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OMB No. 1024-0018

Ala. Historical Commission

FEB 18 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Downtown Florence Historic District


Other Names/Site Number: N/A

2. Location

Street & Number: 102 and 104 N. Court Street; 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 119 S. Court Street; 100, 113, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, and 128 E. Tennessee Street; and 106, 108, and 110 S. Seminary Street Not for Publication: N/A
City or Town: Florence Vicinity: N/A
State: Alabama Code: AL County: Lauderdale Code: 077 Zip Code: 35630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official

July 10, 1995

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall

Entered in the
National Register

6/22/95

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
18 _____	3 _____ buildings
0 _____	0 _____ sites
0 _____	0 _____ structures
0 _____	0 _____ objects
18 _____	3 _____ Total

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
_____	<u>Business</u>
_____	<u>Financial Institution</u>
_____	<u>Restaurant</u>
_____	<u>Warehouse</u>
<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Medical Business/Office</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Hotel</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:	Subcategory:
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
_____	<u>Business</u>
_____	<u>Professional</u>
_____	<u>Financial Institution</u>
<u>Religious</u>	<u>Religious Facility</u>
<u>Vacant/Not In Use</u>	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival
Late Victorian: Italianate
Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
 roof Asphalt
 walls Brick
 other Metal

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

<u>Commerce</u>	_____
<u>Architecture</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Period of Significance

1880 - 1945

Significant Dates

N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

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: Main Street, Florence, Alabama

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>438230</u>	<u>3850880</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	<u>4</u>	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Gene A. Ford, Architectural Historian

Organization: University of Alabama, Division of Archaeology Date: October, 1994

Street & Number: 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park Telephone: (205) 371-2266

City or Town: Moundville State: Alabama Zip Code: 35474

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

Name: Cindy and Joe Hackworth

Street & Number: 104 N. Court Street Milner-Hackworth Gallery Telephone: (205)764-2781

City or Town: Florence State: Alabama Zip Code: 35630

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

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

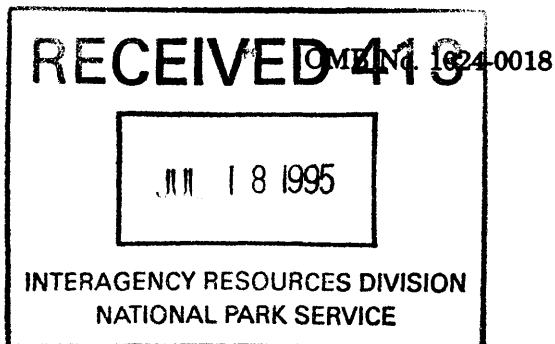
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Downtown Florence Historic District
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The Downtown Florence Historic District is situated, as its name suggests, in downtown Florence, Alabama (Figure 1). Part of the downtown core, the district consists of sections of three contiguous streets, N. and S. Court Streets, E. Tennessee Street, and S. Seminary Street (Figures 2 and 3). The district contains twenty-one nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings, eighteen of which are considered contributing resources. Although the eighteen buildings have undergone minor alterations, their overall integrity has not been compromised.

Located at the hub of Florence and atop a bluff that overlooks the Tennessee River, downtown Florence is bounded on three sides by existing historic districts that have been placed on the National Register: the Sannoner Historic District, The Wilson Park Complex, the Wood Avenue Historic District, and the Walnut Street Historic District. The College Park Historic District and the Seminary-O'Neal Historic District were determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register on October 20, 1994.

Individual buildings in the downtown area that have been placed on the National Register include Rogers Hall (Courtview) at the end of Court Street, Wesleyan Hall on the University of North Alabama (UNA) campus, Southall Drugs on North Court Street, the Karsner-Kennedy House on North Pine Street, Mapleton on South Pine Street, and the Rosenbaum House on Riverview Drive.

Several other structures in the downtown area or in the immediate vicinity have been previously placed on the Alabama Register of Historic Places. The Lamar Building, 111 S. Court Street, and the Abstract Building, 119 S. Court Street, which are described in the present application, were placed on the Alabama Register in 1989 and 1981, respectively.

On the north side of downtown Florence is a residential community with several early nineteenth century houses, a number of Victorians, bungalows, Spanish eclectic houses, Tudor Revival cottages, and UNA. To the south there are free standing modern commercial buildings, some industry, the Florence Indian Mound and Museum, the O'Neal Bridge and approach, and the Tennessee River. To the west there are early nineteenth century houses, late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential communities composed of Victorians, bungalows, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Rosenbaum House, ranch houses, a hospital, and several schools. To the east there are a variety of historic homes, including mill-workers cottages, the International Design-styled Coffee High School, a collection of warehouses, free standing brick and aluminum businesses, industry, and open lots.

Unlike the streets surrounding the downtown area, those in it are arranged in a grid pattern. Oriented in northwest/southeast and northeast/southwest directions, the streets provide access to the downtown core. Arranged along the downtown periphery are numerous buildings and a park. Several late nineteenth century churches, one of which is the brick Gothic Revival Trinity Episcopal Church,

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stand northwest of the core on Tuscaloosa Street. A park replete with a fountain, plantings, and walkways covers a one block area between two of the Tuscaloosa Street churches and the Post Office. The Post Office, built in 1911 - 1913, features limestone construction, three stories with a red ceramic tile roof, and Neo-Classical details. Near the Post Office is a 1949 limestone, three story library with Art Deco characteristics. A number of late nineteenth century brick commercial buildings dot the area south and southeast of the core. The multistory First National Bank with concrete and glass siding claims a location just south of the historic district on the southeast corner of S. Court and E. College Streets. The Lauderdale County Courthouse, a five story reinforced concrete building built in 1963, Confederate Soldier Monument, Florence City Hall, a three story brick building built in 1965, First National Bank, an eight story concrete reinforced building built in 1981, and First Federal Savings, a five story reinforced concrete building sheathed in aluminum and glass and built in 1970, anchor the southwestern corner of the periphery. Several modern one-to-two story businesses, a number of late nineteenth century residences, some of which have been converted into businesses, and a concrete reinforced multistory health care building occupy the western periphery.

Contained within the boundaries of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Court, and Seminary Streets is an eight block area. This area constitutes the downtown core (Figure 2). Amid the eight blocks are numerous nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings. Arranged side by side in blocks, divided by streets and service alleys, the buildings constitute a contiguous whole or district. A harmonious scale exists between the buildings as they rise no higher than three stories.

Revival and Victorian style buildings dominate the architectural composition of the core. Many of the buildings feature parapets, bracketed cornices, corbeled belt and string courses, recessed panels, brackets, decorative brickwork, signage panels and boards, clerestories (many of which have been enclosed), and glass display bays. A few buildings feature such details as Classical pilasters and an entablature, Italianate brackets, Romanesque arches, and decorative piers. The brick facades of several buildings have been made over in the Art Deco/Art Moderne style with the addition of limestone, vitrolite or black Coronado glass, chevrons, and other geometric detailing associated with the modern vocabulary.

Several modern buildings-- post World War II era-- somewhat blend with the older ones in the downtown core. H & R Block, Structure #12(NCR), and an adjacent building, Structure #13(NCR), feature brick construction and glass display bays similar to that of the surrounding buildings. However, architectural harmony and integrity are not words to be associated with all of the downtown core. A number of older buildings have had face lifts featuring materials-- stucco, wood, metal, or crushed rock-- and styles that do not accord with the overall architectural composition of the area. The same can be said about several buildings of recent construction. Consequently, many of the individual buildings do not meet requirements for listing in the NRHP. Unfortunately, the presence of these compromised buildings disrupts the architectural and historic continuity of the downtown core such that only one area in the core meets the requirements for listing in the NRHP as a historic district.

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This area, which is designated as the Downtown Florence Historic District, is situated along E. Tennessee Street between Court and Seminary Streets (Figure 3). Contained within this area are twenty-one commercial buildings. Nine buildings, all of which are considered contributing resources (CR), occupy positions along the east side of N. and S. Court Streets at or near the intersection of E. Tennessee Street. The Milner-Hackworth Gallery, Structure #1(CR), marks the northernmost boundary of the district on N. Court Street. Directly south of the gallery stands Mefford's Jewelers, Structure #2(CR), on the northeast corner of N. Court and E. Tennessee Streets. As with many of their neighbors, the two commercial buildings feature two and three-story brick construction. Several trees and flowers arranged in flower beds front the two buildings.

Muscle Shoals Abstract & Title Co., Structure #5(CR), defines the southernmost boundary of the district on S. Court Street. South of it stand several one and two story modern and altered commercial buildings. These buildings stand near the northeast corner of S. Court and E. College Streets. A parking lot separates the Muscle Shoals Abstract & Title Co. from the Magnolia Church of Christ, Structure #6(CR). It is a three story brick building with a vitrolite facade. Adjacent to the church is Trend Setters Inc., Structure #7(CR), a two story brick building. It shares a bracketed cornice with its northern neighbor Beckman's Custom Hearing Aid Service, Structure #8(CR). Xtra Legal Services, Structure #9(CR), and It's My Party annex, Structure #10(CR), which share a parapet and cornice, rise slightly higher than and stand north of the hearing aid service. Anchoring the southeast corner of S. Court and E. Tennessee Streets is It's My Party, Structure #11(CR). This two story brick commercial building features brick construction as do the other buildings located along S. Court in the district.

Not counting Mefford's Jewelers and It's My Party, ten buildings have addresses on E. Tennessee Street in the district. Hytek Information Systems, a noncontributing resource, Structure #3(NCR), which is adjacent to the jewelry store, and Blazer Financial Services, Structure #4(CR), are the only two of the ten buildings that stand on the north side of E. Tennessee Street. The computer store and the bank are two stories high. To the immediate east of the bank is a service alley that extends through the N. Court and E. Tennessee and S. Court and E. Tennessee blocks and runs parallel to Court and Seminary Streets. A landscaped parking lot featuring trees covers the area between the alley and N. Seminary Street.

Adjacent to It's My Party on the south side of E. Tennessee Street is H & R Block, Structure #12(NCR). Built of brick, the two story commercial building matches in height its western neighbor but rises above its one story eastern neighbor, a vacant brick commercial building recently known as A Touch of Class, Structure #13(NCR). Behind the vacant shop and H & R Block rises the northern brick wall of Trend Setters Inc. This wall extends from S. Court Street to a short distance away from the same service alley that runs along side Blazer Financial Services. A parking lot covers the area between the vacant building and the service alley.

Between the east side of the service alley and S. Seminary Street stands a row of brick commercial buildings, all but three of which, Kirsten's Korner, Structure #19(CR), a vacant building, Structure #20(CR), and City Shoe Shop, Structure #21(CR), are two stories in height. The Surprise

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Store, Structure #14(CR), occupies the space immediately to the east of the alley. Next to it is Structure #15(CR), Smokehouse Billiards & Grill. Bill's Shoes, Structure #16(CR), stands next to the grill. Posey's Furniture, Structure #17(CR), is adjacent to the shoe store. Standing next to Posey's is Structure #18(CR) which features two first floor store fronts. Housed in one is Studio 124 and a hearing aid service, and in the other is an extension of the hearing aid store. Studio 124 occupies the upper floor of each store front. Kirsten's Korner, Structure #19(CR), a one story brick building, anchors the space between the hearing aid shop and S. Seminary Street.

Situated south of Kirsten's Korner on S. Seminary Street is a vacant building, Structure #20(CR). City Shoe Shop, Structure #21(CR), stands next to the vacant building. City Shoe Shop is an irregular shaped, one story building. A parking lot covers an area measuring 147 ft. by 169.5 ft south of the shoe shop and the buildings located on E. Tennessee Street east of the service alley. The parking lot extends to E. College Street and the alley. Kirsten's Korner and City Shoe Shop define the eastern boundary of the district.

Inventory

The inventory of individual properties within the historic district includes both contributing (CR) and noncontributing resources (NCR).

Contributing Resources

Structure #1(CR), 104 N. Court Street, Milner's Drug Store/Milner-Hackworth Gallery, ca. 1880, houses an art gallery on the first floor. The second floor contains additional gallery and office space. Built of brick, the commercial building features a flat roof, parapet, dentilated cornice, three paneled stone in-sets, corbeled string course, three recessed second floor bays with stone lintels and sills, canvas awning, central first floor entry bay flanked on either side by plate glass display bays. The glass of these bays are modern replacements.

Milner's Drug Store was a long standing establishment in Florence. Joseph Milner, an English immigrant, founded the drug store in 1853 after returning from the California Gold Rush (Mims 1973). He located it at 104 N. Court Street where previously had been a grocery store. Milner's Drug Store remained in business at the same location until the late 1970s.

An 1884 Sanborn Map records a building at this location (Figure 4). The building featured two and half stories, brick construction, an awning, and a rear stairwell. Then the address was 56 Court Street. The map indicates that a drug store occupied this building.

An 1889 Sanborn Map documents the addition of two second story windows to the rear of the building (Figure 5). While the address and occupant are the same, the building has lost half a story. Perhaps there was an oversight the first time the buildings was surveyed.

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According to an 1894 Sanborn Map the drug store underwent several changes (Figure 6). A two story brick addition was added to the rear of the existing building. The addition featured two second story windows on its north side and three second story windows on its east side. A wall with an opening separated the two sections. A small one story building adjacent to the north side of the rear addition was annexed and a passageway built between the two sections. The smaller section served as an office. The address was changed from 56 to 402 Court Street.

Sanborn Maps from 1899 and 1905 indicate no alterations with the exception of the north and east side windows (Figures 7 and 8); unlike the 1894 map which shows three east side and two north side second story windows, the two later maps do not record the presence of any east side windows and only one north side window.

Recorded in a 1910 Sanborn Map are several notable changes to Milner's Drug Store (Figure 9). A dividing wall between the original section and later addition has been removed; the address has been changed to 104 N. Court Street. A second story window was added to the east side of the building.

1921 and 1928 Sanborn Maps differ little from the previous map (Figures 10 and 11). Some time between 1910 and 1921 the second story east side window was removed. This window is present in the 1928 map, possibly indicating that it was overlooked in the 1921 survey. Paints and oils were kept in the basement of the drug store (Milner's).

Two historic photographs supply information about the three dimensional appearance of Milner's Drug Store in the early twentieth century. In one photograph presented in an *Official Historical Souvenir* (1918) Milner's Drug Store is shown with a signage parapet, dentilated cornice, stone belt course, corbeled string course, three second story bays with stone lintels and sills, an awning, and central double leaf entry bay with a clerestory flanked on either side by plate glass display bays (Figure 12). Two trees stand in front of the store. A signage board advertising "Milner's" is wrapped around the base of one of the trees. The photograph also shows one of several trolley car tracks in the immediate foreground and several early model trucks with numerous people in the middleground.

In another photograph (not reproduced due to its poor visual clarity) featured in the *Centennial Edition of the Florence Times* (1976) the drug store is barely visible in the right hand corner. The store features a signage parapet, corbeled string course, three second story bays, an awning, and an indistinguishable first floor bay arrangement. Also shown in the photograph are numerous people walking to various downtown destinations, several trolley cars, a series of linked brick commercial edifices, and a tree in front of Milner's with its advertisement. Given the amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic, it can be stated that the intersection of E. Tennessee and N. Court Streets was quite busy.

A comparison between the 1918 and present appearances of the building reveals that its exterior has remained virtually the same (Figure 12). That the windows, exterior paint, awning, and

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signage board have been changed is true; however, the detailing, bay arrangement, and overall structure of the facade have not been altered.

After over a hundred and twenty years in business, Milner's Drug Store finally closed its doors in the late 1970s.

Structure #2(CR), 102 N. Court Street, Alabama Trust and Savings Bank-Mefford's Jewelers, ca. 1924, is a three story brick and stone panel sided commercial building with a flat roof. Detailing includes a dentilated cornice and pilasters with ornamental papyrus reed-like capitals. The Court Street facade features four second story bays, three awnings, and four decorative pilasters, wrap around name panel, and two first floor bays, one of which is a recessed single leaf plate glass entry bay with a transom, the other a plate glass display bay; the E. Tennessee Street facade features eleven decorative pilasters, ten awnings, eighteen third story bays, and five second story paired bays or ventilators. A first floor column is situated at the southwest corner of the building.

A historic photograph dated circa 1924 depicts the construction of a building at the northeast corner of N. Court and E. Tennessee Streets just south of Milner's Drug Store (Figure 13). Another historic photograph shows the completed two-to-three story brick building in the mid 1920s (Figure 14). It features pilasters, numerous second story bays, and numerous first floor bays including a recessed corner entry bay. Yet another historic photograph depicts this building with later modifications (Figure 15). The features of the building include a parapet, dentilated cornice, awnings, pilasters with papyrus reed-like capitals, and several bays. With the exception of different awnings and the southwest corner of the building which has had the first floor recessed entry bay removed and the walls placed flush with the west and south walls, the building in Figure 15 closely resembles the present day Mefford's Jewelers. The current presence of the first floor recessed corner entry indicates a return to historic appearance.

A 1928 Sanborn Map records a two story brick commercial building at the corner of N. Court and E. Tennessee Streets (Figure 11). A wood frame partition split the building into 102 N. Court Street and 105 E. Tennessee Street. A barber and bank and an office occupied the first and second floors of the west section; and an office occupied the east section.

Structure #4(CR), 113 E. Tennessee Street, Tennessee Valley Bank-Blazer Financial Services, ca. 1899, is a two story brick commercial building with a limestone covered facade. The long standing bank features a stepped parapet, an entablature into which "Tennessee Valley Bank" is inscribed, two Doric pilasters, three second story bays, three first floor bays with a modern central single leaf entry bay with sidelights and a transom, and a plinth.

An 1884 Sanborn Map depicts the presence of a two story, two sectioned brick building at the present location of the Tennessee Valley Bank (Figure 4). The map provides insufficient clues as to whether these are the same buildings. However, the map indicates that the bank did not exist in 1884. A saloon occupied the southern section of the building while a billiards hall occupied the northern section. There is a passageway between the two sections. The southern section features two

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first floor windows; the northern two second story windows. Directly adjacent to the northwestern corner of the northern section is a one story wood frame building. The address at that time was 12 Tennessee Street.

Several changes occurred to the building between 1884 and 1889 according to an 1889 Sanborn Map (Figure 5). The small one story wood frame extension has been replaced by a two story brick building. In the place of the saloon is a millinery shop which has had an exterior stairwell added to the southeastern corner and a shoe maker shop has replaced the billiards hall. The southern facade of the building features an awning.

According to an 1894 Sanborn Map, the shoe maker is still in business while the millinery shop is defunct (Figure 6). Between 1889 and 1894 the exterior stairwell attached to the southeastern corner of the building was removed.

As an 1899 Sanborn Map indicates, the building at 12 Tennessee Street underwent an important metamorphosis near the turn of the century. With the removal of the dividing wall, the two sections of the commercial building were unified. Some time before the preparation of the map, a bank (possibly the Tennessee Valley Bank) came to operate in the building. The east side of the building no longer featured any windows, and the south side no longer featured an awning on the facade.

While a 1905 Sanborn Map (Figure 8) notes no changes to the bank, a 1910 Sanborn Map (Figure 9) documents a number of changes. During the last eleven years, a stairwell, three second story windows, and an awning were added to the bank building. The address was changed to 113 Tennessee Street.

When the Sanborn Map Company surveyed the bank building in 1921 (Figure 10), the building no longer featured a brick facade; rather, it had a stone faced facade. The stone facade has remained a distinguishing characteristic to this day. A 1921 business directory published in the *Centennial Edition of the Florence Times* (1976) records the Tennessee Valley Bank at 113 E. Tennessee Street. A 1928 Sanborn Map documents no major alterations to the bank (Figure 11).

Structure #5(CR), 119 S. Court Street, General Store-Muscle Shoals Abstract & Title Co., ca. 1899, features two stories, brick construction, a flat roof, recessed panels, brick string course, two second story bays, a first floor facade with rusticated stone pilasters, and entry bay flanked by display bays.

In 1884 the address of the building was 46 Court Street (Sanborn Map 1884) (Figure 4). The brick building featured two sections. The one story east section housed a tin shop while the two story west section housed the customer service area for the tin shop. Five years later the building shared a side gable roof with its southern neighbor (Sanborn Map 1889) (Figure 5). Three first floor windows were added to the east side of the east section. The building served as a grocery store.

According to an 1894 Sanborn Map, the building resembled its 1889 appearance (Figures 5 and

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6). However, it was used as a warehouse. The address was in the process of changing to 306 Court Street. With the exception of a different occupant, a general store, the building had not changed in 1899 (Sanborn Map 1899) (Figure 7).

Between 1899 and 1905 the building underwent a transformation (Sanborn Map 1905) (Figure 8). The partition separating the east and west sections was removed. A second floor was added to the east section. The address was once again in transition from 306 to 117 Court Street. A general store still operated in the space. A 1910 Sanborn Map shows that the building changed little over the next five years with the exception of the east side bay arrangement (Figure 9). The side featured one second story window rather than three first story windows.

Eleven years later the building featured a south side exterior stairwell (Sanborn Map 1921) (Figure 10). In addition to a general store on the first floor the building housed the office of J. E. Westmoreland on the second (*Florence Times* 1976). A 1928 Sanborn Map records an opening with a standard fire door in the north wall which was also the south wall of the adjoining building (Figure 11). The map also shows that the address was changed to 119 S. Court Street.

Between 1928 and 1994 two buildings between the Muscle Shoals Abstract and Title Co., Structure #5(CR) and the Magnolia Church of Christ, Structure #6(CR), were demolished leaving an empty space that was later converted into a parking lot. The first floor bays of Structure #5(CR) were recently replaced with contemporary bays.

Structure #6(CR), 111 S. Court Street, Lamar Building-Magnolia Church of Christ, ca. 1888, is a three story brick building with a vitrolite covered facade. The first floor features two display bays and a central double leaf entry bay.

In an article for *The Journal of Muscle Shoals History*, Maurine Maness (1978) excellently documents the early history of Structure #6(CR). Realizing the need for space for business transactions, the Florence Land, Mining, and Manufacturing Company constructed a three story brick commercial building in 1888. The building featured an iron roof, numerous facade bays, a brick facing with iron decorations on the third floor, and plate glass and iron facing on the second and first floors. However, upon completion, it was decided that the building was better suited for use as a hotel. Consequently, the building was leased to the partnership of Patton and Crow who converted the interior of the building into a hotel. The interior consisted of an office, dining room, parlor, two sample rooms, and twenty-nine guest rooms. The building was wired for electricity. Patton and Crow went out of business in October, 1888.

For the next two years Charles M. Brandon operated the Florence Hotel in the building. An 1889 Sanborn Map records this occupancy (Figure 5). The map also records the presence of eight third story windows on the north side, a three story wood frame porch or addition on the east side, and a one story frame porch or awning on the west side. The address was 49 Court Street. Brandon terminated his lease in 1890. Over the next fourteen years the building was used as a hotel and later a grocery store (Maness 1978). An 1899 Sanborn Map documents the occupancy of a grocery business

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in the building (Figure 7). The east and west side wood frame additions were no longer present.

In 1904, A. D. Bellamy of Florence Wagon Works fame bought the building (Maness 1978). He operated a vehicle company which sold wagons, carriages, buggies, and bicycles in the space. A 1905 Sanborn Map records the presence of the vehicle business (Figure 8). As a result of a fire that swept through the area on October 2, 1908, the Vehicle Building was altered (Maness 1978). The first floor housed a department store, the second offices, and the third rooms for rent. In 1910 Monte Bello Lodge bought the building. The lodge occupied the third floor and leased space on the other two to various enterprises.

For the next thirty-four years the building was known as the Knights of Pythias Building for the lodge that owned it and occupied the third floor. Numerous businesses rented space on the first and second floors during this period. A 1921 Sanborn Map documents a carriage depository, wholesale grocery operation, and boarders as occupants (Figure 10). At the time of recordation the building featured three third story windows on the north side, one third story window on the east side, and four third story windows on the south side. An exterior stairwell was added to the east side. The address was 111 S. Court Street. In 1928 the Chamber of Commerce occupied the building in addition to the Knights of Pythias (Sanborn Map 1928) (Figure 11).

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lamar who operated a furniture business on the first and second floor of the K. of P. Building in the early 1940s bought the building in 1944 (Maness 1978). The Lamar Building which housed the Lamar's furniture business underwent renovation in 1945 and 1946. Included in the renovation was the addition of vitrolite siding on the facade, an elevator, an electric eye door, air conditioning, and electrical heating. In 1976 the building became a Drexel Heritage store (Maness 1978). The Magnolia Church of Christ recently altered the building. A signage board was removed and the first floor bays were replaced with those of contemporary design.

Structure #7(CR), 109 N. Court Street, Florence Times-Trend Setters, Inc., ca. 1880, is a two story brick commercial building with a parapet, tin bracketed cornice, two second story bays (a third one has been enclosed), and two single leaf entry bays, one of which leads to a stairwell, flanked by one plate glass bay, a section of which is canted. The brick surface of the first floor has been covered with stucco.

In 1884 109 N. Court Street was 50 Court Street (Sanborn Map 1884) (Figure 4). The two story brick commercial building served as a grocery. A dashed line on the map represents a frame partition between this building and its northern neighbor, possibly indicating that the two sections were once a single space.

According to an 1889 Sanborn Map, the commercial building was converted into a general merchandise store on the first floor and a barber shop on the second (Figure 5). An awning and a parapet which extended across the facade of the building at 51 Court Street were added to the west side of the edifice. A one story addition was built on the eastern side of the building. This configuration was the same in 1894 (Sanborn Map 1894) (Figure 6); however, the building housed a

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shooting gallery in the one floor east section. The map does not indicate the occupant for the west section. Three windows were cut into the north wall of the east section.

The structure of the commercial building remained relatively unchanged over the next ten years (Sanborn Maps 1899 and 1905) (Figures 7 and 8). The occupant, as of 1899, was the Florence Times. Offices were kept in the west section while the printing department occupied the east. Housed in the printing area was a water motor. The address was changed to 314 Court Street and that of the northern adjoining building to 314 1/2. A 1905 Sanborn Map shows that the address of the two buildings was changed yet again to 109 and 107 Court Street.

Over the next five years the building changed little. A 1910 Sanborn Map depicts the addition of two, one story spaces to the extreme east of the building (Figure 9). The frame partition separating 109 and 107 Court Street shows only one opening as opposed to several in previous years.

A number of changes occurred between 1910 and 1921 according to a 1921 Sanborn Map (Figure 10). Two, one story additions, one of which was used as storage space, were constructed adjacent to the east section of the building. These additions were later replaced with a concrete addition that extended to the service alley (Sanborn Map 1928) (Figure 11). Electricity powered the printing operation and building lights.

In 1954 the occupant of 109 N. Court Street was no longer the Florence Times; rather, it was the Forbes Piano Company (*Florence Times* 1954).

Structure #8(CR), 107 N. Court Street, Office-Beckman's Custom Hearing Aid Service, ca. 1880, is a two story brick commercial building. It features a parapet, bracketed tin cornice, one second story bay with a window hood, single leaf entry bay with transom topped by an enclosed clerestory and flanked by a single plate glass bay. The second story bay has been covered with plywood on the interior, and the first floor brick exterior has been covered with stucco. The first floor bays are modern replacements.

Since 1884, the office building at 107 N. Court Street has had few changes. An 1884 Sanborn Map shows the building at 51 Court Street as constructed of brick with a frame partition separating it from 50 Court Street (Figure 4). Later maps record the presence of an interior stairwell and a second story east side window (Sanborn Maps 1889, 1894, 1899, 1905, and 1910) (Figures 5 through 9). The building housed an office. The address was recorded as 314 1/2 Court Street in 1899 and 107 Court Street in 1905.

In 1914 the building served as an office for A. A. Williams & Jas. C. Roberts, Attorneys at Law (*Florence Times* 1914). Western Union Telegraph Office, first floor, and W. A. Fox, Notary Public, second floor, occupied the building in 1921 (*Florence Times* 1976). According to a 1928 Sanborn Map, the building was a store (Figure 11).

Structure #9(CR), 105 N. Court Street, Patrick H. Perry Cotton Exchange-Xtra Legal Services,

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ca. 1880, is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof, iron front with a parapet, bracketed cornice, modillions, sunburst and swirl motifs, three second story enclosed bays flanked on either side by decorative piers with Corinthian capitals, and a modernized first floor facade with a cornice, enclosed clerestory, single leaf entry bay with a transom for upstairs entry, and a single leaf entry bay with a transom and flanked on one side by three plate glass bays, one of which is canted. The brick front on the first floor is concealed behind paint.

In 1884 the two story commercial building housed a saloon (Sanborn Map 1884)(Figure 4). The address is listed as 52 Court Street. Five years later the building shows signs of alterations (Sanborn Map 1889) (Figure 5). An iron front was added to the west side; and four second story windows were cut into the east (three) and south (one) sides. The building was converted into a bank. A bank it still was in 1894 (Sanborn Map 1894) (Figure 6). The address was in a state of transition as it was listed as 52 and 316 Court Street.

According to an 1899 Sanborn Map (Figure 7), the building was no longer used as a bank. Rather, it housed a tailor shop. Six years later it served as a barber shop (Sanborn Map 1905) (Figure 8). The address was changed to 105 S. Court Street.

A 1910 Sanborn Map indicates that the building was modified (Figure 9). Three of the four windows on the east and south sides were reduced to one on the east side. An exterior stairwell was built on the east side of the building, permitting access to not only the second story of 105 but also 103 S. Court Street. The building still housed a barber shop. The structural arrangement of the building remained the same in 1921 (Sanborn Map 1921) (Figure 10). Housed in the building were Patrick H. Perry Cotton Exchange and L. B. Sain, Tailor (*Florence Times* 1976).

A 1928 Sanborn Map records the alteration of the building (Figure 11). A frame partition was built between it and 103 S. Court Street. A second story window was added to the southeastern corner. The occupant is listed as an unspecified store.

Given the present appearance of the building, the first floor facade was modified in the recent past.

Structure #10(CR), 103 S. Court Street, J. D. Weeden & Co. Real Estate-It's My Party Annex, ca. 1880, is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof, iron front, which is a continuation of the iron front of 105 S. Court Street, with a parapet, bracketed cornice, modillions, sunburst and swirl motifs, three second story enclosed bays flanked on either side by decorative piers with Corinthian capitals, and a modernized first floor facade with crushed stone panel siding, an awning, enclosed clerestory, and a single leaf entry bay flanked on either side by a modern display bay.

An 1884 Sanborn Map indicates that the two story commercial building once housed a bank (Figure 4). Shading the interior of the first floor were several awnings. The address is recorded as 53 Court Street.

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During the next five years the building was modified (Sanborn Map 1889) (Figure 5). An iron front and an awning that was shared by 52 (105) Court Street was added to the west side, and two second story windows were cut into the east side. A mutual stairwell providing access to the second floors of both 53 and 52 Court Street was constructed in between the two buildings. At this time a bank occupied the place.

1894, 1899, and 1905 Sanborn Maps record no major structural changes to 53 Court Street (Figures 6, 7, and 8). The address was changed to 318 Court Street. The building accommodated an insurance office during these years. In 1910, 103 Court Street, as the address was recognized, featured only one second story east side window and an exterior stairwell (Sanborn Map 1910) (Figure 9).

According to an advertisement in a *Florence Times* (1914) newspaper, the commercial building served as an office for J. D. Weeden & Co. Real Estate. A 1921 Sanborn Map records the building as unspecified office space (Figure 10). In 1924 J. D. Weeden & Co. Real Estate occupied the office (*Florence Herald* 1924).

A 1928 Sanborn Map documents the place as an unspecified store (Figure 11). A frame partition separated 103 and 105 S. Court Street. In 1944 the building housed Best Jewelers (*Florence Times* 1944). The first floor renovations were done in recent years.

Structure #11(CR), 100 (100-106) E. Tennessee Street, First National Bank-It's My Party, ca. 1880, is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof, stepped parapet, metal wrap around bracketed cornice with dentils and modillions, three second story west side bays with hoods, eight second story north side bays with hoods, wrap around belt course, and a modernized first floor with crushed stone panel siding, three west side plate glass bays with an awning, and six north side bays, two of which are single leaf entry bays, and two awnings.

This building, also referred to as the Bliss Block, has had a long history of occupation. An 1884 Sanborn Map indicates that the building served as a general store (Figure 4). The address was 54 Court Street in 1884. The building featured an entry on Court Street, an interior opening into the adjoining building on Tennessee Street, and two second story windows on the south side. Little changed over the next five years (Sanborn Map 1889)(Figure 5). One of the south side windows was enclosed.

Between 1889 and 1894 the building was converted into a bank (Sanborn Map 1894) (Figure 6). A historic photograph reveals that "First National Bank" was once lettered on a signage panel on the Court Street side (Figure 16). The Sanborn Map indicates that a series of individual awnings that previously were suspended from the west and north sides were replaced with two continuous awnings. The address was in the process of being changed to 320 Court Street. An 1899 Sanborn Map records the building in similar condition to that of the previous five years (Figure 7).

As a 1905 Sanborn Map indicates, the address was changed to 101 Court Street (Figure 8). The document does not record any major structural changes. A bank occupies the building. In 1910

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the bank stands in the same condition with the exception of a one story addition on the southeast corner (Sanborn Map 1910)(Figure 9).

According to a *Florence Herald* (1922) advertisement, the First National Bank was moved to another downtown location in the early 1920s. A 1921 Sanborn Map confirms this move as it records the occupation of a bakery on the first floor and an office on the second at 101 Court Street (Figure 10).

A 1928 Sanborn Map documents an important structural metamorphosis (Figure 11). The building was cut up into four individual stores by means of frame partitions. The four unspecified stores were addressed 100, 102, 104, and 106 E. Tennessee Street. Some time between 1928 and the present, the partitions were removed and the interior was used as space for a single enterprise, It's My Party.

Structure #14(CR), 116 E. Tennessee Street, Grocery Store-Surprise Store, ca. 1921, is a two story brick commercial building that features a flat roof, parapet, corbeled string courses, recessed panels, pilasters, two second story bays with stone lintels and sills, enclosed clerestory, stairwell, and a first floor plate glass front with a single entry bay.

An 1884 Sanborn Map does not show the present building at this site (Figure 4). Instead there is a two story tenement. This tenement was formerly the Crow's Hotel, a hotel built in the mid 1800s. Five years later the tenement no longer existed (Sanborn Map 1889) (Figure 5); in its place was McCluskey & Young Livery Stables, which stretched out over a sizable portion of the block. An 1894 Sanborn Map documents a three story building on the site (Figure 6). Only the first floor was constructed of brick; the other two floors were of frame construction. A hardware store occupied the first floor while a tin shop was on the second floor. An exterior stairwell stood on the west side of the building adjacent a service alley. The address was 24 Tennessee Street. 1899 and 1905 Sanborn Maps show little change to the building (Figures 7 and 8). However, a grocery store replaced the hardware store on the first floor.

A 1910 Sanborn Map indicates several modifications to the building (Figure 9). The exterior stairwell was no longer present. Four third floor windows pierced the west wall, and another pierced the third floor south wall. A large awning or a frame structure of some sort was added to the north side of the building and the one adjacent to it. The address is listed as 116 E. Tennessee Street.

According to a 1921 Sanborn Map, either a new building was built or the previous one modified (Figure 10). The building depicted in the map is only two stories high; however, three windows are marked at the third story level. This recordation is probably an error as no such windows are documented in a 1928 Sanborn Map (Figure 11). Given the construction history of Structure #15(CR), which was built between 1910 and 1921, it is likely that the three story building located at 116 Tennessee Street was demolished and replaced by a two story building. The building had an interior stairwell that extended along the northern section of the east wall. A hardware store and offices respectively occupied the first and second floors. A 1921 business directory published in the

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Centennial Edition of the Florence Times (1976) records the Jackson Buggy Works and Dr. Lynn White as occupants of the first and second floors at 116 E. Tennessee Street.

In 1928 an unidentified store occupied the building (Sanborn Map 1928) (Figure 11). The State Finance Company rented second floor space in 1944 (*Florence Times* 1944). A *Florence Times* (1954) advertisement lists Florence Hardware as an occupant in 1954.

Structure #15(CR), 118 E. Tennessee Street, Wholesale Groceries-Smokehouse Billiards and Grill, and Structure #16(CR), 120 E. Tennessee Street, Young Furniture Company-Bill's Shoes, ca. 1921, are contained within a single two story brick commercial building. The building is divided into two sections and features a flat roof, parapet, corbeled string courses, four pilasters, tan and red colored bricks arranged in decorative patterns, seven second story bays, enclosed clerestories, center interior stairwell that leads to two separate second story compartments and is flanked by two first floor store fronts; west front, Structure #15(CR), with central double leaf entry bay flanked on either side by plate glass bay; east front, Structure #16(CR), with off centered single leaf entry bay with transom flanked by plate glass bays.

The present commercial building did not exist in 1884. Two story tenements stood on this section of the south side E. Tennessee Street block (Sanborn Map 1884) (Figure 4). Livery Stables replaced the tenements (Sanborn Map 1889) (Figure 5). In 1894 a three story building stood on the site (Sanborn Map 1894) (Figure 6). The building featured brick construction on the first floor, a center stairwell, a subdivision into two parts addressed 24 1/2 and 25 Tennessee Street, a grocery store on the first floor of the west section, a dry goods store on the first floor of the east section, offices on the second and third floors of both sections, and east side windows. An 1899 Sanborn Map records few changes to the building (Figure 7).

A 1905 Sanborn Map shows that the address of the commercial building was changed to 118 and 120 Tennessee Street (Figure 8). A furniture business replaced the dry goods store in the east section or 120 E. Tennessee Street. Structurally the building had not changed. 1910 and 1921 Sanborn Maps indicate that the furniture business and dry goods swapped places, and then swapped back to their original places (Figures 9 and 10). Chances are that the swap never occurred; rather, there was a recordation error as an advertisement in the *Florence Herald* (1922) lists the Young Furniture Company at 120 E. Tennessee Street. An important alteration to note is that the building only featured two stories in 1921. The three story building was razed and replaced by the two story building between 1910 and 1921. The materials, construction methods, and details of the present building indicate that it was the one built between 1910 and 1921.

A 1928 Sanborn Map records the west half of the commercial building as a store on the first floor and furniture storage on the second (Figure 11). 120 E. Tennessee Street is unspecified. Since 1928, the building has undergone only minor cosmetic replacements: the clerestories were enclosed and the first floor bays were replaced.

Structure #17(CR), 122 E. Tennessee Street, H. P. Lucas Grocery Store-Posey Furniture, ca.

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1921, is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof, parapet, limestone facade, name panel inscribed with "Lucas", decorative stonework, two pilasters, two second story bays topped with decorative stone panels, signage board, enclosed clerestory, and a modernized first floor display front with single leaf entry bay.

The present commercial building did not stand on the site prior to 1889. 1884 and 1889 Sanborn Maps indicate that a dwelling stood on the site during the last decades of the nineteenth century (Figures 4 and 5). According to an 1894 Sanborn Map, 26 (122 E.) Tennessee Street was the address of a three story brick commercial building (Figure 6). A printing outfit, office, and photo gallery respectively occupied the first, second, and third floors. Cut into the east and south walls were windows; and two iron clad light wells dropped down from the roof to various levels. With the exception of a water motor, an 1899 Sanborn Map records no addition to the building (Figure 7).

While the commercial building at 122 (E.) Tennessee Street is structurally the same in 1905, several occupants changed (Sanborn Map 1905) (Figure 8). The first floor no longer accommodated a printing shop; rather, it housed a grocery store. Unspecified offices and a photo gallery continued to occupy the second and third floors.

As a 1910 Sanborn Map indicates, the building received some modifications between 1905 and 1910 (Figure 9). A wood frame porch or awning was added to the north side, one of the air-light shafts appears to have been removed, and third floor windows were cut into the south and east walls. The map records the presence of iron columns in the building. It is not known if they were added after 1905. The map only records a grocery store at 122 E. Tennessee Street.

A 1921 Sanborn Map records a commercial building at 122 Tennessee Street as two stories in height (Figure 10). In 1910 the building at 122 Tennessee Street had three stories (Figure 9). It is likely that the three story building at 122 Tennessee Street was demolished and a two story building built in its place between 1910 and 1921. A 1921 business directory published in the *Centennial Edition of the Florence Times* (1976) lists H. P. Lucas Grocery as the occupant.

A 1928 Sanborn Map corroborates the recordation of the building in the 1921 Sanborn Map (Figures 10 and 11). It records the building as two stories in height. An unspecified store operated in the building. In 1944 Eason-Shumake Furniture Company occupied 122 E. Tennessee Street (*Florence Times* 1944). A furniture company, Posey's, continues to operate in the building to this day.

Structure #18(CR), 124 and 126 E. Tennessee Street, Wholesale Grocery-Studio 124/Salvation Army-Hearing Aids, ca. 1890, is a two story brick commercial edifice with a flat roof, parapet, diamond work frieze, corbeled string course, seven second story bays with brick voussoirs and stone sills, first floor cornice with brackets, first floor with central stairwell with single leaf entry bay topped by a Queen Anne window and flanked on either side by two store fronts; west front, 124 E. Tennessee Street, with contemporary diagonal wood siding and central single leaf entry bay flanked by two plate glass bays; east front, 126 E. Tennessee Street, with enclosed clerestory and single leaf entry bay flanked by plate glass bays, one of which is canted. Studio 124 occupies the west section on the first

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floor and both sections of the second story. Thus, the second floor functions as one space.

According to 1884 and 1889 Sanborn Maps, the present building did not exist prior to 1889 (Figures 4 and 5). The lot was partially vacant and occupied by a dwelling. A two story brick commercial building replaced the dwelling on the lot some time between 1889 and 1894 (Sanborn Map 1894) (Figure 6). The edifice featured a subdivision into two store compartments, central interior stairwell, continuous awning across both store fronts, south side exterior stairwell, and a one story iron clad warehouse adjacent to the south side of the west section, 27 Tennessee Street. The east section, 27 1/2 Tennessee Street, featured seven east side second story windows. While the east section was vacant, the west contained a grocery store on the first floor and a hand printing shop on the second.

For the next eleven years, the building remained structurally the same (Sanborn Maps 1899 and 1905) (Figures 7 and 8); the businesses in the west side also remained constant for some time. However, they changed in the east section. A saloon operated in the east section in 1899, and was later replaced by a drug store.

A 1910 Sanborn Map depicts several changes to the commercial building (Figure 9). The addresses were changed to 124 and 126 E. Tennessee Street. Two second story windows were cut into the south wall. The west store was vacant while the east occupant was a produce business. A wood frame partition separated the two sections.

The structure and commercial climate of the building continued to evolve during the next eleven years. In 1921 the one story iron clad warehouse no longer existed (Sanborn Map 1921) (Figure 10). Each store compartment featured a south side second story window. Six of the east wall windows were removed. A meats business and pawn shop respectively occupied 124 and 126 E. Tennessee Street while the Salvation Army claimed the second floors.

In 1928 unspecified stores operated in the two sections (Sanborn Map 1928) (Figure 11). Rooms to let claimed the second floor. According to the Sanborn Map, the building no longer featured a central interior stairwell, but more than likely, this recordation was an oversight as the stairwell is a fixture of the building to this day. Another oversight may be the recordation of south wall bays. A recent visual inspection of Structures #14(CR) through #17(CR) reveals the presence of numerous first and second floor south wall bays. Judging by the construction, materials, and type of bay frames, these bays have been present for over fifty years and may date back to the original construction of the buildings.

Structure #19(CR), 128 E. Tennessee Street, Quinn Building-Kirsten's Korner, ca. 1921, is a one story brick commercial building that features a flat roof, parapet, brick belt course, decorative brickwork, and pilasters; E. Tennessee Street facade with clerestory, and a single leaf entry bay with transom flanked by a plate glass bay; S. Seminary Street facade with four bays, two of which are plate glass windows, one is enclosed, and the fourth is a single leaf entry bay.

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According to 1884, 1889, 1894, 1899, 1905, 1910, and 1921 Sanborn Maps, Structure #19(CR) did not stand on the site until after 1910 (Figures 4 through 10). In 1884 the lot was vacant. Between 1884 and 1921, an iron clad office, cobbler shop, bicycle shop, and tailor shop stood on the lot.

A 1921 Sanborn Map records the presence of a one story brick commercial building assumed to be Structure #19(CR) (Figure 10). A restaurant operated in the building at 128 E. Tennessee Street. The building featured an entry bay on its northwestern corner and a south wall window.

As a 1928 Sanborn Map indicates, the E. Tennessee side entry bay was moved to the northeastern corner, where it is presently located (Figure 11). An unspecified store occupied the building.

Judging by the brick construction of the building, it dates back to the 1920s; however, the bays are modern replacements. Despite the bay replacements, the building retains its overall integrity.

Structure #20(CR), 106 S. Seminary Street, Lunchroom-Vacant, and Structure #21(CR), 108 and 110 S. Seminary Street, Fish Restaurant-City Shoes, ca. 1910 - 1921, are contained within a single irregular shaped one story brick commercial building with a flat roof, thin cornice, corbeled string course, three recessed panels, and three store fronts each with an enclosed clerestory, awning, and a central entry bay flanked on either side by plate glass bays.

Examination of 1884, 1889, 1894, 1899, and 1905 Sanborn Maps shows that the irregular shaped edifice did not stand on the lot prior to 1905 (Figures 4 through 8). From 1884 to at least 1889 a dwelling stood on the space near the southwestern corner of (E.) Tennessee and (S.) Seminary Streets. The lot stood empty between 1899 and 1910.

A version of the irregular shaped building, Structure #21(CR), appears on a 1910 Sanborn Map (Figure 9). The building, largely constructed of brick, but with some wood frame walls, was subdivided into two sections. The north section stood adjacent and perpendicular to the south wall of the building located at 126 E. Tennessee Street. It was rectangular shaped and consisted of one story. The south section stood adjacent and parallel to the north. Its south wall slanted at an angle, making the configuration appear as a trapezoid. Two windows were cut into the south wall and an entry bay permitted entry into the southeastern corner of the building. A flour warehouse occupied the south section.

In 1921 the building featured its present configuration (Sanborn Map 1921) (Figure 10). It was subdivided into three partitions addressed as 106, Structure #20(CR), and 108 and 110, Structure #21(CR), S. Seminary Street. The L-shaped north part served as a lunch room; the rectangular middle and trapezoidal south parts served as a fish restaurant. Unspecified stores occupied the three sections in 1928, according to a 1928 Sanborn Map (Figure 11).

Since 1921, the building has maintained its irregular shape and much of its original integrity.

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The south and middle sections serve as a shoe shop; the north section, separated from the other two by a masonry wall, serves as storage space.

Noncontributing Resources

Structure #3(NCR), 111 E. Tennessee Street, Hytek Information Systems, possibly ca. 1899, is a two story brick commercial building with a flat roof, second floor facade concealed behind paneled aluminum siding and canvas or vinyl rectangular decorative panels, modern quarter barrel awning, six bay first floor facade with a plate glass single leaf entry bay and polished aluminum panel siding.

A historic building (Sanborn Maps record two, two story brick commercial buildings on the site (Figures 5 through 11)) may be behind this hi-tech contemporary facade, but its historic integrity has been lost; therefore, the building is considered a noncontributing resource.

Structure #12(NCR), 108 E. Tennessee Street, H & R Block, ca. 1955, is a two story brick commercial building that features a flat roof, parapet, decorative ventilator perforations, two second story facade bays, nine second story east wall bays, five of which are eight pane casement windows, and a first floor facade with a recessed entry bay flanked by plate glass display cases, and an interior stairwell with a single leaf entry bay and transom.

With its brick construction, massing and scale, the building is not unlike its historic neighbors; however, due to its age, it is considered a noncontributing resource. It will be considered a contributing resource in ten years when it is fifty years old.

Structure #13(NCR), 110 E. Tennessee Street, A Touch of Class, ca. 1955, is a one story brick commercial building with a flat roof, stone or metal name panel, and a recessed plate glass single leaf entry bay with transom flanked by plate glass display bays, two of which are canted.

This building is considered a noncontributing resource due to its age.

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Significance

Commerce

The downtown Florence Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its collection of late nineteenth to early twentieth-century commercial buildings. These buildings reflect a sixty year period of significant commercial development for Florence.

Architecture

The downtown Florence Historic District is also significant under Criterion C for its collection of late Victorian and Classical Revival buildings. Although their storefronts have been altered, they nonetheless retain a high degree of architectural integrity. This integrity is not apparent elsewhere in the downtown area where numerous representative buildings of Italianate, Romanesque, and Classical Revival architecture have either been demolished or seriously modified.

Historical Summary

The history of downtown Florence begins with the establishment of the Cypress Land Company on March 12, 1818. General John Coffee, James Jackson, Thomas Bibb, LeRoy Pope, John Childress, Dabney Morriss, and John McKinley were the first trustees of the Cypress Land Company (Garrett 1968). The land company purchased 5,515 acres of land on the north bank of the Tennessee River and appointed Ferdinand Sannoner, an Italian born surveyor, to assist General John Coffee in surveying the purchased land. The land was subdivided into some four hundred lots. A grid pattern of streets was established, the main ones of which were Court, Tennessee, Market, and Seminary (Lewis 1981) (Figure 17). The land company permitted Sannoner to name the new town Florence after Florence, Italy. He was given several lots as partial payment for his services.

The Cypress Land Company sold the lots in July, 1818. Richard Rapier, Phillip J. Scudder, John McKinley, John Craig, Malcom and J. J'son, and Robeson and Read respectively purchased Lots 78, 79, 119, 120, 121, and 122, the area designated as the historic district (Garrett 1968).

Once set in motion by the land sales, Florence quickly grew into a recognizable town. When Ann Newport Royal, one of America's first woman journalists, visited Florence in 1821, she found a place pregnant with recent development: "Many large and elegant brick buildings are already built here, ... and frame houses are putting up daily ... there may be about 100 dwelling houses and stores, a courthouse and warehouses, and several taverns" (McDonald 1968).

Among the early fixtures in and around the historic district were the Courthouse and the Land Office. The first Lauderdale County Courthouse was completed in 1822 on two lots, the southwest

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corner of W. Tennessee and S. Court Streets, reserved for just such a purpose (Souvenir 1918). The two story government building featured a low-pitched hip roof crowned with a cupola atop a four-sided clock tower and a pedestal, eight Tuscan columns, and an eight-over-eight bay facade (Figure 18). The Land Office and the offices of the Cypress Land Company were housed in a building on E. Tennessee Street where now stands Blazer Financial Services, Structure #4(CR), (Lewis 1981). A fire destroyed the building and all the land records contained within it in 1827.

During the decades from 1830 to 1860, Florence enjoyed economic growth due to the prosperity of King Cotton. The population of Lauderdale County was 4,763 in 1820; 10,781 in 1830; the population of Florence was 802 in 1850; and seven years later Florence had 1,444 people (Garrett 1968). The continued influx of people into the county and Florence created a prosperous business atmosphere. In 1857 there were nine lawyers, two dentists, four doctors, and about fifty other businesses in Florence (Garrett 1968). These businesses located in commercial buildings built in the downtown area on Tennessee, Court, Seminary, and Market Streets.

Several businesses that developed out of Florence's mid nineteenth-century economic prosperity include Milner's Drug Store, Structure #1(CR), and Crow's Hotel. Milner's Drug Store opened in 1853 and remained at its location on Tennessee Street for over 120 years. One of Florence's most important hotels, Crow's Hotel, stood on the present site of the Surprise Store, Structure #14(CR), and Smokehouse Billiards and Grill and Bill's Shoes, Structure #15(CR). Constructed of wood with a large porch, the hotel, which was built some time before 1850, was eventually replaced by McCluskey's Livery Stable (Garrett 1968)(Figure 5).

The Civil War interrupted all facets of life in Florence. Damaged by the war, Florence did not recover for several decades. A fire shortly after the war in 1866 destroyed part of the downtown area (Wright 1994).

Spurred by the industrial revolution that swept the nation, Florence experienced a boom in the late 1880s. The population in Florence increased 500 percent from 1600 to 6000 at the end of this decade (Merrill 1976). Many new industries moved into the area around Florence. These included the Florence Wagon Works, Tennessee Valley Fertilizer Company, Bellamy Planing Mill, Florence Ice and Coal Company, Ashcraft Cotton Mills, North Alabama Furnace, Philadelphia Furnace, and Cherry Cotton Mills (Merrill 1976). In order to meet the commercial demands created by this growth, many new business buildings were built in downtown Florence. Structures #5(CR) through #11(CR) and #18(CR) represent this boom.

Although the boom climaxed in 1889, construction continued on into the early 1890s. Between 1889 and 1894 eight buildings were built in the downtown core, four on the south side of E. Tennessee Street where now stand Structures #14(CR) through #17(CR) and four on the north side of E. Tennessee Street where now is a vacant lot adjacent the service alley. One of the buildings on the lot was an opera house (Sanborn 1894) (Figure 6). Evidently, the economy was such that Florentines had sufficient money to patronize the arts.

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The turn of the century ushered in an era of progress. The Lauderdale County Courthouse was torn down in 1900, and a much larger courthouse was built on the same site at the southwest corner of W. Tennessee and S. Court Streets (the courthouse was moved to a modern building a block south in 1966). The 1901 courthouse featured multiple porticos and a cupola (Tennessee Valley Historical Society 1983).

Prior to 1905, pedestrian and equine traffic dominated the streets of Florence. However, the Sheffield Company built an electric trolley line in Florence in 1904; the lines ran up and down Court, Tennessee, and Seminary Streets (Rice 1979). A very popular transportation mode, as is evident in a historic photograph, the trolley or street car was eventually outmoded by the automobile which became popular in the 1920s (Figure 19).

Construction of Wilson Dam, which began in 1918, triggered another economic boom in the Florence area. With the promise of jobs, thousands of people moved into the area; consequently, the population jumped from 6,689 in 1910 to 10,529 in 1920 (Garrett 1968). The boom generated urban renewal in the downtown Florence core. Between 1910 and 1921 five buildings, Structures #14(CR) through #17(CR) and Structure #19(CR) replaced five buildings on E. Tennessee Street. Another building, Structure #21(CR), on Seminary Street, which was begun in 1910, was enlarged to its present state, which includes Structure #20(CR), in the late 1920s.

The 1930s and 1940s afforded no surplus with which to erect new buildings. The Tennessee Valley, of which Florence is a part, was particularly hard hit by the Great Depression. However, creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933, which was responsible for instituting better agricultural practices, replenishing the soil and timber, and creating a series of hydroelectric dams, helped to revitalize the Tennessee Valley (Headrick and Schaffer 1993). The outbreak of World War II placed a moratorium on the domestic scene as new construction was prohibited in order to make all materials available for the war effort.

New construction resumed in the 1940s. Structures #12(NCR) and #13(NCR) represent this return to economic prosperity; however, they are not quite fifty years of age, so their consideration as contributing resources is not yet possible.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

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Verbal Boundary District

The boundaries of the Downtown Florence Historic District are defined by lots 78, 79, 119, 120, 121, and 122 as recorded on Ferdinand Sannoner's Map of 1856 (Figure 17). The City of Florence currently recognizes these lots as legal lot designations.

Boundary Justification

The southern boundary of the historic district is defined by Structure #5(CR), Muscle Shoals Abstract & Title Co., 119 S. Court Street. This building is the southernmost building on the S. Court-E. Tennessee Street block that maintains much of its historic integrity. The northern boundary is defined by Structure #1(CR), Milner-Hackworth Gallery, 104 N. Court Street. It is the northernmost building on the N. Court-E. Tennessee Street block that, unlike its northern neighbors on N. Court Street, maintains much of its original integrity. The western boundary is defined by the eastern side of N. and S. Court Streets which features Structures #1(CR) and #5(CR) through #11(CR). Buildings, such as the First Federal Savings building, located on the west side of this street are either modern or have had their integrity compromised. The eastern boundary is defined by the west side of S. Seminary Street which features Structures #18(CR) and #19(CR). The buildings on the east side of S. Seminary Street are modern.

Property Owner Continuation

Name Olin T. Mefford 102 N. Court Street, Florence, Alabama 35630

Street & Number 102 N. Court Street Mefford's Jeweler's Telephone 764-2632
113 E. Tennessee Street Blazer Financial Services Telephone 764-9271

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Jim Stevenson

Street & Number 111 S. Court Street Magnolia Church of Christ Telephone 764-2011
119 S. Court Street Muscle Shoals Abstract & Title Co.

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Bob Griffin P.O. Box 876 Florence, Alabama 35630

Street & Number 109 S. Court Street Vacant Telephone 764-0821

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35631

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Property Owner Continuation

Name Dorothy Kornman 3550 Gault Ocean Dr., APT. 1711, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (305) 565-4934

Street & Number

<u>107 S. Court Street Beckman's Hearing Centers Inc.</u>	Telephone <u>760-0163</u>
<u>105 S. Court Street Extra Legal Services</u>	Telephone <u>Unknown</u>
<u>103 S. Court Street Balloon Express</u>	Telephone <u>766-6573</u>
<u>100 E. Tennessee Street It's My Party</u>	Telephone <u>766-6573</u>
<u>106 E. Tennessee Street Vacant</u>	Telephone <u>766-6573</u>
<u>108 E. Tennessee Street H & R Block</u>	Telephone <u>764-0435</u>
<u>110 E. Tennessee Street</u>	
<u>Magnolia Church of Christ Annex</u>	Telephone <u>767-6776</u>

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Bill Bobo

Street & Address 111 E. Tennessee Street Hytek Information Systems Telephone 764-0500

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Frances Jaynes

Street & Address 116 E. Tennessee Street The Surprise Store Telephone 766-6573

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Robert Redd AmSouth, 321 N. Seminary Street, Florence 35630

Street & Address 118 E. Tennessee Street Smoke House Billiards Telephone 764-9996

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Bill & Sarah Blankenship

Street & Number 120 E. Tennessee Street Bill's Shoes and Boots Telephone 766-5631 or 766-4380

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

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Property Owner Continuation

Name A. I. Beadle S. B. S. Electric, P.O. Box 340, Florence, Alabama 35630

Street & Number 122 E. Tennessee Street Posey Furniture Telephone 764-9542

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Patsy & Ken Novelli

Street & Number 124 E. Tennessee Street Studio 124 Telephone 766-2787

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

Name Joe Odom

Street & Number 110 S. Seminary Street City Shoe Shop Telephone 764-6573

City or Town Florence State Alabama Zip Code 35630

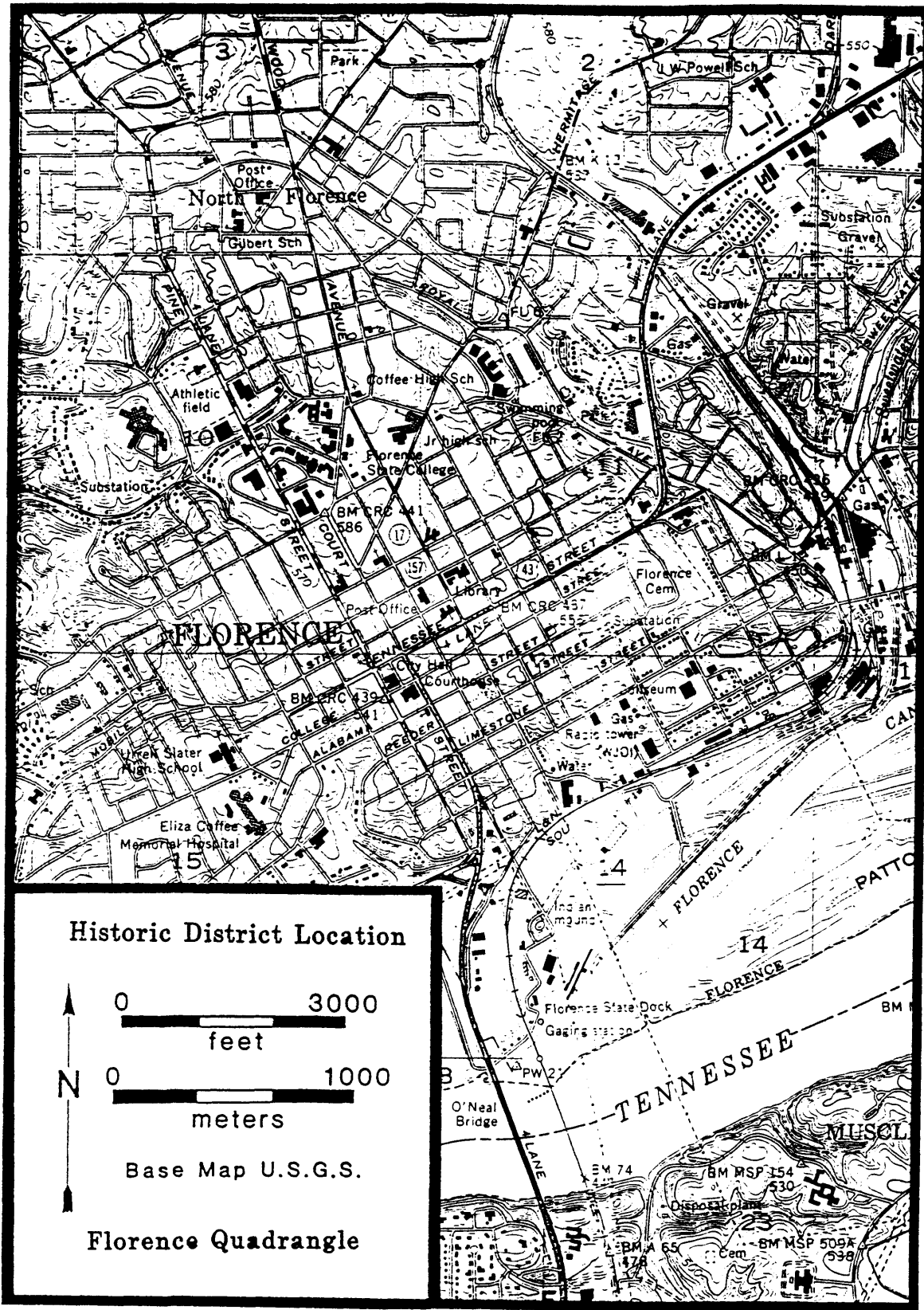


Figure 1. Downtown Florence.

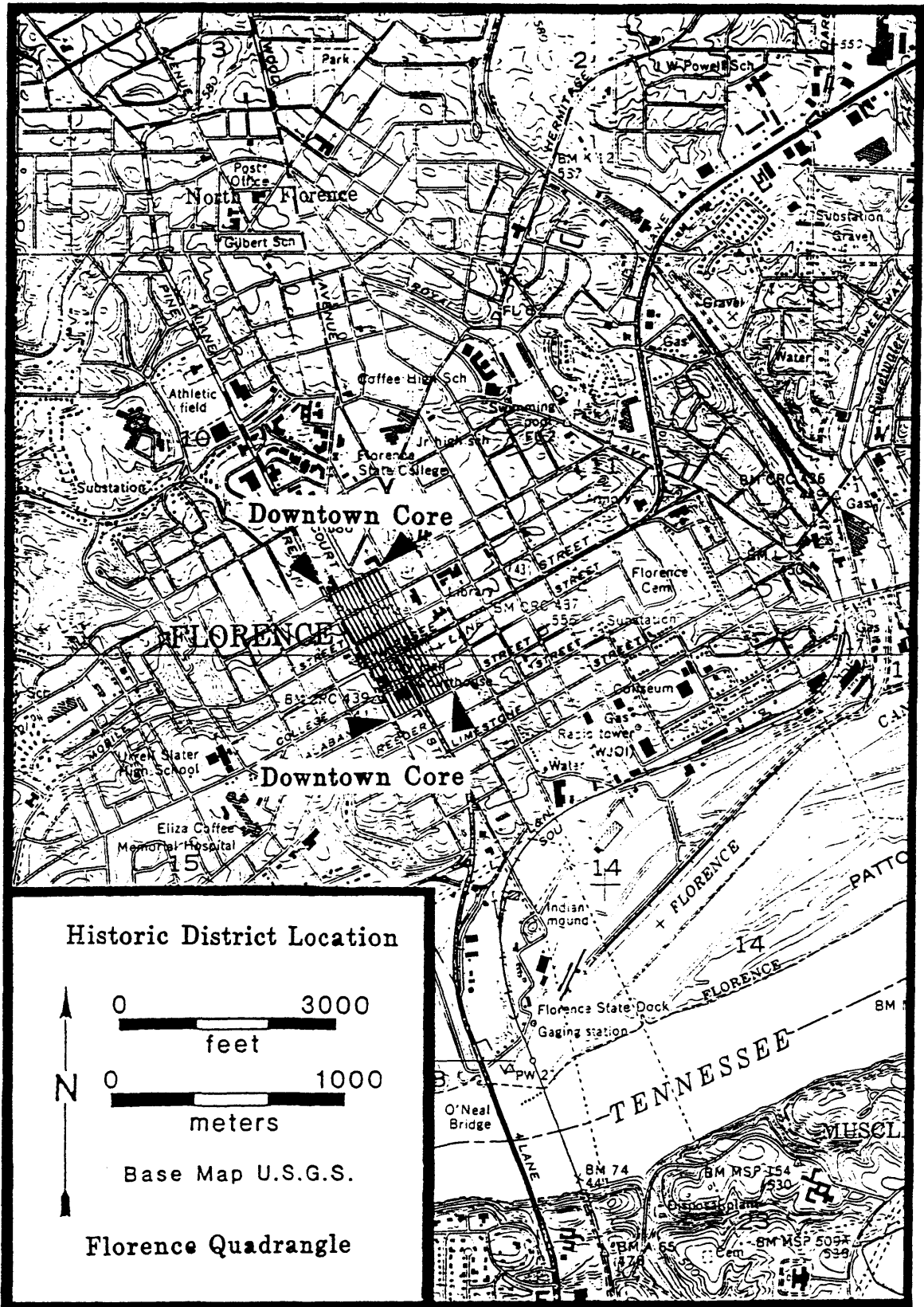


Figure 2. Downtown Core.

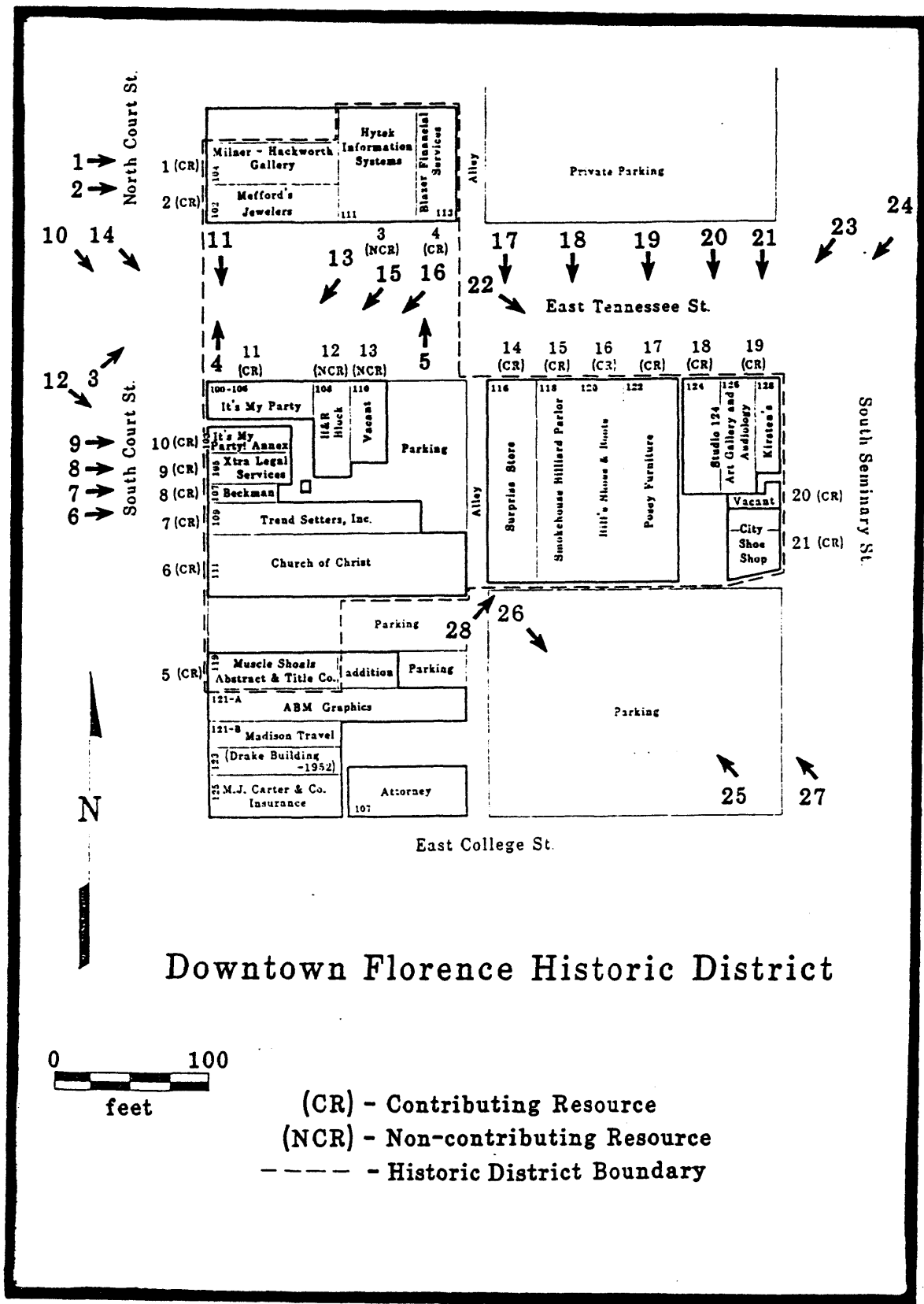


Figure 3. Downtown Florence Historic District.

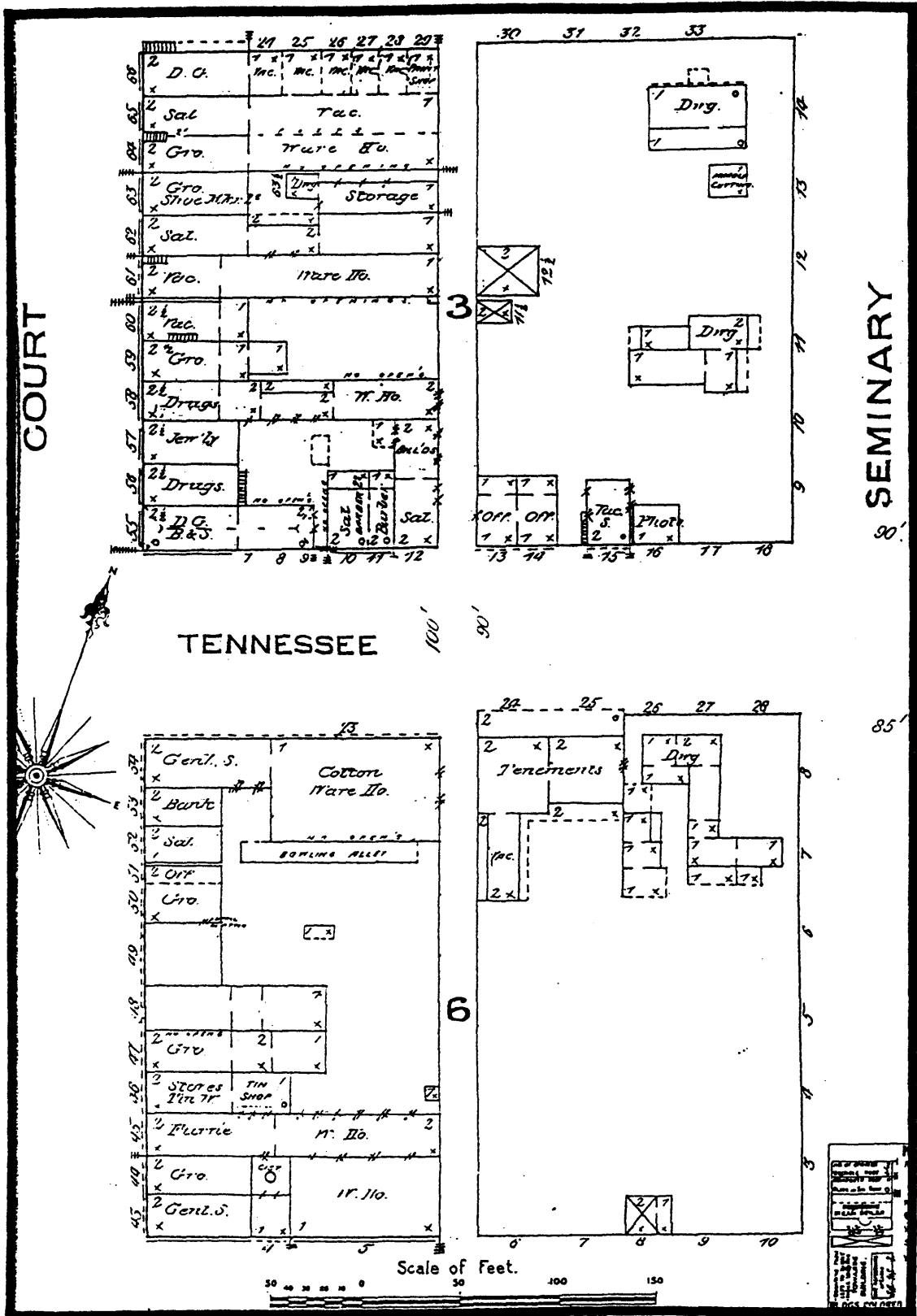


Figure 4. 1884 Sanborn Map.

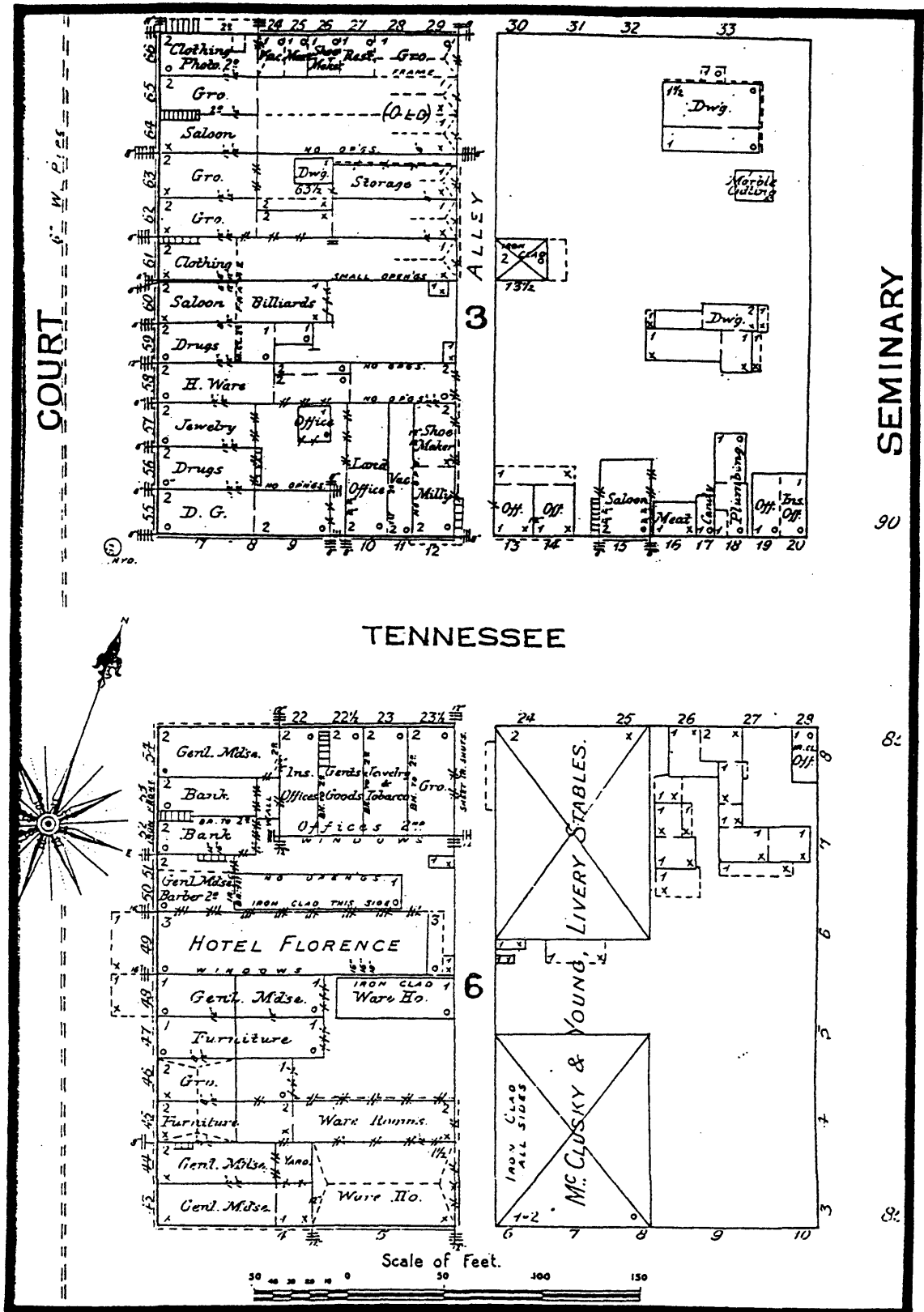


Figure 5. 1889 Sanborn Map.

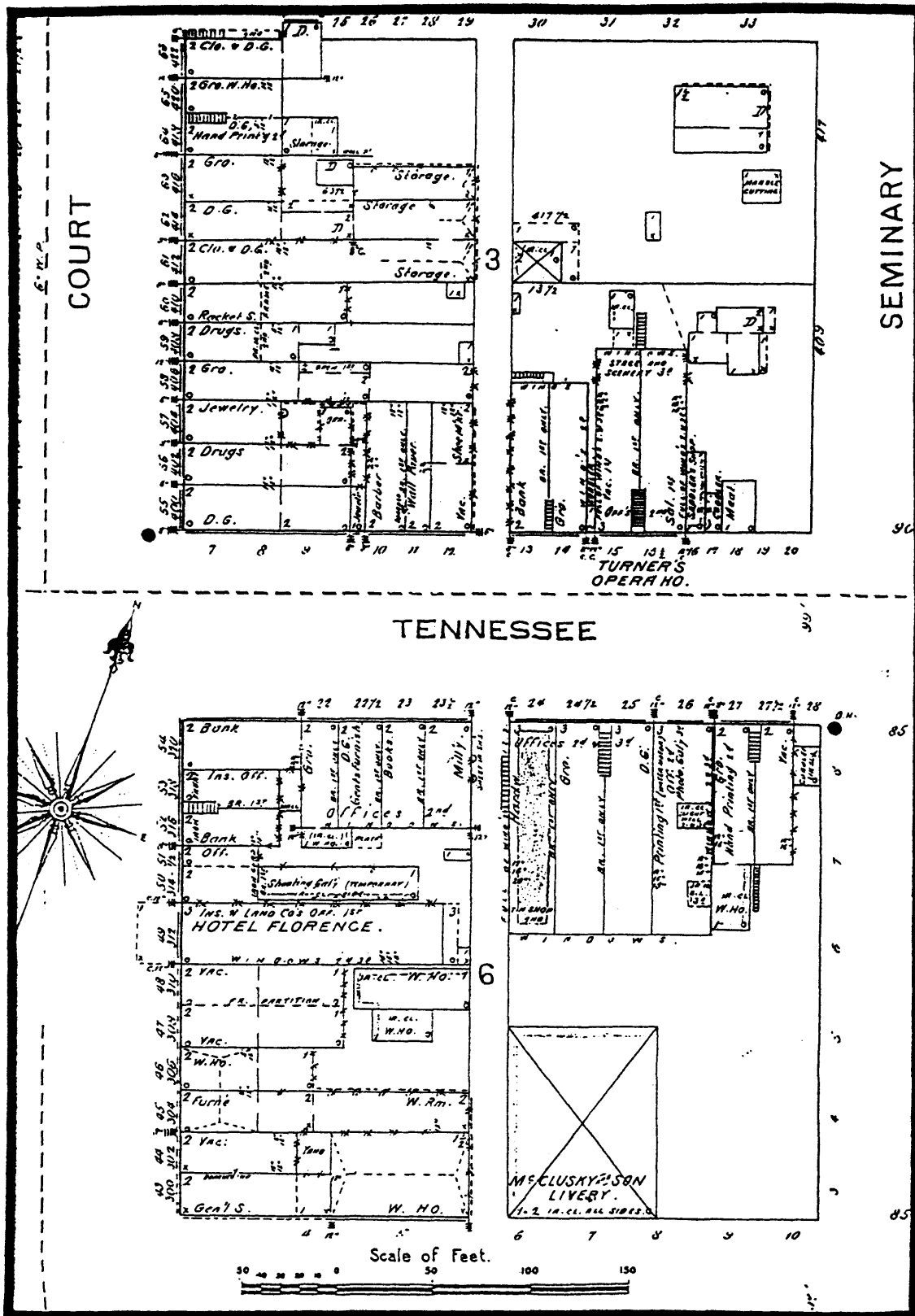


Figure 6. 1894 Sanborn Map.

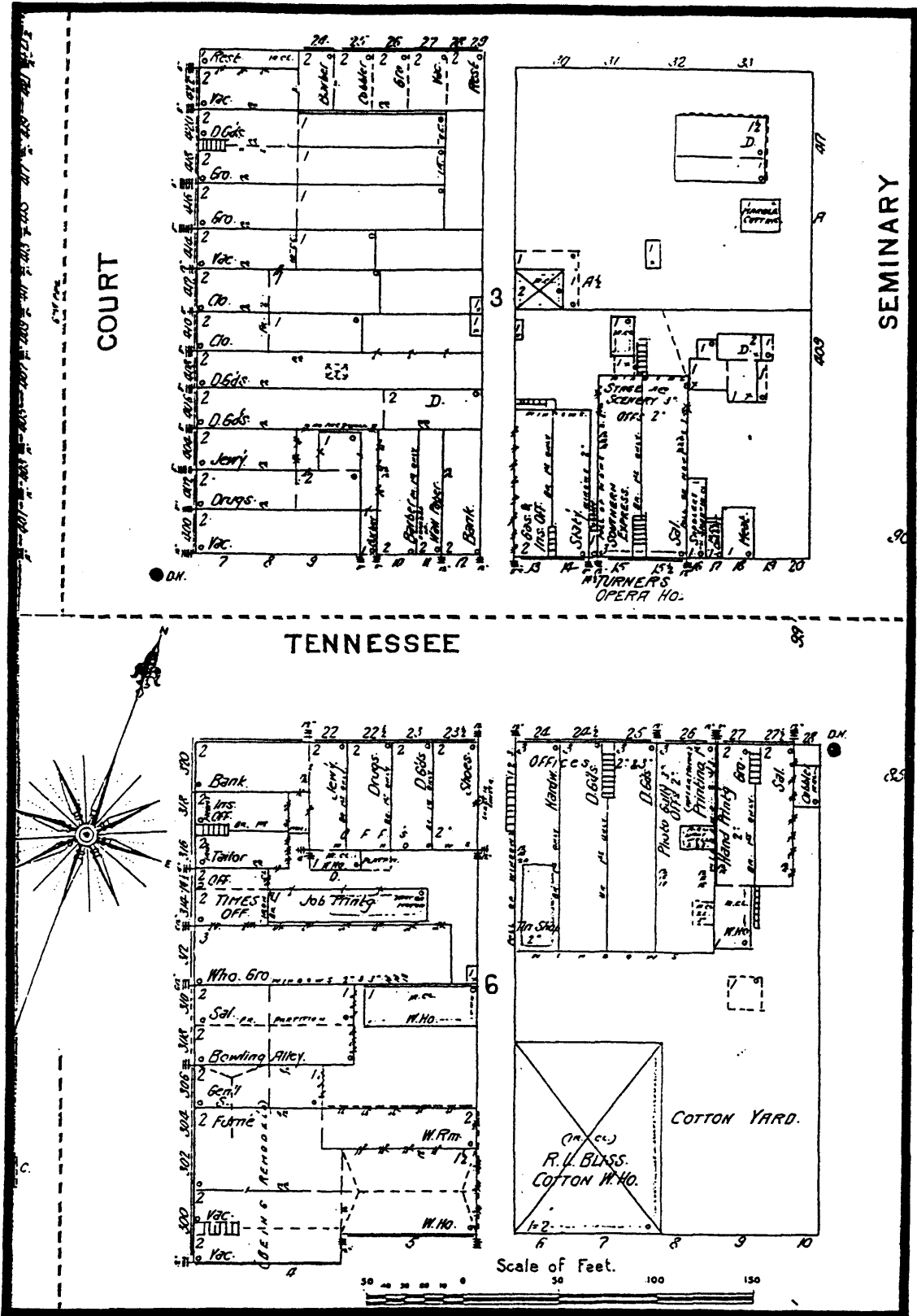


Figure 7. 1899 Sanborn Map.

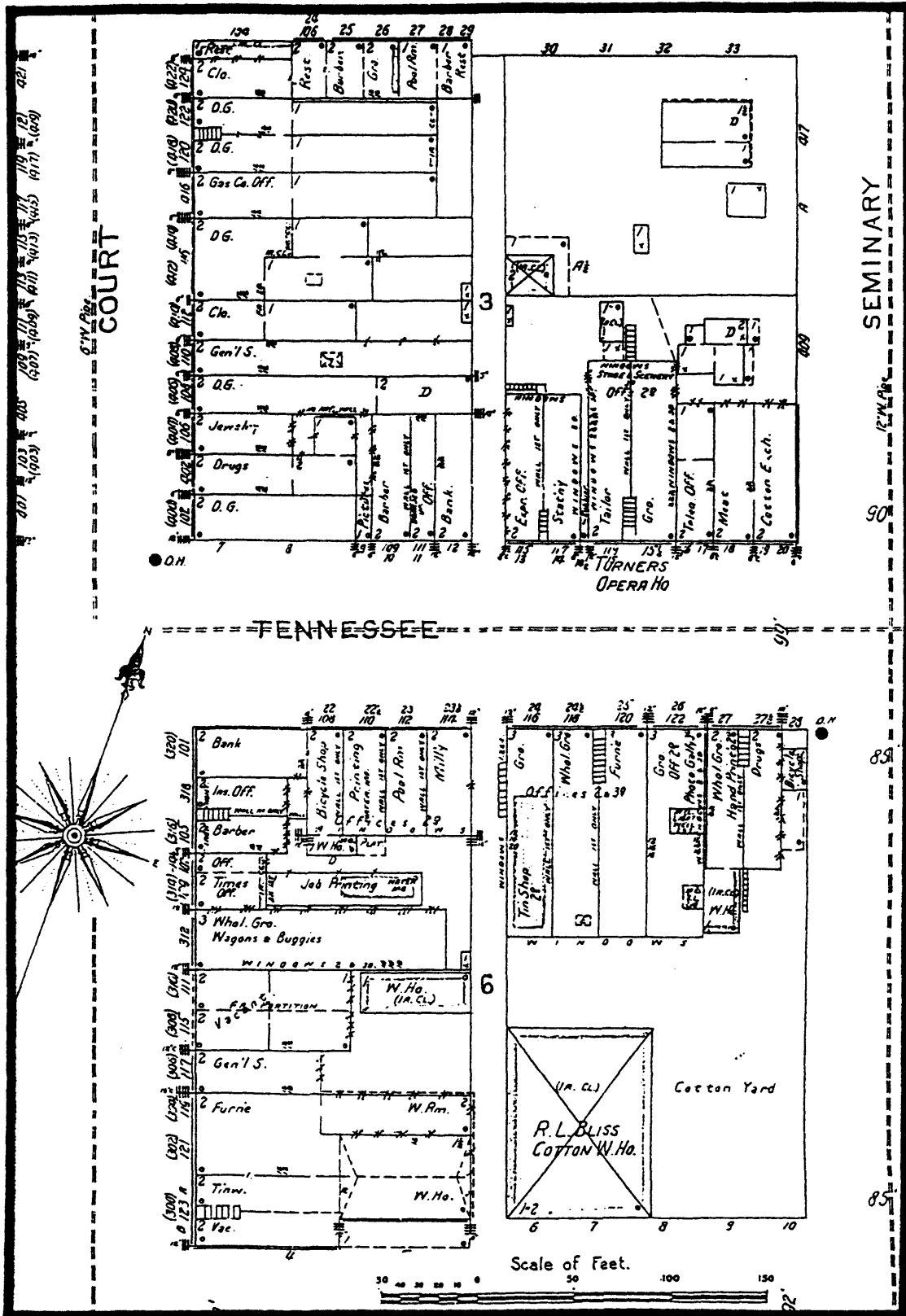


Figure 8. 1905 Sanborn Map.

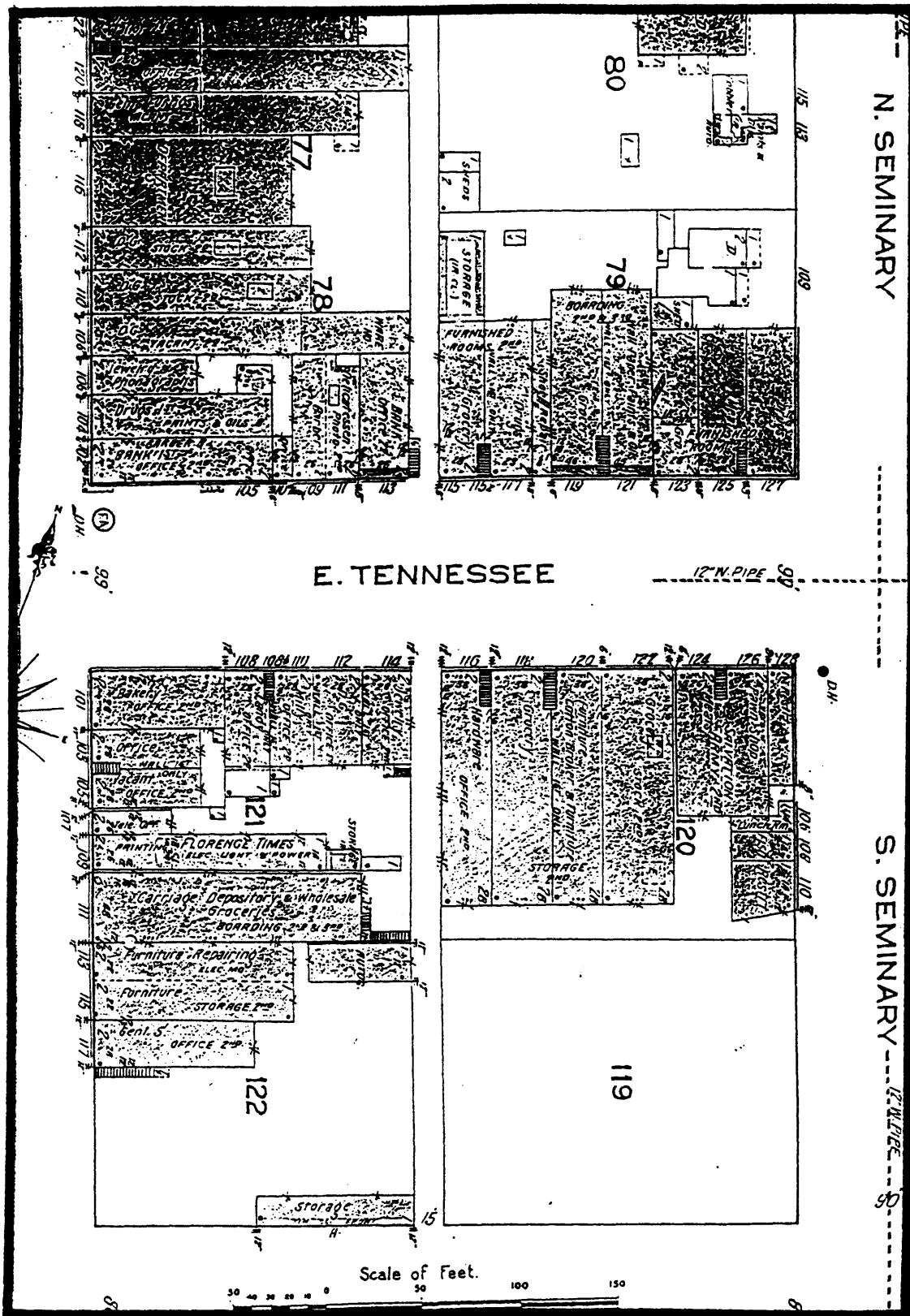


Figure 10. 1921 Sanborn Map.

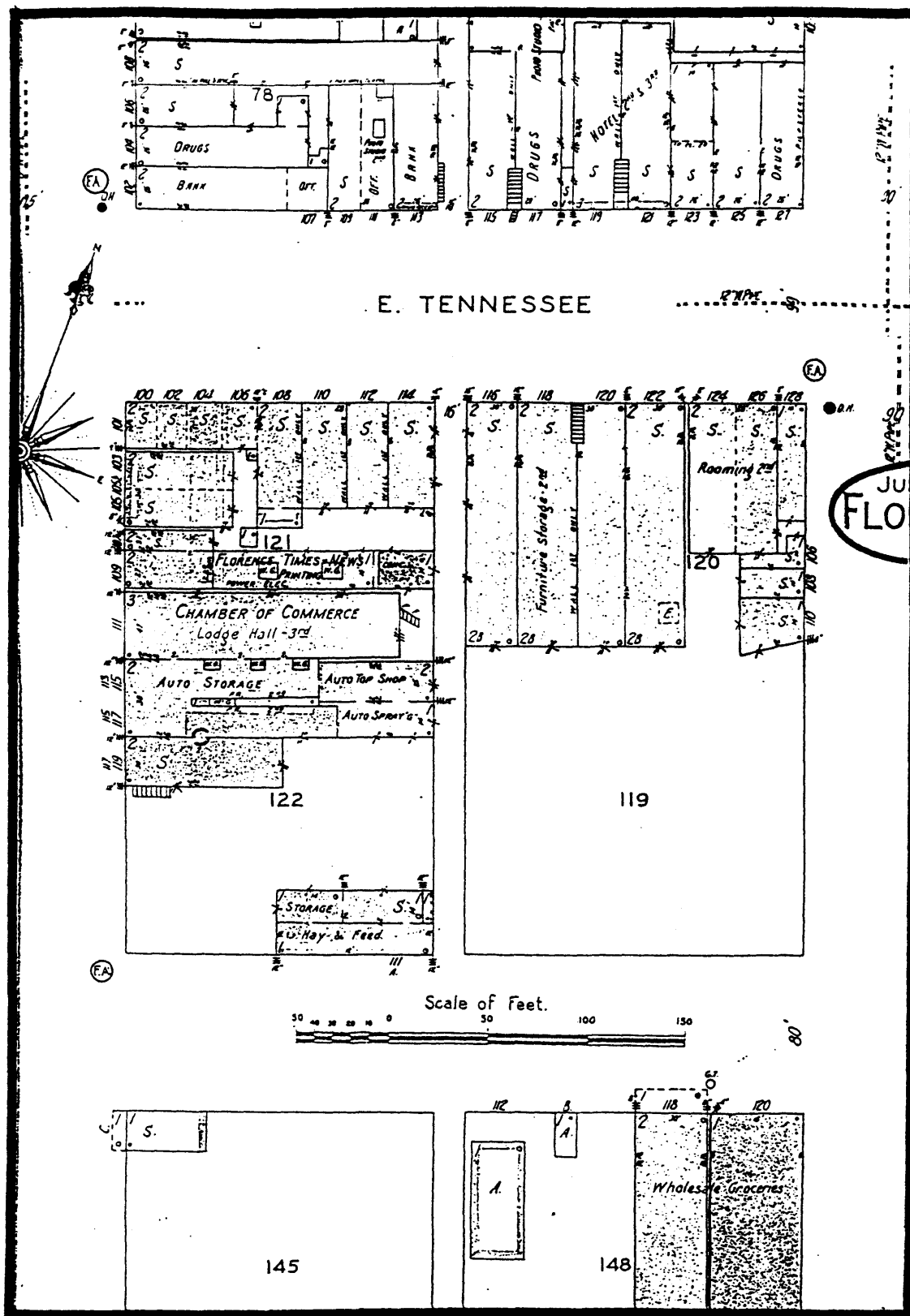


Figure 11. 1928 Sanborn Map.

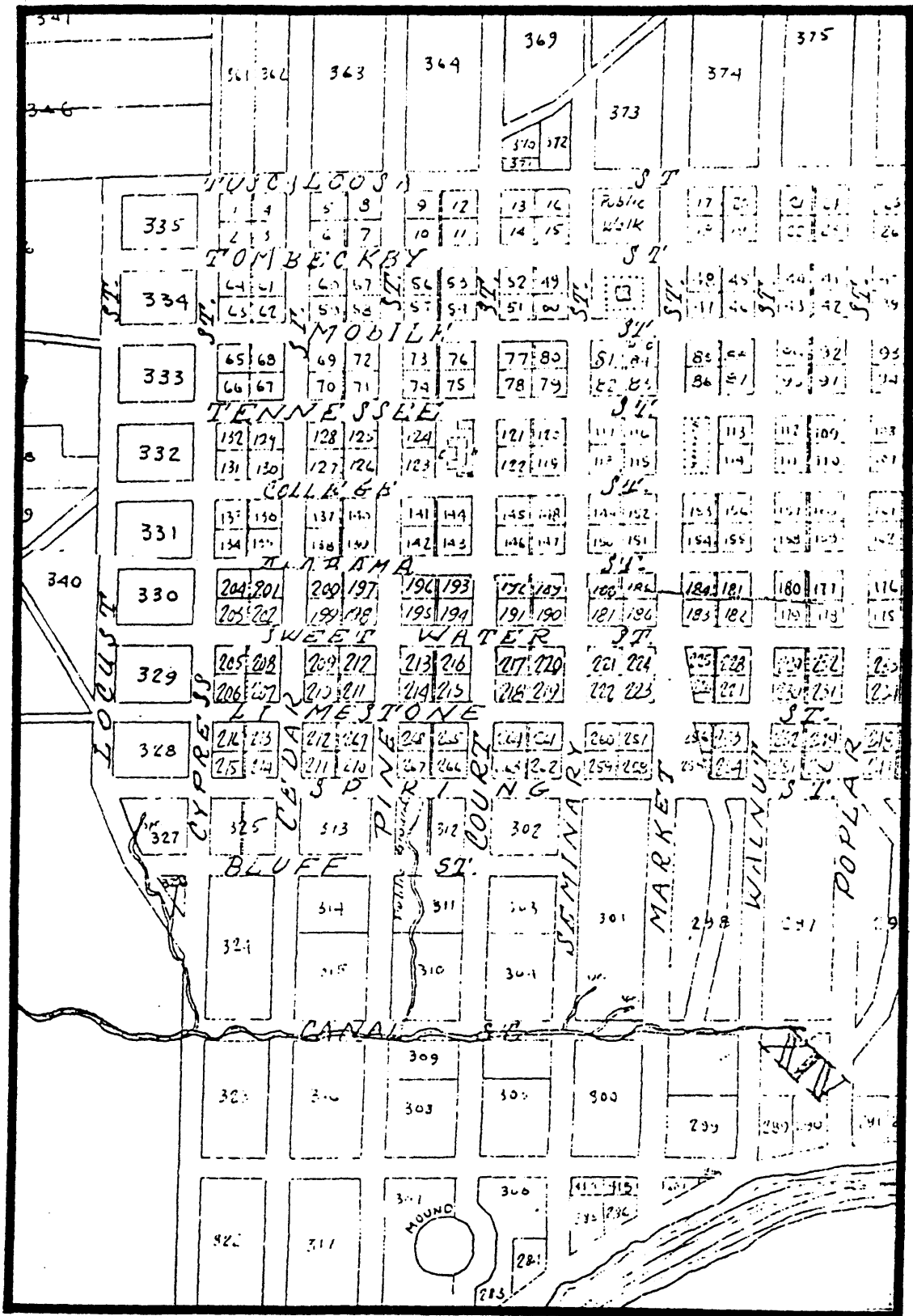


Figure 17. Section of Ferdinand Sannoner's Map (1852).