

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly Main Street between 5th and 7th streets and Clinton Street between 6th and 9th streets not for publication

city or town Arkadelphia vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Clark code 019 zip code 71923

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

Cathy Hatcher
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/6/11
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 29, 19, 1, 29, 20.

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, restaurant
GOVERNMENT: post office
FUNERARY: mortuary
TRANSPORTATION: road-related (service stations)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, financial institution, specialty store, restaurant
TRANSPORTATION: road-related (automobile repair)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK, STUCCO, CERAMIC TILE, METAL
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1870-1961

Significant Dates

Ca. 1870 oldest building

Fires: 1913, 1914, 1925, 1930, 1953

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

University: Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>15</u>	<u>495059</u>	<u>3775362</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>15</u>	<u>494800</u>	<u>3775381</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>15</u>	<u>494800</u>	<u>3775571</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>495165</u>	<u>3775486</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

The defined boundary includes approximately 7 acres. Starting at the Southeast corner of the district at 5th and Main Street, the boundary extends down the alleyway (which divides the city block) running parallel to the rear elevation of the buildings for both the 500 and 600 city blocks, at which point the boundary turns north and follows the east side of 7th Street. The boundary continues along 7th Street, crossing Main, at which point it turns west along the alleyway of the 700 block and continues to run west at the rear of the buildings (excluding the buildings on the south side of the 700 block) until the boundary reaches 8th Street at which point it turns southward until it meets Main Street and the boundary again turns west encompassing resources CL0988 and CL0989 before turning north and running parallel to the rear of these two properties at which point the boundary turns westward until it meets 9th street. The boundary then follows the east side of 9th Street for a city block and a half until it reaches Caddo Street. The boundary then encompasses the entire block until it reaches 8th Street at which point the boundary turns south for 1/2 a block, at which point the boundary turns eastward and follows the alleyway that parallels the rear of each building on the 800 and 900 blocks until it reaches 6th Street at which point the boundary turns south and continues in that direction until it meets the south side of Main Street at which point the boundary turns west and continues down the south side of Main Street until it reaches its point of origin at 5th and Main Street.

Boundary Justification

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

The selected boundary encompasses historic buildings associated with Arkadelphia's post-Civil War commercial development. The selected buildings form a cohesive collection of buildings that document Arkadelphia's commercial growth from circa 1870s to the present, and the buildings included encompass the most intact section of Arkadelphia's commercial core. The defined boundary is noted on the attached maps.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Kara Oosterhous, Consultant; Edited by Ralph Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator</u>		
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	date	<u>April 2011</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street</u>	telephone	<u>(501) 324-9787</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>72201</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

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

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District
Arkadelphia, Clark County
c.1870-1961

SUMMARY

The Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District is made up of 49 resources and is located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Of these 49 resources, 29 buildings are contributing and 19 buildings and 1 site are non-contributing resources. Arkadelphia lies in the southwestern portion of the state, and the location of the city itself is in the northeastern part of Clark County. Located at the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains, approximately four miles south of the confluence of the Caddo and Ouachita rivers, Arkadelphia is located at 34°7'19"N 93°3'58"W 34.12194°N 93.06611°W. According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 7.4 square miles (19.2 km²). The historic district is located on the east end of town between 5th and 9th streets encompassing Main Street and part of Clinton Street. It is being nominated with local significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The post-Civil War commercial buildings form a cohesive grouping that conveys the significance of the district as a commercial and social center for Arkadelphia from circa 1870 to 1961.¹

ELABORATION:

Arkadelphia lies in the northeastern portion of Clark County and has served as the county seat since 1842. The district is bounded on the east by 5th Street and on the west by 9th Street (500, 600, 700 & 800 city blocks). The town is approximately 7.3 square miles (2000 Census) with a population of 10,912 (2000 Census). The proposed historic district is located in one of the oldest areas of Arkadelphia. The alley to the south of Main Street serves as the southern boundary for the district with the alley behind Clinton Street (to the north) serving as the northern boundary. Main Street runs through the center of the district. Historically Main Street was named Johnston Street until it was changed sometime between 1892 and 1896. The street is named for Albert G. Johnston who came to the area from Tennessee in 1838 with Samuel Moore; these two surveyors purchased 160 acres of land, in some of which the Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District lies. Historically, the cross streets within the district boundaries were originally named after prominent settlers, until they were later given numeric street names between 1908 and 1911. The district is part of the original Barkman/Hardy Addition.²

The development of Main Street began on the east end of town, due to its proximity to the Ouachita River, and grew westward. On the 1886 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, concentrated commercial development is shown along Johnston Street (now Main) between Calloway (now 5th) and Hardy (now 6th) streets. There are several notations on the map that say, "all these buildings are old and rickety" or simply "old," implying that they have been present for an unknown length of time (some of these buildings were torn down between 1892 and 1896 and replaced with new construction). By the late 1800s and early 1900s most of the early wooden, free-standing commercial buildings were being replaced with brick commercial buildings primarily one-, two-, and three-stories in height. Most of the

¹ Wendy Richter, ed., *Clark County, Arkansas: Past and Present*, (Walsworth Publishing, 1992), pg. 3.

²Farrar Newberry, *Through the Eyes of Farrar Newberry*, Adam B. Syler, et a. (Arkadelphia: Clark County Historical Association, 1992), 120.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

buildings within the district are one- and two-story brick buildings that sit atop concrete foundations and are crowned with flat roofs. The buildings within the Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District represent architectural significance on the local level. One- and two-story commercial buildings are modest examples of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century commercial architecture. Most of the buildings have first-floor storefronts and upper-story office, residential, or storage uses. The storefronts are visually separated from the upper stories and usually have display windows and recessed entrances.³

Historically there were numerous buildings downtown that reflected national building trends; however, due to numerous fires, dilapidation, and economic development, some of these buildings have been lost. In the early 1900s the four corners of Main and 6th streets each boasted a large two- or three-story building designed with either Neo-Classical or Italianate influences. These four prominent buildings have been lost over time due to fire, tornado, or expansion. Historically, the Neo-Classical style was very a very popular style used on bank buildings located in the downtown area, a good example of this was the Merchant's and Planters Bank building which is no longer extant.

Prior to the 1870s, any bricks that were used in the construction of houses or businesses were hand-made on site and sun-dried, or they were obtained from larger cities such as St. Louis. According to Arkansas Historic Preservation Historian, Holly Hope, the process of brick-making, "became mechanized in the United States by the end of the 19th century and mass-produced bricks could be had in Fayetteville, Arkansas, by 1870 but many small brickyards, such as those found in Arkansas, continued using manual labor."⁴ Sometime during the 1870s, Arkadelphia's first brick plant was built making bricks more readily available. It is around this time that many business owners began replacing their wood frame commercial buildings with sturdy "fireproof" solid-brick buildings.⁵

Below is a chart of some of the known fires that have damaged or destroyed buildings in the downtown area throughout the years.

Address	Date of Fire	Comments
614 Main St.	1913	Damaged and Remodeled
Vicinity of 625 & 627 Main St.	1914	Fire destroyed café & theater
625 & 627 Main St.	1930	Burned
Smoker Mercantile/5 th and Clay	1925	Destroyed by fire
Citizen's First State Bank, Pink Tea Grocery, & Siftings Hearld Buildings (6 th Street between Main and Clinton)	1930	Destroyed by fire and rebuilt
625-627 Clinton	1953	Building was destroyed by fire and current building built
612 Clinton	1970	

³Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1886), located at the Arkansas History Room, Ouachita Baptist University Library, Arkadelphia, AR.

⁴Holly Hope, *The Thrill of a New Home Without the Cost; The Evolution of Residential Siding Materials in Arkansas* (2003), pg. 7, <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/pdf/siding.pdf>.

⁵Newberry, 129,138; Richter, 21

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Heard Drug Store	1980	Burned and space is now occupied by a green space
Caddo Hotel (East Side of 6 th Street)	1989	Burned and now space is occupied by another building
McNutt Building	Ca. 2005	Burned and now occupied by a new building

Although the commercial area lies in proximity to the Ouachita River, flooding has never been a serious threat to the district. However, the district and surrounding area was affected by an F-4 tornado that hit Arkadelphia on March 1, 1997. Six lives were lost that day and more than 100 people were injured. Some 70 businesses and public buildings and 250 homes were damaged or destroyed by the tornado that cut a 10-block wide path through the heart of the town. More than 1,000 trees were leveled along with street signs. The powerful storm even pulled sewage and gas lines from underground. The damage left behind by the tornado caused then President Bill Clinton to declare the area "a federal disaster area." Some of the buildings in the downtown area incurred only minor damage while some underwent major renovations due to damage.⁶

The collection of buildings that comprise Arkadelphia's commercial area exemplify characteristics associated with late nineteenth- and twentieth-century commercial architecture. Most of the buildings within the district are understated and exemplify the characteristics associated with basic nineteenth- and twentieth-century commercial architecture. There are a few select buildings that have some architectural embellishments that convey the secondary influence of another style such as Art Deco and Neo-Classical Revival. Historically, there were several buildings downtown that were ornate showing the influences of Italianate and Neo-Classical architecture and other period styles; however, most of those buildings have been lost over time. Most of the information about the following style descriptions comes from personal observations and *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester.

Late 19th and 20th-Century Commercial: Late 19th and 20th century commercial architecture as applied to historic buildings (pre-1958) are generally free-standing buildings or a continuous row of buildings of brick or frame construction. Many buildings constructed during this time period, especially in the early- to mid- twentieth century, are solid brick or solid concrete block construction, or at least present a veneer of brick, concrete, or stone. These commercial buildings vary in height based upon when and where they were constructed and the technology employed. The remaining twentieth century commercial buildings are primarily one or two stories and are clad in brick or stucco (some of the stucco was historically applied while there are a few examples of recently-applied stucco). Some representative examples of this style that display interesting features or remain relatively intact include: 617 Main Street (CL0976); 635 Main Street (CL0980); 624-626 Main Street (CL0984); 610-612 Main Street (CL0986); 614 Main Street (CL1001), 203 6th Street (CL0998); 700 Clinton Street (CL1005); 812 Clinton Street (CL1009). Most of these businesses have recessed entries and/or display windows at the entry level. Ornamentation is generally confined to recessed brick panels and iron vent covers.

Neo-Classical Revival: Often full-height porches supported by classical columns dominate the front façade. Most of the decorative elements are oftentimes found on columns, cornices, doorways and windows modeling earlier Classical Revival architecture. This style of architecture was most popular from 1895 through the 1950s. Two good examples

⁶Author unknown. <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Arkadelphia+rebuilds+town+for+the+future.-a0114404236>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

of this are the building at 629 Main Street (CL0979) and the U.S. Post Office Building at 115 S. 6th Street (CL1000). The Post Office Building was architect designed and predominately displays characteristics of the Neo-Classical Style around the front entrance such as massive Ionic columns supporting a broken pediment. An iron, fan-like adornment tops the entrance. Decorative brick dentils surround the top of the building and are topped by a heavy cornice. At one time, there were other buildings in the downtown area also designed in this style which was often popular for government buildings, banks, and churches.

Art Deco: Geometric motifs such as decorative elements on the façade, towers, and other vertical projections that thrust above the roofline characterize Art Deco architecture. This style was popular during the 1920s through the 1940s. The best remaining example of this style is the Royal Theater at 625 Main Street (CL0978) built in 1932. Although the building has been modified throughout the years, the Art Deco influence is still evident in the vertically articulated lines that dominate the second story on the front façade. Another building, known as the "Cupp Building," which is no longer standing, but was a contemporary of the Royal Theater, showed many design characteristics of the Art Deco style, including smooth stuccoed walls and vertical projections above the roofline.

International Style: A flat roof, usually without a ledge (coping) at the roof line; windows (usually metal casements) set flush with the outer walls; smooth, unornamented wall surfaces with no decorative detailing at the doors or windows; and an asymmetrical façade characterize this style. Functionalism, emphasizing how a building served its inhabitants was of prime importance. This building style began in the mid-twenties. The only example of this stylistic influence is the building at 625-627 Clinton Street (CL0995). This building was constructed in 1953, replacing an earlier building destroyed by fire. It is a two-story building with permastone covering the first-story and stucco covering the facades at the second story. A continuous band of metal, awning-style windows, dominate the second-story of the front (north-facing) façade while another band of metal, awning-style windows span the west-facing, side façade.

There are two prominent streets that span the district running east to west: Main Street and Clinton Street. Both streets allow two-way traffic with both parallel and angle parking available. Sidewalks are located on both sides of Main Street and Clinton Street and are adorned with decorative iron streetlamps, reminiscent of turn-of-the-century gas lights. Alleys serve as the northern and southern boundaries and span the rear of the buildings facing both Main and Clinton streets. Forty-nine buildings, one park, and some parking areas comprise this historic district that reflects the evolution of building styles and methods during the late nineteenth century through the mid twentieth century.

Integrity

Some of the changes that have been made to the district are historic in nature and others are non-historic but are reversible. Overall, the buildings comprising the Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District are in good condition and retain adequate integrity to portray their significance as components of a nineteenth- to mid-twentieth-century commercial historic district. Some of the windows have been replaced, and some of the storefronts have been altered, some of these alterations are reversible. However, the contributing buildings retain their original form, setback, and ornament and continue to portray their original use and design. While individual buildings may be altered, the district as a whole retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, association, workmanship and materials. Where buildings have been lost to fire or demolished, open space or parking areas have often taken their place; the area

Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

surrounding the district is comprised primarily of commercial and municipal properties. The Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District is made up of 49 resources: 29 buildings are contributing (59%) and 19 buildings and 1 site are non-contributing resources (41%).

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Resource Count	Resource #	Historic Name (if known)	Address	C/NC
1	CL0965		501 Main St	C
2	CL0966		505 W. Main St	C
3	CL0967		509-511 Main St	NC
4	CL0968		513 Main St	NC
5	CL0969	West Bros.	515 Main St	NC
6	CL0970		519 Main St	NC
7	CL0971		521 Main St	NC
8	CL0972	Elk Horn Bank	601 Main St	C
9	CL0973	J. C. Penney	605 Main St	NC
10	CL0974	Ben Franklin Five & Dime Store	609-611 Main St	NC
11	CL0975		611 Main St	C
12	CL0976		617 Main St	C
13	CL0977		619 Main St	C
14	CL0978	The Royal Theatre	625 Main St	NC
15	CL0979		629 Main St	C
16	CL0980		635 Main St	C
17	CL0981		634 Main St	NC
18	CL0982		632 Main St	C
19	CL0983	E.M. Hall Building	628-630 Main St	C
20	CL0984		624-626 Main St	C
21	CL0985		624 Main St	C
22	CL1011	Rudsill Jewelry	614 Main St	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Resource Count	Resource #	Historic Name (if known)	Address	C/NC
23	CL0986		610-612 Main St	C
24	CL0987		608 Main St	NC
25	CL0988		802 Main St	C
26	CL0989		207 & 213 8th St	C
27	CL0990		811 & 813 Clinton St	NC
28	CL0991		815 & 817 Clinton St	NC
29	CL0992		715 Clinton St	NC
30	CL0993		711 -713 Clinton St	NC
31	CL0994		711 Clinton St	C
32	CL0995		625 & 627 Clinton St	NC
33	CL0996		621 & 623 Clinton St	NC
34	CL0997		617 Clinton St	C
35	CL0998	McCorkle Building	203 6th St	C
36	CL0999	Thomas' Drug Store	201 S. 6th St	C
37	CL1000	U.S. Post Office	115 S. 6th St	C
38	CL1001		616 & 618 Clinton	NC
39	CL1002		620 Clinton	C
40	CL1003		622 Clinton St	C
41	CL1004		624 Clinton St	C
42	CL1005	Telephone Exchange	700 or 702 Clinton St	C
43	CL1006	Nowlin Building	704-714 Clinton	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Resource Count	Resource #	Historic Name (if known)	Address	C/NC
44	CL1007	Johnston Service Station	716 Clinton	C
45	CL1008	.	800 Clinton	NC
46	CL1009	.	812 Clinton	C
47	CL1010		Corner of Caddo & 8 th St	NC
48	CL1012	Shepards Auto. Sales		C
49	CL1013	Park		NC

Totals: 49 Resources
C: 29 (59%)
NC: 20 (41%)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Criterion A Local Significance

SUMMARY

The Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, in Clark County, is being submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** in the area of Commerce. The buildings along Main Street and Clinton Street, between 5th and 9th streets, are the best surviving examples of a collection of post-Civil War buildings that served as the commercial business district for the city from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The predominately brick-clad one and two story buildings are primarily representative of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial architecture. The district as a whole retains enough integrity to form a visually cohesive group of commercial buildings constructed during the district's period of significance spanning circa 1870 to 1961.

ELABORATION

The Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District is located in the vicinity of one of the earliest developed areas in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. It is located approximately half a mile from the west bank of the Ouachita River and four miles south of the mouth of the Caddo River, both of which played an integral part in the early settlement and growth of the city. The district is located approximately two blocks northwest of the 1899 Clark County Courthouse (NR Listed 12/01/78, designed by Charles Thompson) and one street south of the 1903 Clark County Library (NR Listed, 11/5/74, designed by Charles Thompson). Historically the Main Street area was surrounded by residential neighborhoods and numerous churches were located on the periphery. Everything one needed could be found downtown: liverys, drug stores, grocery stores, barber shops, fraternal organizations, political institutions, financial services, hotels/boarding houses, doctors, attorneys and much more. As the river grew less in importance and the railroads grew in prominence the city's business district extended down Maddox (6th Street) towards the depot. In later years, as the automobile gained in popularity, numerous automobile related services were located in the immediate vicinity of downtown.⁷

⁷Newberry, 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Settlement (1800s - 1850s)

The first areas of settlement in Clark County occurred along the corridor of the Southwest Trail, which was located near present-day Caddo Valley, approximately four miles north of Arkadelphia; settlements such as Raymond and Greenville emerged. However, by 1808, Adam Blakely arrived in the area now known as Arkadelphia. Local history claims that Blakely built a home and blacksmith shop on a bluff overlooking the Ouachita River; the shop being located near present-day Second Street. The oldest commercial area of Arkadelphia was a block or two closer to the river than the nominated area. The original town cemetery and jail were also located near this area. In 1811, John Hemphill, arrived and constructed a salt refinery or "Salt Works" across the Ouachita River from the initial settlement. It was also during this time that a trading post was established at a boat landing on the Ouachita River. It was during these early days that a settlement emerged near the river and was called "Blakelytown."⁸

In 1838, two surveyors from Tennessee, Sam Moore and Albert G. Johnston, purchased 160 acres of land from Wylie Rogers. Rogers had recently acquired the land from the U.S. land office in Washington, Arkansas. Soon after, Johnston bought Moore's interest for \$1,000.00 and began selling lots. It was within this 160-acre parcel that Arkadelphia's commercial area began to emerge. Johnston also donated a portion of the land to Clark County for the construction of a new courthouse. As the town was being laid out, the earliest streets were named after pioneer families. Johnston was recognized by having the main thoroughfare (now Main Street) named after him. Callaway Street, now 5th, was named for John S. T. Callaway who came to the area in 1818 with his family. Callaway represented Clark County in the territorial legislature. Maddox Street, now 6th, was named for Benjamin Maddox who arrived with his family in 1837 and purchased a large tract of land west of present-day 10th street. He established the Maddox Addition of Arkadelphia (his home stood on the site of the present-day Rose Hill Cemetery). Hardy Street, now 7th, was named after H. K. Hardy an early enterprising lawyer and land speculator. North Street is now named 8th and South Street is now named 9th (most of these cross streets maintained their original names until they were changed to the present-day numbered streets between 1908 and 1911). During the 1840s the citizens of Blakelytown changed the town's name to Arkadelphia.⁹

In 1842, the county seat was moved from Greenville, on the banks of the Terre Noir Creek, to Arkadelphia. The courthouse and jail were completed in 1844 on land given to the county by Albert Johnston. Incorporation was initiated in 1846, though it languished for a decade. In 1850, the first official census counted 162 whites and eighty-six slaves. At that time, the town included a saloon, the Arkadelphia Male and Female Institute, a Methodist and Baptist church, and a newspaper, *The Sentinel*. In 1857, Arkadelphia was incorporated; and by the 1860s the town had the state's seventh largest population. At this time, Arkadelphia's business houses would have been frame

⁸ Hemphill's Salt Works have been referenced as being the first industry in the Arkansas Territory. Dr. Ray Granade, "Arkadelphia, Clark County," *The Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=843; Richter, 10; Kara Oosterhous, Written Correspondence with Dr. Ann Early (26 April 2011).

⁹ The name's originator and precise date of origin are lost; later accounts agree that early settler James Trigg reported, without attribution, that when Arkadelphia became the county seat and thus needed a more dignified name, locals combined two Greek words for "arc of brotherhood" and changed the third letter. However, many settlers came from Alabama and perhaps borrowed the name of Arkadelphia from a town north of Birmingham. Johnston Street bore Albert G. Johnston's name until sometime between 1892 and 1896, when most of the streets were changed to their present-day names, Johnston being renamed Main Street. Newberry, 120; Richter, 10-11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

construction. The area included within the boundaries of this district is a few blocks east of the initial settlement and commercial area and is comprised of post-Civil War commercial buildings, which was really the "second wave" of commercial development.¹⁰

1860s-1900s

Like every other town, Arkadelphia was affected by the Civil War, which began to affect the state in earnest in 1861. Arkadelphia supplied at least two companies of troops (the militia became Company E, and the newly formed Clark County Volunteers became Company B, First Arkansas Infantry). The town served as a medicinal and munitions depot and was a source of salt and ordnance works. Arkadelphian Harris Flanagin became the state's wartime governor and briefly operated from the town. Local educational and religious institutions suspended operation during the war. Engagements to its west and south threatened the town when Union general Frederick Steele marched on Camden (Ouachita County); during this time Arkadelphia fell to Union control during Steele's campaign, making a great impact on the community. During the Civil War, Arkadelphians sometimes faced encounters with deserters and draft evaders. During the wartime years, the U.S. Census shows that the town's population increased from 817 people in 1860 to 948 people in 1870. During this time, new construction most likely came to a halt as the War put an economic burden on the state's underdeveloped economic system.¹¹

By the 1870s Arkadelphia had a grist mill, cotton gin, sawmill, salt works, tannery, brick factory, cotton spinning factory, five dry goods stores, four grocery stores, a hotel, a restaurant, a tin shop, two blacksmith shops, a livery stable, two schools, one academy, an organized public school, three churches, and several lawyers and physicians. However, there still was no electricity or waterworks. Sometime during the 1870s Arkadelphia's first brick plant was constructed making brick more readily available. Brick became the building material of choice for commercial architecture because of its durability and because it was fireproof. Most likely, the bricks made at this plant were made using manual labor and ovens for firing as brick manufacturing was still in its infancy in Arkansas. Prior to the construction of the plant, most bricks were either made on site or shipped in from a larger town as was the case with the following projects. The town's first known (or referenced) brick mason was J. H. Obaugh (also the town's mayor) who did the brickwork on the 1860 jail, most likely making the bricks on site. Bob O'Neal was another early brick mason who did the masonry work on a house that once stood at 7th and Caddo. The house was built in the 1880s using bricks that were brown and "pressed and shipped, packed in straw and 250 in each barrel, from St. Louis."¹²

The completion of the Fulton and Cairo Railroad in 1873 symbolized the ending of the river travel era, while ushering in the new era of the railroad. On 28 June 1873 the citizens of Arkadelphia celebrated the arrival of the first train, Engine 13, the "E. Johnston". The railroad extended on to Fulton where trains were ferried across the Red River to Texarkana until the bridge spanning the river could be completed. The arrival of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad made Arkadelphia one of the main transportation hubs in southwest Arkansas. The line was later part of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern line that ran between Missouri and Texas. Next, it became part of the Missouri-Pacific

¹⁰Granade, "Arkadelphia," Newberry, 149; Correspondence with Dr. Ann Early.

¹¹Granade, "Arkadelphia;" Hope, 7; Correspondence with Dr. Ann Early.

¹² Granade, "Arkadelphia;" Newberry, 129,139; Richter, 21.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Railroad, and later the Union-Pacific. Over the years, other railroads were constructed, connecting Arkadelphia to other venues. In 1917, the Missouri-Pacific Depot was built and today serves as the Clark County Historical Museum (NR Listed 06/11/92). The arrival of the train opened up possibilities in the exploitation of natural resources, manufacturing and tourism, which in turn spurred a post-Civil War construction boom statewide. Transportation and technology allowed for factory-produced elements such as iron columns and posts to be shipped faster, which lowered the costs of building. Buildings could be updated by applying decorative elements like brackets, spindles and dentils. A 1880s photograph of the J.W. Patterson store in downtown Arkadelphia shows how an owner used decorative brackets and trim to update the appearance of his older building. Victorian, Italianate and Gothic styles began to permeate commercial architecture during the mid- to late-nineteenth century, due in part because of the availability of mass produced decorative elements and the ease in which to obtain them. A circa 1891 drawing of Draughon's School of Business, located in downtown Arkadelphia, depicts the use of Victorian elements used to decorate the front façade of the building, most notably at the front parapet of the building.¹³

In the mid to late nineteenth century, Arkadelphians made advancements in several areas including technology and education. In 1859, the Arkansas General Assembly incorporated the Arkansas Institute for the Blind, which remained in Arkadelphia until 1868. After the legislature created the first statewide common school system in 1866, Arkadelphians designed a city-wide segregated system that became operational in 1871 and coexisted with private schools. Arkadelphia became an educational hub with the opening of numerous schools such as Ouachita Baptist College (1886) and Arkadelphia Methodist College (1890), both for white people only; Bethel College, AME (1891) and the Colored Presbyterian Industrial School (1896), both for African Americans; and the first of a series of business colleges, Draughon's (1891). This activity by education-minded citizens, led one local newspaper consistently to refer to the community as "The City of Colleges" and locals called it "The Athens of Arkansas."¹⁴

The earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Arkadelphia dates to 1886; it shows that the town's commercial area was centered along Johnston Street (present-day Main Street) between Callaway (5th Street) and Hardy (7th Street) streets. By the 1880s light industry such as extractive businesses and manufacturing businesses were also important to the local economy: lumber, textile, and flour milling replaced salt production, while gunsmithing remained. At the turn of the century, Arkadelphia was home to one of the state's largest lumber mills (Arkadelphia Lumber Company at Daleville), as well as one of its first successful large industries, the Arkadelphia Milling Company, which produced flour, meal, stock feed, and staves on an around-the-clock schedule. Lumber was readily available for construction as was brick. Sanborn Maps published in 1886, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1911, 1918, 1928 and 1946 document the growth of the downtown area and the types of businesses located there. Several old buildings were destroyed between 1892 and 1896 and some new business houses were built on Johnston Street (Main) between Hardy (7th) and Maddox (6th) streets. At this time the "downtown" area was fully established and numerous stores were stocked with a variety of merchandise to meet the needs of the student, the farmer, families and professionals.¹⁵

¹³Richter, 43-44; Farrar, 52, Hope, 8-9.

¹⁴Granade, "Arkadelphia."

¹⁵Granade, "Arkadelphia."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

During the late 1880s and early 1890s Arkadelphia's first financial institutions were established and helped to finance many of the newly constructed businesses downtown. Historic photos from this era show that the architecture on Main Street at the time was following national trends, due in part to advancements in technology, pattern books, and the popularity of architect-designed buildings. By the turn of the century, most of the new buildings being built in downtown Arkadelphia were using plate-glass windows to open up the façade at the street level and create accessible storefronts and enticing displays. Cast iron also became a popular decorative element used on front facades, as it was readily available by the 1870s. There is one original castiron, engaged column remaining on Main Street (at least that was identified) at 614 Main Street (CL1011).¹⁶

Below are some of the businesses that were prominent fixtures in the Main Street area during that time:

E. M. Hall Drug Store (Bus. 1895)

NO LONGER EXTANT

Edward Milton Hall built a "handsome two-story brick structure" at Sixth and Main streets and equipped it with "beautiful accessories and a complete new stock of drugs." This building replaced an earlier Drug Emporium formerly operated by J. R. McDaniel, for whom Hall had worked. The new store was described by one enthusiast as "the handsomest drugstore in the state". E. M. Hall made and saved money and invested it wisely in downtown business property. As the years passed he built other business houses downtown, one of which was the E. M. Hall Building at 628-630 Main Street (CL0983). His rental income was considerable. Hall retired from active business in 1908 and sold the drug stock to Captain A. B. Moore who then sold out to Hawes Heard when it became Heard's Drug Store (Heard's Drug Store - 1909-1980). The store and soda fountain area was a popular hangout for Ouachita students. At the time the building was destroyed by fire in 1980, the business was under the operation of Hawes Heard's great Grandson, H. H. "Butch" Heard. This site is now a grassy park area (CL1013).¹⁷

Racket Store (Bus. 1893)

NO LONGER EXTANT

In 1893, Mr. Charlie and Mr. Bob Thomas established a business in the frame building where their brother-in-law, L. J. Webber had had a dry-goods store for 20 years. The Thomases packed the store with a wide variety of new and useful items, all purchased with a view to quick sales, mostly for cash, at under the market prices. Shoes, calico, clothing, perfumes, postcards, and tea sets are just a few of the items that could be purchased at the store. In 1906, the frame building was replaced by a two-story brick building where the Racket Store continued to operate until 1914 (in later years this building would be known as the I. B. Fuller Drug Store at 521 Main Street, which was severely damaged by the 1997 tornado and torn down).¹⁸

¹⁶Richard V. Francaviglia, *Main Street Revisited*, (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996), 24-27.

¹⁷"Bus." stands for the establishment of the business where as "Bldg." stands for the construction of the building. Newberry, 129; Richter, 146.

¹⁸Newberry, 155-56

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Elk Horn Bank (Bus. 1884/Bldg. 1955)

(CL0972/C)

In 1884, businessmen S. R. McNutt and John N. Stuart, pooled their finances and organized a private bank. They discussed several names, but were unable to agree on any particular one, when one of the men glanced up at an elk head mounted on the wall of McNutt's store and remarked, "Let's just call it the Elk Horn Bank!" Elk Horn was first located in the McNutt General Store at Main and 7th streets. In 1903 they purchased a building at 6th and Main streets, at the site of the present day bank. However, after a fire in 1953, it was demolished and the current building built. Throughout the years Elk Horn Bank has been closely identified with the commercial and civic development of Arkadelphia and Clark County. It has participated in the financing of many public improvements for the city and county including the courthouse, the Ouachita River Bridge, the first paving district in the city, and it guaranteed the contract for the first brick school building in Arkadelphia. It is located at 601 Main Street (CL0972) and is now Southern Bank Corp.¹⁹

Citizens Bank (Bus. 1888)

NO LONGER EXTANT

In 1888, R.W. Huie and C. E. organized Citizens National Bank, which shortly thereafter became Citizens Bank and Trust company (1911- Citizens National Bank; 1977-Citizens First State Bank). The first bank building was located on 6th Street between Main and Clinton streets. That building was destroyed by fire in 1930 (as were the adjacent Pink Tea Grocery and *Siftings Herald* Buildings). A new bank was constructed in 1930, and the bank remained at this location until a new building was constructed at 5th and Main. The 1930s building is no longer standing and is now parking (the bank would have been adjacent to The McCorkle Building, CL0998).²⁰

McAdams Drug Store (Bus. ca. 1896)

NO LONGER EXTANT

By 1896 the McAdams Drug Store was present at the corner of 6th and Main streets. The store had a pharmacist but was known more for its extensive stock of patent medicines to treat every ailment known, including: salve for "itching skin disease", Smith's Bile Beans, and Weintraubs Tonic avowed to be the "certain remedy for every fever or ague." McAdams then went into partnership with a man by the name of Clark and the store became known as McAdams and Clark. Between 1901 and 1908, the business moved to the adjacent building and was known as Clark-Sloan and later Sloan Brothers or Sloan's Drug Store, which was located at the site of present-day Southern Bank Corp (CL0972).²¹

Gresham's Opera House (Bus. late 1890s)

NO LONGER EXTANT

During the late 1890s W. W. Gresham built a two-story building at the corner of 7th and Clinton streets; above Gresham's Grocery store, on the second story, was the Gresham Opera House where traveling troupes staged Shakespearean and other play as well as local groups who used the stage for various purposes. Gresham's Opera House operated until the early 1900s. It was located at the site of 625 & 627 Clinton Street (CL0995) which was

¹⁹Richter, 141-142.

²⁰Richter, 139.

²¹Newberry, 102-103; Richter, 146.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

constructed in 1953 after the previous building burned (it is not certain if it was the original Gresham's building that burned in 1953 or a later building).²²

Ira Rudolph and Brother (Bus. 1888)

NO LONGER EXTANT

This nineteenth century hardware store sold wagons, buggies, harnesses, iron bedsteads, furniture, coffins and caskets. The store even had an undertaking parlor to embalm the deceased. The store sold John Deere and Oliver plows, Cole planters and riding cultivators. The store was located on 6th Street at what is now the drive-through at the Southern Bank Corp (CL0972).²³

Siftings Herald/Originally The Siftings (Bus. 1881/Bldg. 1930)

(CL0998/C)

In 1891, Claude and Ed McCorkle founded *The Siftings*. In 1896 when George Beck retired from *The Herald*, and sold out to Ed McCorkle, the newspaper then became known as the *Siftings-Herald*, which was then owned by Ed McCorkle. In 1900 the office was moved to 203 S. 6th Street (CL0998) and operated by Ed McCorkle until his death in 1918 when his son Phillip became owner. In 1930, the building at 203 S. 6th Street burned and was rebuilt. In 1920 the newspaper was renamed the *Daily Siftings Herald*. In 1959 Phillip McCorkle sold the paper to the Arkadelphia Publishing Company. The newspaper operated out of the building at 203 S. 6th Street until it moved to its current location in west Arkadelphia in 1980.²⁴

Rudsill's Jewlery (Bus. 1875, Bldg. ca. 1870)

(CL1011/C)

The building at 614 Main Street (CL1011) is most likely the oldest surviving commercial building in the district. In 1875, Sam A. Rudsill purchased this brick building from J. R. McCabe to use for his jewelry store. In 1913 there was a fire that damaged the building but it was soon repaired. Rudsill operated the jewelry store at this location until his retirement in 1920 when it was purchased by Rob Finger. Finger renamed the business "Gem Jewelry", which he operated until he passed away in 1957. After his death, his widow and son, John Alan, took over the business and operated it until it closed in the Spring of 1992. This appears to be the oldest building in the Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District, the only building that could possibly predate this building would be Thomas' Drug Store (Thomas' Drug Store at 201 S. 6th Street/CL0999).²⁵

Thomas' Drug Store (Bus. ca. 1880s/Bldg. ca. 1875)

(CL0999/C)

This building is located at 201 S. 6th Street (CL0999) and it has been a fixture in downtown since at least 1886 when it is present on the 1886 Sanborn Map. The building could date back to the early 1870s. However, little information has been found on its early history as it is just referenced a few times. The first known reference to the store appears to be

²²Newberry, 126; Richard Mills, Phone Conversation with Brown Hardman, 8 January 2011.

²³Richter, 136-137.

²⁴Richter, 36 & 140.

²⁵Because it is known that this building was definitely in existence in 1875, it is being used as the point of reference for the beginning of the district's period of significance. It and the Thomas' Drug Store at 201, are the two oldest identified buildings, but a clear date of construction is not known for the drug store at 201 S. 6th Street. Newberry, 151-152.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

in the 1870s or 1880s when the post office was located at the rear of the building then known as "Thomas' Drug Store," owned by E. W. Thomas. For most of its history, it has been a drug store under the ownership of men such as Earl Meeks, W. A. Stewart, Mr. McDaniel, Al Stephens, and Don Phillips. The store operated as a Drug Store until it closed in the late 1990s and was known as Phillips Drug Store. It was remodeled after it closed and currently office space occupies the first story and the second story serves as living quarters.²⁶

1900 to the Present

Between the mid-1880s and the early 1900s, Arkadelphia acquired public utilities and facilities. In 1891 a public telephone line system, a standpipe, and water mains were introduced. Wilson (soon named Arkadelphia) Water and Light Company provided electricity for downtown and the surrounding area. The town grew little in the early 1900s. In 1911 a natural gas pipeline was completed by the fledgling Arkansas Power and Light (AP&L). AP&L initially connected Arkadelphia and Malvern (Hot Spring County) and took over the local power system in 1914. Sometime between 1911 and 1918 the two-story building located on the northwest corner of 7th and Main streets was built to house the Telephone Exchange at 700 Clinton Street (CL1005).²⁷

The arrival of electricity allowed Arkadelphians to experience "modern conveniences". With this in mind, R. W. Captain Huie conceived of the idea to build one of the most modern and up-to-date hotels. In 1912, Huie contracted with John Kitchen to begin work on the building which was located 6th and Caddo streets. Office space and a café occupied the first floor while the 2nd story operated as a hotel, making the Caddo Hotel the most modern hotel in Arkadelphia at the time. Located across the street from the hotel was the new U.S. Post Office (constructed in 1916) on the corner of 6th and Clinton. The imposing structure was designed in the Neo-Classical style and served as the post office until the early 1960s (CL01000). Neo-classicism is also referred to as "Academic Eclecticism," and was a very popular style seen on Main Streets throughout the United States after the Columbian Exposition of 1893. Arkadelphia's Merchant's and Planters Bank (no longer extant) was also designed in this style.²⁸

Electricity also modernized entertainment. In 1908, the first motion picture show was shown at the Electric Theater which advertised *life-size moving pictures*. The theatre was located in the Carpenter Building next to the E. M. Hall Drug Store at the corner of 6th and Main. Numerous theaters have been located at various locations in the downtown vicinity. One still stands, the Royal Theatre which is located at 625 Main Street (CL0978), built in 1932. In 1914, J. G. Blaska, manager of the Royal Theater in Hot Springs, made a deal with the Arkadelphia firm of Williams and (Claude) Phillips to erect a building especially for showing films. In 1922, Cecil Cupp purchased the Royal Theatre located on Main Street, assumed management of the facility. In 1932, the theater was moved to a new location at 625 Main Street, in the Art Deco-inspired building where it operated until closing in 1976. Cupp operated other theaters

²⁶Newberry, 5; Richter, 150.

²⁷Granade, "Arkadelphia."

²⁸Richter, 31, 152, 138; Francaviglia, 41

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

in the vicinity including the Co-Ed Theatre once located on the southeast corner of 5th and Main streets and the Sky View Theatre; Cupp was very active in business and civic affairs in town.²⁹

In 1908, Captain Henderson, a well-known railroad man and banker, became the first resident of Arkadelphia to own an automobile. By 1910, nearly two years later, approximately 25 residents in town owned automobiles. The advent of the car changed Arkadelphia, as it did every town throughout the United States, existing businesses began selling gasoline and eventually new buildings were constructed to meet the growing demand for fuel. Streets were paved in an effort to eliminate dust and make traveling easier for those in vehicles. In 1911, the Bankhead Highway gave Arkadelphia an improved highway going north and south. In 1912, the owners of the Arkadelphia Hardware Company, which for years had sold buggies, surreys, hacks, wagons, etc., decided to capitalize on the growing market for cars and they accepted a contract to sell Ford cars at their store. This was just the first of many locations in Arkadelphia that would sell cars (the most prominent being Ford and Chevrolet) and eventually car showrooms were built to house and display the various models and makes of automobiles available.³⁰

As the demand grew for cars so too did the demand for gasoline. Just as existing businesses, such as Arkadelphia Hardware Company, began selling cars they too began selling gasoline. Some of the first gas stations in Arkadelphia resulted from the installation of pumps at the curbside of existing businesses. Although many businesses in Arkadelphia sold gas from the curbside, it was 1920 before the first drive-in service station appeared in town (CL1007). According to local historian Wayne McAfee in his article "The 'Honk-Honk' comes to town: Early Days of the Automobile in Arkadelphia," Mr. Johnson built the first drive-in service station in Arkadelphia at 716 Clinton Street (CL1007). By the 1930s several gas stations and service stations proliferated the streets of Arkadelphia. On the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, there were six filling stations within what now constitutes the proposed Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District. In 1931, U.S. Highway 67 was completed through Arkadelphia. A "Broadway of America" Club was organized in 1932; it sought to encourage the development of travel-related businesses along the route. The new thoroughfares and road improvements encouraged the growth of service stations, tourist courts, motels and eating establishments. During this era of Arkadelphia's history it had --- according to "Ripley's Believe It or Not" --- more service stations than it had churches!³¹

Johnson Service Station (ca. 1920)

(CL1007/C)

W.S. Johnson built Arkadelphia's first service station circa 1920. Prior to the construction of the service station, one of Arkadelphia's older homes sat on the site. Circa 1920, W. S. Johnson had the residence moved back 40 or 50 feet to make room for the construction of a service station. This station had a restroom to accommodate the ladies and a garage for maintenance work. At the station one could have their car repainted and one could purchase Texaco

²⁹The Caddo Hotel was a prominent hotel through the 1950s. However, as the town moved westward and more modern hotels were being constructed to accommodate those traveling on the interstate, the building's use as a hotel declined. The landmark was destroyed by fire 19 November 1989. The Post Office appears to have moved some time between 1960 and 1964 when it was purchased by Lowell Nelson. Richter, 31, 152, 138.

³⁰ Wayne McAfee, "The 'Honk-Honk' Comes to Town: Early Days of the Automobile in Arkadelphia," *Clark County Historical Journal*, Edited by Wendy Richter (1999), pgs. 72-79.

³¹Granade, "Arkadelphia," Newberry, 138; Richter, 23; McAfee, 72-79.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

gasoline, Republic tires, and Willard batteries. Mr. Johnson owned the service station until he gave it to Ouachita Baptist College some years later.³²

DeLamar Motor Company (1927)

NO LONGER EXTANT

After having several locations, Frank Smith DeLamar moved the business to a new building in 1927 on the corner of 6th and Clay streets. Originally the business began in 1914 as a dealership for Chevrolet, Republic and Hug Trucks, and Cle-Tare Tractors. In 1927 Leo the Lion (famous for roaring at the beginning of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Motion Pictures) stopped here as did Aldoph Hitler's touring car, which developed trouble here while touring the U.S. This building was destroyed in the 1997 tornado.³³

The town grew little between 1900 and 1930, and experienced economic challenges. The Great Depression was felt in Arkadelphia as it was nationwide. Arkadelphia's colleges moved to Little Rock or closed because of debt with the exception of Ouachita Baptist College and Arkadelphia Methodist College. However, in 1929 the state of Arkansas took over what had been Arkadelphia Methodist College (then named Henderson-Brown College) changing the name to Henderson State Teachers College. During the Depression, banks were closing all over the nation and a run of withdrawals started. Elk Horn Bank (CL0972) recognized the severity of the situation and bank president J. S. Cargile, ordered \$250,000 from Little Rock. When the money arrived, it was stacked in plain view of the public, and depositors were invited to withdraw their accounts if they desired. When the public saw the money in one stack their confidence was restored and the bank's deposits increased by several thousand dollars during the course of that one day. During this economically depressed time, a fire ravished businesses on 6th Street between Main and Clinton, destroying the *Siftings Herald* Building, Pink Tea Grocery (1920-1950), and Citizens Bank, and yet all business rebuilt.³⁴

Despite the economic fluctuations of the 1920 & 1930s business continued to operate and new stores opened.

J. C. Penney (Bus.1929)

(CL0973/NC)

In 1929 J. C. Penney opened its 839th store at 605 Main Street (CL0973). The first store opened in 1902 and was a "cash and carry" retail store in Kemerer, Wyoming. J. C. Penney stores were opened throughout the U.S. and the stores were recognized as a place to purchase quality merchandise at a very reasonable price. J.C. Penney remained downtown until 10 October 1984 when it relocated to the Pine Plaza Shopping Center.³⁵

³²Neberry, 130; Wayne McAfee, 72-79.

³³ Richter, 140.

³⁴Today the *Siftings Herald* Building (CL0198) still remains as does the Phillip's Drug Store Building (CL0999) on the corner of 6th and Clinton which was the only building not destroyed by the fire; the other two buildings were demolished and the space used for parking. Richter, 142-143; Granade, "Arkadelphia."

³⁵ Richter, 150.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Laster Furniture Store (Bus.1925)

Multiple Locations (now outside of district boundaries)

In 1925, J. W. Laster opened his 3rd furniture store in the area; however, it was his first store in Arkadelphia. The business was located in the Nowlin Building at 7th and Clinton streets (CL1006). Because of the Depression, Laster consolidated his three stores into one in Arkadelphia. In 1959 after moving locations once, J. W.'s son located the land at the corner of 6th and Caddo as the site for the new store. Laster furniture is still located at this site and operated by Joe Laster, the 3rd generation of this family.³⁶

After the Depression several large industries relocated to Arkadelphia: in 1941, apparel manufacturers brought Hollywood Maxwell to town; in 1945, Oberman Manufacturing Company arrived; and in 1953, Reynolds Metals Company opened its Patterson aluminum reduction plant just south of Arkadelphia. In 1955, thanks to the newly formed Arkadelphia Industrial Development Commission, Tectum Corporation sited a composite-board facility on the floodplain south of town. The town's growth after 1950 was largely because local developers opened the first significant planned housing development farther west of what had traditionally been known as West End, as well as interest in industry evidenced by the Chamber of Commerce and the Clark County Industrial Commission (now Council). Except for the drain of people into the military services and their replacement by Training Detachments at Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State colleges, the effect of World War II on the community came mainly after the war's end. Although government war contracts touched few Arkadelphians directly, available money after the Depression whetted appetites for a lifestyle previously unknown, and experiences in the larger world encouraged locals to forsake rural living, enlarging the town at the expense of county farms in the post-war years. Despite world wars and fluctuations in the economy, Arkadelphia's population increased from 2,739 in 1900 to 6,819 in 1950 (increase of 4,080 people).³⁷

Heard's Drug Store (1895):

NO LONGER EXTANT

Technically this business was housed in what was originally known as the E. M. Hall Drugstore built in 1895 and owned by him until he retired from active business in 1908. In 1909 Hawes Heard purchased the building at 600 Main Street. In recent years this building became known as Heard's Drugstore. The store and soda fountain were a popular hangout for Ouachita students. At the time the building was destroyed by fire in 1980, the business was under the operation of H. H. "Butch" Heard (Hawes Heard's great-grandson). This site is now a grassy park area adjacent to 608 Main Street (CL0987).³⁸

Sloan's Drug Store (ca. 1900):

NO LONGER EXTANT

Sloan's Drug Store was located in a brick building, at 603 Main Street, where Elk Horn Bank now sits. The drug store had been in the Sloan Family in some capacity since shortly after the turn of the century. Sloan's Drug Store became

³⁶ Richter, 146.

³⁷ Granade, "Arkadelphia."

³⁸Richter, 146.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

a popular "loafing headquarters" for Henderson students. Jimmy Haygood, Henderson's football coach, was often seen sipping sodas there and talking about football.

1950 to the Present

During the 1950s many businesses were still located in the Main Street area as are noted below:

Rudolphs Furniture Co. (Bus. ca. 1888; Bldg. ca. 1925)

(CL0989/C)

The Rudolph Family has a long history of entrepreneurship in Arkadelphia and Gurdon. Their earliest store was the Ira Rudolph & Brother Store (ca. 1888). Circa 1945 the Rudolph's began operating a furniture store next to their Arkadelphia Hardware Company Store on Main Street between 7th and 8th streets. By 1948 Tracy Rudolph, Jr., Bill Rudolph, and Budge Rudolph were becoming more active in the business. In 1973 the store relocated to 207 South 8th Street (CL0989) where it operated through the 1990s.

I. B. Fuller Drug Store (Bus. 1906)

NO LONGER EXTANT

This building originally housed the Racket Store which operated here from 1906 until 1914. In 1959, I. B. Fuller came to Arkadelphia and opened a drug store. By 1963 Fuller needed to expand to accommodate his growing business so he remodeled his building and the adjacent Thomas Building. After the remodel both buildings provided him with 4,000 square feet, making it one of the largest drug stores in southwest Arkansas. In 1975 Percy Malone acquired ownership and the name was changed to Medic-Aide Pharmacy and in 1991, the name changed to AllCare Family Discount Pharmacy. This building was destroyed in the 1997 tornado and replaced with the current building at 521 Main Street (CL0971).

Shepherd Auto Sales (Bus. 1948, Bldg. 1948)

(CL1012/C)

On May 1, 1948, T. O. Shepherd began his career selling automobiles. His first location was at 612 Clinton Street (CL1012). Within ten years, Mr. Shepherd had enjoyed much success selling cars that he expanded his business and moved to Main Street and was granted the Oldsmobile and General Motors franchise. The following year, the American Motor Company granted him the franchise to handle their cars. In 1960, he purchased the Buick franchise from J. O. Harris and then in 1961 he purchased the Driggers Pontiac Agency acquiring the franchise. As his business grew and as the town of Arkadelphia continued to expand westward, Shepherd moved his business to Pine Street.³⁹

Dew-Orr Department Store (Bus. 1946)

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

In 1946, Herman Orr returned from World War II and joined his father-in-law, H. L. Dew, to form a partnership known as the Dew-Orr Department Store. The business was first located at 704 Clinton Street in the Nowlin Building (CL1006). The store prospered and soon outgrew the space at 704 Clinton and a larger building was found at 630 Main Street (CL0983) and was extensively remodeled. In 1962 the firm renamed the business at 630 Main Street "Dew-Orr Home and Gift Center" and the moved the other part of their business to the corner of 7th and Main streets at 635 Main Street (CL0980). In 1967, H. L. Dew passed away, leaving Herman Orr and his wife Floy Dew Orr to

³⁹ Richter, 153, Kara Oosterhous, Phone Interview with T.O. Shepherd, 28 January 2011.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

operate both businesses. Herman Orr closed his business in 1984 when he retired. Dew-Orr Department Store was a well-known business in the downtown area for nearly 40 years.⁴⁰

Southwest Sporting Goods(Bldg.1916/bus. 1950)

(CL1000/C)

Southwest Sporting Goods first opened on 6th Street between Main and Clay in 1950, with Lowell Nelson serving as the store manager and a few years later it relocated to 612 Main Street. In 1964 the business moved to its current site in the 1916 Post Office building located at 115 S. 6th (CL1000). A 1950 article in the *Daily Siftings Herald* said, "The store will be the most completely stocked sporting goods store in southern Arkansas, and will handle many major lines of sporting goods including Wilson, Rawlings, Riddell and McGregor-Goldsmith equipment."

Initially, the arrival of the automobile in the early 1900s encouraged the construction of a lot of automobile-related industries and encouraged people to spend time downtown as several major highways were located in the vicinity of downtown: U.S. Highway 67/State Highway 7, State Highway 51, and State Highway 8. Ironically, it was the construction of Interstate 30 in the 1960s that doomed the small independent overnight cottages that had thrived along the highway drawing Arkadelphia westward toward it. Another irony is that Sam Walton, apprenticed in the Ben Franklin Store (CL0974) in downtown Arkadelphia, before opening his first successful five-and-dime in Bentonville; and it was the construction of a new Wal-Mart on the west end of town that opened in April of 1980, that further encouraged the decline of Arkadelphia's Main Street. During the late 1980s through the 1990s many businesses moved to the west end of town, closer to the interstate.

In 1968, six years of work on DeGray Dam ended, although its power-generation facility was not dedicated until 1972. Ouachita Baptist College became a university in 1965 and enjoyed a record enrollment the next year. The state opened the Arkadelphia unit of its Arkansas Children's Colony for developmentally-disabled children in 1968. Easier transportation and growth of Arkansas's recreation industry attracted Alumacraft and encouraged the founding of Ouachita Marine in the mid-1960s, both to manufacture boats. One of the biggest factors in Arkadelphia's growth, planning, and quality of life, the local philanthropic Ross Foundation, began in 1966.⁴¹ In 1950, Arkadelphia's population was 6,819 and at the 2000 U.S. Census, Arkadelphia had a population of 10,912 (an increase of 4,093 people).⁴²

In March of 1997 a devastating tornado struck the city. The F-4 twister (an F-5 is the most powerful category of tornadoes) leveled four blocks of downtown and damaged a surrounding 40-block area. The city continues to revitalize after the tragedy, largely because of planning by the Arkadelphia 2025 Commission. The commission was formed in response to President Bill Clinton's urging to not try to return the city to its pre-tornado existence but to instead shift gears and focus on what the town wants to be in 2025. Promoting a vibrant downtown was high on the list and has led to a restored courthouse and new downtown post office, police station, and town hall. Arkadelphia patrons are striving to preserve their history through preservation and to encourage their youth to embrace their

⁴⁰Richter, 141; Newberry, 57.

⁴¹Granade, "Arkadelphia."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

heritage and better their futures through education, which is evident in the newly established "Arkadelphia Promise." This program, funded by the Ross Foundation, allows for qualifying graduates of Arkadelphia High School, to attend college. The Arkadelphia Promise Scholarship will pay the difference between the amount of tuition paid by the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship and the highest tuition and mandatory fees charged by Arkansas public colleges or universities. Arkadelphia is only one of four cities in the United States to institute this program. Arkadelphia's commitment to education, progress, and preservation is ongoing and strong.⁴³

The collection of buildings in downtown Arkadelphia, along Main and Clinton streets, are representative of many small town commercial areas in the South. This group of buildings in downtown Arkadelphia is the largest collection of intact, commercial buildings in Clark County. Each building not only has its own history, but its four walls are a testament to the durability of early construction techniques and quality building materials. The buildings have evolved over time but have stayed true to their original intent and character and are good examples of one- and two-story brick commercial buildings. This collection of buildings serves first as a reminder to Arkadelphians of the town's rich history; second, as a reminder of the important role that this town played as a commercial and economic center for the county; and third, these buildings foster a sense of pride in one's heritage and a reason to continue to pursue the preservation of Arkadelphia's built environment.

CONCLUSION

The Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is being submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. The district conveys adequate integrity to convey its period of significance that spans circa 1870 to 1961.

⁴³ "Arkadelphia," http://www.arkansas.com/city-listings/city_detail.aspx?city=Arkadelphia; Granade, "Arkadelphia"; "Arkadelphia Students Promised Scholarships," <http://arkadelphiapromise.com/arkadelphia-students-promised-scholarships>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 22

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arkadelphia," http://www.arkansas.com/city-listings/city_detail.aspx?city=Arkadelphia;
- "Arkadelphia Students Promised Scholarships," <http://arkadelphiapromise.com/arkadelphia-students-promised-scholarships>.
- Arkadelphia City Directories: 1936, 1954 (Special Collections, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR).
- Author unknown. <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Arkadelphia+rebuilds+town+for+the+future.-a0114404236>.
- City Directories:1936 & 1954 (Ouachita Baptist University, Special Collections)
- Francaviglia, Richard V. *Main Street Revisited*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996.
- Granade, Ray. "Arkadelphia, Clark County," *The Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. " www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=848.
- Goodspeed Publishing. *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.
- Hope, Holly. *The Thrill of a New Home Without the Cost; The Evolution of Residential Siding Materials in Arkansas* (2003). <http://www.arkansaspreservation.com/pdf/siding.pdf>.
- McAfee, Wayne. "The 'Honk-Honk' Comes to Town: Early Days of the Automobile in Arkadelphia." *Clark County Historical Journal*. Edited by Wendy Richter. (1999): 72-79.
- McAlester, Lee and Virginia McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.
- Mills, Richard. Phone Conversation with Brown Hardman, 8 January 2011.
- Newberry, Farrar. *Through the Eyes of Farrar Newberry*. Edited by Adam B. Syler, Wendy Richter, Kristi Smith, Velma Seale, & Laverne Todd. Arkadelphia: Clark County Historical Association, 1992.
- Oosterhous, Kara. Written Correspondence with Dr. Ray Granade, 3 December 2010.
- Oosterhous, Kara. Written Correspondence with Dr. Ray Granade, 27 January 2011.
- Oosterhous, Kara. Phone Interview with T.O. Shepherd, 28 January 2011.
- Oosterhous, Kara. Written Correspondence with Dr. Ann Early, 26 April 2011
- Richter, Wendy, editor. *Clark County Past and Present*. Walsworth Publishing Co., 1992.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1886, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1908, 1911, 1918, 1928 and 1946.
- Tweedle, Paul. "Transportation in Early Clark County." School Paper in Possession of Ouachita Baptist University Archives. 8 February 1942.

Map NOT drawn to scale

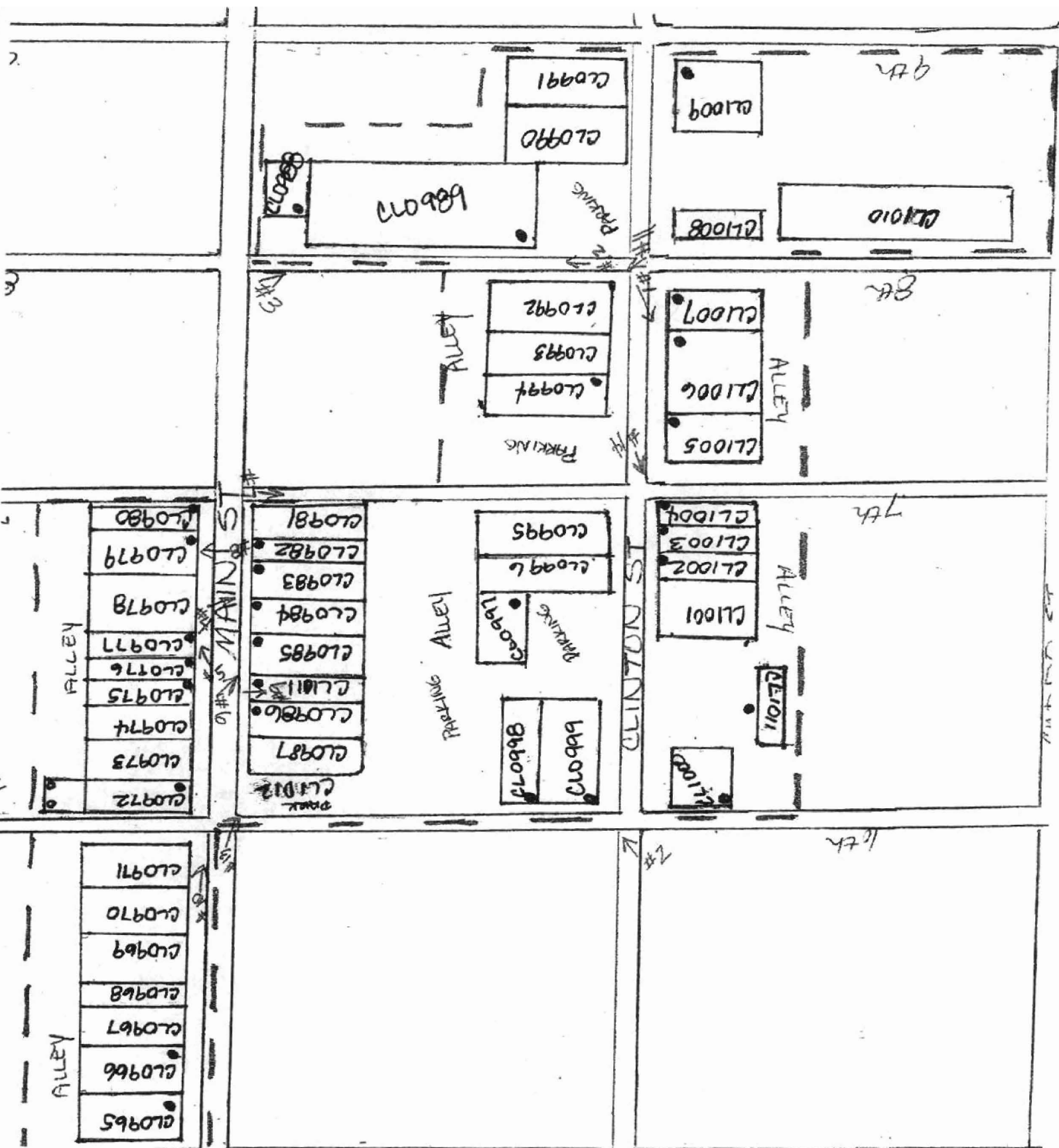
NORTH



ARCADELPHIA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Map Key:

- Boundary (dashed line)
- Resource Number (CL)
- Building (rectangle)
- Contributing Resource (dot)











ZUMBA
MONAVATION
Original Fitness

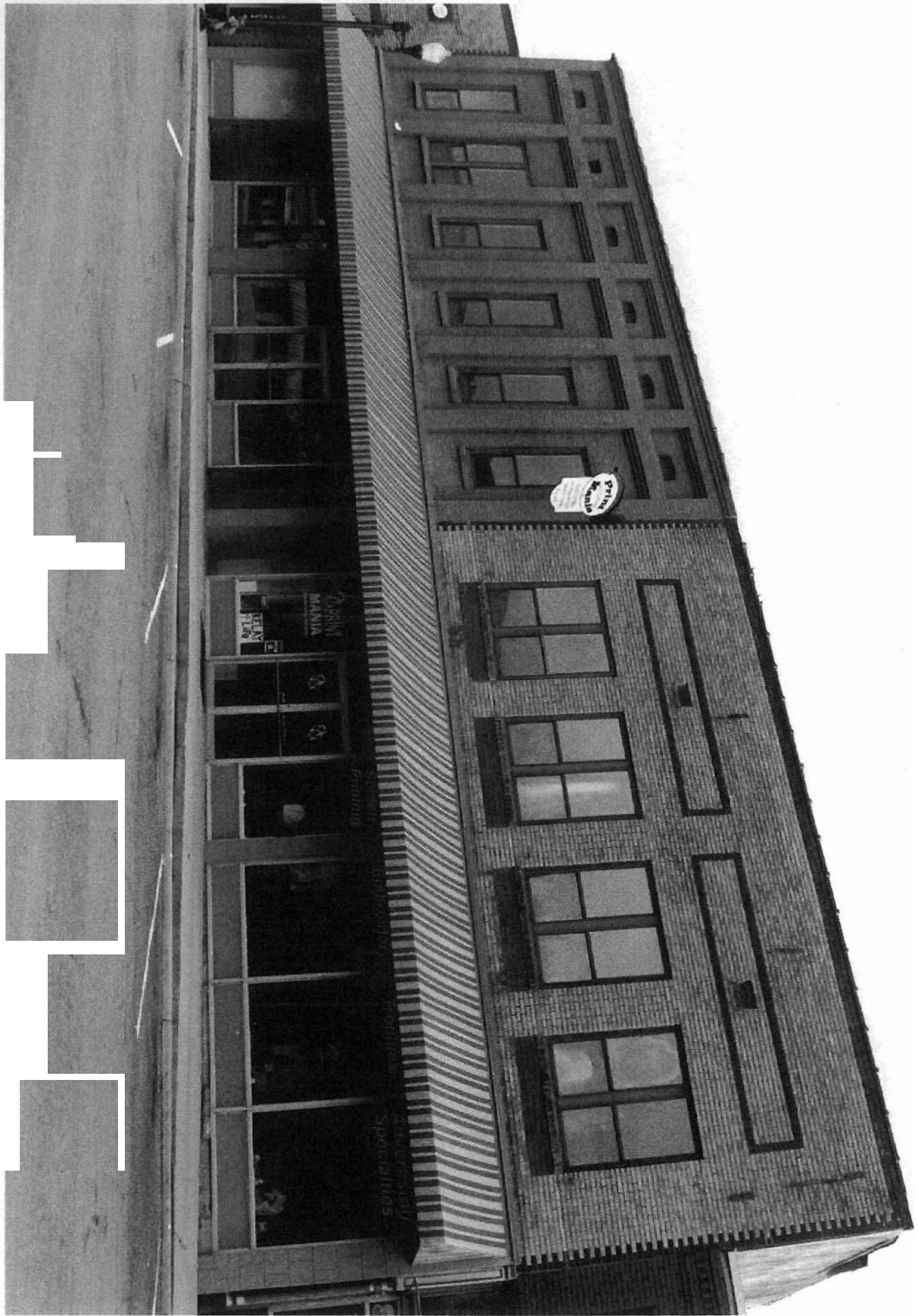
MONAVATION
Original Fitness
ZUMBA
MUSCLE ENDURANCE
NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING
BOOT CAMP
870-403-7055

ZUMBA

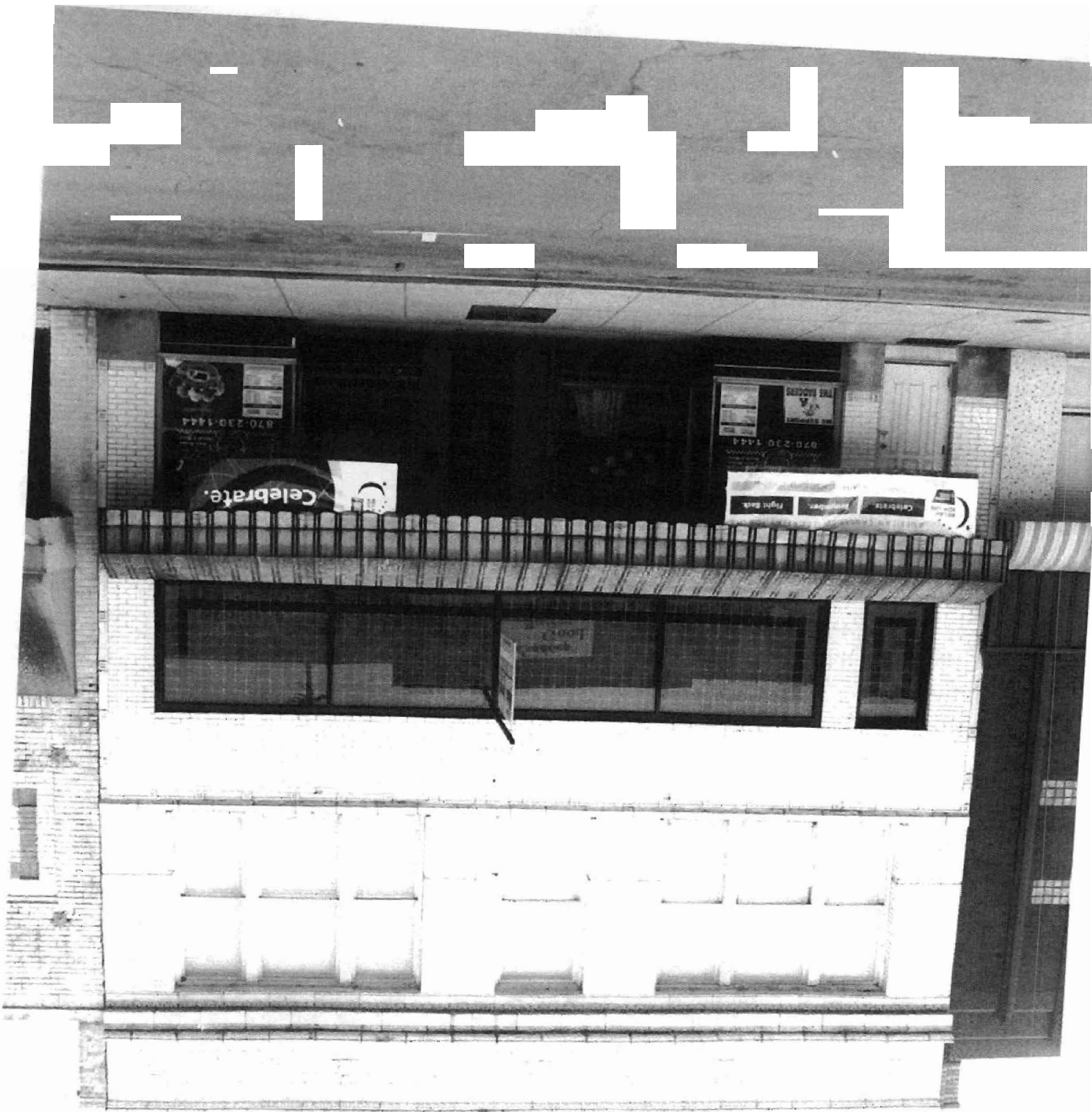
5-5900

5-5900











FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING & TYPESETTING NEEDS

The Print Shop

Signs & Lettering
Top Quality
Design & Imagination

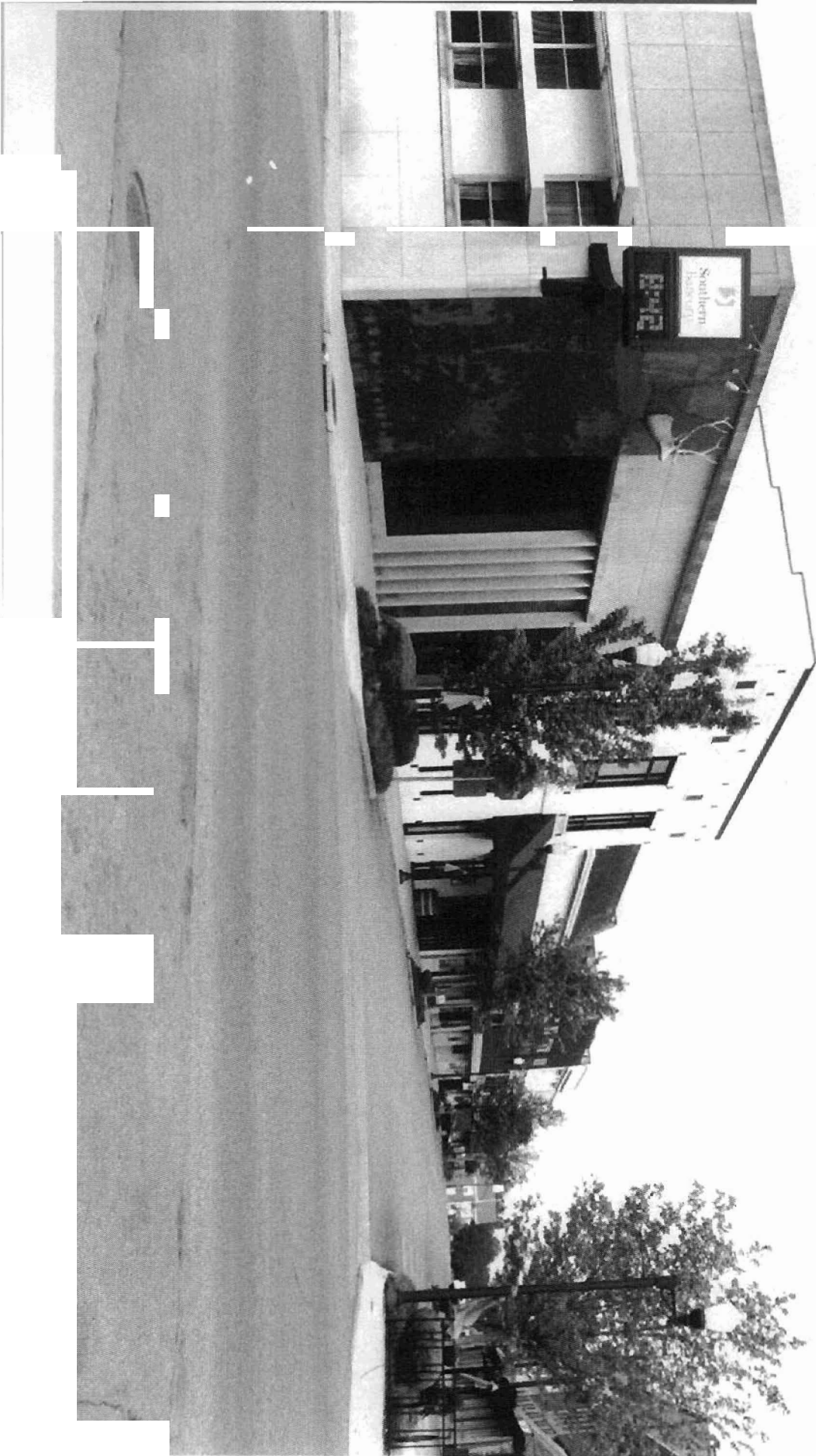
PROMIZZAR

SEEDOC

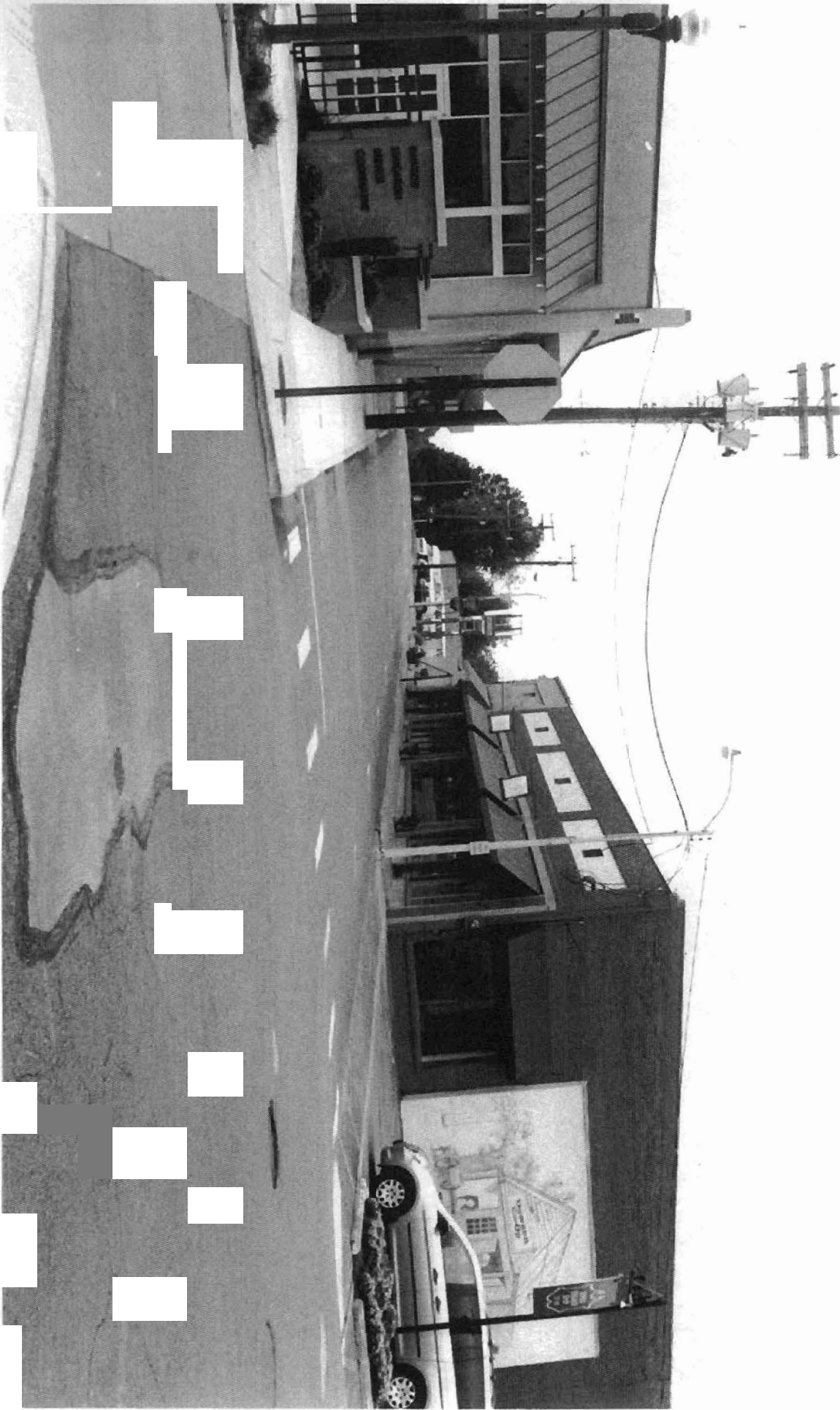
Hours Mon. - Fri.

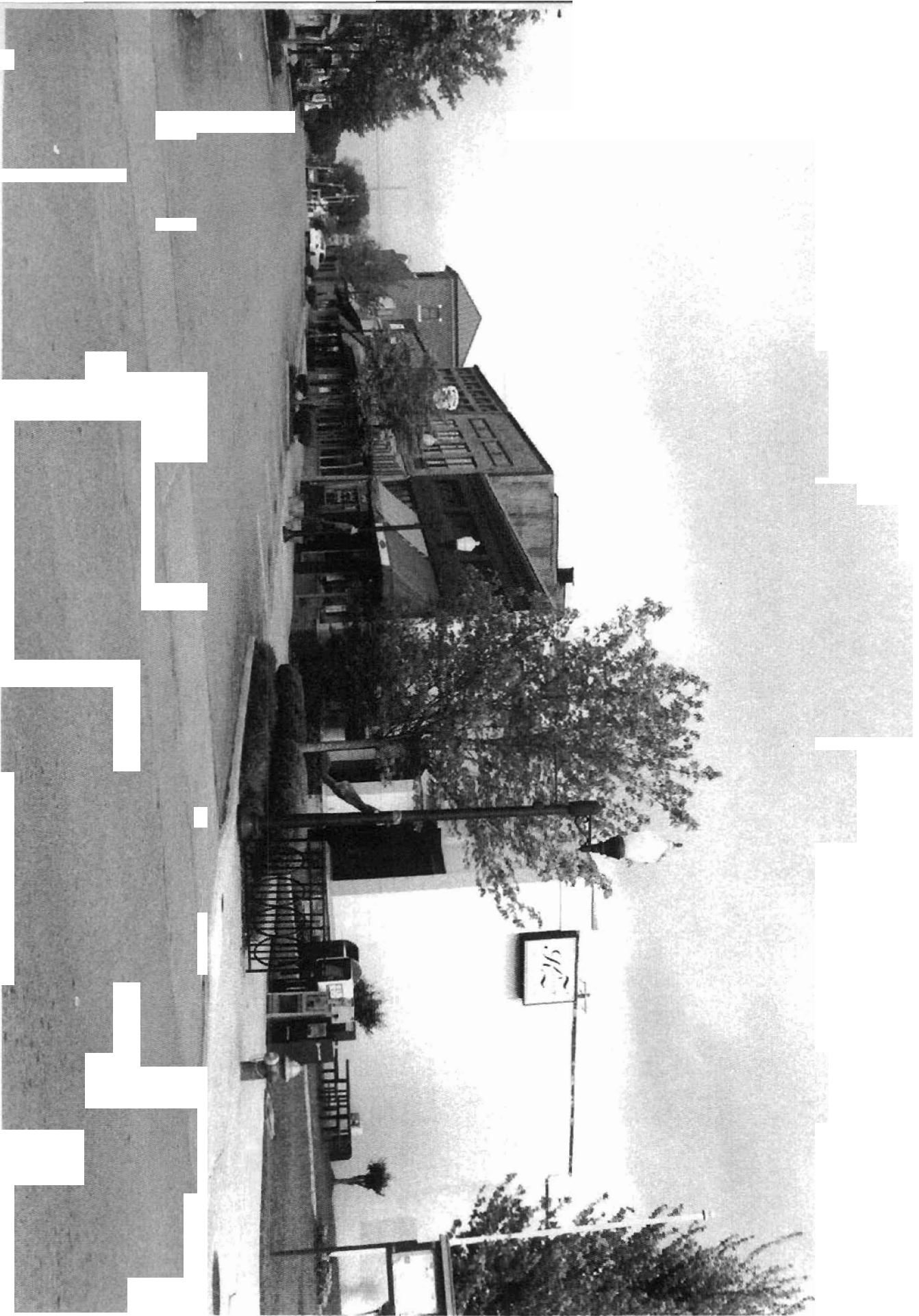
PRINTING
SIGNS

KINDS of all SIGNS











Arkadelphia Commercial Historic District
ARKAPOLIS
CLARK

A 15/495059/3775362
B 15/494900/3775381
C 15/494800/3775571
D 15/495165/3775486

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LITTLE ROCK

