

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED
FEB 26 1999
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Star City Commercial Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: LI0064

2. Location

Street & Number: Jefferson and Bradley Streets

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Star City

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Lincoln

Code: 079 Zip Code: 71667

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private & Public-Local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

11

2

Buildings

Sites

1

Structures

12

2

Objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National
Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Something so Dim it Must Be Holy:
Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934

<u>Name of Property</u>	<u>County and State</u>
Star City Commercial Historic District	Lincoln County, Arkansas

4. 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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

N. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper	Date
	Of action

6. Function or Use

Sub: Specialty store
Monument/marker

Sub: Specialty store
Business
Monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
20th century commercial

Materials: foundation brick roof built up tar
 walls brick other
stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Star City Commercial Historic District in Star City, Lincoln County consists of thirteen buildings and one object situated on Bradley and Jefferson Streets. Eleven of the buildings are considered contributing, as is a 1926 Confederate Memorial on the town square which was listed on the National Register in April of 1996. Construction dates of the buildings span circa 1916 to circa 1928; they are bordered on the south by Bradley Street, on the west by Jefferson Street and on the north and east by the town square.

Architectural Survey

The Star City Commercial Historic District is composed of brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings. The store entries and display windows have undergone the inevitable changes through the years but the upper stories and parapets largely retain their historic integrity qualifying them for inclusion in the Register. Ornamentation is simple on the contributing buildings in the district and is largely represented by corbelled masonry. The district also includes the 1926 Star City Confederate Monument (LI0044) which is situated on the town square. The monument was listed on the National Register in 1996 for its association with the efforts of the Captain J. Martin Meroney Chapter No. 1831 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect its members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. It is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture In Arkansas, 1886-1934."

Several of the commercial structures making up the district have been altered but a few remain relatively unchanged at the level of entry. Some of the more contact entries and display windows are interspersed throughout Bradley and

Jefferson Streets. The 1923 Nichols Hardware Building at 202 Bradley (LI0066) now vacant, could be considered one of the most intact of the district as it retains its original display windows and recessed entry with wooden french door. The only alteration is the application of plywood on a ribbon of transoms above the entry. The brick parapet is simple with two crenellations embellished with inset concrete diamond details.

The Adams Smith Building at 204-206 Bradley (LI0067) was built in 1922 and is a simple structure with four crenellations at the parapet. Buck's Hardware operates from the building now. A metal awning covers two recessed entries with large display windows which are original to the building. Above the window a neon sign remains from its days as the G.D. Smith Mercantile.

The building at 208 Bradley (LI0068) is the Peacock Inn. The 1928 inn, now a flower shop, is a two-story brick structure with recessed entry door and display windows. The transoms have been covered with plywood but the upper story is lit by two one-over-one double-hung windows within an original parapet with a simple soldier course.

The buildings along the west side of the square include the Norton Mercantile Building at 102 Jefferson (LI0074), an unadorned stucco building constructed in 1927. A dress store now occupies the former mercantile but its recessed entry remains. The ribbon of transoms above the display windows has been boarded over.

The building at 104 Jefferson, or the W.D. Davis Grocery Store (LI0075), was built at the same time as 102 Jefferson and is sheathed in plain stucco as well. The building, now a restaurant, does retain its transom windows above the original recessed entry.

The W.A. Trussell Dry Goods Store at 106 Jefferson (LI0076) displays a wood and glass entry door between two large plate glass windows. The display windows and door are flush with the sidewalk which is probably an alteration from its original 1927 appearance. Transom windows above the entry have been covered with plywood. A brick pediment contains rows of soldier bricks as decoration.

The Vick Building (LI0065) at 200 Bradley Street is the most impressive building in the district despite the changes to the first-story. The two-story brick structure - built in 1923 - was probably the first new building erected after a 1922 fire which destroyed all but two buildings on the south side of the square. The building, which currently contains an antique store, has a concrete parapet above two ribbons of four stationary windows with geometric muntins beneath transoms containing similar muntins. Concrete and brick detailing adorn the front facade around the second-story windows and beneath the parapet. The first-story display windows, above new brick bulkheads, have been replaced with metal and glass plate windows, and door, bringing the entry flush to the sidewalk.

The building at 210 Bradley (LI0069) has recently been renovated for use as a law office but it was built in 1928 for the Crow Drug Store. The ribbon of fixed windows above the entry are intact but the display windows and doors on this building have been replaced with modern metal and glass. The parapet above is plain with a row of soldier bricks above the entry.

The building at 216 Bradley (LI0071) was the home of two different drug stores after the turn of the century but now houses the Lincoln Ledger. The display windows and door have been altered but the brick parapet is intact with a short length of masonry corbelling and dentil work. Two cast iron star anchors remain.

The building at 218 Bradley (LI0072) is part of the facade for 220 Bradley but is listed as a separate address. This circa 1916 building once served the community as a post office but is now vacant. One-over-one stationary windows have been placed in the display window and around a modern metal and glass door. The entire facade above the entry is covered with a metal awning that extends to the corner of 220 Bradley next door. The length of brick corbelling and dentil work above cast iron star anchors mirrors the detail seen on 216 Bradley.

The Johnson Mercantile Building at 220 Bradley (LI0073) is now the Wynn Insurance Agency. Built in 1916, this building and 218 Bradley are the oldest structures on the square as they are survivors of the 1922 fire. Original wooden bulkheads remain beneath a pair of large two-over-two stationary windows surrounding a modern entry door. Brick corbelling continues uninterrupted from the east half of the building at 218 Bradley.

Changes to the commercial buildings on the square were concentrated mainly on the entries and display windows. These changes involved replacement of wooden millwork on doors, windows and bulkheads with metal or plywood and bringing recessed entries flush to the sidewalk. These alterations are found on a few buildings in the district but are not so intrusive that they preclude the structures from contributing to the district.

Non-contributing buildings

Only two buildings in the district are considered non-contributing due to extensive alterations. The Star Theater at 212-214 Bradley (LI0070) was built in 1928. The theater burned in 1940 and 1948 but was restored each time only to close in 1956. The various restoration efforts resulted in the replacement of original windows on the second-story and infilling of the arched entry with wood and two metal windows around a metal and glass door which are the reasons for its non-contributing status. The Star Theater's marquee has been located after being abandoned in a field for 27 years and is currently being restored for application once again on the facade of the theater. Residents hope to return the building to its original appearance for use as a community meeting hall.

108 Jefferson (LI0077) was constructed in 1927 and was the only bar on the square. The building has been altered extensively with modern window and door replacements. Original sheathing has been replaced with modern brick beneath a large composition-shingled overhang which obscures the pediment of the building. These modern changes make the Elmer Leonard Cafe and Bar non-contributing to the Star City Commercial Historic District.

Star City Commercial Historic District Lincoln County, Arkansas
Name of Property County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local & State

Applicable National Register Criteria: C, A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1922, 1926

Significant Dates: 1922, 1926

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

The Star City Commercial Historic District served as the center of the city's business life and as the nucleus of growth in the town. The district consists of two blocks of brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings and one Confederate Memorial. These structures are simple, sometimes stark, and have been altered to varying degrees but they continue to evoke the commercial landscape of Star City after the turn of the century. The Star City Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance for its representation of early to mid-20th century commercial architecture. The Star City Confederate Memorial was listed on the National Register in 1996 under Criterion A with statewide significance for its association with the efforts of the Captain J. Martin Meroney Chapter No. 1831 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause.

Historical Background

The southeast Arkansas town of Star City is the seat of justice in Lincoln County. Prior to its creation by the county court in 1871 it is believed that

Star City Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

County and State

the area was an unsettled wooded tract. The first county judge, George S. Joselyn's offer of land for the seat was accepted as it was near the center of the county, and court records were moved from the Cane Creek church on Correll's Ferry Road. The origin of the name Star City is unknown but one of several theories is that the site of the original courthouse is surrounded by five hills which form the points of a star.

A two-story wooden building on the northwest corner of Arkansas and Drew Streets served as a courthouse from 1872 to 1880. The existence of this building so soon after the vote to create Star City is evidence of growth in the area of the town square. In 1876, the year of incorporation of the town, the population had reached 300 persons within boundaries radiating out from the original city center. The first brick building on the square was probably the 1911 courthouse that replaced the 1872 wooden structure, which was moved to Jefferson Street for use as the first public high school. For a span of one year during the construction of the brick courthouse the Ross Silberstein House on Washington Street - which still stands - was used as seat of justice in the interim.

The railroad changed commerce and transportation means in Star City in 1909 when the Gould Southwestern (later Arkansas Railroad) introduced the first train from Gould. The line operated until its closure in 1959. Previously wagons from Pine Bluff transported freight and passengers to the town. Drew Street, or Highway 13 was the first street to be paved in the 1930s. Highway 13 was later designated Highway 81 and moved east to Lincoln Avenue to provide a more direct route through downtown. Improvements in roads and utilities contributed to population growth and by 1920 it had reached 616. By 1970 the total population had passed 2,000.

The economy of Star City has historically been based in farming and timber. Several saw mills operated in the town including a large capacity saw mill, flooring mill, stave mill, handle mill, chip mill and pallet plant. Cross ties, piling and gravel were also sources of revenue. Agriculture in the area gave rise to a cannery, potato shed, tomato shed and a fertilizer plant. Manufacturing industries included a Byrd's shirt plant, Levi Strauss Clothing, and National Wire Fabric Corporation.

The face of the downtown area was influenced by population growth resulting in the construction of several new businesses. However that face was altered by several fires that left their mark on the commercial district of the city. In 1914 the largest retail establishment, J.G. Atkinson's General Store, was destroyed by a fire. The most devastating fire in 1922 destroyed everything on the south side of the square save for two brick buildings, (the 1916 Johnson and Steed Buildings); it then proceeded to engulf eight businesses on Jefferson Street. The west side of the town square was decimated by a fire in 1926 that destroyed seven businesses. A different type of destruction claimed the brick courthouse in 1962. A new courthouse had been constructed on Drew Street in 1943 and various entities were housed in the old courthouse for a time but after the county library vacated the building in 1961 the decision was made to raze the structure. Bricks from the historic building were used to construct a new city hall and fire station and its clock was placed in a new clock tower on the town square in 1992. The Confederate Memorial was moved in 1962 to the grounds of the new courthouse for protection and visibility. As part of the 1992 beautification effort that resulted in the

Star City Commercial Historic District Lincoln County, Arkansas
Name of Property County and State

new clock tower, the memorial was moved back to its location on the town square.

The Star City Commercial Historic District is composed of modest brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings spanning the dates 1916 to 1928. The structures represent the historic business sector surrounding the town square of Star City. Out of thirteen buildings, eleven are considered contributing. The two non-contributing buildings are historic structures that have undergone changes to their historic integrity that are considered too extensive to be listed as contributing. Those buildings that compose the district are representative of the evolution of the town and of the presentation of merchandising in America in the 20th century. The buildings that retain their original recessed entries with large display windows are indicative of the movement that began at the end of the nineteenth century to meet merchandising demands for larger display space, and technological advances in glassmaking which made it possible for large plate-glass panels to be used. The Star City Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance for its retention of early 20th century architecture that demonstrates the early character of the town and innovations in small retail business storefronts before the advent of strip shopping malls. The Star City Confederate Memorial, a contributing object to the district was listed on the National Register in 1996 under Criterion A, Criteria Consideration F, and is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934.

. Major Bibliographical References

Lincoln County Historical Committee. History of Lincoln County Arkansas 1871-1983. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1983.

Information submitted by Pat Crow, Star City. 1997.

Arkansas Democrat Gazette 31, December, 1961.

Jackson, Mike. "Storefronts on Main Street: An Architectural History." Illinois Preservation Series. Number 19.

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

Star City Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln County, Arkansas
County and State

- Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.5 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>606660</u>	<u>3756200</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>606600</u>	<u>3756200</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>606600</u>	<u>3756140</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>606640</u>	<u>3756100</u>
E	<u>15</u>	<u>606640</u>	<u>3756080</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>606740</u>	<u>3756080</u>
G	<u>15</u>	<u>606740</u>	<u>3756180</u>	H	<u>15</u>	<u>606660</u>	<u>3756200</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of Bradley Street and Drew Street (A), proceed south to the rear property lines of 200-220 Bradley Street (B), proceed west 660' along the rear property lines of 200-220 Bradley Street to the curbline at the southeast corner of Bradley and Jefferson Street (C). Then proceed northwest 150' across the intersection to the northwest corner of Bradley and Jefferson Street (D), turning west 70' to the rear property line of 108-102 Jefferson (E). Proceed north for 285' to the southwest corner of Jefferson and Arkansas Streets (F). Proceed east for 100' across the parking lot to the lawn of the town square (G), turn south for 300' to south curbline of Bradley Street (H). Then proceed east to the point of beginning (A). See attached map.

Boundary Justification:

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the commercial properties comprising the Star City Commercial Historic District and includes that portion of the town square containing the Civil War commemorative statue, which was an important part of the historic setting of the commercial streetscape.

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Name of Property County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 11/05/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201



St. City Commercial Historic District
St. City, J. Nail Co

A. Burnett

9/20/98

ON file AHPP

View from east, Bradley St



St. City Commercial & Store Dist.
St. City, Lincoln Co
A. Bennett

9/20/98

Old Rte. AHP

View of Confederate Memorial from South



St City Commercial Historic District
St. City, Dickinson Co
A. Burnett

9/20/78

ON File AWP

View of mural on 218 Bradley from west



Steele City Commercial Historic District

108 Jefferson

Steele City, Johnson Co
A. Bennett

9/20/98

on file AHP

View from east



St. City Commercial Historic District

100 Jefferson

State City, Jackson Co

A. Bennett

9/20/98

On file AHP

View from East

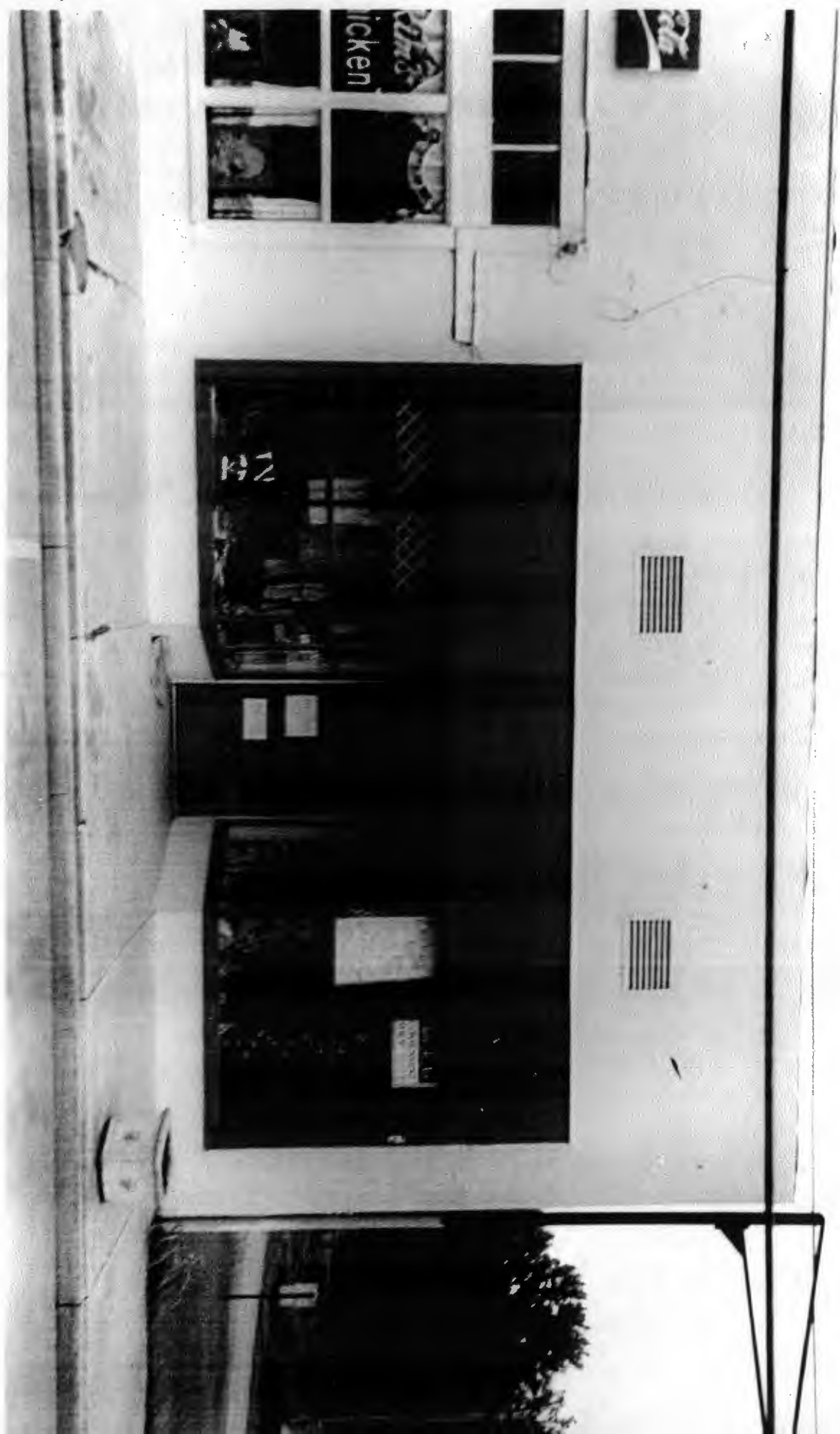


De City Commercial Historic District
Store City, Lincoln Co
lot Jefferson
A. Bennett

7/20/78

on file APP

View from East



Sta City Commercial Historic District
102 Jefferson

Star City, d. N. Cold Co
A. Bennett

9/20/98

ON file AHAP

view from east



State City Commercial Historic District

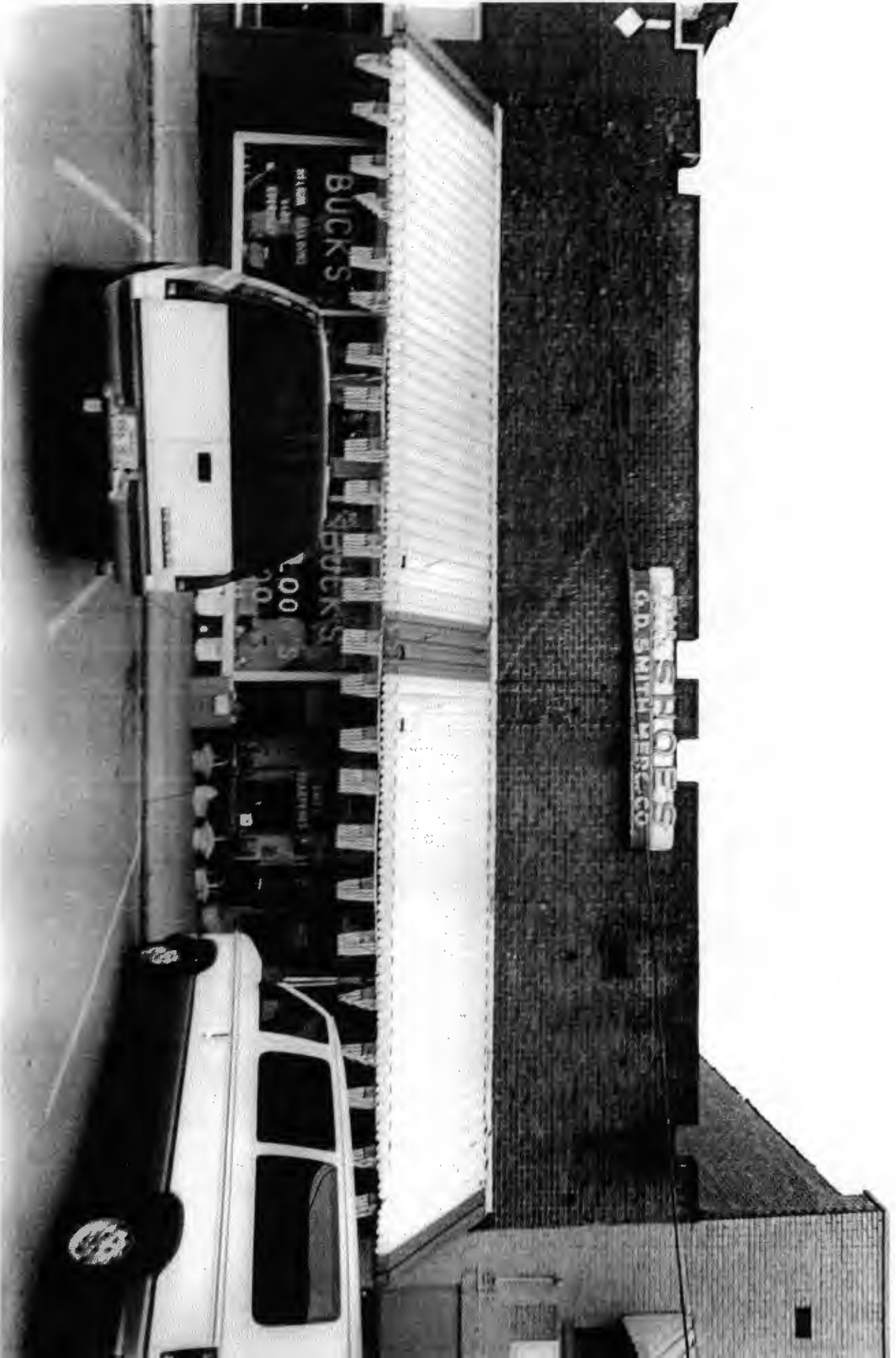
State City, Lincoln Co

A. Bennett

9/20/98

64 616 AHPP

New from South



City Commercial Historic District

204-266 Broadway

St. E. City, J. M. Co.

A. Burnett

9/20/98

oil file APP

View from North-



State City Commercial Historic District
202 Bradley

State City, Arnold Co
A. Bennett
9/20/98

Negative on file at AHP
view from North



St. City Commercial Historic District

204-206 Bradley

Star City, Dickinson Co

A. Bennett

3/20/72

Negative on file at AHPP

View of sign

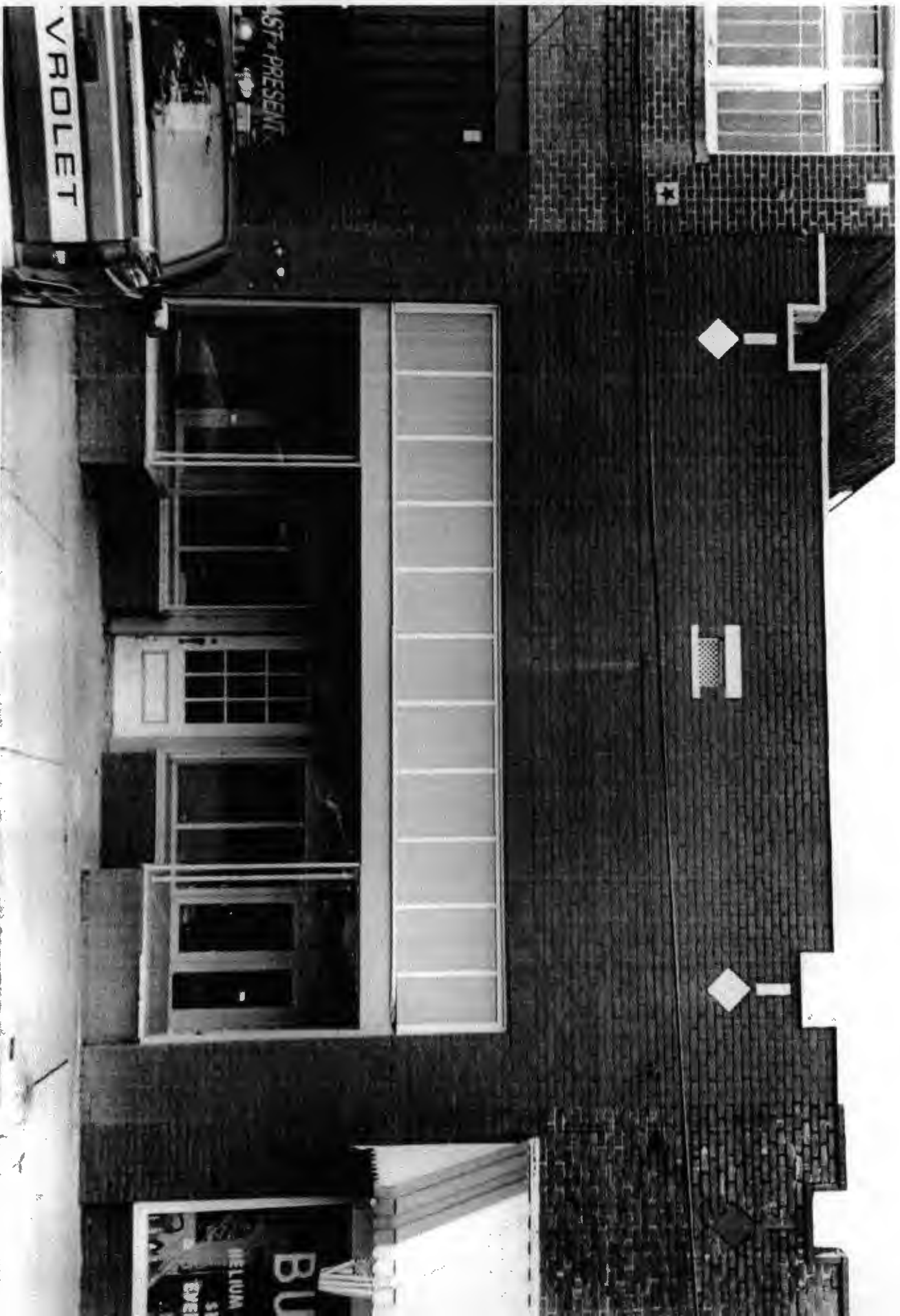


State City Commercial Historic District
212 Bradley

State City, Lincoln Co
A. Bennett

9/20/98

Negative on file at AIPP
View from North



St. City Historic District

202 Bradley

St. City, Lincoln Co
A. Bennett

9/20/98

Negative on file at AHP
view from North

LINCOLN

SINCE
1876

LEDGER

St City Historic District

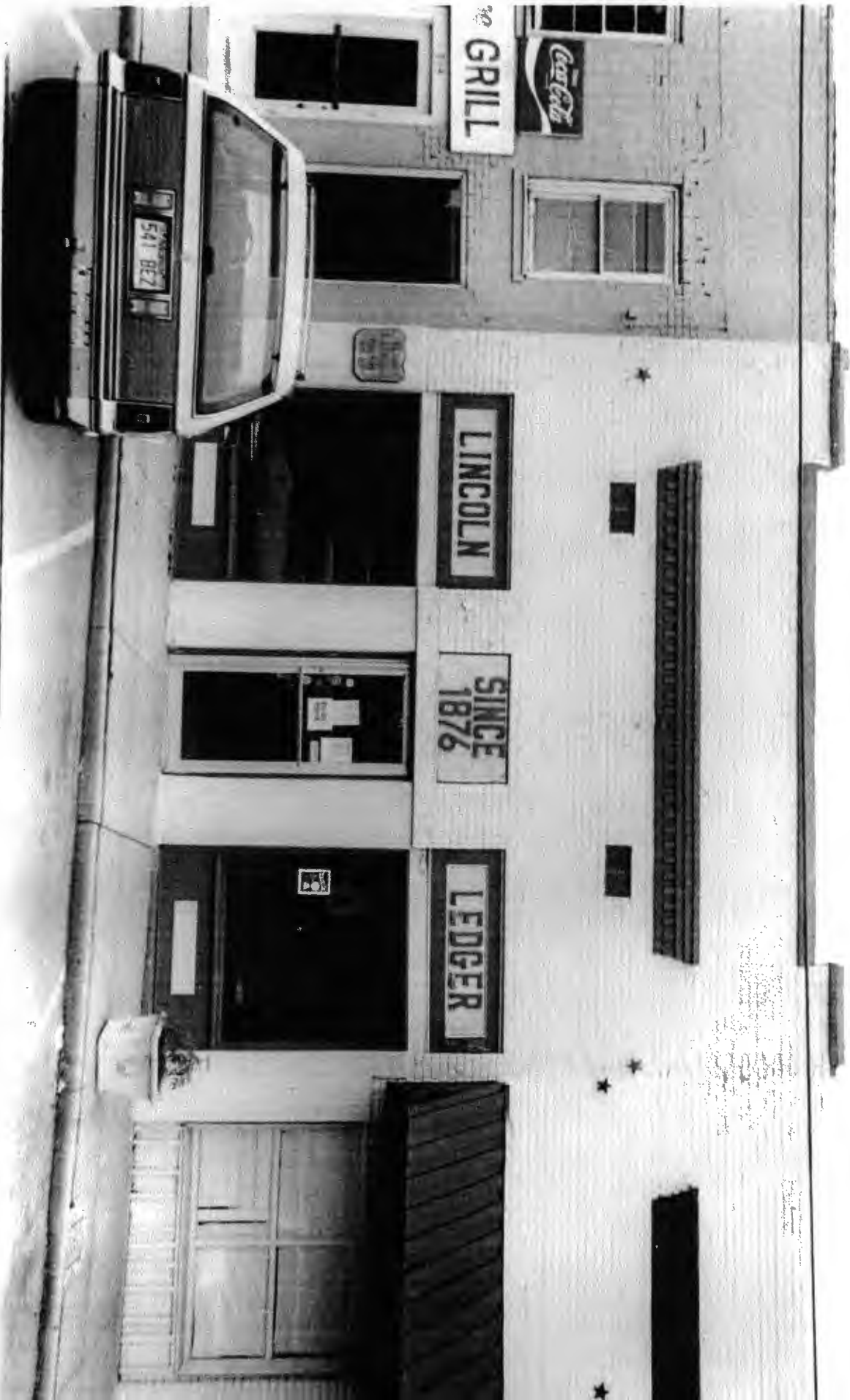
210 Bradley

Star City, Lincoln Co

A. Bennett

9/20/98

Negative on file at AHP
view of details



City Historic District

214 Bradley

Star City, Lincoln Co

A. Bennett

9/20/98

Negative on file at AHP

view from north



State City Commercial Historic District
Joe Bradley

State City, Lincoln Co
A Bennett

9.20.98

Negative on file at AHIP
view from North

WYNN
INSURANCE AGENCY

Allstate



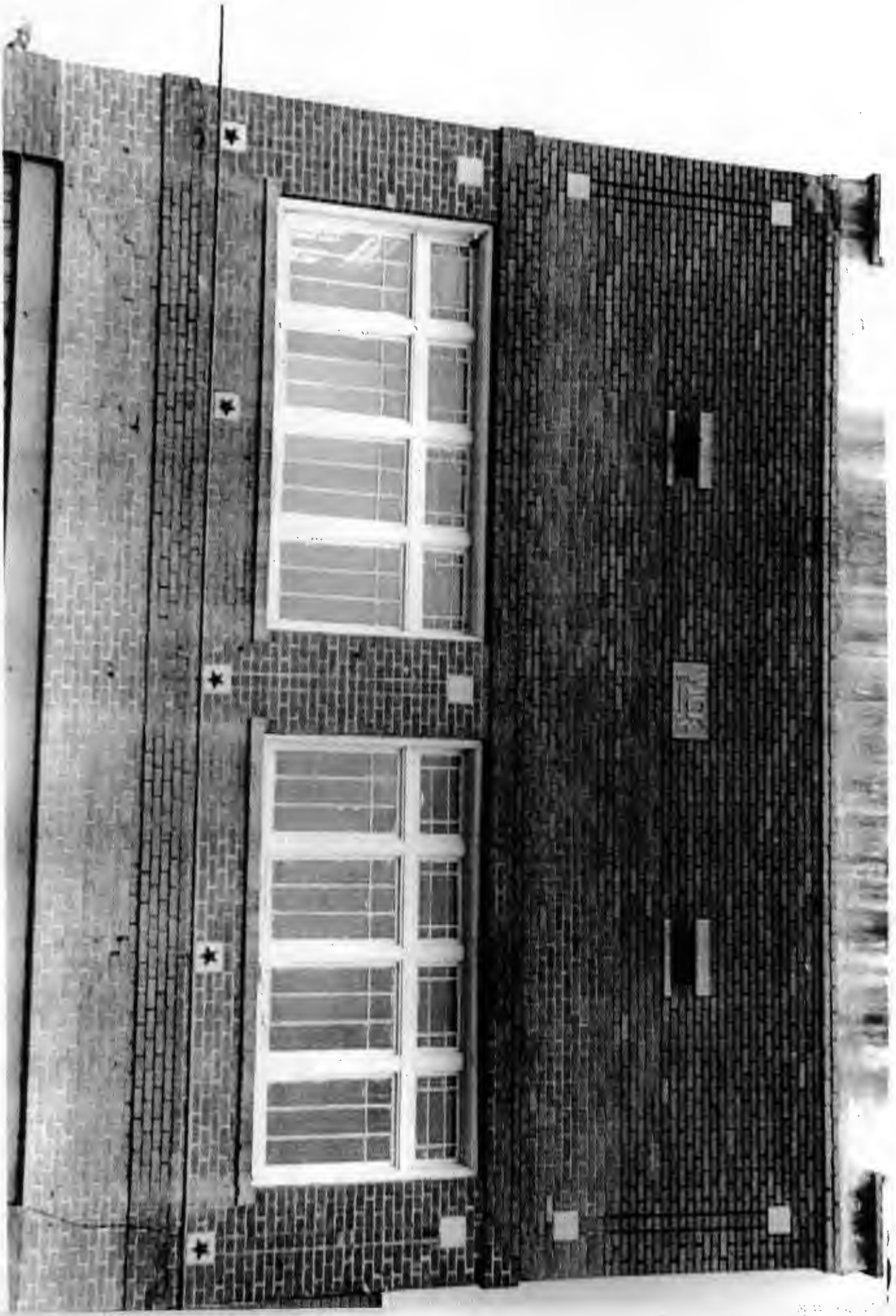
2181 Bradley

State City, Lincoln Co

Photo by A Bennett

9/20/98

Negative of file at AIPP
View from north



St. City Commercial Historic District
St. City, Lincoln Co

200 Bradley

A Bennett

9/20/98

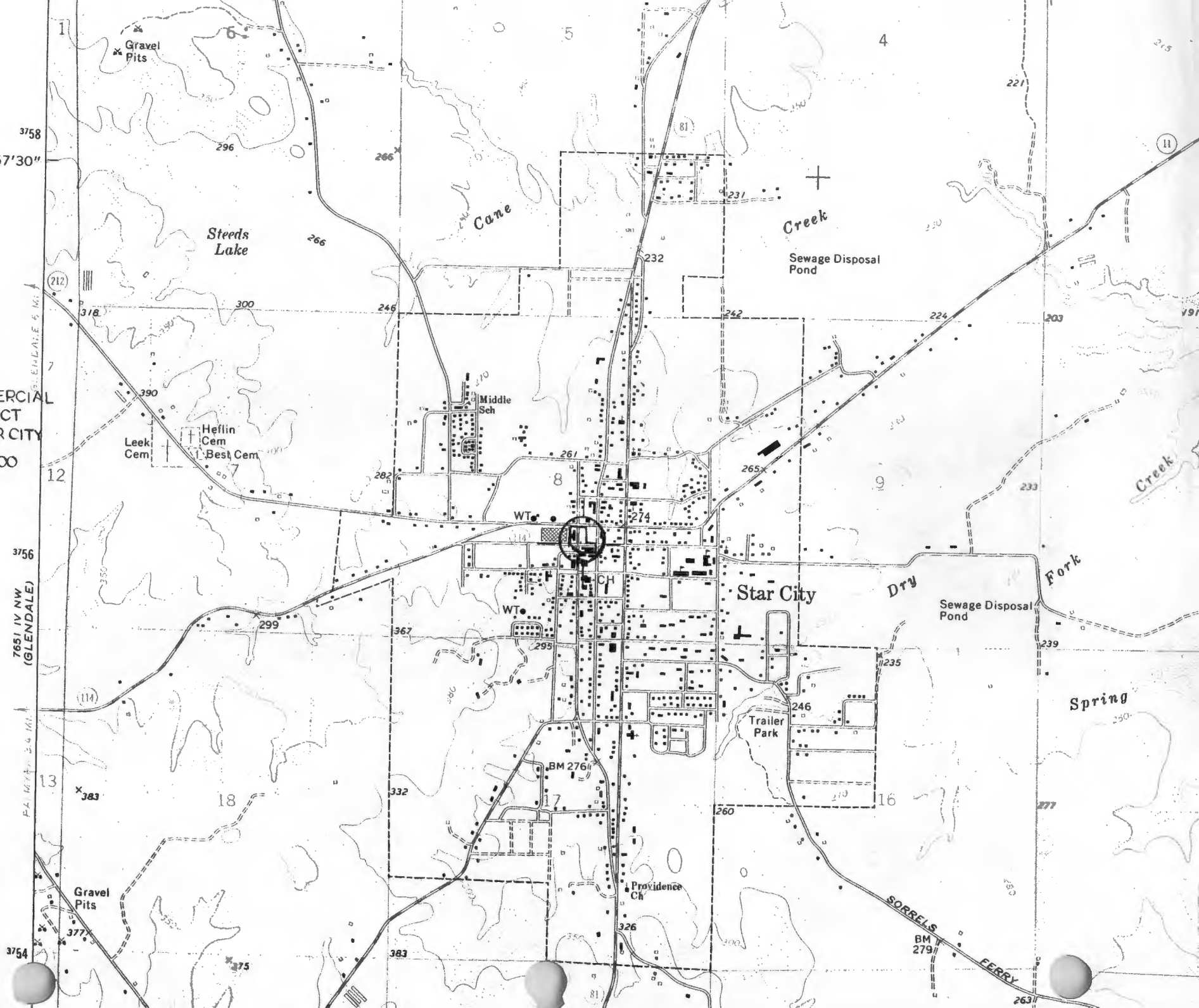
Negative on file at AHPD
view of 2nd story windows

3758
57'30"

AR CITY COMMERCIAL
STORIC DISTRICT
COLN CO, STAR CITY
1606680/3736100

3756
7651 IV NW
(GLENDALE)

3754
FARM 24 161



STAR CITY COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

<i>RESOURCENO</i>	<i>HISTNAME</i>	<i>ADDRESS</i>	<i>CONTRIBUTING</i>
LI0065	VICK BUILDING	BRADLEY, 200	C
LI0066	NICHOLS HARDWARE	BRADLEY, 202	C
LI0067	SMITH MERCANTILE	BRADLEY, 204-206	C
LI0068	PEACOCK INN	BRADLEY, 208	C
LI0069	CROW DRUG STORE	BRADLEY, 210	C
LI0070	STAR THEATER	BRADLEY, 212-214	NC
LI0071	NORTON & WEATHERALL DRUG STORE	BRADLEY, 216	C
LI0072	JOHNSON BUILDING	BRADLEY, 218	C
LI0073	JOHNSON, J S BUILDING	BRADLEY, 220	C
LI0064	STAR CITY COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRI	JEFFERSON & BRADLEY ST	I
LI0074	NORTON MERCANTILE	JEFFERSON, 102	C
LI0075	DAVIS, W E BUILDING	JEFFERSON, 104	C
LI0076	TRUSSELL, W A DRY GOODS	JEFFERSON, 106	C
LI0077	LEONARD BUILDING	JEFFERSON, 108	NC