

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.

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1. Name of Property

historic name Venable Tobacco Company Prizery and Receiving Room

other names/site number _____

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2. Location

address 302-4 East Pettigrew not for publication N/A
city or town Durham vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Durham code 063 zip code 27701

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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.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 7/1/03
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register _____

_____ See continuation sheet _____

_____ determined eligible for the National Register _____

_____ See continuation sheet _____

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____

_____ removed from the National Register _____

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification
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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	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings (Prizery with attached Receiving Room)
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) **"Historic Resources of Durham" Multiple Resource Listing**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/processing/extraction Sub: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/trade Sub: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: slow burn industrial construction

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Synthetics
walls Brick
other concrete
concrete block

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)

Industry

Period of Significance circa 1930-1953

Significant Dates ca. 1930
1952

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.) See continuation sheet.

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 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 1.46 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	689340	3985020	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description: That portion of parcel 0821-12-95-8811, bounded by East Pettigrew, South Roxboro, and Dillard Streets, as indicated on attached Durham County Tax map, at a 1 inch = 94.3 feet scale.

Boundary Justification: Boundaries correspond to the remaining portion of the property historically associated with the Venable Tobacco Company Prizery and Receiving Room.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Michele Lamprakos, Edwin Belk

organization Belk Architecture date July 25, 2002

street & number 735 9th Street telephone 919-286-2575

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27705

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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

name Pettigrew Street Partners, LLC

street & number P O Box 4242 telephone 919-524-1225

city or town Chapel Hill state NC zip code 27515

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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.

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Durham County, NC

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Introduction

Located in the warehouse district to the south of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad in Durham, the Venable Prizery and Receiving Room, along with the neighboring Venable Warehouse, were part of a larger complex of buildings built in the 1920's for the rehandling, sorting, drying, and packing of tobacco. The prizery is set back from East Pettigrew Street; it is rectangular in shape and oriented parallel to the street grid. It is located to the east of the warehouse, and connected to it by an elevated, metal-clad walkway. Three sides of the prizery can be viewed without obstruction from the northern frontage of the property. The trapezoidal receiving room addition abuts the south facade of the prizery and extends beyond it. The land slopes up to the north between the receiving room and the warehouse, resulting in a grade change of approximately four between the entrance to the receiving room and the entrance to the prizery.

The warehouse, the prizery, and the receiving room illustrate an historical sequence of construction techniques. Like the warehouse, the prizery was built of brick and heavy timber - the so-called "slow burn" construction system typical of multi-level industrial buildings in Durham from the early 20th century. But the prizery was built with the simpler detailing characteristic of its later construction date: there is no decorative corbelling, and the windows are spanned by flat concrete lintels in contrast to brick segmental arches of the warehouse. The receiving room addition, built of concrete block, reflects the expedient system for industrial construction of the time.

Prizery, ca. 1930

The existing 40' high, three-story prizery replaced an older metal-clad prizery on the same site.¹ The exterior walls of the Prizery are load-bearing masonry; the brick pattern is common bond, with a header course every sixth course. In contrast to the arched masonry openings of the warehouse, the steel hopper windows of the prizery are set into steel frames and supported by flat steel lintels. Inside heavy timber posts and beams are spaced on a 14' by 16' grid and spanned by heavy timber planking, which forms the floor/ceiling and roof assemblies. The interior spaces on each floor were open and continuous until

¹ See Section 8. The new prizery and supporting structures appear for the first time in paste-ups on the 1913 Sanborn (North Carolina Room, Durham County Public Library).

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they were partitioned circa 1980.² Numerous skylights were added at an unknown date.

The west facade of the prizery faces the warehouse and connects to it via an elevated metal-clad walkway. The top of the wall is articulated by a stepped parapet. The openings of this façade are roughly symmetrical about the centerline of the building. The ground floor has a door flanked by five windows to the north and four windows to the south; at present the door and windows are covered by awnings. The ten windows at the second floor level are located directly above the openings below, and are taller in height. The elevated walkway opens into the third opening from the south. The third story has a row of six windows centered on the façade equally spaced in three pairs.

The fenestration of the south façade is similar to that of the west façade. The ground floor level, now covered by the receiving room addition, probably had similar spacing. The second floor has four windows centered on the façade. An additional pair of windows at each end of the wall matches those at the second floor of the west façade. The pair of second floor windows at the east end of the building, south wall, have been modified from their original condition. At the third floor level four windows are aligned with the four central windows below, but are slightly larger. Above the eastern window, the brick extends above the third floor line to mask the elevator machinery.

The regularly spaced windows of the west façade begin to wrap around the north façade at the ground and second floor levels; this pattern stops after two openings, at the chimney and west wall of the now-destroyed boiler room. To the west of the chimney at the third floor level are two additional windows, above the old boiler room. The rest of the north wall, like the east wall, has numerous and irregularly spaced openings, since most of the wall surface was covered by abutting structures. These openings were for double-wide service doors that opened directly into the adjacent structures, and have since been modified: they have been replaced with exterior doors (single or double) or replacement windows, or have been filled in entirely with brick or concrete block. On the east wall, south side, a single window at the third floor level (above the roofline of the stemming building) matches those on the west and

² By West Brothers Trucking Company, then owner of the building.

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south facades.

Despite the interior partitioning of the Prizery, the architectural integrity of the building remains intact: floors and ceilings have not been covered, and partition walls can be removed without undue damage to the original structure. The regularly spaced openings on the west and south facades are intact, while the irregular openings on the north and west reflect the older structures that abutted these facades.

Receiving Room, 1952

The one-story, trapezoidal receiving room addition was built in 1952 on the south façade of the prizery. Its long south façade runs along the former Poplar Street, parallel to Dillard Street (see attached Vicinity Plan and Sanborn maps). The foundation of the one-story receiving room is concrete slab on grade, with walls of 12" concrete block. The structural grid of five inch steel pipe columns and steel beams supports a roof of poured gypsum on steel. The numerous skylights appear to be original. The interior space is unobstructed except for a partition wall that divides it into two tenant spaces. Along the north wall are two wide sets of metal doors that allow access to the higher ground floor level of the prizery.

To the west of the receiving room is a small parking lot at the corner of Poplar and South Roxboro Streets. The west façade of the receiving room that faces this parking lot has a loading dock covered by a metal awning. At the north end are wide receiving doors to the main interior space, currently used as a carpentry shop. To the right is a single opening used as the entrance for the kick-boxing business that occupies the other half of the space. The south façade has a series of steel sash windows, six feet high by five feet four inches wide, arranged singly and in pairs, for a total of seven openings. The east façade has a single opening and a roll-up door, set approximately eighteen inches above grade. The north wall of the addition abuts the prizery and extends beyond its western and eastern edges.

Despite the interior partitioning, the building retains its original form and character, with facades largely unchanged and interior structure and materials intact.

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Site remains

The warehouse, the prizery and the receiving room are the only structures that remain of a larger complex that included a boiler room, a redrying plant, and a stemming building. Remains on site, as well as the openings in the north and east facades of the prizery, suggest that these buildings were conceived and built at the same time as the prizery, that is, between 1922 and 1930.³ The redrying plant was destroyed by fire in the early 1970's, and the stemming building may have been destroyed in the same fire.⁴

The imprints of structures that abutted the prizery are still visible on its east and north walls, and explain the irregular fenestration. To the north of the prizery, the foundations of two of the supporting buildings are still visible. A small boiler room, 13' in height with a concrete floor, was located at the northwest corner of the prizery. Its walls were toothed into the prizery wall, as can be seen from remains on the façade; this indicates that the buildings were built at the same time. A 16' high, two-story metal clad redrying plant was built next to the boiler room, taking up most of the north wall of the prizery. While the boiler room rested on brick foundations the redrying plant had a poured concrete foundation, suggesting a construction system typical for warehouses of the period: continuous wooden posts wrapped with metal cladding. A drying machine was located on the upper level of this building, while the ground floor, part slab on grade and part earth, was used for storage and prizing.

A metal clad building for "stemming and hanging" was erected adjacent to the east wall of the prizery, at a lower elevation. A section of this building, drawn in 1953,⁵ shows a four-story structure but its traces on the east façade of the prizery indicate that it stepped down to three stories at the south of the site, at least at the point where it adjoined the prizery. The boiler room, redrying building, and stemming and hanging building were joined by an irregularly shaped masonry infill structure, shown on the Sanborn maps; remains

³ Section 8.

⁴ Claudia Roberts Brown, National Register Nomination for the Venable Tobacco Warehouse, June 1984. Brown does not, however, mention the destruction of the stemming building.

⁵ Map of the South-Eastern Underwriters' Association, December 1, 1953 (copy in working file of National Register Submission for Venable Warehouse, 1984).

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of its western wall survive at the northeast corner of the prizery. A cooper shop was built to the east of the redrying plant, which fabricated baskets for handling and transporting tobacco.

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Statement of Significance

The Venable Tobacco Company, located on the south side of the railroad that bisects downtown Durham and two blocks east of the American Tobacco Company plant, consists of two buildings: a brick warehouse, built in 1905, and a prizery, built circa 1925 with a 1952 addition. These buildings were used for the rehandling, sorting, drying, and packing of tobacco. In 1985 the warehouse was listed in the National Register. At that time the addition to the prizery, which served as a receiving room, was a major non-historic alteration. Since then the addition has achieved sufficient age to be considered historic. The two buildings comprise one of the two remaining independent tobacco company complexes in Durham, North Carolina's premier collection of historic tobacco warehouse and manufacturing buildings.

The Venable Tobacco Company Prizery and Receiving Room addition meet National Register Criterion A for its local significance as the prizery of the Venable Tobacco Company, a branch of Dibrell Brothers, one of the nation's largest leaf brokerage firms. Its period of significance begins at its construction date - circa 1930 - and extends to 1953, the fifty-year cut-off date for Criterion A, although the facility continued to operate until the early 1980's. The historical context for Durham's industrial development is presented in the Historic Resources of Durham Multiple Resource Submission, under "The Development of Modern Durham: the 1920's and 1930's", Section 8.30-35. The appropriate property type is treated in Section 7.4-7, "Industrial Buildings: Monuments of Tobacco and Textiles."

The "Prize House" and Bright Leaf Tobacco

The Venable Tobacco Company Prizery is one of two surviving examples in Durham of a building type that was essential in the commerce of bright leaf tobacco.¹ Prizeries or "prize houses" began to proliferate after the Civil War, as bright leaf tobacco replaced the older dark leaf variety. Because there were few local markets in North Carolina, dark leaf tobacco had to be transported over long distances to Virginia markets. Growers sorted their leaves simply, according to size, and pressed or "prized" them in part to make transportation more

¹ The other is the Imperial Prizery (Ruth Little, personal correspondance, citing the Brightleaf Historic District Multiple Property Submission, 1984).

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manageable.² With the introduction of bright leaf tobacco grading became more complicated, and growers were encouraged to bring their tobacco "loose" - unsorted and ungraded - to local auctions.³ Tobacco brokers bought green, bright leaf tobacco at the famous "loose leaf auctions", held at local sales warehouses.⁴ They transferred their purchases to prize houses, which they often owned and which often had attached redrying facilities. Here the tobacco was sorted and redried in redrying machines, taken off the sticks, and "prized" or pressed into hogsheads. It was then transferred to a warehouse where it would be aged until ready for shipment to manufacturers.

The term "prize house" generally referred to the building where sorting, redrying, and prizing occurred, but it could also refer to a green tobacco market.⁵ Because tobacco brokers took on various roles as market opportunities allowed,⁶ prizeries were probably used for a variety of activities associated with storage, processing, and small-scale manufacturing. The construction of prize houses was considered essential to the success of a local market.⁷ The spread of the prize house represents the assumption of various aspects of tobacco handling by brokers. The growers and their families, who had previously created a home industry around the cultivation and preparation of tobacco for market, had become simply providers of raw materials for the industry.⁸

² Nannie May Tillie, *The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1948, pp. 251-5.

³ Tillie gives a detailed description of grading classifications based on position of the leaf on the stalk, use in manufacture, color, and texture (*The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, pp. 86-7).

⁴ The auction houses were privately owned, although they were supplemented by two cooperatively run auction houses after the formation of the Tri-State Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association in 1922 (*Durham Morning Herald*, July 9, 1922).

⁵ J. Raymond, *Tobacco Dictionary*, New York: Philosophical Library, 1954, p. 130.

⁶ W. E. Dibrell attempted in 1901 to describe leaf brokers or prize house owners, concluding that the range of their activities, which might change from day to day, prevented a fixed definition (Nannie May Tillie, *The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1948, pp. 251-5).

⁷ Various newspaper articles from the 1890's attest to the urgency of raising capital to build prize houses in towns that were attempting to create local markets (see, for example, "The Tobacco Department: Our Buyers," *Eastern Reflector*, Greenville, NC, 20 November 20, 1895, <http://www.lib.ecu.edu/exhibits/tobacco/E895k20/hE895k20001.html>)

⁸ Billy Yeargin, "The Auction System" and "The Modern Day Industry", <http://www.tobaccoheritage.com>. In 1891 W. E. Dibrell noted the shift of prizing from the farmer to the manufacturer and dealer; he subsequently argued that it was a task that rightly belonged to the farmer. This was one of the issues taken up by the Tobacco Growers' Association in the

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Prizeries were typically several stories high. Like other types of warehouses in the late nineteenth century, some prize houses were built of corrugated iron; the existing Venable prizery replaced an earlier ironclad prizery at the same location.⁹ The Venable prizery, like many other warehouses in Durham, was rebuilt in brick, considered a more prestigious and secure material.¹⁰

The Venable Complex and the First Prizery

A variety of buildings existed on the site during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, including three prize houses that may have served adjacent tobacco factories. By 1888, one of these prize houses had been bought by J. Y. Whitted; by 1902 the building was owned by American Tobacco and several years later became the Durham Foundry and Machine Works.¹¹

In 1905, the Venable Tobacco Company Warehouse was built by Durham Tobacco and Inspection Company (DTS&I), newly incorporated by the Dibrell Brothers of Virginia¹² and a Winston-Salem based partner, Sterling Smith. According to the Sanborn map of 1907, DTS&I leased this warehouse to its associate firm, Venable Tobacco of Virginia.¹³ An L-shape, masonry and ironclad "Dry House" were added next to the older prize house, on the site of the existing Prizery; these were also leased to Venable Tobacco. In July 1908 the Dibrell Brothers purchased a one third interest in this building from A. C. Acree. The deed transfer describes the building as a one-story brick and metal-clad "prizery" at the

early decades of the 20th century. They fought for official standards and certification in public warehouses, which would break the hold of the private warehouses and return more of the value added to the growers (Tillie, *The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, pp. 86-7, 294-8, and fn. 235).

⁹ Sanborn map, 1913.

¹⁰ Tillie, *The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, p. 203.

¹¹ The J. Y. Whitted Tobacco Factory manufactured plug tobacco; according to the 1888 Sanborn tobacco was prized using hydraulic presses on the first floor. See etching in *Handbook of Durham, NC*, Durham: the Educator Co., 1895, p. 81; and photo of the Durham Foundry and Machine Works, *The City of Durham Illustrated*, Durham: The Merchants' Association, 1910, p. 16 (copy included in working file of this submission).

¹² According to *The City of Durham Illustrated*, Dibrell Brothers was in 1910 one of the largest independent firms in the tobacco trade with dealings in numerous foreign countries (cited in C. P. Roberts, et. al., *The Durham Architectural and Historic Inventory*, Durham: City of Durham and Historic Preservation Society of Durham, 1982).

¹³ Claudia Roberts Brown, National Register Nomination for the Venable Tobacco Warehouse, June 1984.

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rear of the site belonging to DTS&I. It contained an engine and boiler drying apparatus, power screw, shafting and belting, and other equipment.¹⁴ It is apparently this same building that was jointly sold three months later by Dibrell Brothers and J. E. and Lizzie Perkinson to DTS&I.¹⁵ On the 1913 Sanborn map - the same map that shows the construction of the third, southern bay of the Venable warehouse - the "Dry House" has been expanded with additional iron-clad construction to form "Prizery no. 1."¹⁶ The old prize house had either been incorporated into the expanded building or had been destroyed.

In July 1922 a new Venable Tobacco Company was incorporated under the laws of North Carolina. The firm was directed and owned by individuals from families prominent in the Durham tobacco industry: Clinton W. Toms, Jr., James S. Cobb, and his son J. O. Cobb.¹⁷ The Dibrell Brothers, however, retained a major interest in the firm. The same month the property of Venable Tobacco Company was surveyed and filed with the Register of Deeds.¹⁸ One month later the North Carolina company purchased the prizery and redrying plant from the Virginia-based Venable Tobacco Co., as described in a deed transfer dated August 22, 1922.¹⁹ Two years later it purchased the warehouse from Durham Tobacco Storage and Inspection Company.²⁰

The immediate transfer of the prizery and redrying buildings to Venable

¹⁴ Durham County Register of Deeds, Record of Deeds no. 37, p. 572 (September 5, 1908).

¹⁵ Durham County Register of Deeds, Record of Deeds no. 37, p. 621 (June 29, 1908). The relationship between the Perkinsons and Acree Co., which presumably retained two thirds interest in the building, is not clear. From the deeds and the Sanborn map of 1907, it is clear that the building under discussion is the same building.

¹⁶ On the 1913 Sanborn map and in the 1926 index, the Prizery is referred to "Prizery no. 1" - suggesting that Venable owned a second prizery off-site. By 1913, Durham Tobacco Storage and Inspection Company (DTS&I) had expanded across Pine Street, where it had erected two large iron warehouses and leased them to its affiliate Venable Tobacco (Sanborn map, 1913, block 23).

¹⁷ The prominence of these families is underlined by the two Liggett buildings named after them: the Toms Building on West Morgan Street and the Cobb building on West Main.

¹⁸ Durham County Register of Deeds, Plat book 3, p. 121 (see working file). The transfer of the property from Venable Tobacco-Va. to Venable Tobacco-NC one month later makes it clear that the plat represents the property of the Virginia-based company.

¹⁹ Durham County Register of Deeds, Record of Deeds no. 65, p. 538; Claudia Roberts Brown, National Register Nomination for the Venable Tobacco Warehouse, June 1984.

²⁰ Durham County Register of Deeds, Record of Deeds no. 72, p. 154. Four days prior to this purchase the properties of Venable Tobacco and DTS&I were surveyed (Durham County Register of Deeds, Plat Book 5, p. 151; see working file).

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Tobacco-NC suggests the company's intention to expand these facilities. Redrying machinery - notably the Mayo dryer - came into use in the first decade of the century; between the boom years of 1916 and 1929, many companies enlarged their redrying and storage facilities. Usually of fireproof or fire retardant construction, redrying plants required expensive equipment, including engines, boilers, and prizing apparatus, as well as specialized and unskilled labor. The high initial investment and fixed costs of these operations meant that only larger firms could afford them. This resulted in the consolidation of brokerage firms - which may explain the reorganization of Dibrell Brothers' North Carolina interests and the Venable Company around this date.²¹

Venable Prizery (ca. 1930) and Receiving Room (1952)

The prizery was rebuilt as a three-story structure of slow burn construction - the building that exists today. The Sanborn maps indicate that this occurred between 1922 and 1937; the architecture of the building suggests a construction date circa 1930. A large, two-story metal-clad redrying plant and a building for stemming and hanging appear to have been built at the same time as the new prizery.²² All of these buildings, along with a boiler room, are identified in later paste-ups on the 1913 Sanborn map. The enlarged complex indicates a dramatically expanded capacity for the company.²³

In 1952, a one-story Receiving Room was added to the south facade of the Prizery. The need for added capacity suggests increased demand from markets opened up after World War II. The location of the addition allowed access from Poplar Street via service doors on the east and west facades. Loading facilities oriented toward the road, rather than the railway, suggest the shift

²¹ Tillie, *The Bright-Leaf Tobacco Industry*, pp. 316-8.

²² See Section 7.

²³ See Sanborn maps from 1913 (with later paste-ups) and 1937 in the North Carolina Room of the Durham County Public Library. See also the South-Eastern Underwriters' Association map, dated December 1, 1953, which includes cross-sections of the Venable buildings (copy in working file of National Register submission for the Venable Warehouse, 1984). By 1937, other supporting facilities were built on the eastern portion of the block including buildings for the predominantly black workforce - for example, buildings marked 'colored hotels' and 'colored halls' the eastern portion of the site. The 1913 Sanborn map shows a 'negro lodge' adjacent to the southern block of the main warehouse. Pine Street Presbyterian Church, located at the intersection of Pine and Poplar, had been listed as a 'colored' church from 1898.

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that had occurred by this date in the transport of tobacco.²⁴

In the early 1970's, Venable Tobacco merged with several Dibrell Brothers companies, taking the name of one of these, C. W. Walters. Shortly thereafter the redrying building was destroyed by fire, and tobacco had to be shipped to Danville for redrying.²⁵ The complex continued to function as a tobacco facility until the early 1980's. At that date the prizery was purchased by West Brothers Trucking Company, which partitioned the interior for use as office spaces. The prizery currently operates as the Venable Business Center.

Along with the Venable Warehouse, the Prizery and Receiving Room accommodated important stages of production between the farmer and the factory. The buildings form one of the few surviving complexes in Durham dedicated to these intermediate processes of the tobacco trade. As such they bear testimony to the volume and prestige of the commerce that made Durham the tobacco capital of the world.

²⁴ An undated photograph, included by Claudia Roberts Brown in her 1984 submission to the National Register, shows tobacco being unloaded from a truck at the east door of the Receiving Room; see copy included in working file.

²⁵ Claudia Roberts Brown, National Register Nomination for the Venable Tobacco Warehouse, June 1984.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Venable Prizery Building and Receiving Room
Durham County, NC

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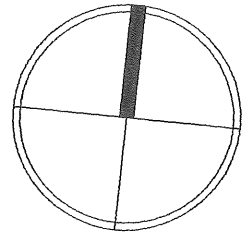
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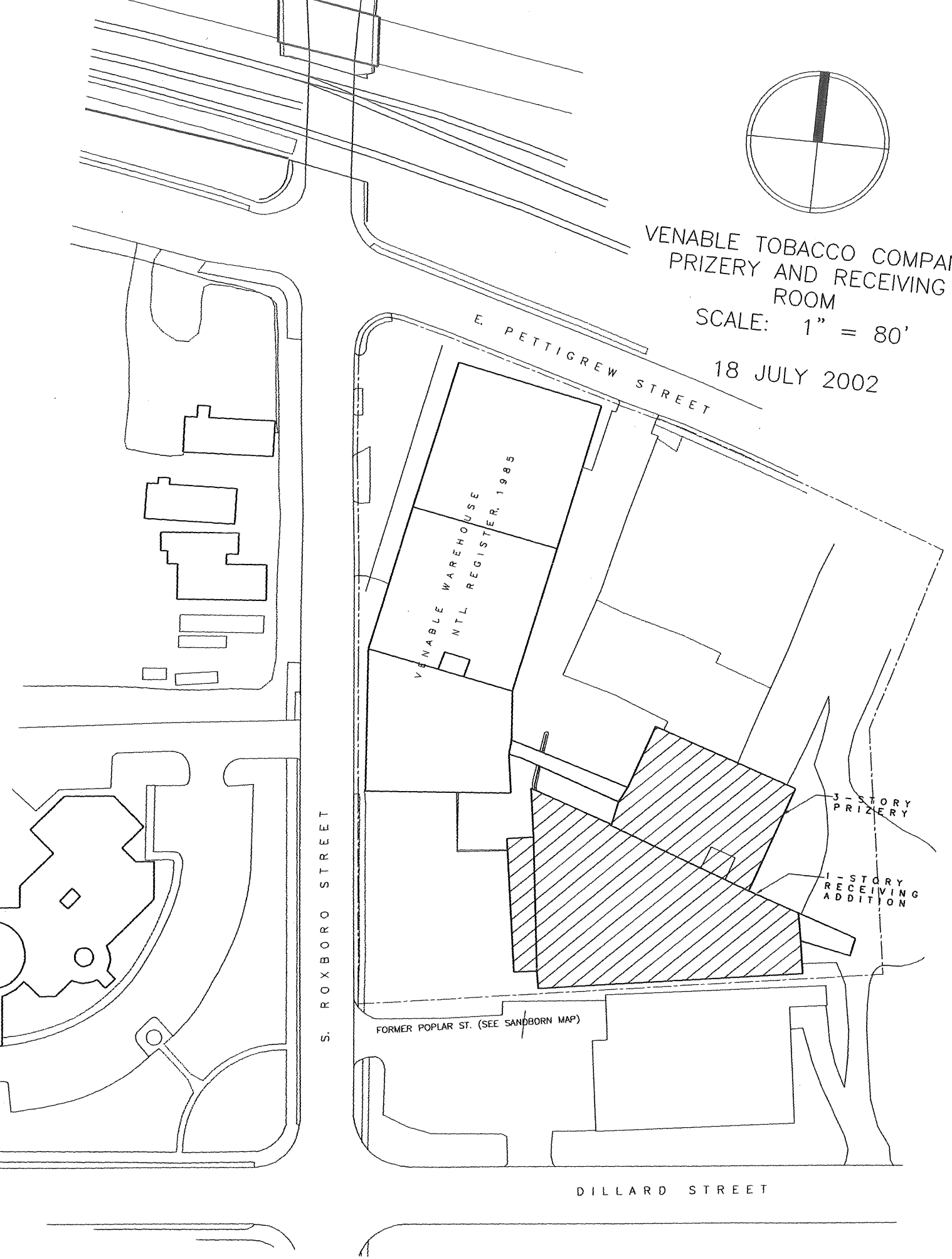
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VENABLE TOBACCO COMPANY
PRIZERY AND RECEIVING
ROOM

SCALE: 1" = 80'

18 JULY 2002



S. ROXBORO STREET

E. PETTIGREW STREET

FORMER POPLAR ST. (SEE SANDBORN MAP)

DILLARD STREET

VENABLE WAREHOUSE
NTL REGISTER, 1985

3-STORY
PRIZERY

1-STORY
RECEIVING
ADDITION



The Kickboxing Gym, Inc.
919-680-4743 Martial Arts Center

KENPO KARATE
KICKBOXING
THE KICKBOXING GYM