, Perdue, and Kent.

COMMERCE

Many important commercial buildings remain from this time period. Standing opposite the court house on Main Street is the ca. 1912 **N. Morris Department Store/Bryd Balm Company** (157-5002-93), a distinctive three-story, 9000 sq.ft. department store that was recently sold at auction. Constructed with a five-course American bond brick, decorative features include a white brick and plate glass storefront with a recessed double door opening, paired 2/2 sash windows, brick pilasters with capitols, and a heavy modillioned cornice. The interior remains intact with 12-ft. ceilings, its original mezzanine, floor to ceiling shelving, and wood graining on the stairway.

Built near the northern end of Franklin Street is the ca. 1920 **J. N. Montgomery Warehouse** (Magic Mirror) 157-5002-0013. The building is situated on the corner of Franklin Street and Diamond Avenue, facing the entrance to the former Bald Knob Furniture Company, and is associated with James N. Montgomery, its president from 1936 until 1957 when it became the Lane Furniture Manufacturing Company (Sanborn 1993:246). Its construction techniques imply

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Description (continued)

that the warehouse may have been built closer to the time when Bald Knob opened in 1903, however, it does not appear on the Sanborn Maps until 1922 and is also denoted in a ca. 1920 photo of the Bald Knob Furniture Company (Sanborn 1993:345). This large two-story frame warehouse was built with hewn post and beam construction, which is still exposed on the second floor. Although altered by modern material, its architectural significance is still evident by its massing and shape. Glen Boone, an old order German Baptist, also once owned this building. Reportedly, he was the first of his generation to be attend upper levels of school as opposed to remain working on the family farm (Anne Carter Lee, 1998).

Probably the first commercial structure to be encountered when entering Rocky Mount from the west on Route 40 at the turn-of-the-twentieth-century is the ca. 1890 **Reynolds's Restaurant** (Blue Ridge Baskets/vacant) (157-60) (157-5002-0144). This two-story frame building (composition-wood siding) contains its original storefront, upstairs apartments, and 2/2 sash windows. This building is worthy of rehabilitation and is an especially good candidate because of its commercial potential on the first level, but especially its intact apartments on the second level that would require little modification. The only extant full-width second-story porch in Rocky Mount is displayed on this building and has been enclosed with siding.

The (former) **Angle Hardware Store** (157-54) 157-5002-0151 has served downtown from Franklin Street continuously since the early twentieth-century. This tall, two-story, 6-course brick bond former hardware store has a full-width first-story plate glass storefront and a seven-bay second-floor with 1/1-sash windows.

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Description (continued)

GOVERNMENT

One of the most important buildings in Franklin County is the white-painted Beaux-arts Roman Revival Courthouse dominating “Uptown” facing the southern end of Main Street (U.S. 220 South Business). The massive two-story **Franklin County Courthouse** (157-1)-(157-5002-100) with its wide three-bay portico was constructed in 1909 from plans of the well-known Roanoke architect H.H. Huggins. The red brick courthouse, similar to the Roanoke County Courthouse in Salem, was originally left unpainted with lighter brick pilasters, panels, and quions (Peters 1995:188). The Ionic capitols have also been removed from the colossal columns. The current courthouse replaced the previous 1786 log structure and the 1831 brick courthouses that faced E. Court Street. A Confederate statue overlooks the front courtyard.

TRANSPORTATION

The ca. 1907 **Norfolk & Western Freight Station** (157-39)(157-5002-2) is a typical example of its building type, but is a rare survivor, and is significant for its role in the development of Rocky Mount as an agricultural and manufacturing center (Giles 1992). The 1907 Sanborn map denotes a passenger and freight station in one building, while the 1928 Sanborn maps shows a separate passenger station to the west of the freight station, this separate passenger section has been razed. The elongated frame freight building is located at the northern entrance to Rocky Mount along Franklin Street, and has been renovated to serve as the Franklin County/Rocky Mount Welcome Center. Most of its weatherboard siding and windows were repaired if possible or replaced in-kind, its gable roof has been covered with new standing-seam metal sheathing.

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Description (continued)

World War I to the Present (1914-)

The town boomed during the early-twentieth century with a smooth transition into lumber and textile manufacturing. And by World War I, the advent of the automobile continued to strengthen the economy of Rocky Mount. At least three auto showrooms, three garages, and two gas stations anchored the main intersections of town, especially on Route 40 at Franklin and Main streets (Route 220). As the roads developed and improved, Rocky Mount is well situated on the major north/south U.S. Route 220 corridor, twenty-five miles due south of the City of Roanoke (Roanoke County) and thirty miles north of the City of Martinsville (Henry County).

ARCHITECTURE

As elsewhere across the state during the 1920s and 30s, many brick and frame Bungalow and American Foursquare style houses sprung up among the tree-lined streets of Rocky Mount predominantly along Claiborne Avenue and E. Court Street. (Scattered among these houses is a few unique styles not seen elsewhere in town). And as found elsewhere, the building boom after World War II produced the ubiquitous non-contributing, one and two-story brick and frame Colonial Revival houses and cottages that were built upon the last few open spaces in town. The ca. 1920s **Richards House** (157-5002-42) is a strong example of a two-story, brick American Foursquare accented with a porch and porte-cochere supported by large brick and wood piers, paired windows, and hip-roof dormers. A series of concrete steps lead up to the house from Claiborne Avenue.

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Description (continued)

Similar to houses lining the northeast coast, the white painted wood shingled **Beale House** (157-5002-0170) is a large and rare ca. 1920 American Foursquare/Shingle Style house overlooking E. Court Street. A two-sided wrap-around porch and hip-roof dormers on all four sides of the main hip roof dominate this house. Tapered wood columns support the porch roof and 9/9 sash windows light the house. A second story sleeping porch overlooks the side of the house.

A unique and short-lived building form is represented in the 1949 **Lustron House/ Davis House** (157-5002-29) on High Street. Manufactured by the Lustron Company, which specialized in metal pre-fabrication construction, this house is constructed almost entirely of 2' x 2' porcelain enamel metal panels, including nearly every exterior and interior material and the imitation terra cotta roof tiles. This modular house reflects the diner and trailer era with manufactured buildings transported and assembled on site. The Lustron Company produced 2500 buildings between 1947 and 1952, fifty of which are located in Virginia, with the majority of these on Quantico Marine Base (Interview. Marc Wagner 1998).

A typical non-contributing residence is the large, 1959 Colonial-Revival style two-story brick and side-gable roofed **Davis House** (157-5002-45) overlooking Claiborne Avenue.

GOVERNMENT

Three architect-driven buildings were established at this time. The 1936 **United States Post Office** (157-32)(157-5002-0153) is a good example of the Colonial Revival-style post office architecture with a WPA-era agricultural-theme mural highlighting its intact lobby.

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Description (continued)

Hidden behind the Franklin County Courthouse is the **Franklin County Jail** (157-5002-0101), a rare example of a 1938 streamline Art Moderne Jail designed by the prominent Roanoke architectural firm Smithy & Boynton Associates. This large two-story building was constructed of terraced stuccoed concrete block walls with a towering smokestack on its southwest corner.

The Flemish-bond brick **Franklin County Library** (157-34) 157-5002-0102 was built in 1940 by an anonymous Virginia donor who established ten county libraries throughout rural Virginia from the late 1930s into the early 1940s. These libraries were constructed virtually the same in the Colonial Revival style either in a T or L plan. Decorative features on this T-shape library include slate shingles on the steep gable roof with five dormers, 9/9 sash windows, a modillion cornice, a water table, and a pedimented porch. This building currently serves as the county administration building.

The 1929 **Rocky Mount Municipal Building** (157-38) 157-5002-42 is a good example of two-story brick Municipal building with overhead garage door for two fire engine bays. The building's name is etched in cast stone in the stepped parapet capped with cast stone.

COMMERCE

Most of the extant buildings in Rocky Mount were built during this time period, peaking during the 1920s. Many early commercial buildings were lost to fire and development, however, most of their replacement buildings still function in their original capacity, especially along Franklin Street near its intersection with Route 40.

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Description (continued)

Conspicuously displayed at the corner of Franklin and Church streets, the 1928 cast-stone **Peoples National Bank** (157-13)(157-5002-168) is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture with Egyptian Revival details in its double bronze doors and door surround.

The strong commercial influence on Rocky Mount is displayed in several buildings along the southern part of Franklin Street. The 1928 **Rocky Mount Grocery & Milling Co. Inc** (now Image Transfer & Design) (157-42) (157-5002-0159) is a large, elongated warehouse (5-course American brick) with ten recessed bays. The **Franklin Grocery and Grain** (157-41) (157-5002-0017) is a large, two-story concrete block warehouse that was associated with another building of the **Rocky Mount Gro. & Milling Co. Inc** (157-5002-0159) with a larger section and silo.

Believed to be a rare International Harvester building which were designed by the famous Industrial Designer Raymond Lowey, the 1946 **International Harvester Dealership** (157-61) (157-5002-146), displays its characteristic corner setting with full glass windows and a tall rectangular stack for advertising its logo. A fixed canopy presently obscures the brick and plate glass square building. Now serving as the Lynch Farm Equipment, this building occupies a prominent corner at Routes 40 and 220.

The advent of the automobile was a harbinger of continued prosperity for Rocky Mount. Three early dealership buildings are still extant. Richard Rakes opened up one of the first auto dealership in Rocky Mount at the ca. 1916 **Rakes Building** 157-5002-0098 (157-98), when he bought the building in 1926 and began selling Chevrolets. This may also be the earliest building of it kind in Rocky Mount with its original metal clad plate glass windows and transoms, and a seven-part false parapet shielding a barrel vaulted roof.

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Description (continued)

The seven-bay front elevation dates to 1929 and strategically faces Floyd Avenue (Rt. 40) at its intersection with South Main Street (Rt. 220).

An **Automobile Dealership** (now the IDEA Center) 157-5002-0145 (157-63) is a very wide building with a five-course American bond brick pattern with a large stepped parapet located at the western entrance to town at Route 40. Its storefront has been altered by modern material. The **Central Garage** (now the Coffee Grinder) (157-49) 157-5002-165, is an important ca. 1920 auto dealership where Ryland Goode sold Dodges and Hudsons. This building has been modified with a faux-stone veneer and vinyl siding that obscures its original architectural character. The three large bays of the garage are still evident although they have been infilled with siding. The tall false front parapet still stands with a terra-cotta coping. A restaurant and other business's operate from this corner location at Franklin Street and Claiborne Avenue.

One of the most important and least recognized auto-related buildings in Rocky Mount is the **Esso Station** (157-5002-0158) on Franklin Street. Although its original identity was obscured in 1968 when the current owners modified it to serve as the Franklin Auto Glass, its basic shape is still apparent and it would be possible to restore the service station to its ca. 1928 appearance.

Two ca. 1940 auto garages include **Ben's Garage** (157-5002-0086), a standard one-story brick garage with one-bay and a plate glass storefront and **Renick, Tire and Alignment Service Inc.** (157-79) 157-5002-0097 with a seven-part parapet and a barrel vaulted roof. The Renick building appears to cover a 1920s two-story frame structure (possible car showroom) with narrow beaded tongue and groove siding. This three-bay garage is similar to the Rakes Building (157-5002-98).

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Description (continued)

A popular restaurant from ca. 1940, the **Little Hub Lunch** (Hub Restaurant) (157-5002-4) once had a “colored corner” with an outside window for pick-ups, a separate entrance and dining area in the rear that is now used for storage. Desegregation obligated the owner to close that dining area. The original frame and concrete block one-story structure has been incorporated into a modern façade with plate glass windows and false mansard roof addition. A typical non-contributing commercial building is **Cornerstone Survey** (157-5002-88), a ca. 1960 one-story brick veneer and cast-stone building with a large plate glass storefront facing Main Street.

INDUSTRY

The worker houses lining Hale and Scott streets represent industry. These houses are mostly small vernacular, one-story frame dwellings with steeply pitched hip roofs (some with dormers), porches, and some uncommon exterior end brick chimneys. All of them rest on solid foundations with small yards, and some with historic outbuildings. Some of the houses have been modified with modern material, but for the most part these houses and the streets in which they line look very much like they did when they housed workers and management from the Bald Knob Furniture Factory in the early twentieth-century.

The **Leftwich, J. P. House** (157-5002-74) on Scott Street was the home of the Vice-President of the Bald Knob Furniture Factory, and is one of few houses with multiple historic outbuildings. This house is larger than other worker’s house with a tall hip roof with extended eaves covered with standing-seam metal. Sited on sloping land, the front of the house rests on a raised brick basement. The three-bay porch has been modified and infilled; four round columns replaced the

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Description (continued)

four tapering columns on brick piers; the prominent entablature remains. Two historic frame garages, one frame workshop, and a modern carport are located to the side and behind the house.

“Home of Snow White Flour,” a significant industrial building that has produced dairy feed continuously since 1940 at Franklin and Hale streets is the 1940 **Exchange Milling** (157-14) (157-5002-1). This large gambrel roof (standing-seam metal), two-story, frame and concrete-block mill has a main concrete-block section and two-story wings and five silos.

Landscape Features

Rocky Mount is located in the Piedmont Plateau on gently sloping land near the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are no significant natural features located within the historic district, however, there are two man-made features: a municipal park and low stone retaining walls lining the residential streets. Bo Berger constructed these walls of local stone along the sloping neighborhoods of Rocky Mount under the auspices of the town. These colorful quartzite stone walls add an additional architectural character to the town

Donated by Nathaniel Angle for his wife, **Mary Elizabeth Park** was a ca. 1936-40 “WPA Swamp Reclamation Project.” This large urban grassy park is landscaped with mature ornamental trees (donated by the U.S. Forest Service and private citizens), and serves the community with its tennis courts, picnic shelter, and its natural beauty. Constructed in a low-lying area running between Randolph Street and Claiborne Avenue, this park eventually replaced a previous swamp.

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SITE INVENTORY

Properties in the inventory are organized by street and numerically by address. Entries list the name of property, the approximate date of construction, secondary resources and historical data if applicable, and their VDHR survey files number. Historic names are used when they could be substantiated. Virginia Department of Historic Resources site numbers for previously surveyed properties are included in parentheses at the end of each entry. The sites listed below are identified by their address on the attached Rocky Mount Historic District Map.

Abbreviations used in the inventory include:

CB = contributing building
NB = non-contributing building
CS = contributing site
CSt = contributing structure
NSt = non-contributing structure
CO = contributing object
ca. = circa

ANGLE STREET

135: **Baptist Church (Colored)/La Petite Salons.** ca. 1899 157-5002-0160 (157-43) **CB**
This historically important African-American vernacular church was recently modified for a modern business. This frame church had its weatherboard siding and bell tower covered with vinyl siding, its tall arched windows infilled with siding and 1/1 sash windows, its standing-seam metal roof replaced with asphalt shingles. Located at the corner of Franklin and High streets, a low stone retaining wall with steps frames the lot with deciduous trees.

EAST CHURCH STREET

15: **Trinity Episcopal Church.** ca. 1874 157-5002-0109 (157-5) **CB**
This church was originally built of frame construction and located where Main Street now runs. With the widening of Main Street the church was moved to its present location in 1906, extended in the rear, encased with quarried stone, and had its gable roof covered with slate shingles. A tall stone wall now aligns the property along N. Main Street. The oldest extant

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EAST CHURCH STREET (continued)

church in Rocky Mount, this building still retains its stained glass arched windows, its steeply pitched gable roof (now clad in copper metal sheathing), and its interior metal trusses. Designed by Louis Smithey of Smithey & Boynton, the 1950 parish hall and office are connected to the eastside church with a covered stone archway. Jubal A. Early was one of the first supporters of the church.

30: **Parsonage.** 1948 (Garage 1920s **CB**) 157-5002-0114 **CB**

In 1851, one of Rocky Mount's first churches, a log Methodist Church, was built on this site. In 1890, the brick Scott Memorial Church replaced it until 1925 when the current Methodist Church (157-5002-53) now on North Main Street replaced Scott Church. The current two-story, brick Colonial Revival house that now fills this site serves as the Rectors' House. A 1920s one-story brick, long rectangular garage/storage building with a metal shingle gable roof fronts Maple Street.

65: **Mount Pleasant.** 1829 (Kitchen ca. 1820 **CB**/Shed **NB**) 157-5002-0120 (157-2) **CB**

This imposing Federal-style house is one of the most important buildings in Rocky Mount. The house was damaged by fire in 1856 and had the roof and interior wood replaced. Located on the highest point in Rocky Mount, Mt. Pleasant overlooks the courthouse and the municipal area to the south. This classically proportioned two-story, three-bay residence with side wings features a Flemish bond brick pattern, narrow 4/4 sash windows, low hip roofs with extended eaves and standing-seam metal, exterior-end brick chimneys, and a one-story full-width front porch with square columns and a second-floor balustrade. Centered front doors with sidelight surrounds pierce both floors. Formal boxwood gardens surround the house and a boxwood lined brick sidewalk lead to the house. A ca. 1820 detached brick kitchen (one of two in Rocky Mount [157-5002-134]), located behind the house, features an exterior-end brick chimney, a molded cornice, and a three-bay front facade with a metal clad gable roof. This building most likely pre-dates its listing in the 1820 Rocky Mount Land Books (when they all begin) and may have served as a dwelling/law office. A shed serves the gardens along the slopes of the property.

WEST CHURCH STREET

40: **John Deere Dealership/Developmental Center of Franklin County.** ca. 1940
(Garage 1975 **NB**) 157-5002-0079 **CB**

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WEST CHURCH STREET (continued)

A modified but good example of a barrel vaulted commercial building with a false stepped front parapet. The window and door openings have been altered and the building was stuccoed when it was converted for new use for a non-profit agency. A large 1975 frame and metal workshop serves this agency from the back yard.

50: **Booth House.** ca. 1900. 157-5002-0080 **CB**

This large, extensive turn-of-the-century frame house (vinyl siding) has gone largely unnoticed in Rocky Mount. It is unusual in size and decoration with its basic I-house shape extensively added onto. Located east of Franklin Street it was probably owned by a prominent businessman. This two-story, L-shaped house features a wrap-around porch, centered gable, 6/6 sash windows, a raised gable front roof above the original roofline, and one-story side wings. Standing seam metal sheaths the gable roofs.

70: **Cottage.** ca. 1940s 157-5002-0082 **CB**

A one-story brick 1940s cottage-style house with a large extending gable-fronted centered porch and rear a basement built on parged concrete block. Standing-seam metal covers the steep gable roof.

85: **Rocky Mount Baptist Church.** 1979 157-5002-0067 **NB**

Large, brick church with three-bay portico and steeple fronting Church Street with a massive five-bay, two-story, gable-fronted brick wing paralleling the main structure connected by a hyphen. This church replaced the original historic church and parsonage.

90: **Baptist Parsonage.** ca. 1950. 157-5002-0081 **NB**

Standard two-story brick veneered house with 9/9 sash windows, gable roof, and door pediment.

111: **Foursquare House.** ca. 1920s 157-5002-0075 **CB**

A low stone retaining wall built by Bo Berger frames this brick foursquare residence. Brick columns support the full-width front porch, paired 3/1 sash windows light the interior, and pressed metal clads the hip roof. Mature maple trees shade this corner lot.

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WEST CHURCH STREET (continued)

- 114: **House.** ca. 1945. (Garage ca. 1945 **CB**) 157-5002-0083 **CB**
One-story brick house with steeply pitched gable roof and a large two-story, three-bay brick garage. Tudor-Revival melding into Colonial Revival.
- 140: **Dickinson House.** ca. 1945 157-5002-0084 **CB**
A long 1.5 story Colonial Revival style house with a recessed centered entryway resting on a poured concrete foundation. Paired 6/6 sash windows light the structure topped with a gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. A stone retaining wall lines W. Church Street.

CLAIBORNE AVENUE

- 40: **Tony Grice Insurance.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0064 **NB**
A narrow gable fronted, one-story brick office building.
- 65: **Belcher House.** ca. 1910-1920 157-5002-0040 **CB**
A great example of a one-story, frame Queen-Anne style house on a landscaped corner. The house features a centered gable over a full-width porch with Doric columns on a raised brick foundation, a full door surround with transom and sidelights, and pressed tin cladding the gable roofs.
- 85: **Goode House.** ca. 1920 (Garage 1950 **NB**) 157-5002-0041 **CB**
A large, two-story brick Foursquare house with an imposing wraparound porch supported by brick pillars overlooking Claiborne Avenue.
- 95: **Richards House.** ca. 1920-1925 157-5002-0042 **CB**
A strong example of a two-story, brick American Foursquare with a large porch and porte-cochere supported by large brick and wood piers, paired windows, and hip-roof dormers. Concrete steps lead up to the house from Claiborne Avenue.
- 100: **Bryant House.** ca. 1920 (Garage ca. 1920 **CB**) 157-5002-0055 **CB**
Good example of a simple 1.5-story Bungalow style house with an associated frame garage clad in vertical wood siding and double gable fronted wood doors.

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CLAIBORNE AVENUE (continued)

- 110: **Goode House.** ca. 1920 (Garage ca. 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0056 **CB**
A 1.5-story stuccoed Bungalow style house with an extended front porch and a 2-story rear elevation. A wide, frame open garage is used off the rear corner of the house.
- 115: **Davis House.** ca. 1920-1925 (Tenant House 1920 **CB**) 157-5002-0043 **CB**
A large modified frame American Foursquare house now enclosed with aluminum siding including the dormers and porch. An atypical two-story frame garage in the back of the property may have also served as a tenant's quarters.
- 120: **Gravelly House.** ca. 1930 157-5002-0057 **CB**
Strong example of a brick, 1.5-story Bungalow with an extended front porch and a stuccoed centered dormer.
- 130: **Foursquare House.** ca. 1920 (Garage ca. 1930 **CB**) 157-5002-0058 **CB**
Good example of a two-story, weatherboard clad American foursquare house with a 1930s frame garage in the rear yard.
- 133: **Morris House.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0044 **NB**
Walter Perdue built this two-story, brick Colonial-Revival style house.
- 145: **Davis House.** ca. 1959 157-5002-0045 **NB**
Two-story, late Colonial-Revival style brick house.
- 160: **Davis House.** ca. 1910 157-5002-0059 **CB**
Decorative late example of a two-story Queen Anne style house with multiple hip roofs, wrap-around front porch, and a 6-light transom and sidelight door surround. Landscaped parcel with a slate walkway overlooking Elizabeth Park.
- 175: **Shearer, John C. House.** ca. 1915 (Two Workshops ca. 1920 **CB**) 157-5002-0046 **CB**
Built by Nathaniel Angle, a generous landscaped parcel envelopes this large house overlooking both Claiborne Avenue and High Street. This two-style Colonial-Revival style house is accented by extended eaves, a portico entrance, low-pitched hip roof and

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CLAIBORNE AVENUE (continued)

side wings. Two vertical board covered workshop/sheds are hidden among boxwoods in the rear yard along High Street.

- 180: **Perdue House.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0060 **CB**
Intact example of a two-story brick American foursquare dwelling with divided transoms and paired 3/1 sash windows. This large house has been divided into three apartments.
- 185: **Angle House/The Claiborne House Bed and Breakfast.** ca. 1895 (Shed ca.1895 **CB**)
157-5002-0047 **CB**
Built by Nathaniel Angle, this is a good example in Rocky Mount of an ornate, two-story, ell-shaped Queen Anne style house resting on a raised brick foundation. Its generous intact historic material includes a 14-bay porch with turned posts, balustrade, spindlework, and brackets.
- 200: **Hunt House.** ca. 1910 157-5002-0061 **CB**
Large early-twentieth century Queen Anne style residence with tall hip roofs, 2/2 sash windows and a wrap-around front porch supported by Doric columns and balustrade. Narrow width weatherboard siding clads the 2-story house.
- 215: **Nathaniel Peter Angle House.** ca. 1893 157-5002-0048 **CB**
A good example of an intact two-story, T-shaped Queen Anne style house built by Nathaniel Angle with a 14-bay porch with turned posts, balustrades, and spindlework.
- 220: **Brick Foursquare.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0062 **CB**
Strong example of a two-story brick Foursquare house with 6/1 sash windows, extended eaves and a front porch supported by paired Doric columns and shaded by Maple trees.
- 235: **Angle House/Wolfe Clinic** ca.1915 (Two Servants Quarters1915 **CB**)157-5002-049 **CB**
The home of Nathaniel Angle, this is the largest twentieth-century home representing Rocky Mount's most prodigious businessman. This two-story, brick Colonial-Revival style house is accented with an extended bracketed hip roof with dormers, 6/6 sash windows, brick quoins, a curved one-story portico, and semi-circular driveway.

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E. COLLEGE STREET

- 20: **U.S. Post Office.** 1936 157-5002-0153 (157-32) **CB**
A massive mature oak tree shades this important building in Rocky Mount. The WPA sponsored this one-story, five-bay Colonial Revival style post office as it did others during the 1930s with its centered arched opening and 6/6 triple sash windows with stone lintels. The 5-course American bond brick building is topped with a slate shingled gable roof; a molded cornice accents the eave. Louis A Simon was the architect, and WPA murals decorate the interior. A rear addition and loading dock was added 1965.

EAST COURT STREET

- 5: **Price-Perdue Building.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0103 (157-33) **CB**
A three-story, five-bay, five-course American bond brick office building with a decorative cornice band. Plate glass has replaced all the original sash windows. The original sidewalk is visible below the current road and sidewalk re-grading.
- 15: **Gilbreath, Dennis Office.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0128 **NB**
A one-story brick, neo-Colonial Revival-style law office.
- 25: **Nix, Patrick Thomas Law Office.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0127 **NB**
A one-story brick, neo-Colonial Revival-style law office.
- 35: **Davis, Davis, Davis & Rice Law Office.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0126 **NB**
A one-story brick, neo-Colonial Revival-style law office.
- 40: **Franklin County Library/Administration Building.** 1940 157-5002-0102 (157-34) **CB**
This Flemish-bond brick building was built in the Colonial Revival style as one of ten county libraries that were anonymously donated and currently serves as the county administration building. Designed by Herbert Claiborne, decorative features include a steeply pitched gable roof slate and five gabled dormers, 9/9 sash windows, a modillion cornice, a water table, and a pedimented front porch.

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EAST COURT STREET (continued)

- 65: **Menefee, Moten House**/Franklin CO. Heritage Assoc. ca.1920 157-5002-0124 **CB**
Good example of a 1920s Bungalow style house near the courthouse. The 1.5-story brick house has a gable roof sheathed with standing seam metal with a wide shed roof dormer consisting of three sets of paired 1/1 sash windows. A full-width front porch with Doric columns on raised brick piers shades the house.
- 70: **Franklin County Office Building**/Virgil Goode Building 1967 157-5002-0185 **NB**
A two-story, brick and cast-stone office building on a raised brick basement.
- 70: **Franklin County Jail.** 1938 157-5002-0101 **CB**
Hidden behind the Franklin County Courthouse is a good and rare example of a 1938 Art Moderne Jailhouse that was designed by the prominent architectural firm Smithy & Boynton Associates. This large two-story building was constructed of thick stuccoed concrete block walls that are terraced in three heights. A smokestack towers over the southwest corner of the building. A two-story wing was added ca. 1960s. Some of the jail cells are currently undergoing restoration.
- 75: **Bungalow**/Family Resource Center. ca. 1920 157-5002-0169 **CB**
Obscured behind fir trees is a 1.5 story brick Bungalow house on a raised foundation with 1/1-sash windows and a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles with a one-story wood porch.
- 90: **Montgomery House**/VA Cooperative Extension. ca. 1920 157-5002-2-0184 **CB**
A strong example of an American Foursquare with narrow weatherboards, paired 6/1 windows, a front entrance porch with triple tapering square posts, and standing seam metal hip roof with an extended and molded cornice. Resting on a 5-course brick bond foundation on sloping land, the rear of the house overlooks the southern end of Rocky Mount. Franklin County currently houses Virginia Tech's Cooperative Extension.
- 95: **Beale House.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0170 **CB**
A large frame rare American Foursquare/Shingle Style house with a double wrap-around porch and hip-roof dormers on all four sides of the main hip roof perches on a sloped residential yard. Denoting the northeastern coast, white painted wood shingles clad this

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house and porch railing resting on a raised brick foundation. Tapered wood columns support the porch roof and 9/9 sash windows light the house. A sleeping porch over the rear of the side porch adds to the character of this house.

- 115: **Gothic Revival House** ca. 1920 (Storage ca.1960 **NB**) 157-5002-171 **CB**
This rare Gothic-Revival/Queen-Anne style house in Rocky Mount has been modified for an office. The twin peak frame residence and full-width front porch has been covered with vinyl siding and its steeply pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The floor-to-ceiling double-leaf wood windows remain. Vinyl 6/6 sash windows have replaced the original windows. A concrete block building is located out back.
- 120: **Franklin County Library.** ca. 1980 157-5002-0183 **NB**
A wide and long one-story brick veneer building with a low gable roof.
- 139: **Piedmont Community Services.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0172 **NB**
This long two-story, brick office building replaced a large historic house.
- 142: **Queen Anne House.** ca. 1890 (Garage 1920/ Shed ca. 1920 **CB**) 157-5002-0182 **CB**
A strong example of a frame (vinyl siding) Queen Anne residence with intersecting gables including a two-story bay-wing with wrap-around porch with a second-story porch, 1/1 sash windows and floor-to-ceiling windows, and a metal shingle roof. The glazed front door has a transom and sidelight surround. A 1920s frame garage and shed are located to the side of the corner property facing Orchard Street.
- 155: **Episcopal Rectory/Barber Shop.** ca. 1890 157-5002-0173 **CB**
This house was relocated to this present site and may have been built ca. 1874 at the same time as the Episcopal Church on E. Court Street. It is a rare vernacular form in Rocky Mount with a 4-course exterior-end brick chimney and a fieldstone foundation. This important building is a small two-bay, one-story with loft frame residence clad in weatherboard siding with a steep gable roof (asphalt shingles). The centered gable with a 6/6-sash window and wrap-around porch with turned and bracketed posts and balustrade are probably 1890s additions.

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- 175: **House.** ca. 1900 157-5002-0174 **CB**
A large, 2.5 story frame (vinyl siding) and hip-roof Foursquare house overlooking E. Court Street with paired 9/1 sash windows and a full-width three-bay front porch with heavy square columns on a raised foundation.
- 195: **Bungalow.** ca. 1925 (Garage 1970s **NB**) 157-5002-0175 **CB**
A 1.5 story brick Bungalow house with an extended gable roof (asphalt shingles) over the front porch with paired 3/1 sash windows. A frame 1960s garage is in the rear.
- 205: **Bungalow.** ca. 1930 (Garage 1930s **CB**) 157-5002-0176 **CB**
A two-story, gable-fronted (jerkin head), frame (aluminum siding) house with a one-story front porch with brick piers set back from the street with a low stone retaining wall and steps. A 1930s frame garage with a steep gable roof is located in the rear of the property.
- 210: **I-House.** ca. 1900 (Garage 1930s **CB**) 157-5002-0180 **CB**
A strong example of a frame (asbestos shingles) I-house with a small centered gable, narrow 2/2 sash windows, twin centered chimneys, an entrance porch, a one-story rear wing, and a coursed stone foundation. More representative of Virginia's Eastern Shore than of Rocky Mount. A 1930s frame garage is located at the end of the driveway.
- 212: **Foursquare House.** ca. 1925 157-5002-0179 **CB**
A good example of a 2.5-story frame (weatherboard) American Foursquare house with a two-bay front porch with tapering wood columns on brick piers and 4/1 sash windows.
- 245: **Bungalow.** ca. 1920 (Garage 1960s **NB**) 157-5002-0177 **CB**
A small, one-story frame vernacular worker's cottage with a steep hip roof clad in standing seam metal. A modern frame garage fills the back yard behind shade trees.
- 265: **Bungalow.** ca. 1920 (Garage 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0178 **CB**
A small, one-story frame (vinyl siding) vernacular worker's cottage with a steep hip roof (asphalt shingles). A tall frame garage sits off the rear corner next to an open lot.

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WEST COURT STREET

- 85: **Franklin County Rescue Squad.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0131 NB
A long, rectangular brick building with a gable roof alongside a parking lot.

FLOYD AVENUE

- 25: **Rocky Mount Municipal Building.** 1929 (Garage 1960 NB) 157-5002-42 (157-38) CB
Two-story brick Municipal building with overhead garage door for two fire engine bays. The paired 6/6 sash windows have been replaced with fixed light windows. The building's name is etched in cast stone in the stepped parapet capped with cast stone.
- 50: **The Grove.** 1854 (Law Office 1860 CB, Slave Quarter CB, Kitchen CB, Smokehouse CB, Two frame Sheds CB, Pool House NB, Pool NSt, Tennis Court NSt, Car Port NSt.) 157-5002-0134 (157-5002-02) CB
This imposing ca.1854 Greek Revival-style Flemish-bond brick residence was built among several wooded acres along the junction of Floyd Avenue and Route 40. The two-story, three-bay residence was built for Peter Saunder's daughter Margaret when she married John S. Hale in 1850, and later became the residence of Judge Edward Saunders. The large two-story ell-shaped house consists of a three-bay front elevation and a five-bay side elevation. A wide extended eave accents the low hip roof and shoulder molding decorates the large 6/6 sash windows. The largest and most substantial array of historic outbuildings in Rocky Mount include a working frame law office (1860), associated brick smokehouse and slave quarters, two frame storage buildings, and a brick kitchen which was later attached to the houses' rear wing.
- 95: **House.** ca. 1930 (Garage ca. 1940 CB) 157-5002-0133 CB
A two-story, three-bay brick house with a one-story brick garage.
- 125: **House.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0132 NB
A Tudor-Revival style brick house with a steep intersecting gable roof used as an office.

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175: **Rocky Mount Presbyterian Church.** 1877 (157-7) (Office ca. 1960 NB, Bell CO)
157-5002-0129 **CB**

A good example of a Gothic Revival-style church in Rocky Mount, this brick church reopened after Rocky Mount's 1889 fire. Today it stands alone at the district's southern boundary. Most of its major features remain intact save for the bell tower and some of the stained glass windows. A modern brick office is behind the church and its original bell hangs out front.

FRANKLIN STREET

Car Wash. ca. 1970 157-5002-0006 **NB**

A modern car wash with four open concrete block bays.

55: **N&W Passenger & Freight Station.** ca. 1907 157-5002-0002 (157-39) **CB**

This significant structure is a typical but rare depot that is currently being remodeled for the Rocky Mount Welcome Center. The elongated one-story frame building has recently received a new pre-cast metal clad roof, and the narrow weatherboard is being restored and some windows replaced.

110: **W.D. Davis Sheet Metal Works/Car Care Center.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0012 **CB**

Large, two-story, concrete-block commercial structure modified with modern material.

115: **Frank's Café.** ca. 1980 157-5002-0007 **NB**

A modern one-story, concrete-block restaurant with a mansard roof.

120: **James. N. Montgomery Warehouse/Magic Mirror.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0013 **CB**

This large two-story frame warehouse was built with hewn post and beam construction, which is still exposed on the second floor. Although altered by modern material its architectural significance is still evident in its massing and shape. Once owned by Glen Boone, an Old Order Brethren, the building is situated near the entrance to the former Bald Knob Furniture Factory. James N. Montgomery was the president of Bald Knob from 1936 until 1957 when it became the Lane Furniture Company (now MW Manufacturing Company).

125: **House.** 1948 157-5002-0008 **CB**

A simple, Colonial Revival-style one-story frame house in the commercial area.

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- 135: **House.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0009 **CB**
A small gable-front one-story frame house in the commercial area.
- 140: **Anderson Service Station.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0014 **NB**
A modern brick veneer commercial building that once served as an Amoco Gas Station.
- 143: **Virginia Shoe and Lock.** ca. 1945 157-5002-0010 (157-44) **CB**
A narrow, two-story, concrete block commercial building with a brick façade.
- 149: **Franklin Music.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0011 (157-45) **CB**
A simple, one-story, concrete block commercial building with a brick façade with two identical storefronts and centered recessed doors.
- 160: **Maddax Grocery Store/Allstate Insurance.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0015 (157-46) **CB**
A long street fronted commercial store which once served as a popular grocery store where the African-American Horace Hicks delivered groceries. This one-story brick veneered building has large glass openings and a decorative parapet.
- 190: **Sealtest Dairy Processing Plant/Arrington Flowers.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0016 **CB**
Although modified by modern material, the original scale, massing, roofline and parapet of this one-story concrete-block building is still visible. A 6/6-sash window and a glass block wall are still visible on the south side where the milk deliveries were made.
- 200: **Franklin Grocery and Grain.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0017 (157-41) **CB**
This large, two-story concrete block warehouse was once associated with Rocky Mount Grocery & Milling Co. Inc (157-5002-0159) with a southern section and silo now razed.
- 240: **Rocky Mount Grocery & Milling Co. Inc/Image Transfer & Design.** ca. 1928
157-5002-0159 (157-42) **CB**
This large, elongated commercial building (5-course American bond) has ten recessed bays facing Franklin Street with abandoned tracks in the rear. Plate glass storefront and 6/6 sash windows light this once functioning warehouse. (1928 Sanborn Map).

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FRANKLIN STREET (continued)

- 261: **Commercial Building**/Chamber of Commerce. ca. 1930 157-5002-0161 (157-47) **CB**
A well intact two-story brick commercial building consisting of two plate glass storefronts, 1/1-sash windows and a stepped side parapet capped with terra-cotta coping.
- 270: **Esso Service Station**/Franklin Auto Glass. ca. 1928/1968 157-5002-0158 **NB**
Modern material encapsulates an original Esso service station underneath its faux-stone veneer, one-bay northern extension, and false mansard roof. The removal of this 1968 material could reveal the historic station. The Esso is depicted in a ca. 1930 photograph of Franklin Street displayed at the Chamber Commerce. (See IPS) (1928 Sanborn Map).
- 275: **J & J Fashions**. ca. 1980 157-5002-0162 **NB**
A large two-story brick veneer commercial building with a plate glass window storefront.
- 285: **Army Surplus Store**. ca. 1945 157-5002-0163 **CB**
A small, yet deep one-story brick store with two separate storefronts of plate glass.
- 295: **Coca-Cola Bottling Co.**/Walter Hynes & Sons Electrical. ca. 1928 157-5002-0164 **CB**
The 1928 Sanborn Map depicts a Coca-Cola Bottling Co. building in this location which matches the current linear one-story frame, gable-fronted structure (1928 Sanborn Map).
- 305-
- 315: **Central Garage**/Coffee Grinder. ca.1920 157-5002-165 (157-49) **CB**
This important and popular building originally opened as an auto dealership and has been modified with a faux-stone veneer and vinyl siding that obscures its architectural character. The three large bays of the garage are still evident although they have been infilled as well. The tall false front parapet still stands with a terra-cotta coping. The first and second floors were sensitively converted into businesses with the interior relatively intact. (1928 Sanborn Map).
- 325 **Schewels Outlet**. ca. 1950 157-5002-0065 **NB**
Large brick commercial warehouse/storage building for the furniture company.

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FRANKLIN STREET (continued)

- 325: **Peak & Angle/** Schewel Furniture Co. ca. 1928 157-5002-0166 (157-5) **CB**
A rare three-story building in downtown Rocky Mount built of 5-course American bond brick and 16-light casement windows with a projecting cornice line. The aluminum vertical paneling on the upper front elevation is peeling off and should be removed. The first-floor storefront is cast-stone and modern plate glass. (1928 Sanborn Map)
- 330: **Angle Hardware.** ca. 1930 157-5002-0157 (157-50) **CB**
A large continuation of commercial stores built of a 5-course American bond brick over concrete block with fixed glass windows with metal frames, double door entrances and a fixed awning. The window transoms have been covered with metal rib siding.
- 335-
363: **“The Angle Block.”** ca. 1930 157-5002-0167 (157-52) **CB**
A series of three commercial buildings serving as a drugstore, department store, and a jewelry store. The tall, two-story, 6-course American bond brick building is lighted with multi-light casement windows; the transoms have been infilled. A thick modillioned cornice and a parapet capped with terra-cotta coping runs the length of the buildings.
- 346-
350: **The Haywood Building.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0156 (157-53) **CB**
A large two-story, stretcher-bond brick commercial building with 16-light metal casement windows on the second floor and a modern glazed storefront with an awning.
- 369: **The People’s National Bank.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0168 (157-13) **CB**
Conspicuously displayed at the corner of Franklin and Church streets, this well-known 1928 cast-stone bank is an excellent example of Art Deco architecture with Egyptian Revival details in its door surround framing double bronze doors. Its windows have been either modified with modern glass or infilled with brick.
- 369: **First Virginia Bank .** ca. 1980 157-5002-0066 **NB**
A one-story, three-bay, brick drive-thru bank located one block behind Franklin Street on Angle Street.
- 373: (Former) **Angle Hardware Building.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0151 (157-54) **CB**
A large, 6-course brick bond , two-story commercial building with an almost full-width first-story plate glass storefront and a seven-bay second-floor with 1/1 sash windows.

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- 377: **W.N. Angle Building.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0152 (157-55) **NB**
A small one-story brick and glass addition to Angle Hardware (157-5002-151).
- 380: **Service Station.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0155 **NB**
A recently vacated brick service station with four glazed overhead garage doors. The main section displays classic 1960s lines with a low gable roof and extended canopy.
- 390: **W.C. Brown Insurance Services.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0154 (157-56) **CB**
Two adjacent rectangular commercial buildings built of a 6-course brick bond with cast-stone coping. The west side building is lighted with 1/1-sash windows while the east side building has its original multi-light fixed metal windows.
- 400: **First National Bank of Rocky Mount.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0150 (157-31) **NB**
Commercial two-story 6-course brick bond bank with a metal grill second-story façade.
- 435: **Citizen's Square/ Farmer's Market.** 1998 157-5002-0149 **NSt**
A new, well-designed open-air market built with frame and a metal clad gable roof.
- 450: **International Harvester/ Lynch Farm Equipment.** 1946 157-5002-0146 (157-61) **CB**
Believed to be an early International Harvester building designed by the internationally known Industrial designer Raymond Lowey. The tall rectangular stack that once displayed its logo is a characteristic of this now rare building style. This building occupies a prominent corner at Routes 40 and 220. A fixed canopy obscures the characteristic brick and plate glass square building.
- 455: **Cox's Fashion.** ca. 1980 157-5002-0148 **NB**
A large gable-fronted brick/concrete block commercial store.
- 459: **Hairston's Car Wash.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0147 **NB**
A one-story, two-bay, concrete-block garage.
- 461: **Apartments.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0139 **NB**
Two-story, brick/concrete block commercial building with altered 1/1-sash windows.

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465: **Reynolds's Restaurant/Blue Ridge Baskets.** ca. 1890 157-5002-0144 (157-60) **CB**
This historically important building functioned as a restaurant with apartments at the entrance to town at Routes 40 and 220. The two-story frame (comp-wood siding) with its original storefront and 2/2 sash windows is worthy of future preservation. Its second story porch (the only one in Rocky Mount) has been enclosed with siding.

(307): **Automobile Dealership/garage/ IDEA Center** ca. 1920s 157-5002-0145 (157-63) **CB**
This is a very wide building with a five-course American bond brick pattern with a large stepped parapet located at the western entrance to town at Route 40. Its storefront has been altered by modern material.

467: **Coca-Cola Bottlers/B&W Auto Supply** ca. 1920 157-5002-0043 (157-62) **CB**
A two-story, 6-course American bond brick building set into a small slope at the corner of Franklin and Floyd with a stepped parapet and one-story wing addition. The openings have been altered with modern fixed plate glazing. This building should be restored.

HALE STREET

5: **House.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0020 **NB**
A modern one-story brick ranch.

15: **McCall House.** ca. 1907 157-5002-0021 **CB**
A good example of a simple Queen-Anne style, cross-gable house with decorative cut-sawn brackets and return eaves. Most likely the earliest houses associated with the Bald Knob Furniture Factory and the most decorative of the other houses lining Hale Street that were built by N. P. Angle. Aluminum siding covers the house and standing-seam metal clad the gable roofs with gable returns.

35: **Diver's House.** ca. 1920 (Shed ca. 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0022 **CB**
A good example of a one-story, hip roof, vernacular Queen Anne worker's cottage built by N. P. Angle. Aluminum siding covers the house and asphalt shingles clad the roof.

45: **Benjamin Arrington House.** ca. 1930 157-5002-0023 (Garage ca. 1940 **CB**; Garage ca. 1960 **NB**). **CB** A good example of a ca. 1920 vernacular worker's cottage in the

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Bungalow style with a standing-seam metal clad hip roof and dormer. Built by Nat Angle overlooking the Bald Knob Furniture Factory. Aluminum siding covers the house and paired 3/1 sash windows light it.

- 95: **Exchange Milling.** 1940 (Garage ca. 1960 NB) 157-5002-0001 (157-14) **CB**
"Home of Snow White Flour" exclaimed the advertisement on the front corner of the mill 40 years ago. This two-story, frame and concrete-block mill has two-story wings and five silos. A large gambrel roof sheathed with standing-seam metal tops the main structure. This significant structure has produced dairy feed continuously since 1940. A 1960 concrete-block/brick garage is located behind the property.
- 100: **Bethel A.M.C. Church.** 1913 157-5002-0005 **CB**
This church is hidden behind the Little Hub Restaurant and is the only remaining church in Rocky Mount serving the African American community. This vernacular church is a good example with its intact weatherboard siding, standing-seam metal gable roof, and its original interior. It stands adjacent to the High Street Cemetery (157-5002-0027).

HIGH STREET

High Street Cemetery. 157-5002-0027 **CS**

A large cemetery along the ridge of High Street; contains between 300-500 markers; most are polished granite headstones from 1885 up to the present with a concentration of 1940s. Some of the families included are: Poindexter, Deyerle, Lee, Arrington, English, Holt, Perdue, and Kent. The site overlooks the northern industrial area of Rocky Mount and is shaded by large specimen trees.

- 35: **Skinwell House.** ca. 1936 (Garage ca. 1940 CB) 157-5002-0018 **CB**
Small, brick veneered Colonial-Revival style house with a touch of Tudor Revival.
- 40: **McGee House.** ca. 1915 (Shed ca. 1928 CB) 157-5002-0037 **CB**
A good intact example of an early twentieth-century, two-story, three-bay weatherboard

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sided frame house with a hip roof, exterior-end brick chimneys, paired windows, and an entrance porch. A large frame garage/shed is located at the rear of the large landscaped urban lot.

- 50: **Turner, Robert House.** ca. 1910 157-5002-0036 **CB**
This squarish, one-story, frame vernacular worker's cottage was probably associated with the Bald Knob Furniture Company.
- 55: **Stanley House.** ca. 1920 (Garage ca. 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0019 **CB**
A simple, one-story, frame Bungalow-style house with a metal clad hip roof
- 60: **Ayers, Samuel House.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0035 **CB**
A one-story Bungalow style worker's house with a tall hip roof.
- 90: **Ramsey House.** ca. 1910 (Two Sheds ca. 1920 **CB**) 157-5002-0034 **CB**
A good example of an ell-shaped Queen Anne style house on a large urban corner lot reflecting early twentieth-century Rocky Mount. This two-story frame house rests on a limestone foundation and paired 2/2 sash windows and a wrap-around porch decorate this house. Asbestos shingles clad the house. Two frame sheds on a coursed limestone foundation are located at the end of the driveway; board and batten siding covers one and aluminum siding covers the other; both have shed roofs.
- 95: **Law, Annie House.** ca. 1928 157-5002-0024 **CB**
Good example of a vernacular Queen Anne style worker's house probably associated with the Bald Knob Furniture Factory to the north. A one-story, square house clad with vinyl siding and topped with a metal clad hip roof.
- 100: **Hall House.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0033 **NB**
A one-story frame modern style house clad in vinyl siding.
- 113/
115: **House.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0025 **NB**
A ranch style brick veneered duplex along High Street.

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- 120: **Turner House.** ca. 1950 (Garage ca. 1950 **NB**) 157-5002-0032 **NB**
A simple, one-story, frame 1950s house.
- 137: **Bungalow.** ca. 1945 157-5002-0026 **CB**
A good example of a one-story, brick Bungalow style building with an extended porch.
- 138: **Brick House.** ca. 1945 157-5002-0031 **CB**
Good example of a one-story, brick Tudor-Revival style house.
- 285: **Angle Summer House.** ca. 1930 (Garage ca. 1930 **CB**, Two sheds ca. 1930 **CB**) 157-5002-0028 **CB**
A local contractor built this as a "summer house" to the main Angle House. The low, one-story brick house is situated between the High Street Cemetery (152-5002-27) and a sharp curve along Main Street. This atypical Bungalow-style house is punctuated with tall narrow windows, decorative brickwork, and a hip roof reflecting a Prairie-style influence.
- 150: **Kelsey House.** ca. 1935 157-5002-0030 **CB**
A simple, one-story, frame Colonial Revival style house with aluminum siding.
- 170: **Lustron House/ Davis House.** ca. 1949 157-5002-0029 **CB**
This unique house was manufactured by the Lustron Company, which specialized in metal construction. Built with metal panels, nearly every material within this building is metal, even the metal roof panels imitate terra cotta roof tiles. This modular house reflects the diner and trailer era with manufactured buildings (two sides) assembled on site. Lufstrum produced 2500 of these buildings between 1947 and 1952, fifty are located in Virginia, with the majority being located at the Quantico Marine Base.

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NORTH MAIN STREET

- 5: **Foursquare House**/Meeks, Player and Associates PC. ca. 1900 157-5002-0054 **CB**
Although modified, this building exhibits many early twentieth-century features such as wide sidelights and transom, three-light dormers, triple windows, and a sleeping porch.
- 30: **Thurman House.** ca. 1980 157-5002-0052 **NB**
A typical modern 1.5 story, five-bay brick Colonial-Revival style house.
- 35: **Rocky Mount Methodist Church.** 1926 (Garage 1920s **CB**) 157-5002-0053 **CB**
Good example of a brick, Tudor-Revival style church with projecting bell tower, arched windows, turrets, and buttresses. (see Rectory House 157-5002-0114).
- 70: **Dr. Williams House**/Barnett and Quioco Surgical Clinic. ca. 1900 157-5002-0051 **CB**
Built for the residence of Dr. Williams, this large, two-story frame Queen Anne house is accented with a projecting centered gable decorated with vergeboards. This house is set back from N. Main Street on what was once larger acreage.
- 65: **Bank of Ferrum.** ca. 1988 157-5002-0050 **NB**
A modern, one-story brick bank that replaced one of the largest and most significant houses in Rocky Mount at the intersection of N. Main Street and Claiborne Avenue.
- 245: **Little Hub Lunch**/Hub Restaurant. ca. 1940 (Shed ca. 1960 **NB**) 157-5002-0004 **CB**
This popular restaurant had a "colored corner" with an outside window for pick-ups, a separate entrance and dining area in the rear that is now used for storage. Segregation forced the owner to close that dining area—which neither race wanted. The original frame and concrete block one-story structure has been incorporated into a modern façade with plate glass windows and false mansard roof addition.
- 255: **Tuttle's Exxon.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0003 **NB**
A typically built modern brick veneer gas station that replaced a pre-1928 service station at the northern entrance to town at the busy intersection of N. Main and Franklin streets.

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SOUTH MAIN STREET

- 70: **I. A. Roth and Associates/Boone Building.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0076 **NB**
A low one-story office building on a steep slope that creates a rear two-story elevation.
- 90: **McGhee House.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0077 **CB**
An early twentieth-century foursquare house with later 1950s modifications. This two-story brick house has paired 1/1-sash windows, an extended eave and a tall hip roof clad with pressed metal. A large one-story side wing and semi-circular driveway were added.
- 120: **Rocky Mount Christian Church.** 1960 157-5002-0078 **NB**
A large gable-fronted brick church with a side wing, tall roof, and steeple.
- 165: **Amoco Gas Station.** ca. 1960s 157-5002-0108 **NB**
Typical brick/concrete block 1960s gas station on a corner that replaced an earlier house.
- 180: **Circle Lunch and Pool Hall.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0085 **CB**
This small gable-fronted weatherboard clad structure once served as the local pool hall along Main Street. Asphalt shingles clad the steep roof. The adjacent Ben's Garage (157-5002-0086) now connects to this building.
- 185: **Hall, Mary House.** ca. 1940 (Shed ca 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0107 **CB**
A good example of an American Foursquare with a tall hip roof (asphalt shingles), extended eaves, paired 1/1 sash windows, and a full-width front porch supported by brick columns. A stone retaining wall frames the front yard and a stone garden wall lines the driveway leading to a weatherboard clad shed with a pyramidal hip roof. This is the only remaining single dwelling in the UpTown area.
- 190: **Ben's Garage.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0086 **CB**
A standard one-story, one-bay, brick garage with a plate glass storefront. A two-bay north brick section was added soon after the initial construction; then a small three-bay brick section was built between this section and the adjacent frame Circle Lunch building.
- 195: **Meadow Spring Land and Realty Company.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0106 **NB**
Typical 1960s, one-story brick realty office building surrounded by an asphalt driveway.

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Rocky Mount Historic District (157-5002)
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SOUTH MAIN STREET (continued)

- 230: **Blue Ridge Medical Center.** ca. 1953 157-5002-0087 **NB**
A standard 1950s one-story brick commercial store with plate glass windows.
- 235: **Taliaferro Building**/Virgil H. Goode Law Office. 1827 157-5002-0105 (157-30) **CB**
This appears to be the oldest building in Rocky Mount and one of its most significant. This short two-story, commercial building built in a 5-course American bond brick pattern that served as a store with a residence. Richard Taliaferro, Rocky Mount's first permanent physician, owned this building. Extensive fenestration pierces the building, especially the front elevation consisting of 6/2 sash windows and 3/1 glazed doors with 2/1 sidelights. The arched front parapet appears to have been altered from a more standard stepped parapet. Standing-seam metal covers the gable roof. A rear brick addition and side porch appear to date to the 1890s with a small ca. 1950 corner addition.
- 245: **Raine and Perdue Law Office.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0104 (157-65) **NB**
A two-story, three-bay brick office building with over-sized fixed windows on the first floor, wide second-story 9/9 sash windows, and a Colonial-Revival door surround.
- 250: **Cornerstone Survey.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0088 **NB**
A one-story brick commercial store with a cast concrete, and plate glass storefront.
- 260: **Crestar Bank.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0089 (157-64) (outbuilding **NB**) **NB**
A two-story brick, cast-concrete and polished granite paneled office building with a 24-hour money machine in the parking lot behind the building.
- 270: **The Commonwealth Building.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0090 (157-68) **NB**
A two-story, four-bay brick office building lighted with 6/9-sash windows.
- 275: **Franklin County Court House.** 1909 (statue **CO**) 157-5002-0100 (157-~~100~~)⁰¹ **CB**
Facing South Main Street at Court Street this imposing courthouse was designed by Roanoke architect H.H. Huggins to replaced the 1831 brick courthouse facing Court St. A two-story pedimented portico dominates the massive two-story brick structure that was painted white. A Confederate War statue overlooks the front courtyard.

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SOUTH MAIN STREET (continued)

- 280 **Sprint/Centel.** Ca. 1970 157-5002-0092 (157-69) **NB**
A tall, narrow two-story brick and cast-stone phone office with one door opening and a 100-20 ft. metal frame communications tower above the top of the building.
- 280-B **Brick Building.** ca. 1948 157-5002-0091 **CB**
A narrow two-story brick office building attached to the Centel Building (157-5002-92).
- 290: **N. Morris Department Store/Bryd Balm Company.** ca. 1912 157-5002-0093 **CB**
This is a distinctive three-story, 9000 square foot department store that was recently sold at auction. Constructed of five-course American bond brick, decorative features include a white brick and plate glass storefront with a recessed double door opening, paired 2/2 sash windows, brick pilasters with capitols, and a heavy modillioned cornice.
- 300: **English's.** ca. 1970s 157-5002-0094 (157-73) **NB**
A one-story neo-Tudor Revival style parged concrete block with false half timbering.
- 285/
305: **Court Café and Deli/ Hutcherson and Rhodes Attys.** ca. 1930s 157-5002-0099 **CB**
A tall two-story, five-course American bond brick office building that was altered with modern storefronts and windows. The Franklin County Courthouse (157-5002-100) is to the north. An adjacent south side building has been razed.
- 310: **The Franklin News Post.** ca. 1970 157-5002-0095 **NB**
A solid brick one-story office building with one center door opening.
- 320: **First Virginia Bank.** ca. 1930/1970s 157-5002-0096 (157-77) **NB**
Located at the major intersection of S. Main Street and Floyd Avenue, this ca. 1930s bank building underwent changes in the 1970s which have obscured its historic integrity and significance and overall shape. A wood shingled mansard roof dominates the structure but has also left openings for the original second floor windows. The removal of this modern material and roof could restore its architectural significance and integrity.
- 335: **Rakes Building.** ca. 1916 and 1926 157-5002-0098 (157-98) **CB**
This appears to be the earliest auto dealership in Rocky Mount. Built in 1916, the

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SOUTH MAIN STREET (continued)

building and seven-bay front façade were altered in 1926 after a fire had gutted the interior. This may also be the earliest building of its kind in Rocky Mount with its original metal clad plate glass windows with transoms, and a seven-part false parapet shielding a barrel vaulted roof. This auto dealership was strategically placed facing Floyd Avenue at South Main Street. The owners are currently applying for state and federal rehabilitation tax-credits.

- 345: **Renick, Tire and Alignment Service Inc.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0097 (157-79) **CB**
A good example of an early 1940s brick garage with a seven-part parapet and a barrel vaulted roof. It appears to cover a 1920s two-story frame structure (possible car showroom) with narrow beaded tongue and groove siding. This three-bay garage is similar in appearance to its next door neighbor, The Rakes Building (157-5002-98).

MAPLE AVENUE

- 95: **Naff Office Building/Residence.** ca.1960s 157-5002-0125 **NB**
A one-story, brick office (previous residence) with a flat roof and large fixed windows.
- 110: **Greer Office Building.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0123 **NB**
One-story, modern brick office building with extended gable roof and large windows.
- 120: **Duplex.** ca. 1960 157-5002-0122 **NB**
One-story frame (aluminum siding) gable-fronted duplex building.
- 140: **Woods-Meade House/Greer House (NRHP 157-03 1982).** ca.1830 157-5002-0121 **CB**
This landmark is one of the two earliest single dwellings in Rocky Mount, the other being Mount Pleasant (157-5002-0020), one block to the north. The same brick mason may have built both houses, and he may have also worked at Poplar Forest (Anne Carter Lee, 1998). This small one-story, vernacular brick cottage-style house rests on a raised basement and is sheltered by a three-bay front porch supported by Doric brick columns.
- 185: **Episcopal Rectory.** ca. 1920 157-5002-113 **CB**
An imposing two-story, three-bay, brick residence with a dominating hip roof sheathed with metal shingles. One-story wings were later added with standing seam metal roof, a hip roof

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MAPLE AVENUE (continued)

dormer, and large multi-pane windows with later bay windows and Colonial-Revival style door pediment and surround accent the front elevation.

195: **Hutchinson House/Carilion Family Practice.** 1920 157-5002-0112 **CB**

This large two-story, five-bay Queen-Anne style house resting on a brick foundation was designed for N. B. Hutchinson by architect George R. Ragan; and modified in the 1970s for a doctor's office. Aluminum siding covers the house, and 1/1 sash windows have replaced the original ones, a full-width front porch stretches across the front porch supported by Doric columns and a balustrade. Metal shingles cover the hip roofs and standing seam metal sheaths the one-story side wing.

210: **Saunders House.** ca. 1910 (Shed ca. 1910 **CB**) 157-5002-0119 **CB**

A great example of a vernacular Queen Anne gable and wing house. The two-story, three-bay frame house (vinyl siding) features a bay window, 16/2 sash windows, a raised fieldstone foundation, and flat scroll sawn verge boards and porch frieze with turned posts and balustrade. A landscaped yard frames the house and driveway that leads to a frame shed clad with board and batten siding and a corrugated metal gable roof.

230: **Simpson, Allen House.** ca. 1890 (Shed ca. 1890 **CB**) 157-5002-0118 **CB**

This large, two-story, three-bay vernacular I-house has a centered gable and two-story rear ell (similar to 240 Maple Ave.). One of the twin-centered chimneys has fallen. The frame house (vinyl siding) rests on a raised fieldstone foundation; and 2/2 sash windows light the house. The 3/4 -width front porch displays turned columns and balustrade. Asphalt shingles clad the gable roof. A low stone retaining wall lines the driveway that leads to a landscaped area with a historic shed

235: **House.** ca. 1910 157-5002-0111 (Garage ca. 1930s **CB**) **CB**

A vernacular, one-story Queen Anne style house with an early Bungalow influence. A tall hip roof with pressed metal shingles and an extended four-bay, full-width front porch with columns and a balustrade on one side dominates the frame (vinyl siding) house. Four-light hip-roof dormers accent the roof slopes. A narrow frame (weatherboard) garage with gable roof (corrugated metal) is behind the house.

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Rocky Mount Historic District (157-5002)
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MAPLE AVENUE (continued)

- 240: **Greer, Watt House.** ca. 1900 157-5002-0117 **CB**
A good example of a vernacular I-house with a centered gable. Asbestos shingles cover the two-story, three-bay house and standing-seam metal sheaths the gable roof. A full-width porch with Doric columns shades the house and 2/2 windows light it; narrow paired 1/1 windows light the upstairs center hall and sidelights and a transom light the first-floor hall. A stone retaining wall aligns Maple Street. This was the home of Rocky Mount's postmaster Watt Greer.
- 260: **Simpson, Sam House.** ca. 1890 157-5002-0116 **CB**
A great example of a two-story, three-bay frame (vinyl siding) I-house with Queen Anne influence. A full-width three-bay wood front porch with a spindle frieze and turned balustrade accents the front elevation. Twin center chimneys (uncommon in Rocky Mount) once heated the house; and large 6/6 sash windows light it; standing-seam sheaths the gable roof. A Bo Berger stone retaining wall lines Maple Avenue.
- 265: **Lee/Chitwood House.** ca. 1890 157-5002-0110 **CB**
This Queen Anne style house that appears to be a mail-order house is framed behind landscaped gardens with a slate walk leading to an indented corner porch entrance. This elaborate two-story frame house (vinyl siding) features paired multi-light sash windows and steep intersecting gables (standing-seam metal) decorated with sawtooth wood shingled gable ends.
- 280: **Rucker House.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0115 **NB**
A large two-story, five-bay brick house with a cast-iron fence lining the corner lot.

NOEL STREET

- 35: **House.** ca. 1950 157-5002-0039 **NB**
A two-story concrete block and frame house/garage.
- 55: **Clements House.** ca. 1945 157-5002-0038 **CB**
A stucco Tudor-Revival style house with a projecting entrance and steeply pitched roof.

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ORCHARD AVENUE

205: **Greer House.** 1861 (NRHP 157-23) 157-5002-0181 **CB**

Originally built for Dr. Thomas Greer on thirty-five acres of land in 1861 and completed after the Civil War, this two-story, three-bay frame (weatherboard siding) Greek-Revival residence stands less than a quarter of a mile east of the courthouse. Currently situated on less than an acre, this unaltered and well preserved house serves as a reminder of Rocky Mount's early beginnings.

RANDOLPH STREET

Mary Elizabeth Park. ca. 1936-40 (Picnic Shelter ca. 1940 **CSt**, Bathroom ca. 1940 **CB**; Tennis Courts 1990 **NSt**) 157-002-0063 **CS**

Donated by Nathaniel Angle for his wife, this park was a "WPA Swamp Reclamation Project" running between Randolph Street and Claiborne Avenue. This large urban grassy park is landscaped with mature ornamental trees (donated by the U.S. Forest Service and private citizens), with tennis courts, a picnic shelter, and a concrete-block bathroom. The Rocky Mount Presbyterian Church maintains the property.

SCOTT STREET

30: **Leftwich, J. P. House.** pre-1922 1920 (Two Garages ca. 1920s **CB**/ Workshop ca. 1920s **CB**/Carport ca. 1980 **Nst**) 157-5002-0074 **CB**

This home belonged to the Vice-President of the Bald Knob Furniture Factory, and is one of the few houses in Rocky Mount with multiple historic outbuildings. This house is larger than the surrounding worker's house with a tall hip roof with extended eaves and covered with standing-seam metal sheathing. Sited on sloping land, the front of the house rests on a raised brick foundation. The three-bay porch has been modified and infilled, four tapering columns on brick piers were replaced with four round columns, the prominent entablature remains. Vertical wood siding now covers the raised front porch foundation. Two historic frame garages, one gable-fronted and one shed-roof, one frame workshop, and a modern carport are located to the side and behind the house.

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SCOTT STREET (continued)

- 40: **Blair Cottage.** ca. 1900 (Garage ca. 1940 **CB**) 157-5002-0073 **CB**
An exterior-end brick chimney heated this worker's cottage (Bald Knob) that rests on a low brick foundation, both now parged. Aluminum siding covers the frame house with a 3-bay front porch supported by square columns. A frame garage is behind the house.
- 45: **Brick Bungalow.** ca. 1930 (Garage ca. 1930 **CB**) 157-5002-0070 **CB**
A side gabled 1.5-story Bungalow with an extended front porch roof supported by brick columns and lighted by 3/1 sash windows. A small frame garage is located at the end of a dirt driveway behind the house. This house is adjacent to Rocky Mount Baptist Church.
- 50: **Worker's Cottage.** ca. 1900 (Garage ca. 1930 **CB**) 157-5002-0072 **CB**
This is an excellent example of a small worker's (Bald Knob) cottage with its low brick foundation, weatherboard siding, 4/4 sash windows, and standing-seam metal roof. This house was heated with an exterior-end brick chimney, unusual for Rocky Mount. The porch has been modified with cast-iron supports and a concrete block stoop. A narrow, two-story frame, gable-fronted garage with brick-tex siding towers over the back yard.
- 55: **Dillion Cottage.** ca. 1920 157-5002-0069 **CB**
A good example of a vernacular worker's (Bald Knob) cottage along Scott Street. Doric columns support a three-bay front porch and 2/2 sash windows light the one-story structure.
- 60: **Bennett Cottage.** ca. 1900 157-5002-0071 **CB**
A low stone (Berger) retaining wall frames this corner lot at Randolph and Scott streets. A one-story frame worker's cottage (Bald Knob) with an extended front porch clad in aluminum siding and a faux-stone veneer over the foundation and exterior-end chimney. Original 6/6 sash windows light this dwelling which was one of the first on Scott Street.
- 65: **Worker's House.** ca. 1915 157-5002-0068 **CB**
Although modified with modern material, this is a good example of a small worker's cottage (Bald Knob) with a standing seam metal clad hip roof set on a small parcel.

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Rocky Mount Historic District (157-5002)
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WARREN STREET

- 10: **Apartments.** 1949 157-5002-0135 **CB**
A small two-story brick apartment building with 9/9 sash windows with soldier arches.
- 15: **House.** ca. 1948 157-5002-0140 **CB**
A small Bungalow/Colonial-Revival style house with brick and frame construction with a steep gable roof and large gable dormer.
- 20: **Midway Cleaners.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0136 (157-85) **CB**
This historically important African-American business is a small one-story brick/concrete block building with large plate glass windows and a stepped parapet. The 1928 Sanborn Map depicts a "Cleaning & Pressing" building in this location, but the current building appears to have replaced it.
- 30: **House.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0137 (157-87) **CB**
A small one-story three-bay frame house adjacent to Midway Cleaners (157-5002-37) with an intersecting gable roof, 6/6 sash windows and asbestos and faux-stone siding.
- 35: **Lodge Rooms (Colored).** ca. 1900 157-5002-0141 (1928 Sanborn Map) (157-86) **CB**
This vacant building is one of the most intact downtown commercial structures, and an important African-American building. This two-story frame building (aluminum siding) has a shed roof, its original storefront with painted over transom, 2/2 sash windows and a second floor metal cornice. This building is worthy of serving the community again. Located at the bottom of Warren Street, this building is one of the rare survivors of the historically African-American community, which also extended down W. Court Street. All of those buildings along W. Court have been demolished including the pre-1907 M.E. Church (1907 Sanborn Map). A livery stable, restaurant, another boarding house, and residences were also part of this vanished community. **Midway Cleaners** (157-5002-0136) is still functioning along Warren Street.
- 50: **Laws Barber/Glamour House Beauty Shop.** ca. 1940 157-5002-0138 (157-00) **CB**
A gable-fronted one-story, brick/concrete block commercial structure set on a slope with a full basement level and fixed 16-light metal windows.

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Section 7 Page 50

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement and Justification of Criteria

Rocky Mount is a small courthouse town that developed to accommodate agriculture, industry, and transportation provided by wagons, railroad, and automobiles. Rocky Mount today is a mixture of these elements accentuated by some of the grandest houses in Franklin County. The commercial areas consist of two- and three-story brick buildings that lend a sense of permanence to the town. The Franklin County Court House dominates the skyline at the southern edge of the proposed historic district. Franklin Street, running along the Norfolk Southern railroad serves as the main commercial corridor among early twentieth-century stores and warehouses. The 1892 railroad connection secured Rocky Mount's transportation based industrial economy, and the Norfolk and Western Depot anchors the northern end of the district. The 1990 formation of the "Save the Depot Committee" prevented its demolition, and a federal transportation grant ensured its current rehabilitation to begin new life as the Franklin County Welcome Center.

Five principal historic themes emerge from the Mount Historic District: **Architecture** (single dwellings and churches), **Commerce** (office building, law office, auto showroom, bank, hardware store, department store), **Government** (county courthouse, jail, municipal buildings, post office), **Transportation** (Norfolk and Southern railroad and Norfolk and Western Depot), and **Industry** (Bald Knob Furniture Company housing on Hale and Scott streets). The buildings of Rocky Mount reflect the agrarian and commercial development surrounding its courthouse.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

The **Rocky Mount Historic District** (157-5002) is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because it represents broad patterns of development associated with Franklin County's tobacco and grain production, commerce, lumber and textile manufacturing, and the advent of the railroad and the automobile. The district contributes to our local understanding of Virginia's physical and cultural landscape because it historically and presently serves as the agricultural, commercial, and governmental center of Franklin County. The district is eligible under Criterion C because it represents examples of architecture associated with the above mentioned patterns of development that shaped the Town of Rocky Mount including worker housing, vernacular, and high-style architecture.

The **Rocky Mount Historic District** (157-5002) contains a total of **251 primary and secondary resources**, **180** contributing structures and **71** non-contributing structures, creating a more than 2/3 to 1/3 ratio of contributing to non-contributing structures. The structures range in date from ca. 1830 to the 1940s with about equal numbers of commercial and residential buildings. Two contributing sites, the High Street Cemetery and Mary Elizabeth Park; and two contributing objects, the confederate statue at the courthouse and the Presbyterian Church Bell, are also included. Two properties within the boundaries are listed on the Virginia Landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places: the **Woods-Meade House** (157-0003) and the **Greer House** (157-0023).

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance and support of this nomination: the Honorable Broaddus M. Shively, Keith Holland, and Patricia Hook, Rocky Mount Town Officials; Anne Carter Lee Gravely and Dr. Francis Amos of the town of Rocky Mount; Marc Wagner and Molly Meredith of the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), Darlene Richardson (formerly of DHR), and Virginia Greer Williams.

Historical Background

Recorded as a post office in 1795, Rocky Mount has served as the Franklin County seat since the creation of the county in 1786. Thus Rocky Mount has more than two centuries of political association with the governance of Franklin County, as the meeting place of county justices and supervisors, and as the place of business of lawyers who attended the county courts. Rocky Mount commercial establishments served those who did business at the county seat, drank and lodged at taverns and hotels, and shopped at general stores. Industrial production began with the Washington Iron Works founded in the 1770s, and Rocky Mount has had a continuous industrial association with the manufacture of iron, tobacco factories, and turn of the twentieth-century production of furniture and textiles. Transportation marks the fourth theme that has shaped the development of Rocky Mount; early roads converged on the Washington Iron Works; the Rocky Mount Turnpike Company incorporated in 1846; railroads reached Rocky Mount in 1880 and in 1892; around World War I automobile dealerships opened in Rocky Mount; and improved roads brought more people to shop and live in the county seat around World War II.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Colonial Era and New Nation: 1740s-1800

Robert Hill settled in what became central Franklin County in the 1740s. The walls of his stone “block house” (fortified house) still stand in ruins southwest of Rocky Mount. By the late 1770s James Callaway and Jeremiah Early purchased and named the Washington Iron Works. John Early, a son of Jeremiah, became Franklin County sheriff and represented the county in the Virginia House of Delegates. Callaway and heirs of Robert Hill owned the land where the first Franklin County Courthouse was located near the Washington Iron Works.

Government and Commerce: 1800-1850s

In 1802 James Callaway deeded land to Franklin County for a new courthouse. The county built the new courthouse at approximately the present courthouse site, east of Main Street and south of Court Street. Though maps from the period do not survive, the town east of Maple Avenue was known as Mount Pleasant, and the portion of the town west of Maple Avenue and including the courthouse was known as Rocky Mount. The two rival villages retained separate identities until incorporation of the entire town as Rocky Mount in the 1870s. Hereafter, this discussion will refer to both villages as Rocky Mount.¹

Callaway heirs and Peter Saunders operated the Washington Iron Works through the first four decades of the nineteenth century. In 1836 the iron furnace employed about 100 people. Rocky Mount had a total population of about 275 inhabitants, and the county seat had about 30 dwellings, 3 general stores, 2 taverns, 2 tailors, a saddler, a boot and shoe maker, a cabinet maker,

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

a printing office, and a weekly newspaper. In the mid-1830s Franklin County land books listed the principal property owners in Rocky Mount. Iron master and Franklin County justice Peter Saunders owned buildings valued at \$2,000. District Court clerk Caleb Tate owned his residence on the northeast corner of Maple and Church valued at \$3,000. Physician Richard M. Taliaferro owned buildings valued at \$2,500.

In the late 1840s citizens of Rocky Mount attempted to improve transportation systems and establish commercial institutions. The Virginia General Assembly incorporated the Rocky Mount Turnpike Company in 1847. Franklin County Superior Court Judge Norborne Taliaferro served on the board of directors and owned real estate valued at \$5,000. Two years later the General Assembly incorporated the Rocky Mount Savings Bank whose charter members included Norborne Taliaferro, Rocky Mount property owner Moses G. Carper, and merchant/farmer George C. Menefee with real estate valued at \$8,000 by 1860. Though neither the turnpike nor the bank apparently prospered, by 1850 the population of Rocky Mount had grown to approximately 450 inhabitants.

During the decade of the 1850s merchant sponsors of transportation improvements and commercial ventures like George Menefee and Rocky Mount merchant Ferdinand Claiborne began to acquire real estate that equaled in value the holdings of older leading families headed by Franklin County court officials such as Norborne Taliaferro and Caleb Tate. In other words by the 1850s, merchants in Rocky Mount began to amass wealth and buildings comparable in value to the wealth and buildings that had been accumulated earlier by founding families in Rocky Mount who had engaged in Franklin County governance.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

On the eve of the Civil War one of Rocky Mount's new and most important commercial establishments was the hotel operated by Hay Turnbull who owned real estate valued at \$7,000. Turnbull's hotel lodged merchant Stephen Cannaday with property valued at \$3,500, two store clerks, a coach maker, and three lawyers including Jubal A. Early. Early had read law under Norborne Taliaferro, was admitted to the bar in 1840, and reportedly worked out of a small office on Main Street. A graduate of West Point in 1837, Early lived at Turnbull's hotel until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he joined the Confederate forces and eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant general.

Civil War and Reconstruction: 1860-1870

Jubal Early and Peter Saunders, Franklin County's representatives to the Virginia Secession Convention in April 1861, opposed secession. But the war came and the people of Franklin County and Rocky Mount suffered its consequences. Franklin County clerk Robert A. Scott, with real estate valued at \$4,000, issued \$15,000 of Franklin County paper currency to feed and clothe indigent families whose fathers and sons had left their homes to fight as soldiers in the Confederacy. By the end of the war, Franklin County funds probably supported about 50 impoverished residents of Rocky Mount, though by then the county could assemble only about one sixth of the provisions necessary for their sustenance. Support for white households was further depleted as the Confederacy requisitioned Franklin County slaves to work on military

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

fortifications around Richmond. Peter Saunders petitioned unsuccessfully for release from the requisition of six of his slaves. Farmer and tobacco manufacturer John S. Hale, who built the Grove south and west of Franklin Street and Floyd Avenue during the 1860s, provided nine slaves for the Confederate effort. Though no major Civil War battles were fought in Franklin County, Union troops commanded by Major General George Stoneman passed through the county and Rocky Mount during the last days of the war in April 1865.

The close of the war marked a major event as slavery ended. Freedmen, about one third of Franklin County and Rocky Mount residents, then sought to find employment and to create new opportunities for advancement. Freedmen Bureau commander William F. DeKnight opened a Sunday school in Rocky Mount in 1867 for about 100 black students of all ages, but his efforts to establish a black day school proved unsuccessful.² The 1870 census enumeration of black residents in and around Rocky Mount listed a number of farm laborers, a few domestic house servants, blacksmith Moses Tyler, and farmer Norman Maio. Though none of the others owned real or personal property of recorded value, Maio owned real estate valued at \$4,050 and personal property valued at \$650.

Industrialization and Economic Expansion: 1870s-1920

During the 1870s Rocky Mount incorporated as a town and town fathers sought the economic benefits that would come from access to railroad transportation. These efforts succeeded in 1880 when the Franklin and Pittsylvania Railroad linked Rocky Mount with the Southern Railroad line between Lynchburg and Danville. Greater results occurred after 1890 when the Roanoke and

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Southern reached Rocky Mount and provided the town with a connection with the Norfolk and Western steel-rail transportation system. Industry and commerce expanded following the arrival of the railroads and the number of town residents and social institutions increased accordingly. The town's population, estimated at 400 inhabitants in 1870, grew to about 600 in 1897, and then almost doubled to 1,100 by 1920.

The town of Rocky Mount received an act of incorporation from the Virginia General Assembly in 1873. Town trustees appointed by the legislature included former county clerk Robert A. Scott who served as the town's first mayor and in 1874 owned buildings in town valued at \$1,300; and physician Thomas B. Greer who by 1880 owned buildings in Rocky Mount assessed at \$5,000, the highest appraisal in town. During the first decade following incorporation, town trustees sought to keep cattle and hogs off the streets, and to keep men from congregating on back lots after dark to prevent them from visiting women living in servant quarters "for illicit purposes." Town fathers charged fees for traveling salesmen of notions and patent medicines, for visiting circuses, for concerts and lectures. They passed ordinances to clean the public privy in the public square, to move stables away from streets, and to repair buildings that appeared to be fire hazards.³

Between the act of incorporation and 1880, town residents constructed nine new buildings each valued at more than \$1,000. Rocky Mount Episcopalians erected a frame church building on the northwest corner of Church and Main Streets in 1875. Presbyterians built First Presbyterian Church on the north side of Floyd Avenue around 1880, and quickly repaired the structure after fire damage in 1889. Baptists and Methodists also had places of worship in Rocky Mount by

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

1880, though not at their present locations. In 1881 the town had a hotel, two dress shops, a tailor, a saddler, a grist mill and a saw mill, a weekly newspaper, an insurance agent, a bank, a drugstore, three doctors, six lawyers, and six general merchandise stores.

Completion of the Roanoke and Southern Branch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad through Rocky Mount in 1892 introduced a new era of industrial production and mercantile commerce. By 1898 the Cannady box factory and gristmill operated just west of the Southern Railroad Depot and Peary Harrison established a tobacco warehouse south of the depot. J. O. Abshire operated a new hotel to the east of the depot. Giles B. Hale owned the Rocky Mount lumber company and the Early Hotel located on the east side Main Street north of the courthouse. All told, by 1898 Rocky Mount had a population of about 600 inhabitants, 100 lots with buildings, 2 hotels, 2 factories, a machine shop and 14 stores.

Around 1900 Nathaniel P. Angle emerged as the industrialist and merchant who would dominate Rocky Mount's manufacturing and commercial economy until his death in the 1930s. Born on a farm near Ferrum in 1861, N. P. Angle taught school in Franklin County, before attending Piedmont Business College in Lebanon, Ohio. After receiving his business training, Angle moved to Rocky Mount and engaged in leaf tobacco production. By 1889 he formed partnerships to operate a furniture business and a general store. In 1903 he organized the Bald Knob Furniture Company northwest of the Norfolk and Western Passenger and Freight Station. The State Corporation Commission incorporated the company in 1907, and by 1910 the furniture company employed about 65 workers. Subsequently, NP Angle built vernacular housing on Hale and Scott streets for the Bald Knob Furniture Company workers. By 1917, in addition to the Bald Knob Furniture Company and

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

the furniture and general stores, he owned a lumberyard, a tobacco dealership and tobacco prizery, a dry goods and clothing store, a hardware store, an agricultural implements store, and the Rocky Mount Motor Company which sold Fords priced from \$390 to \$740. N. P. Angle controlled most of Rocky Mount's industrial production and mercantile commerce by World War I.

As new factories and businesses brought more people to work and live in Rocky Mount between 1900 and World War I, the town council took Progressive Era measures to serve and regulate the growing populace and expanded economy. In 1904 town council established license taxes for tobacco manufacturers who operated within town limits. The town granted a telephone franchise in 1908 and a light and power franchise the following year. Town council issued bonds in 1911 and 1914 for a water and sewer system and contracted with an Atlanta firm for construction in 1916. In 1915 the town regulated new traffic from automobiles and motor cycles by outlawing speeds in excess of 10 miles and hour. In 1915 the town appropriated \$2,200 for operating the brick eight room Rocky Mount High School and Graded School for white students, the first in the county with central heating and indoor plumbing. The town council issued bonds "to build and construct permanent streets" in 1919.⁴

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps record additional construction in Rocky Mount between 1902 and 1913. In 1909 a new Franklin County Courthouse was constructed on the southeast corner of Court and Main Streets. The new courthouse faced the commercial buildings on Main Street instead of the old Early Hotel on Court Street. Between those dates, the Rocky Mount Episcopal Church was clad in stone, and Perdue and Stone built a new planing mill north of the Southern Railroad depot.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Black residents owned ten lots with buildings in Rocky Mount at the beginning of the twentieth century. Lewis Muse and Jacob Smith ran blacksmith shops in Rocky Mount in 1917, at the same time that Major Harris operated a cleaning and pressing business. Jackson Hopkins and J. B. Brooks headed black- owned general stores. Sam Phelps and Lee Waid (or Wade) formed a partnership with Brooks in 1913, ran advertisements in the Franklin Chronicle in 1916, and continued to operate Brooks and Company on Main Street into the 1950s. By 1915 area blacks built a Rocky Mount Colored School and dormitory on Bald Knob outside of corporate town limits.

Automobiles, Depression, and World War II: 1920-1950

During the three decades from the end of World War I through World War II Rocky Mount's population increased gradually to 1,400 inhabitants. Automobiles had come to stay as evidenced by the establishment of at least three car dealerships, asphalt -paved roads, and several gas stations. The N. P. Angle era of economic dominance in Rocky Mount ended with his death in 1936, but the Bald Knob Furniture Company continued its profitable industrial production into and after World War II.

In 1923 N. P. Angle purchased the Rocky Mount County News. Three years later the County News printed a supplement, "Franklin County Virginia: Historical and Industrial – Past, Present and Future." The supplement championed Rocky Mount as an ideal location for new business

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

and industry, and incidentally provided considerable laudatory copy on Angle, as a successful man of business and industry and as owner of a magnificent two and a half story, five bay Colonial Revival residence that certainly rivaled contemporary mansions in Roanoke. The promotional supplement featured the Angle Block, then under construction and subsequently valued at \$26,500; his splendid residence valued at \$12,000; Angle Hardware, valued at \$7,400; People's National Bank, N. P. Angle President, valued at \$14,000; and Bald Knob Furniture Company, N. P. Angle President, with 275 employees, and annual production of \$1,500,000, with factory and shop valued at \$71,000.

The 1926 County News promotional supplement also included information on the rival Central Garage car dealership owned by Ryland Goode that sold Dodges and Hudsons; the Goode dealership was valued at \$4,200 in 1932. The 1928 Sanborn Maps for Rocky Mount depicted a third car dealership on the east side of Main Street, south of the Courthouse. Richard Rakes acquired that property in 1926 where he sold Chevrolets and a son later sold Pontiacs. The Rakes dealership, valued at \$3,500 in 1944, is still owned by granddaughters of Richard Rakes. In 1932 Angle's car dealership was valued at \$4,000, when his two filling stations were valued at \$2,000 and \$500.

The 1926 County News supplement also documented construction of the Rocky Mount Methodist Church on the southwest corner of Maple and Claiborne Avenues. Billed in the supplement as "one of the handsomest church buildings in the state," First Methodist doubtless received construction funds from Angle who was chairman of the board of stewards for the

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

church. The supplement printed a photograph of the new and “especially creditable” Rocky Mount High School, built in 1924 with “sanitary drinking fountains, gymnasium and cafeteria.” By 1924 Rocky Mount had become a separate school district. N. P. Angle was a member of the town council, so he probably also had a hand in construction of the new high school.⁵

During the decade of the Great Depression the town of Rocky Mount made early application in 1933 for Federal Emergency Administration funds to make public works improvements for the town’s water and sewer system. The Works Progress Administration in 1936 funded construction of the Rocky Mount Post Office with its remarkable agricultural theme mural. The W.P.A. subsequently employed Essie W. Smith as a researcher for the federal writer’s project. A fine article she published in 1940 reported on the benefits of completion of U. S. Highway 220 and State Highway 40, which crossed in Rocky Mount. “The terrible condition of roads in this section impeded traffic to a remarkable degree until the two main highways were completed.” Miss Essie’s research documented life in Rocky Mount on the eve of World War II. “Sixteen teachers instruct daily in the white public school, and seven colored teachers struggle with problems of their race in their own schools.” Bald Knob Furniture Factory employed 336 men and four women. The Angle Silk mill employed about 100 people, mostly women. A new door and sash factory (Rocky Mount Manufacturing Company) was expected to employ 50 men.⁶

Rocky Mount like the rest of the nation experienced a new era of economic growth with the advent of World War II. The Rocky Mount Manufacturing Company received defense contracts for production of its patented spring cushion windows and employed 225 men by the fall of

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

1940. By the spring of 1942, the factory employed 50 women to replace men who had enlisted in the military. Rocky Mount's war time economic prosperity is reflected by town property assessments: by 1944 the town had 317 lots with buildings, 46 more than a decade earlier; during the war years the town had 138 buildings valued in excess of \$1,000, 30 more than at the height of the Depression.

Whites and blacks served in segregated units during World War II in Franklin County and Rocky Mount as well as elsewhere in the nation. Whites and blacks in Rocky Mount and Franklin County organized separate Civilian Defense Corps and separate wartime nutrition committees. War effort contributions of both whites and blacks were repeatedly documented by Rocky Mount newspaper articles, which printed stories and photographs of service men of both races. Both the white and black school systems supported Civilian Defense councils, rationing boards, and war bond drives. Perhaps recognition of black as well as white support for the war effort influenced the recommendation made in November 1943 by Franklin County school superintendent Frank Ramsey for construction of a 44 classroom Negro High School Center in Rocky Mount.⁷

Rocky Mount industrial production continued to expand after World War II. Organized by Thomas W. Greer of Greer Lumber Company, R. E. Weaver of Weaver Mirror Company, and Commonwealth attorney Charles Carter Lee, the Franklin Veneer and Lumber Company received its charter in 1946. Rocky Mount Manufacturing Company made plans for plant expansion, as did Weaver Mirror. Car dealerships anticipated new sales with the end of wartime rationing of gasoline and post-war production of new model automobiles.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Post World War II to Present: 1950-1990s

Rocky Mount industry and population continued to expand during the second half of the twentieth century. By the early 1990s Rocky Mount Manufacturing Company, now MW Manufacturers employed about 600 people. Weaver Mirror still employed about 50 people. Lane Company bought Bald Knob Furniture Company in 1957 and employed more than 700 people. J. P. Stevens, Inc purchased Angle Silk Mills in 1959 and employed about 160 people. Virginia Apparel opened a new plant in Rocky Mount in 1990 that employed 275 people. Bristol Manufacturing, Inc. built a plant in Rocky Mount in 1951 that employed 240 people to sew nurses uniforms. Mod-U-Kraf Homes, Inc. opened operations in Rocky Mount in 1971 and employed about 150 people.⁸

Partly in response to the expanded industrial activity on its outskirts, the Town of Rocky Mount received a new charter in 1962. With subsequent charter amendments through the 1970s, the Town of Rocky Mount now has expanded corporate boundaries and the town presently has a population of more than 5,000 inhabitants. About 20% of town residents are black, as opposed to about 33% on the eve of the Civil War. Schools and other public facilities have been racially integrated since the late 1960s. The Franklin County Bicentennial Commission in the 1980s rekindled civic pride and interest in community history. The Town of Rocky Mount presently supports a Main Street program. In December 1997 the Town Council unanimously supported survey and historic district designation to document the town's unique architectural history and heritage as Franklin County's seat of government and center for commerce and industry.

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8. Statement of Significance (continued)

Endnotes

¹ Virginia Greer Williams located the 1802 James Callaway courthouse deed and explained the coexistence of the villages of Rocky Mount and Mount Pleasant throughout the first eight decades of the 19th century.

¹ Most of this material is taken from John and Emily Salmon's excellent study, Franklin County, Virginia 1786-1986, A Bicentennial History, 1993, chapters 13 and 14. In fact, the Salmon's history has been the principal secondary source for this essay.

¹ "Minutes and Ordinances of the Town of Rocky Mount," Vol. 1.

¹ "Minutes and Ordinances of the Town of Rocky Mount," Vols. 2 & 3

¹ "Franklin County, Virginia: Historical and Industrial – Past, Present, and Future," Supplement to the County News, Rocky Mount, Virginia, 1926.

¹ Essie W. Smith, "Industries of Rocky Mount, Franklin County, Virginia – 1940," reprinted in Bicentennial Reflections, Franklin County Bicentennial Commission, 1986.

¹ Salmon, Franklin County History, 1993, chapter 20. Diane E. Hayes, "Franklin County Afro-American Community News, 1909-1950," Vol. 1 & 2, Virginia Room, Roanoke City Public Library.

¹ Salmon, Franklin County History, 1993, 454-5.

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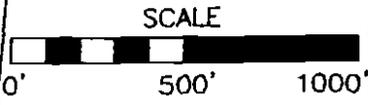
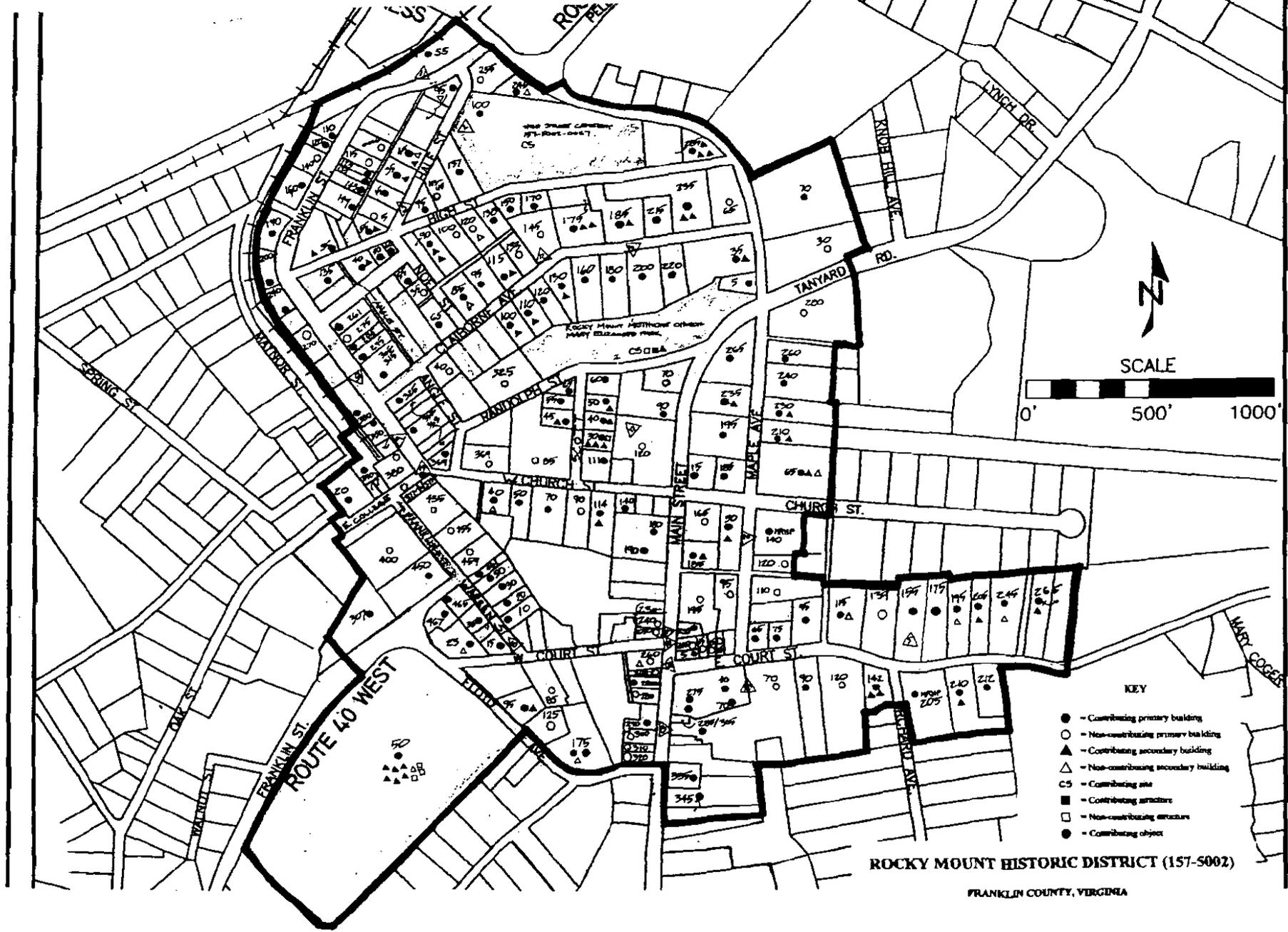
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The solid black line on the accompanying Town of Rocky Mount 1"=200' tax parcel map indicates the boundaries of the Rocky Mount Historic District.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Rocky Mount Historic District encompass all those contiguous areas of the historic commercial, governmental, and residential cores of Rocky Mount that reflect its historic character as established during its period of significance, 1830-1949. This includes the Franklin County Courthouse and Jail block, the commercial areas of "Uptown" around Main and E. Court streets and "Downtown" along Franklin Street, and the traditional residential areas along Claiborne Street and Maple Avenue including all the cross streets; as well as the depot and mill at the northern end of Franklin Street.



- KEY**
- - Contributing primary building
 - - Non-contributing primary building
 - ▲ - Contributing secondary building
 - △ - Non-contributing secondary building
 - C5 - Contributing site
 - - Contributing structure
 - ▣ - Non-contributing structure
 - - Contributing object

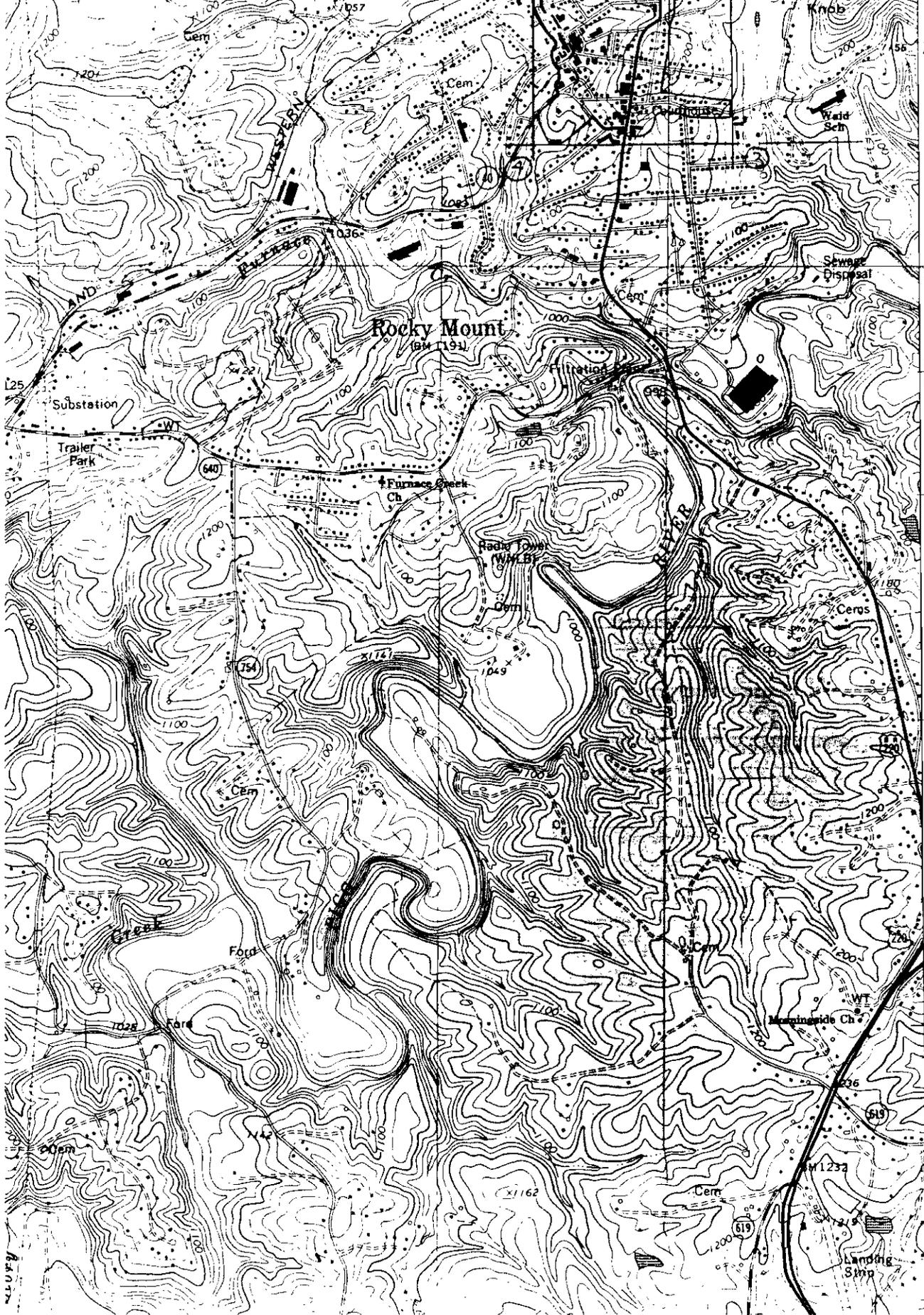
ROCKY MOUNT HISTORIC DISTRICT (157-5002)

FRANKLIN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

ROCKY MOUNT QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3058 III SE
(REDWOOD)

55' 97 1 590 000 FEET! REDWOOD 4.6 MI 220 2.3 MI. TO U.S. 220 79°52'30" 37°00'



ROCKY MOUNT
HISTORIC DISTRICT
FRANKLIN CO
157-5002
REF POINTS:

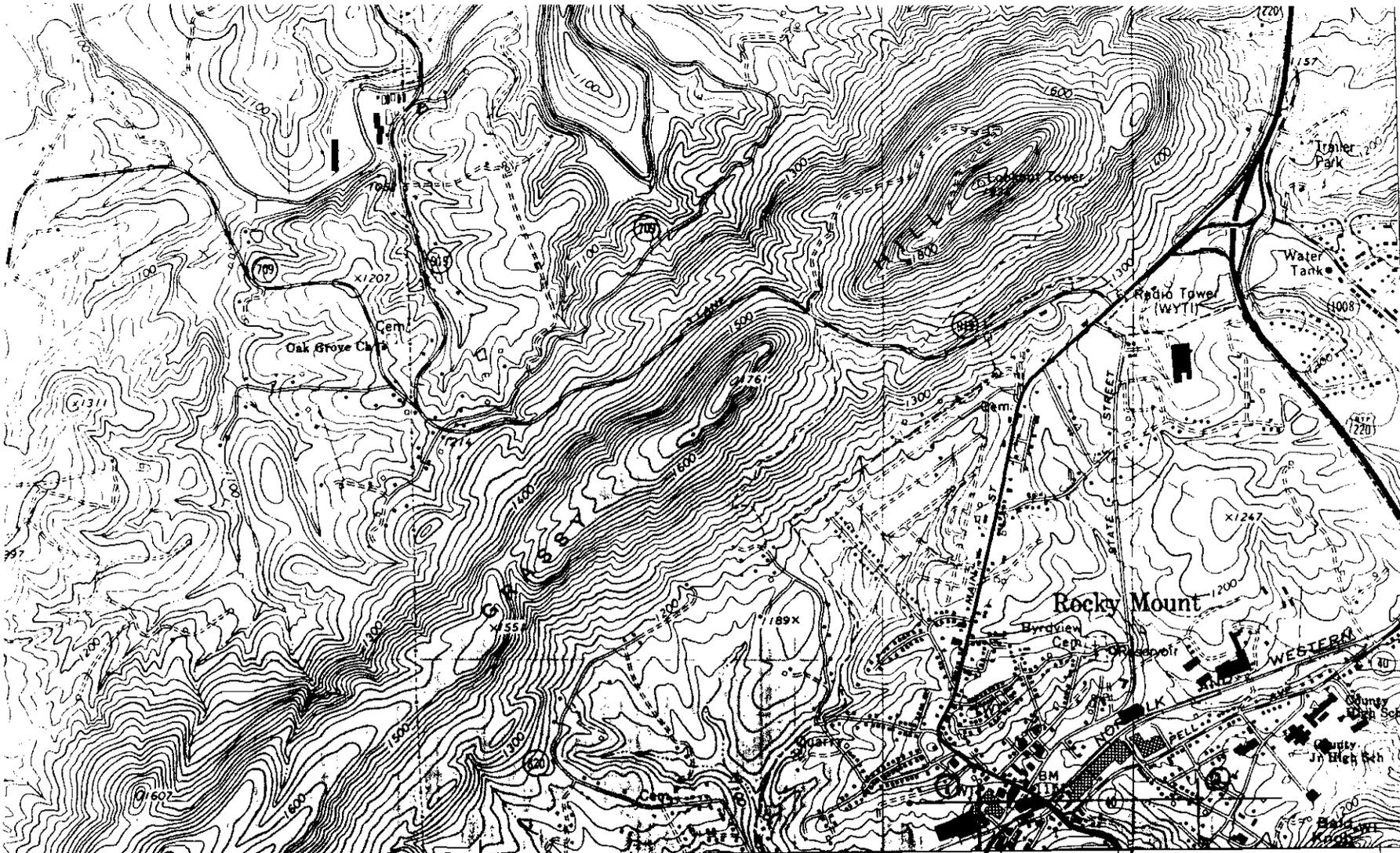
- 3. 17/599290/40945.
- 4. 17/598400/40945.

240 000
FEET

BOONES MILL 13 MI.
ROANOKE 24 MI.

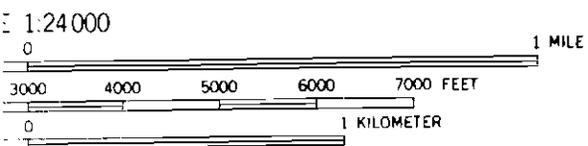
57'30"

4090



ROCKY MOUNT
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
FRANKLIN C
157-5002
REF. POINTS:
 1. 17/598390/4095
 2. 17/599260/40954

ROCKY MOUNT) 1595 1596 1597 1598
 7 IV NW



HORIZONTAL INTERVAL 20 FEET
 VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ADDITIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 A LIST OF MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978
 SYDNORSVILLE 9 MI.
 MARTINSVILLE 29 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
		U. S. Route	
			State Route

BOONES MILL, VA.
 SW/4 BOONES MILL 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3700—W7952 5/7.5

1963
 PHOTOREVISED 1978
 AMS 5058 III SW—SERIES V834

