

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED ON:	
VLR	06/17/2010
NRHP	09/09/2010

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Gate City Historic District  
other names/site number 221-5010

## 2. Location

street & number Five blocks of East and West Jackson Street  not for publication  
city or town Gate City  vicinity  
state Virginia code 079 county Scott code 169 zip code 24251

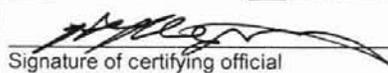
## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

  
Signature of certifying official

7/29/10  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register                  | <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:)                                  |  |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
47	7	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	2	objects
0	0	buildings
47	11	<b>Total</b>

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

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

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade-Business, Professional,  
Department Store, Warehouse  
Domestic-Single dwelling  
Education-Library  
Government-Courthouse  
Recreation/Culture-Theater  
Social-Meeting Hall

Commerce/Trade-Business, Professional,  
Organizational, Financial Institution, Department  
Store, Restaurant, Warehouse  
Domestic-Single Dwelling  
Organizational  
Courthouse  
Multiple Dwelling  
Social-Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
Commercial Style  
Colonial Revival  
Tudor Revival  
Bungalow/Craftsman  
Moderne  
Minimal Traditional  
Craftsman Style

foundation: Brick, Concrete  
walls: Brick, Concrete, Stone  
roof: Other, Metal, Asphalt  
other: Concrete, Brick, Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Gate City Historic District is an approximately five-block-long commercial area composed of 58 resources, including commercial buildings, a cinema, residential dwellings, institutional/government buildings, one memorial, one marker, one gazebo, and several secondary resources. Of the primary resources the majority are contributing, and one secondary resource is contributing. The historic downtown district of Gate City consists primarily of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century one-, two-, and three-story commercial and government buildings, including a number of businesses, attorneys offices, a newspaper, restaurants, a police station, a cinema, the county courthouse, and a handful of single-family dwellings. Most buildings are two- to three-story attached brick rows. Highlighting the district's architecture are a number of commercial picturesque styles as well as some early twentieth-century commercial styles. Several buildings have sophisticated masonry detailing and elaborate ornamentation, particularly on the upper stories, illustrating the early twentieth-century prosperity of the Gate City community.

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### Narrative Description

#### Detailed Description

The Town of Gate City is situated near historic Moccasin Gap in Clinch Mountain in southwestern Virginia, less than 6 miles north of the Kingsport-Bristol, Tennessee metro area. Under a variety of names, the town has served as the county seat for Scott County since 1815. Because of its proximity to coal fields, the town was considered a "gateway" and by the late nineteenth century developed into a prosperous commercial and social hub for the surrounding farming communities of Scott County. The Gate City Historic District is located in Gate City's historic and current center of the town. The district boundary is drawn to include the majority of commercial properties that retain sufficient architectural and/or historic integrity. The Gate City Historic District is an approximately five-block-long commercial area composed of 58 resources, including 40 commercial buildings, seven dwellings, three institutional/government buildings, a cinema, three sheds, one carport, one memorial, one marker, one gazebo, and one secondary dwelling. There are 51 primary resources and seven secondary resources, of these 46 of the primary resources are contributing and one secondary resource is contributing. The historic downtown district of Gate City consists primarily of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century one-, two-, and three-story commercial and government buildings, including a number of businesses, attorneys offices, a newspaper, restaurants, a police station, the county courthouse, and a handful of single-family dwellings. A number of storefronts are vacant. The commercial area is bounded by Woodland Street to the east, Fir Street to the west, Willow Street to the north, and Water Street to the south. The central transportation corridor is East and West Jackson streets. The area features wide, paved sidewalks, concrete curbs, and diagonal parking spaces on the street. Soda vending machines are located on every block. The majority of buildings are sited at street grade on long, narrow lots. A small group of buildings located along West Jackson is sited slightly below street grade. Despite recent construction, renovation of some commercial buildings, and demolition of some buildings to make way for parking lots, the overall character of the area has remained relatively intact. During the 1990s, the city upgraded the downtown area with the addition of new sidewalks, trees, and early twentieth-century styled five-globed streetlights.

The Gate City Historic District is relatively homogeneous in scale, form, and use of materials, but sections of the commercial streetscape are distinguished by variations in periods, stylistic embellishment, and levels of architectural sophistication. The earliest standing building is the Scott County Courthouse, built in 1829. There are few late nineteenth-century buildings left; most of the surviving historic buildings date from the period 1910-1940. The majority of the buildings are two- to three-story attached brick rows. The buildings illustrate a number of commercial picturesque styles and include sophisticated masonry detailing and elaborate ornamentation, particularly on the upper stories, illustrating the early twentieth-century prosperity of the community. As they have historically, the ground floors continue to house commercial uses while the upper floors serve as residential and/or storage space. Although a number of the street level facades have received unsympathetic, mid- to late twentieth-century modernizations and alterations, several buildings have retained their original storefronts. The most intact blocks in the district appear as almost continuous walls of masonry buildings. On both sides of East and West Jackson streets, the corners are anchored by large buildings that typically contained anywhere from three to five storefronts.



the second story; each panel is topped with brick corbelling. A string course of soldier brick spans the façade of the building between the first and second floors. One-story brick buttresses with granite caps flank each entrance door. A shed roof pent attached to the façade of the northernmost commercial bay is shared with the commercial building next door. The entrance to each business consists respectively of a double-leaf metal and glass commercial entrance with a 10-light transom, a single-leaf wood paneled entrance with a single light and sidelight, and a recessed single-leaf wood paneled door. Openings on the first floor consist of modern metal plate glass commercial windows topped by modern 10-light transoms and tooled granite surrounds, a single vinyl one-light window, and two metal fixed light commercial windows. The second-floor openings consist of 6/6 vinyl sash windows with soldier brick lintels and rowlock brick sills. Some of the first-story window openings have been covered over with T-111 siding.

107 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0005 CB

This ca. 1940, Commercial-style one-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials and is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The rear north of the building is clad in vinyl siding. The shed roof is covered with standing-seam metal and has granite coping. A slightly recessed stretcher bond brick panel topped with brick corbelling articulates the commercial bay. One-story brick buttresses with granite caps flank a single-leaf wood entrance door with single light. Attached to the facade is a shed roof pent that is shared with the commercial building next door to the west. Other openings consist of a modern metal plate glass commercial window. To the west of the main entrance is another entrance that has been filled in with wood shingles.

119 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0024 CB

This ca. 1948, Commercial-style two-story, one-bay, masonry building (Broadwater Drug) is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern with a flat roof. The facade is slightly recessed from the east and west walls, and has been covered with permastone veneer. A projecting two-story, stretcher bond brick block with a flat roof topped with a granite cap marks the central entrance to the building's second floor through two single-leaf commercial metal and glass doors separated by a single light. Directly above this entrance is a narrow rectangular grouping of glass blocks. Flanking this entrance block are two other single-leaf commercial metal and glass doors that open into the pharmacy. Large plate glass windows are found on either side of each entrance.

122 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0029 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style one-story, seven-bay, masonry building rests on a stucco foundation. Because of its location, the building is angled with three elevations roughly facing north. The building was originally constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond; the west elevation wall is covered with stucco. The roofline is not visible and is obscured by a false mansard front. The central entrance consists of a single-leaf paneled wood door with a single light and a blind transom; flanking the entrance are fixed one-light commercial windows, each with a single-light transom. Identical windows span the north, East Jackson Street elevation.

123-152 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0026 CB

This ca. 1940, Commercial-style one-story, nine-bay masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick and is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The flat roof is covered with unknown materials; remnants of barrel tile coping can still be seen along the roofline on the rear, south elevation. The building consists of two storefronts. Double-leaf commercial metal and glass doors topped by a large single light and eight large fixed commercial plate glass windows mark the larger storefront, which is protected by a modern metal and fabric awning. To the west of this storefront is a smaller storefront with a single-leaf commercial metal and glass door topped by a single large light and two rows of two large plate glass commercial windows. Located on the south, rear elevation is a loading dock with a single garage bay opening.

133-156 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0028 CB

This ca. 1960 Commercial-style one-story, ten-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond buff colored brick and is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The flat roof is covered with unknown materials and has a metal cornice. A flat roof pent with metal cornice spans the front north and east wall. The double-leaf commercial doors are flanked by large sidelights and topped by a single light. Other openings consist of fixed plate glass commercial windows. Located on the south rear elevation is a loading dock with two garage bay openings.

137 East Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0006 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, two-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The low-pitched front-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal and has slightly overhanging eaves, a boxed cornice; there is a rectangular louvered vent in the front gable. The south-facing façade has been remodeled and is covered with coursed permastone veneer on the first story and T-111 siding on the second story. A shed roof canvas awning spans the front of the building. The slightly inset entrance consists of a single-leaf glass and metal commercial door. To the east of the entrance is a

canted-bay window with 1/1 wood sash. There are two rear additions on the north elevation. The first is a two-story brick gable-side addition; attached to this is a one-story brick, flat roof addition.

140 East Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0007 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, twelve-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The second story of the north façade is sited at street level; the rear of the building, which was constructed against a sloping hill, shows the full two stories. The heavily altered building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The first story of the south elevation is constructed of concrete block. The building's flat roof has a slight parapet on the east and west sides of the structure. The slightly recessed entrance consists of double-leaf metal and glass commercial doors. Other openings on the first floor consist of modern metal plate glass commercial windows. The rear first story has two off-center entrances; one is a single leaf metal and glass door, flanked by narrow one-light openings; directly above this entrance is a modern canted-bay window. To the east of this entrance is a single-leaf wood door marked by a small shed roof pent, topped by paired 3-light casement windows.

143 East Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0025 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two-story, one-bay, masonry building is constructed of brick laid in 5/1 bond. The facade has been covered with glazed ceramic block. The front-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal, which also partially covers the front south gable. The original storefront windows have been covered over with sheets of T-111 siding. The inset entrance has a single-leaf wood door. Other openings consist of two paired 6/6 metal windows with glazed ceramic block sills on the facade, and single and paired 6/6 metal windows with brick rowlock sills along the sides.

151 East Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0014 NCB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building's second-story north facade is sited at street level; the rear of the building that was constructed against a sloping hill shows the full two stories. The building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. Low-pitched gable-front false front topped with barrel tile coping. Accenting the edges of the façade are stretcher bond brick square pilasters. The first and second stories are articulated by a string course of soldier brick. A border of header bricks outlines a slight inset brick panel for a commercial sign. A small pent with a molded wood frieze marks the first-story façade. The slightly recessed entrance consists of double-leaf wood doors with a single light topped by a single light transom. Flanking the entrance are canted metal plate glass commercial windows. Openings on the rear of the building consist of 4/4 wood sash windows.

153 East Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0027 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two-story, one-bay, masonry building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The facade has been covered with glazed ceramic block. The flat roof has barrel tile coping. Located at the rear north elevation is an engaged brick flue. The original storefront has been refaced with T-111 panels. The central entrance consists of a modern paneled wood door with a single light flanked by fixed one-light metal windows. Other openings consist of 12-light metal casement windows.

### **West Jackson Street:**

114 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0008 CB

This ca. 1900, Commercial-style, mixed-use three-story, nine-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials and is constructed of coursed, rockfaced ashlar. The building consists of two parts: the two-story corner storefront and the adjoining three-story block. The rear of both is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The lower first story is articulated by coursed permastone. The flat roof is fronted by a false parapet and stepped sides. Squat granite posts with caps set off the granite coping; the façade also has a denticular cornice and three slightly recessed coursed, rockfaced ashlar panels. Slightly recessed ashlar panels with a central buttress define the second storefront bays. Each storefront is marked by a recessed entrance consisting of metal commercial entrance doors flanked by canted storefront windows of plate glass. The second- and third-story openings consist of single 1/1 sash windows with tooled granite sills; the surrounds consist of modern stained T-111 panels. Located on the rear are round-arched and segmental-arched openings that have been filled in with brick.

115 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0009 CB

This ca. 1900, Commercial-style two-story, six-bay, masonry building rests on a solid raised foundation of coursed ashlar. The building is constructed of buff-colored brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The lower rear/south first story is articulated by an ashlar block water table. The first story of the façade is defined by coursed ashlar block. The second-story of the façade has been recovered with stretcher bond brick veneer; the ends of the building front

have been painted gray to simulate columns. The flat roof has stepped sides with granite caps and decorative brick corbelling. The rear of the building features corbelled brackets and cornice. The two recessed entrances consist of single-leaf wood doors with a single light and are flanked by canted commercial plate glass windows. A shed roof fabric awning spans the first-story façade. Second-story openings consist of round-arched 1/1 sash windows with round brick arches and brick rowlock sills, and are flanked by decorative shutters.

121 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0010 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style one-story, two-bay, masonry building sits on a solid, raised concrete block foundation; the façade is covered with stretcher bond brick. The flat roof has granite coping and a decorative brick corbelled cornice. The slightly off-center entrance consists of a single-leaf wood paneled door with a single light. Flanking the entrance on the east side is a two-sided commercial glass window. On the rear south wall of the first story is a double-leaf wood entrance where a loading dock once stood. Directly above on the second story are two openings consisting of 1/1 wood sash windows with wood surrounds.

125 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0011 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a solid raised foundation of concrete block. The building's façade and sides were originally constructed of coursed ashlar block, which is still visible on the east wall. The north façade has since been covered with wood siding on the first story and vinyl siding on the second story. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal. The first-story façade consists of a slightly inset entrance consisting of a single-leaf metal and glass commercial door, flanked by paired plate glass commercial windows. The second-story front openings are 4-light casement windows with decorative shutters. The rear elevation of the building is constructed of concrete block. Attached to the rear is a small one-story frame and vinyl addition with a gable-front roof. The modern single-leaf wood door has 9-lights and paired 6/6 vinyl sash windows.

128 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0012 NCB

This ca. 1959, Modern Commercial-style three-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. Located at the rear northwest corner is a small stretcher bond brick tower with a flat roof and casement windows. The flat roof is covered with standing seam metal and has slightly overhanging eaves. A "cornice" of corrugated metal spans the south façade top. The building's slightly recessed brick stringcourses are the only exterior ornament found on the façade. The slightly recessed central entrance consists of double leaf metal and glass commercial doors flanked by canted plate glass storefront openings with ceramic tile surrounds. The second- and third-story openings are triple metal hopper windows with stone surrounds. Attached to the rear of the building is a two-story, concrete block and stretcher bond brick, side-gable addition with a large engaged brick flue. Located on the north elevation addition wall is a large bay opening for truck deliveries; to the east of that is a single-leaf wood paneled door.

135 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0013 NCB

This ca. 1963, Modern Commercial-style three-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern and has a flat roof; located at the rear southwest corner is brick flue. The front north-facing façade has been covered with stone-like panels; the lower portion of the façade is faced with terra-cotta-styled panels. The off-center entrance consists of double-leaf glass and metal commercial doors with a large metal surround, flanked by large, fixed plate glass windows. To the west of the entrance is a large decorative stone panel. Openings on the rear south elevations consist of 1/1 metal sash windows.

143 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0033 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style three-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown material and is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The building's flat roof has granite coping; the parapetted sides have barrel tile coping. The upper wall of the north facade is decorated with rectangular and diamond-shaped glazed ceramic block. The vertical elevations of the building are accented by slightly projecting square brick posts, also decorated with glazed ceramic block designs. The first-floor entrance consists of double-leaf metal and glass commercial doors flanked by large plate glass display windows. Located near the far east corner of the facade is a single-leaf metal and glass commercial door entrance that leads to the second floor. Second- and third-floor openings consist of single 6/6 vinyl sash and paired 4/4 vinyl sash windows with granite sills. An old vertical neon sign is still attached to the front of the building.

148-152 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0032 CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, seventeen-bay masonry building rests on a foundation of brick laid in 5/1 bond and is constructed of brick laid in 5/1 bond. The building consists of five commercial spaces; each block is articulated by slightly projecting brick ends. The flat roof has granite coping, round blind brick arches, and a

corbelled brick cornice. Located above the second-story openings is brick sawtooth ornament. Each commercial space is marked by its own entrance, consisting of either single-leaf and double-leaf modern commercial entrance doors, a double-leaf 15-light wood entrance door, and a single-leaf paneled wood entrance door. Other first story openings consist of large plate glass windows. The second-story openings consist of 2/2 wood sash windows with segmental wood surrounds and brick arches. Some of the storefronts have undergone some type of alteration such as brick veneer on the first story entrance area, the addition of cloth awnings, and in one case a large pent covered with wood shakes.

149 West Jackson                                      Commercial Building                                      221-5010-0014 CB  
This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building's second-story north facade is sited at street level; the rear of the building that was constructed against a sloping hill shows the full two stories. The building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. Low-pitched gable-front false front topped with barrel tile coping. Accenting the edges of the façade are stretcher bond brick square pilasters. The first and second stories are articulated by a string course of soldier brick. A border of header bricks outlines a slight inset brick panel for a commercial sign. A small pent with a molded wood frieze marks the first-story façade. The slightly recessed entrance consists of double-leaf wood doors with a single light topped by a single light transom. Flanking the entrance are canted metal plate glass commercial windows. Openings on the rear of the building consist of 4/4 wood sash windows.

153 West Jackson Street                                      Commercial Building                                      221-5010-0034 CB  
This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, five-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials. The building's second-story north facade is sited at street level; the rear of the building, constructed against a sloping hill, shows the full two stories. The building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond; the north-facing façade has been painted white with additional black painted decoration. The low-pitched front-gable false front has parapets that are topped with barrel tile coping; an interior brick flue pierces the roof. Accenting the edges of the façade are stretcher bond brick square pilasters. The first and second stories are articulated by a string course of soldier brick. A border of header bricks outlines a slight inset brick panel for a commercial sign. A flat roof hood marks the first-story façade. The two slightly recessed entrances each consist of double-leaf wood doors, each with a single light, topped by a single-light transom. Flanking the entrances are canted metal plate glass commercial windows.

165 West Jackson Street                                      Commercial Building                                      221-5010-0035 CB  
This ca. 1925, Commercial-style two-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of coursed rusticated ashlar block and is constructed of brick that has been covered with vinyl siding. The building's verticality on the facade is accentuated with rockfaced ashlar block pilasters. The flat roof is stepped with a false front; the building also has one of the more elaborate corbelled cornice treatments in the commercial district. A canted wall marks the double-leaf entrance doors; fronting the street are two large plate glass display windows. Other openings consist of 1/1 metal sash windows. All window openings have rockfaced ashlar lintels and sills. Attached to the rear of the building is a two-story, stretcher bond brick addition.

166-170-174 W. Jackson Street                                      Commercial Building                                      221-5010-0036 CB  
This ca. 1925, Commercial style two-story, thirteen-bay, masonry building, rests on a foundation of unknown material. The building is constructed of concrete block; the facade is buff-colored brick laid in stretcher bond; the building has a flat roof. One of the most striking features about this building is its elaborate red brick corbelled cornice with a brick sawtooth frieze of soldier bricks that provides a pleasant contrast to the building's neutral color. Slightly projecting brick pilasters articulate the three storefronts that occupy the building. 166 West Jackson is marked by a slightly inset, off-center commercial entrance door with three large plate glass display windows. The center storefront, 170 West Jackson, appears to consist of open framing and wood panels; the double leaf entrance is wood with a single light in each door. Flanking the entrance are small one-light commercial windows. 174 West Jackson has a slightly inset single-leaf door flanked by large commercial plate glass display windows. Second-story openings consist of 1/1 wood sash windows with granite sills. Across the second-story facade, each commercial bay has a pair of these windows topped by paired red brick round arches with corbelled bases. Spanning the rear of the building is a shed roof porch area that has been partially covered with wood lattice panels.

173-179 West Jackson Street                                      Commercial Building                                      220-5010-0037 CB  
This ca. 1945, Commercial-style three story, ten-bay, masonry, building rests on a solid foundation of concrete block and is constructed of concrete block. The façade is sheathed with buff-colored stretcher bond brick veneer. The flat roof has metal coping and two interior brick and concrete block flues. The façade is divided among three commercial addresses, with a metal pent spanning all three. Each entrance consists of a single-leaf, glass and metal commercial door. Two businesses have large plate glass windows; the third has four rows of two fixed glass lights in addition to two larger plate glass windows. A fourth single-leaf commercial door leads to the second floor offices. Second-story

openings consist of a band of triple vertical light windows with tooled granite surrounds. Openings at the rear of the building consist of 1/1 sash and 9-light metal casement windows.

180 West Jackson

Library

221-5010-0031 CB

This ca. 1940, Colonial Revival-style one-story, five-bay, U-shaped, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick and is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The complex gable roof is covered with composition shingles; located at the center of the rear, north elevation is a large exterior, shouldered chimney. A one-story, one-bay brick and concrete porch area marks the central entrance, a single-leaf, paneled wood door with a Colonial Revival-styled wood surround. The door surround consists of flanking fluted pilasters topped by a closed wood pediment. Flanking the entrance are small one-light hinged windows. Other openings consist of 20-light casement windows located in the slightly projecting front-gable roof blocks located on the east and west corners of the façade, and 8-light windows on the rear north elevation.

185 West Jackson Street

Commercial Building

220-5010-0038 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two story, seven-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick and is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal with coping and has a decorative corbelled brick cornice. The two storefronts of the building are articulated by slightly projecting square brick pillars. The first story of the building has been covered with permastone siding. A metal awning spans the first-floor façade. There are two entrances on the first floor. The first is a double-leaf commercial entrance with a single-light transom, flanked by canted commercial windows. The second entrance is a single-leaf commercial door with a single-light transom, also flanked by commercial windows. To the far east of the building façade is another single-leaf wood door that leads to the second floor. Second-floor openings consist of metal 1/1 sash with granite sills.

197-201 West Jackson Street

Commercial Building

221-5010-0041 CB

This ca. 1933, Commercial-style two-story, nine-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown material and is constructed of buff-colored brick laid in stretcher bond. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal; a portion of the roof retains its molded cornice and coping. The other side of the cornice area is covered with a long, narrow metal sheet. Underneath the cornice area is a wide brick frieze with corbelled brick molding that spans the façade. A slightly recessed stretcher bond brick panel articulates each commercial bay; the second-story openings are topped by round arches. However, each business has made significant changes to its portion of the facade. The window surrounds of 197 West Jackson have inlaid vertical board panels; directly above the fixed 1-light metal replacement windows is a diamond-shaped wood panel. The openings and recessed brick panels have been further accentuated with ashlar stone buttresses. Both the first- and second story round arches are set with ashlar stone with keystones and tooled granite sills. The office entrance consists of a single-leaf metal and glass commercial door; flanking the entrance are two inset Tuscan columnettes. The storefront of 201 West Jackson has a fluted metal surround with double-leaf metal and glass commercial doors flanked by large plate glass windows. The 1/1 wood sash windows have round-arch brick surrounds and tooled granite sills. A central wood single-leaf door with a single light located between the two businesses leads to a second-story office or apartment.

202 West Jackson Street

Courthouse

221-5010-0002;other DHR ID 221-0002 CB, 2-NC0

This ca. 1829, Greek Revival two-and-half-story, seven-bay, masonry courthouse is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade and 6/1 bond on the remaining elevations. The complex roof is covered with composition shingle and has slightly overhanging eaves and a boxed cornice with ornamental fretwork and guilloche. The front-gable portion of the roof is marked by a parapetted false front, topped by a frame octagonal cupola with an octagonal roof of composition shingle with a finial. Each elevation of the cupola has a 6-light window. An internal brick chimney with corbeled cap pierces the rear north slope of the west side-gable block. Dominating the temple-front facade is a central two-story, three-bay, front-gable portico. The trabeated gable with pedimented pent has overhanging eaves, a dentilled cornice, fretwork, and a Palladian window consisting of a center 20-light window flanked by narrow 10-light openings with molded wood surrounds in the center gable end. Supporting the portico roof are massive Corinthian columns connected to a wrought iron balustrade. The central entrance consists of double-leaf wood doors with 10 lights topped by a 20-light transom. The entrance surround is trabeated with a pediment. Other openings consist of single and paired 4/4 wood sash windows. Attached to either side of the original wings are ca. 1969 two-story, flat-roof additions. Attached to the rear of the building is a large, two-story, side-gable addition constructed of brick laid in 6/1 bond. Standing at street level in front of the courthouse is a sculpture dedicated to World War II veterans of Scott County. Constructed in 1999, the memorial consists of a stretcher bond brick shelter with a standing seam shed roof. A sculpture of a soldier dressed in World War II combat uniform stands within. A memorial plaque is located in the front of the memorial. Located on the courthouse grounds just east of the courthouse building is a brick memorial built to honor the Confederate Veterans of Scott County. The marker was erected in October 1988 by the John S. Mosby Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans #1409.

209 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0042 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two-story, five-bay, masonry building rests on a high brick foundation and was originally constructed of brick laid in 5/1 bond. The façade is now covered with stretcher bond variegated brick veneer. A granite water table spans the west side of the building. The parapeted shed roof is covered with standing seam metal; portions of the original barrel tile coping can still be seen. Along the façade, the roof's coping appears to have been removed and replaced with stretcher bond brick. The second story of the building retains the original brick quoining that defines the ends of the façade as well as the central second-story opening. A painted stone belt course articulates the first and second stories of the building. A standing seam metal awning shelters the first-story façade. Central double-leaf commercial doors are flanked by 12-light fixed metal windows. The original second-story openings on the façade have been covered but retain brick jack arches. Window openings on the west and rear of the building have been filled in.

239 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0043 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial Style, two-story, six-bay building is constructed of stretcher bond brick; the facade is covered with buff-colored brick laid in stretcher bond. A corbeled brick border outlines brick signage in which the name "Quillan" is spelled with red brick. The shed roof is covered with standing seam metal; spanning the front and east side top of the building is a "frieze" of standing seam metal. Slightly recessed entranceways lead to two single-leaf metal and glass commercial doors flanked by canted plate glass windows. Other openings consist of 8-light and 12-light metal casement windows with rowlock brick sills and soldier brick arches. Attached to the south rear of the building is a large, two-story, stretcher bond brick addition; a one-story, one bay, gable-front roof entrance porch is located on the east wall of the addition. Attached to the south and east wall of the addition is a frame, board and batten, gable-front roof addition.

241-243 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0044 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of unknown materials and is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The flat roof has metal coping; directly below is a row of soldier brick that forms a simple frieze. A similar brick pattern accentuates each story of the north-facing facade. Slightly recessed brick panels further articulate the third-story openings. A flat roof with a flared front spans the facade, marking the three single-leaf doors with wrought iron security screens; directly above is an elaborate wrought iron balcony with double-leaf multi-light doors. Flanking the central entrance are sidelights. First-story openings consists of fixed single light windows. Second-story openings are 1/1 wood sash flanked by glass block sidelights. The third-story openings are 6-light metal casement windows with 4-light transoms. A large garage door bay is located at the rear (south) elevation; window openings on this wall have been filled in.

242 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0016 CB

This ca. 1925, Commercial-style two-story, two-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of parged concrete block. The building is constructed of brick, also laid in five courses of stretcher bond alternating with one course of Flemish bond. Brick buttresses with corbelled brick edges define the building's front second-story area. The flat roof has parapetted sides and barrel tile coping. A one-bay concrete stoop marks the off-center entrance, which consists of a metal and glass commercial door. Other openings consist of vinyl 1/1 sash windows with rowlock brick sills.

248 West Jackson Street      Dwelling      221-5010-0030 CB

This ca. 1935, Craftsman-styled bungalow one-story, three-bay, single-family dwelling rests on a solid parged concrete foundation and is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The side-gable roof is covered with composition shingles and has overhanging eaves, beaded board soffit, and exposed shaped trusses. Rectangular louvered wood vents are located in the gable ends. An engaged brick chimney with corbelled cap is found on the west wall. A small central gablet with overhanging rafters and exposed truss pierces the central slope. Square brick posts resting on brick piers with concrete caps, connected to a closed brick balustrade, support a three-bay engaged porch with a simple frieze and shaped rafter tails. A single-leaf multiple-light Craftsman-styled door marks the entrance. Other openings consist of tripartite windows of a single large light flanked by Craftsman-styled 9-light windows. A one-story side-gable roof brick addition is attached to the rear wall.

260 West Jackson Street      Dwelling      221-5010-0045 CB

This ca. 1940, Tudor-Revival styled one-and-a-half-story, four-bay, single-family dwelling rests on a stretcher bond brick foundation. The house is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The side-gable roof is covered with composite shingles; small triangular louvered vents are found in the gable ends. Paired 6/6 sash windows are also found in the gable ends. An engaged brick chimney with a granite cap is located on the east wall. Located on the front south slope and rear north slope of the roof are a frame and vinyl clad shed roof dormers with 6/6 sash windows. A slightly projecting steep gable front block with a raking cornice marks a small brick stoop with brick wing wall

planters and the off-center entrance, which consists of a single-leaf paneled door with 9-lights. A Georgian-styled trabeated door surround with pilasters, keystone, and a broken pediment with ornament is flanked by two small 4-light wood hinged windows. A 6/6 wood sash window is found directly over the entrance. Other openings consist of single and triple wood and vinyl 2/2 sash windows. Attached to the east side of the house is a side-gable porch.

251-263 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0046 CB

This ca. 1935, Commercial-style two-story, ten-bay masonry building rests on a raised foundation of parged concrete and is constructed of 5/1 American bond brick. The building has a flat roof with barrel tile coping; located at the rear southeast corner of the building is an exterior square brick chimney with corbelled cap. The north-facing façade has been modified; the walls are covered with beaded board; a false mansard roof is sheathed with composition shingles. Three storefronts mark the façade; located at the east and west end are small two-bay businesses, each marked by a single-leaf commercial door with a single plate glass window. The central business is marked by double-leaf commercial entrance doors; other openings consist of large plate glass windows. Each entrance is topped by a single large light. The rear and side elevation openings have been filled in with concrete block.

267 West Jackson Street      Gate City Movie Theater      221-5010-0047 CB

This ca. 1925, Commercial-style two-story, three-bay, masonry building rests on a solid foundation of concrete block. The north-facing façade is covered with whitewashed stretcher bond brick and is punctuated by slightly recessed narrow vertical brick panels with decorative brick corbeling. The shed roof is parapetted with granite coping. Directly below the roofline coping is a slightly recessed ornamental brick panel. The central entrance to the building consists of a covered inset area marked by three openings that have been boarded over. On the second story are two large window openings filled with glass blocks. The rear of the building is constructed of concrete block.

272 West Jackson Street      Dwelling, Shed      221-5010-0048 CB,NCB

This ca. 1960, Southern Colonial Revival-styled two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling rests on a solid stretcher bond brick foundation and is sheathed with wide horizontal boards. The east and west side elevation walls are covered with a brick veneer. The side-gable roof is covered with composite shingles and has a molded cornice and rectangular louvered vents in the gable ends; an engaged brick chimney with corbelled cap is attached to the west wall. A two-story, five-bay hipped roof portico is supported by square wood columns. The central entrance is a single-leaf wood paneled door flanked by sidelights. Other openings consist of 6/6 and 8/8 vinyl sash windows. Attached to the east wall of the house is a one-story, stretcher bond brick veneer, side-gable addition.

273 West Jackson Street      Commercial Building      221-5010-0017 CB

This ca. 1910, Commercial-style two-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick. The building is constructed of brick, also laid in stretcher bond, and has a molded concrete water table. The shed roof appears to be covered with standing seam metal and metal coping; sheets of standing seam metal have been applied to the front/north edge of the roof to form a "cornice," which covers the original molded brick ornament. Additional sheets cut in a zigzag pattern line the top portion of the west wall. Marking the front entrance of the building is a standing seam metal shed awning that spans the façade. The central entrance consists of double leaf metal and glass commercial doors with a single transom light, flanked by large commercial plate glass windows with fluted metal panels underneath. The original west elevation openings have been bricked in but retain their granite lintels and sills. On the lower level are metal casement windows and a vertical-board garage bay door.

304 West Jackson Street      Dwelling, Secondary Dwelling, Gazebo, Carport

221-5010-0049      CB, NCB, 2-NCSt

This ca. 1860, Southern Colonial Revival-styled two-story, three-bay, frame dwelling, rests on a solid stretcher bond brick foundation. The house most likely was originally sheathed with weatherboard which has since been covered over with vinyl siding. The side-gable roof is covered with newer standing seam metal overhanging eaves; attached to the east and west walls of the house are double-shouldered brick chimneys that have been clad with vinyl siding. The tops of the shoulders are covered with small panels of standing seam metal. A two-story, one-bay, projecting front-gable porch dominates the façade and is supported by wrought iron posts; an octagonal louvered vent is located in the front gable. The central entrance consists of a single-leaf paneled door; the flanking sidelights have been filled in. Other openings consist of 1/1 vinyl windows with decorative shutters. Attached to the west wall is a one-story frame and vinyl addition with a side-gable roof and paired 1/1 vinyl sash windows. Located to the east of the house is a ca. 2000 one-story, frame and vinyl carport with a front-gable roof and a ca. 2000 wood gazebo. To the rear (north and west) of the house and gazebo is an outbuilding that may be a secondary dwelling. The ca. 1990, two-story frame building is sheathed in vinyl siding and has a front-gable roof.

316 West Jackson Street      Dwelling, Shed      221-5010-0050 2-CB

This ca. 1930, Tudor Revival, one-and-half-story, eight-bay, single-family dwelling, rests on a coursed ashlar block foundation. The frame house is sheathed in vinyl and has undergone a great deal of alteration. The dwelling appears to have been an L-shaped block with intersecting gables that are now covered with composite shingle; the gable ends have decorative stickwork that includes ornamental king's posts and pendants. Small 1/1 sliding windows are also found in the gable ends. What may have been an engaged brick chimney is located on the front south façade wall. A shed roof dormer with triple 1/1 vinyl sash windows is located on the front south and rear north slopes of the building. A hipped roof porch has been enclosed; the entrance to the house is through a single-leaf wood paneled door on the east wall of the porch. Attached to the rear of the house is a larger, two-story frame addition with a side-gable roof. Window openings consist of 1/1 vinyl sash. Located to the rear north and east of the house is a ca. 1950 frame shed sheathed in weatherboard and vertical board and with a side-gable roof covered with asphalt shingle.

328 West Jackson Street                      Dwelling                      221-5010-0018                      NCB

This ca. 1965, Minimal Traditional, one-story, three-bay masonry single-family dwelling, rests on a high basement constructed of stretcher bond brick. The house is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond brick pattern. The low-pitched gable-front roof is covered with composition shingles; a small triangular louvered vent is located in the top gable end. An engaged brick chimney with corbelled cap is attached to the east elevation wall. A hipped roof porch spans the façade and is supported by wrought iron posts connected to a wrought iron balustrade. The single-leaf entrance door is wood. Other openings consist of 6/6 and paired 9/6 vinyl sash windows. Attached to the rear of the house is a one-story gable-side brick addition.

341 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0019                      CB

This ca. 1930, Commercial-style two-story, six-bay, masonry building rests on a concrete block foundation. The façade is constructed of brick, laid in five courses of stretcher bond. The west and south elevations are constructed of concrete block. The flat roof has a false front with a corbelled brick cornice and is topped by a smooth granite cap. The sides of the building are stepped and topped with barrel tile coping. The building consists of two storefronts; each business is marked by a border of decorative brick where signage can be placed. The southeast entrance consists of a slightly inset single-leaf wood paneled door with a single light. Flanking this entrance are canted commercial plate glass windows. To the west of this entrance is another single-leaf wood paneled door with a single light and a tall, narrow transom light. To the east of this entrance are commercial plate glass windows. All of the windows have concrete sills. Openings on the west wall consist of 15-light casement windows. On the rear/south elevation is a loading dock area, marked by a large garage door bay.

352 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0020                      CB

This ca. 1925, Commercial-style one-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick. The building is constructed of brick, laid in 6:1 bond; brick and granite quoins articulate the outer east edge of the building's façade. The flat roof features a corbelled brick cornice and has parapetted sides. The façade has four entrances: a single-leaf wood door with a single light, two large metal garage bay doors, and an entrance door opening that is bricked in.

354 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0021                      CB

This ca. 1925, Commercial-style two-story, four-bay, masonry building rests on a foundation of stretcher bond brick. The building is constructed of brick, also laid in stretcher bond. The flat roof has barrel tile coping and parapetted sides. All of the original openings have been covered with sheets of plywood but retain their original soldier brick lintels and brick rowlock sills.

362-372 West Jackson Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0022                      CB

This ca. 1925, Commercial-style two-story, four-bay, masonry building consists of two storefronts and rests on an unknown foundation. The building is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The flat roof has parapetted sides with barrel tile coping; the front false parapet has a granite cap. Three slightly projecting two-story brick posts articulate each storefront block. A border of decorative brick outlines the central panel for signage. The remaining entrance consists of a single-leaf wood door; the original light has been covered with a sheet of plywood, as has the transom above. Brick buttresses with beveled granite caps flank the entrance. All of the original openings have been covered with sheets of plywood but retain their original soldier brick lintels and brick rowlock sills.

### **Water Street**

164 Water Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0051                      NCB

Attached to the rear of 125 West Jackson is this ca. 2000, Minimal Traditional, small one-story frame and vinyl addition, which houses a separate business. The front-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal and has

overhanging eaves and a small octagonal louvered vent in the south gable. The modern single-leaf, 9-light wood door is flanked by paired 6/6 vinyl sash windows with decorative shutters.

### ***West Willow Street***

247 West Willow Street                      Commercial Building                      221-5010-0053 CB

This ca. 1955, Commercial-style one-story building is constructed of stretcher bond brick. The flat roof has large overhanging eaves and an interior concrete block flue.

267 West Willow Street                      Jail                      221-5010-0001; other DHR ID 221-0001 CB

This ca. 1829, Greek Revival vernacular, two-story, six-bay, masonry jail building rests on a foundation of rusticated ashlar block and is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a boxed cornice and simple frieze. A one-story, six-bay, hipped roof porch is supported by turned wood posts connected to a simple wood balustrade. The porch rests on brick piers; the openings have been covered with lattice panels. Two single-leaf wood doors mark the entrance. Window openings consist of 1/1 sash. Attached to the rear northwest corner is a one-story, frame addition with a side-gable roof. Attached to the rear northeast wall is a one-story brick addition.

Original building was a central passage, single pile plan

### ***Woodland Street***

137 Woodland Street                      Dwelling                      221-5010-0003 CB

This ca. 1930, vernacular one-story, three-bay, T-shaped, frame single-family dwelling shows influences of the Colonial Revival and Bungalow styles. The building sits on a raised concrete block foundation and is sheathed with vinyl siding. The intersecting gable roof is covered with composition shingle; two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps pierce the roofline. The slightly projecting front-gable block features overhanging eaves, a pedimented pent, and raking cornice. A shed roof porch is supported by square wood posts connected to a wrought iron balustrade. The off-center entrance consists of a single-leaf wood door with a single-light transom. Other openings consist of 1/1 wood sash windows with decorative shutters. A rear shed roof porch addition has been enclosed.

**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)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1829-1960 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

various \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

Under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture and Commerce, the period of significance for the district begins with the construction date of the oldest extant resource, the Scott County Courthouse, built ca. 1829. As the district remains today as an active and locally important commercial center, the period of significance runs through 1960.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Gate City Historic District, located in Scott County, Virginia, is considered eligible under Criterion A in the area of commerce at the local level. The five-block area served as the historic business district of Gate City, which emerged as a vital commercial hub for the surrounding countryside. Settlement in the area dates to the second half of the eighteenth century; the town was laid out in 1815. The town experienced rapid growth at the beginning of the twentieth century. The historic district is considered eligible under Criterion C at the local level for the quality of its architecture, which includes the Scott County Courthouse, built in 1829, as well as commercial buildings, that illustrate the developing range of Commercial-style architecture from approximately 1900 to 1960 and feature brick and stone construction with brick, stone, and concrete ornament. The period of significance extends from 1829, the earliest date of the courthouse construction to 1960. The Gate City Historic District is considered eligible at the local level of significance as an example of a southwestern Virginia commercial center.

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

The Gate City Historic District is considered eligible under Criterion A at the local level in the area of commerce because it comprises the downtown business district of a town that served as the commercial hub for the surrounding countryside of Scott County since the nineteenth century. Although settled in the eighteenth century, the town was laid out in 1815 and experienced rapid growth at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The historic district is considered eligible under Criterion C at the local level for the quality of its architecture, which includes the Scott County Courthouse, built in 1829, as well as commercial buildings that illustrate the developing range of Commercial-style architecture from approximately 1900 to 1960 and feature brick and stone construction with brick, stone, and concrete ornament.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

The town of Gate City, the county seat of Scott County, lies nestled in the Clinch Mountains of southwest Virginia, about 3 miles north of the Tennessee line. Steep hills, dense forests, and fertile valleys for farming characterize the surrounding area. As of 2000, approximately 2,200 persons resided in Gate City, which straddles the junction of Routes US-23/58/421 and VA-71. The town retains much of its original building stock, particularly in many of its neighborhoods and the downtown commercial district, which includes antique stores, hardware stores, a department store, restaurants, a drug store, and professional offices, along with some dwellings and governmental buildings. The Gate City Historic District is an architecturally and historically significant concentration of mainly Commercial-style buildings that reflects the development of Gate City's current central business district during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built between ca. 1829 and ca. 1960, the buildings chronicle the historical development of the town's commercial activity. Today, Gate City is poised to begin extensive economic development and revitalization of its downtown area.

The origins of Gate City date to 1771 when Silas Engart received a land grant of 200 acres that included the location of the future town. By the time of Scott County's formation in 1815, landowner James Davidson, Sr. donated approximately 13 acres of his plantation for establishing the county seat. The location of the town was such that it would emerge as a vital commercial center for people and goods traveling through Big Moccasin Gap and the Holston River. When the county seat was established in 1815, it was named Winfield in honor of famed War of 1812 hero Gen. Winfield Scott. The main street of the new town honored war hero and future president Andrew Jackson. The town was divided into thirty-four lots, beginning at the site of 114 West Jackson Street (formerly Chris's department store). Seventeen lots were laid out along the north and south sides of Jackson Street. Two of these lots were set aside for construction of the Scott County Courthouse and Jail in 1829.

In 1817, the town was renamed Estillville in honor of Benjamin Estill, a local judge instrumental in the formation of the new county. As a result of the county seat's location between Big Moccasin Gap and the Holston River, a number of businesses began to appear around the courthouse. Soon, the town grew into a thriving commercial center for people passing through on their way westward, for farmers hoping to sell goods, and businessmen in town for legal affairs. The town's importance as a transportation center also emerged, with a regular wagon train and coach line service conveying people, mail, and commercial goods between Bedford and Estillville. Gate City received its present name in 1886, when Gen. Rufus A. Ayers pointed out that proximity to Big Moccasin Gap marked the town as the "Gate Way to the West." The town was incorporated in 1892. Besides serving as a business and government center, Gate City was also home to

the Shoemaker College, established in 1897 and named after Col. James L. Shoemaker, a successful businessman who provided funds to the county for educational needs. The co-educational college was in operation for only a short time. Due to financial difficulties the institution closed in 1906; the campus now houses an elementary school.

By the beginning of the twentieth-century, Gate City was one of several “boom towns” located in the southwestern region of the state. Although the streets were little more than dirt byways in the town, the area was a vibrant commercial and transportation center. As many as six daily passenger trains passed through Gate City. The town also had a railroad log yard where logs from all over the county were stored and then loaded to be later transported by train. Iron ore from the Snowflake and Nickelsville areas as well as glass sand from the south of Clinch Mountain were manufactured and shipped from Gate City. In addition, the town had a thriving manufacturing center in the area of Water Street where wood pumps, staves, sleds, and harnesses were built. By 1915, the town supported two livery stables on Willow Street and a blacksmith shop on Jackson Street, as well as a dentist’s office, an ice plant, a casket shop, and a furniture manufacturing business. By the 1930s, Gate City had three movie theaters, banks, and a hotel. The town also had two businesses that dealt with auto sales and repairs.

On Sanborn Insurance Maps of Gate City dating to 1927, Gate City’s commercial district appears as a tightly packed grouping of businesses, government buildings, churches, dwellings, and warehouses. The most common type of commercial architecture was the two-part commercial block, a distinctive type of commercial architecture composition that dominated many small towns and cities from approximately 1850 to 1950. Many of the commercial buildings in Gate City were expressions of the shop-house form, which dates back in the United States to colonial times. The shop-house building consists of two areas; the first floor or public area where the business resided and a private area, usually upstairs where a family or individuals resided. As the demand for services and goods grew throughout the nineteenth century, the shop-house, particularly the private space, gradually gave way to spaces used expressly for commerce, office activities, or, in some cases, light manufacturing. True to historical antecedents, the commercial buildings are typically jammed tightly together close to street level.

However, areas of clear, open spaces display the more traditional layout of the courthouse and jail. On the 1927 map, the area to the east of the courthouse is open; by 1940, a small public library would be built there. In keeping with the pattern of government buildings being clustered together, the town post office was originally located across the street from the courthouse on the corner of Jackson Street and Moccasin Street (now Manville Road). The church lots also were built with an eye to open ground areas, which help break up the otherwise monolithic appearance of the commercial blocks along Jackson Street. With late twentieth-century development and modernization, the commercial district of Gate City today contains more open spaces in the form of commercial parking lots, built where earlier buildings once stood.

Based on the Sanborn maps, Jackson Street served as the town’s main commercial artery. Manufacturing and other businesses such as the harness business, the hitchings shed, and other storage facilities tended to operate away from the main commercial center on thoroughfares parallel to Jackson Street, such as Water Street on the south and Willow Street on the north. However, by the 1950s and 1960s, the town’s momentum was slowing. As industry in Kingsport, Tennessee (6 miles to the south) attracted Gate City residents, several local businesses and small manufacturing companies shut down. Train service gradually dwindled. Although Gate City still serves as the county seat, the downtown area is clearly in a state of transition as many former commercial buildings now stand vacant.

The overall effect of the two-part commercial block in Gate City is unified and orderly. The majority of buildings were constructed of concrete block, stone or brick. Ornamentation, in the form of brick corbelling, cornices, quoins, and window ornament, is copious but usually restrained, leaning toward Classical elements rather than the highly agitated and fussy ornamentation seen on commercial buildings of the late Victorian period. Together, the buildings in the Gate City Historic District remain an important reminder of the historical development of the town’s central business district and, as a group, illustrate the history of commercial building traditions in the southwest Virginia region.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Location was key to creation of Gate City," *Kingsport Times-News*, June 9, 1988, n.p.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Stately homes grace Gate City," *Kingsport Times-News*, June 9, 1988, n.p.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Transportation in Gate City has come a long way," *Kingsport Times-News*, June 9, 1988, n.p.

Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street, Walnut Creek, New York*. Alta Mira Press, 2000.

Peters, John, and Margaret Peters. *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville and London, 1995.

Sanborn Map Company, "Gate City," 1927. Digital versions accessed from in-library database, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 221-5010

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 12.84  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>358395</u>	<u>4055933</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>358389</u>	<u>4055436</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>358930</u>	<u>4055926</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>358910</u>	<u>4055426</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The Gate City Historic District boundary is depicted on the accompanying USGS quad map and scaled district map showing property boundaries and building footprints.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The Gate City Historic District boundary is concisely drawn to include each and every contiguous eligible commercial and domestic building in the town's central business district.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Meg Greene Malvasi/Architectural Historian  
organization William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research date 12 March 2010  
street & number 327 Richmond Rd. telephone 757-221-2580  
city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185  
e-mail [meg@architextsite.net](mailto:meg@architextsite.net); dwlewe@wm.edu

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**All photographs are common to:**

**Property:** Gate City Historic District

**Location:** Town of Gate City in Scott County, Virginia

**DHR Resource ID No.:** 221-5010

**Photographer:** Amy Garrett

**Date Photographed:** October 2009

**All digital images are stored at:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

View: Scott County Courthouse, 202 W. Jackson Street, South and West Elevations

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0001.tif

View: 114 W. Jackson Street, South and East Elevations

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0002.tif

View: 128 W. Jackson Street, South Elevation

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0003.tif

View: First Apostolic Church, 149 W. Jackson Street, North Elevation

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0004.tif

View: 242 W. Jackson Street, South Elevation

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0005.tif

View: 362-372 W. Jackson Street, South Elevation

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0006.tif

View: Broadwater Drug, 119 East Jackson Street, South and East Elevations

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0007.tif

View: 248 W. Jackson Street, South Elevation

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0008.tif

View: 132-152 W. Jackson Street, South and West Elevations

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0009.tif

View: 143 W. Jackson Street, North and West Elevations

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0010.tif

View: East Jackson Street, Looking West

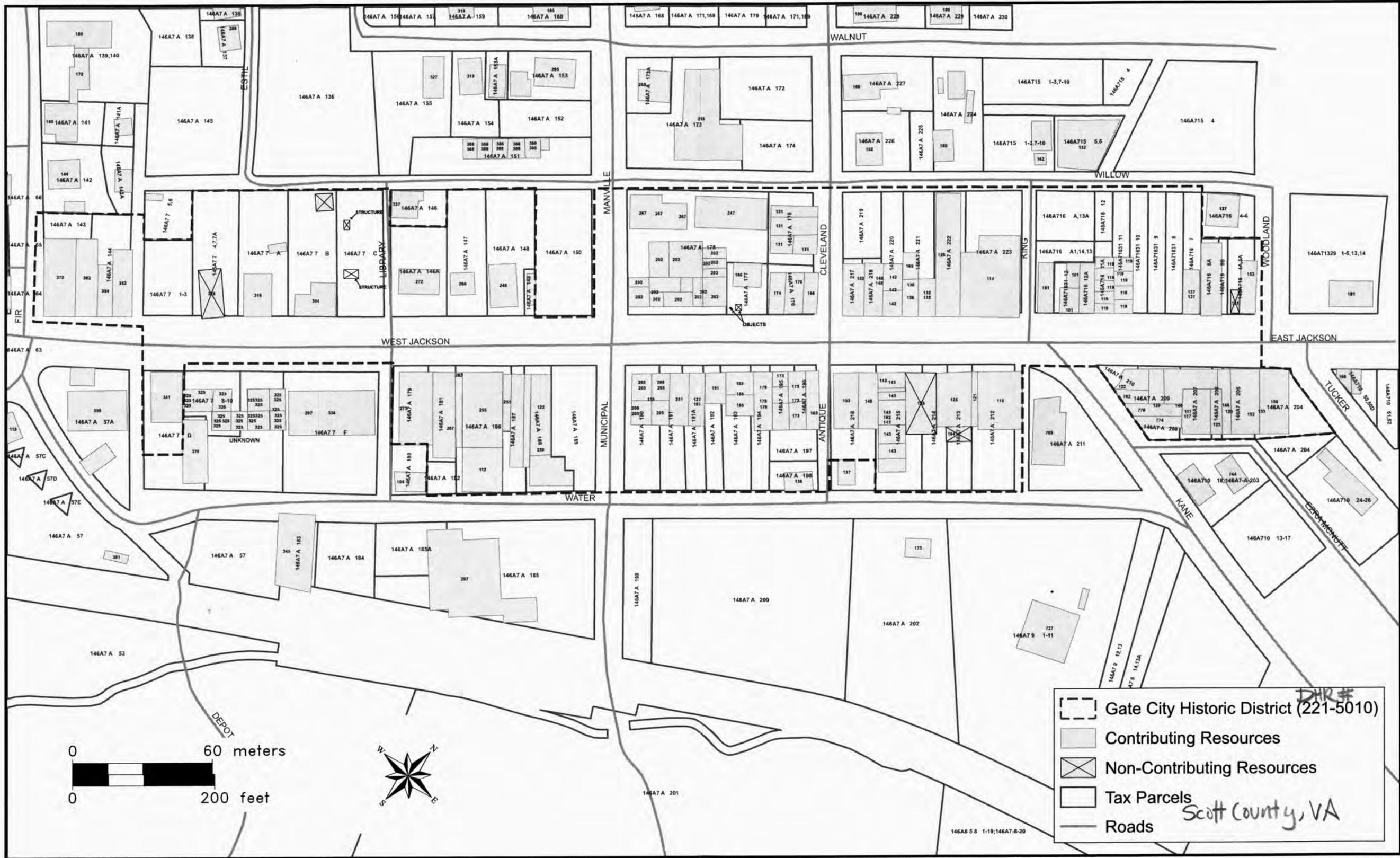
Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0011.tif

View: West Jackson Street, Looking Northeast

Image: VA\_Scott County\_Gate City Historic District\_0012.tif

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

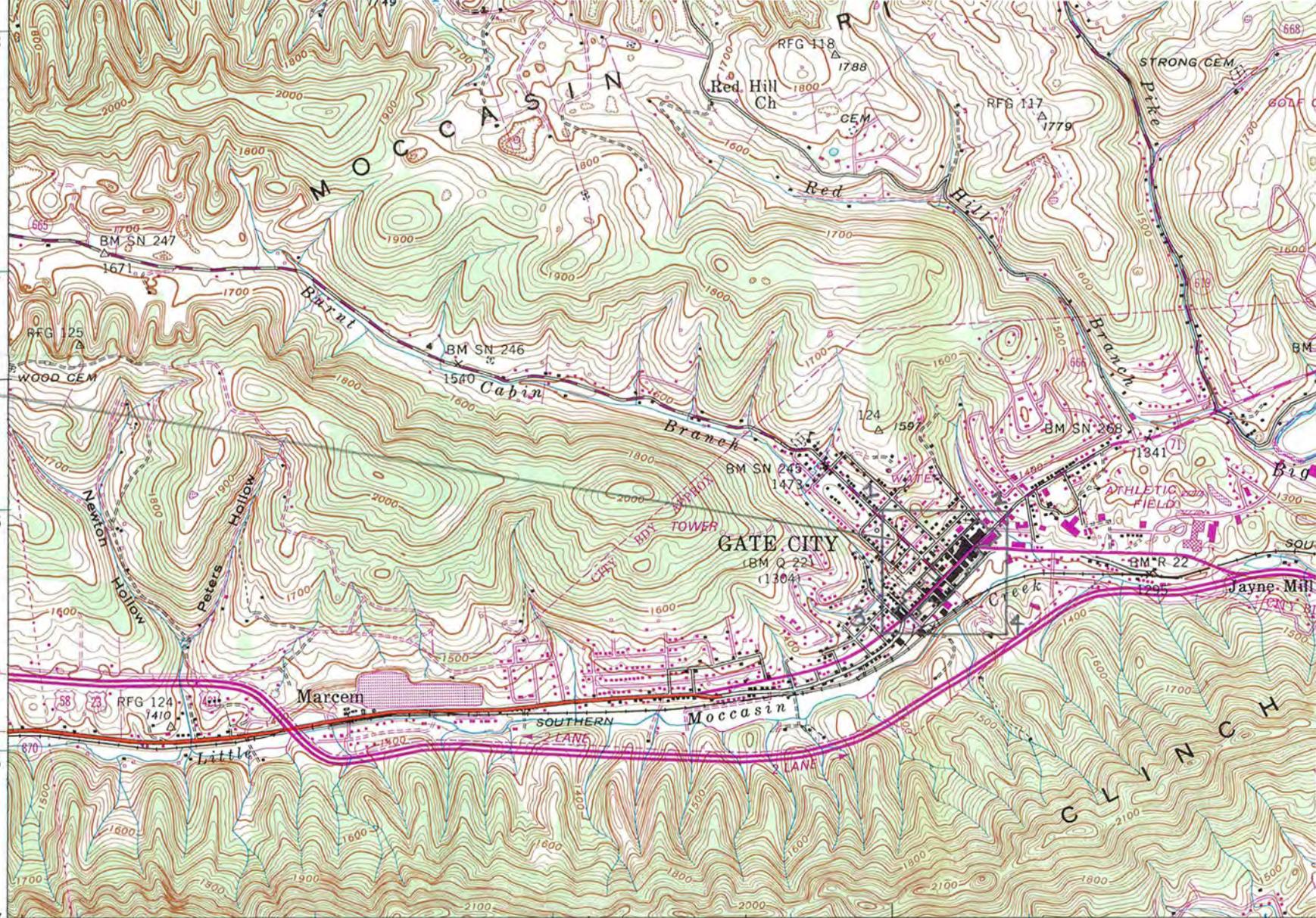
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



-  Gate City Historic District (221-5010)
  -  Contributing Resources
  -  Non-Contributing Resources
  -  Tax Parcels
  -  Roads
- DHR #  
Scott County, VA

Gate City  
Historic District  
Scott Co., VA  
DHR ID# 221-5010  
Gate City, VA quad  
NAD 1927  
Zone 17  
UTMs

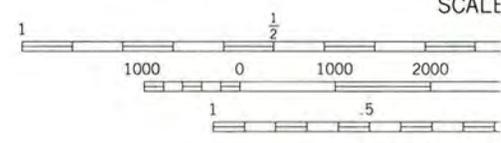
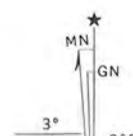
E	N
1-358395	4055933
2-358930	4055926
3-358389	4055436
4-358910	4055426



36° 37' 30"  
82° 37' 30"

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority  
Published by the Geological Survey  
Control by NOS/NOAA, USGS and TVA  
Topography by USGS by photogrammetric methods.  
Map field checked by TVA, 1938

Church Hill 188-SW  
4457 II SW



(Kingsport 4457)  
SCALE

CONTOUR