

**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton  
April 3, 2018

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vanessa Patrick  
Human Environment Unit  
NC Department of Transportation

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *Renee Gledhill-Earley*  
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, Roundabout at US 311 & SR 1918, R-5828,  
Walnut Cove, PA 17-06-0011, Stokes County, ER 18-0408

Thank you for your February 19, 2018, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We concur that the Walnut Grove Commercial Historic District (SK0889) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local association with commerce in Stokes County and Criterion C for architecture as Stoke County's best and largest concentration of historic commercial architecture. The district, comprised of 36 resources, contains buildings that historically housed grocery stores, laundry services, dry goods, hardware stores, and warehousing operations that flourished from the late-1800s to mid-1900s. It should be noted that the proposed boundary for the eligible property does not follow the Study List boundary as shown on HPOWEB, but it does appear to more accurately include the highest concentration of historic resources in Walnut Cove's downtown core.

The report appears to be missing a Period of Significance for the district. Does it go back to the 50-year cut off? Minus this information, one cannot determine whether buildings are "Contributing" (C) or "Non-Contributing" (NC) due to age.

If you wish to determine the "Contributing" versus "Non-Contributing" status of the individual buildings within the district, rather than address the eligible district as a whole, the following items need further consideration. (The numbers correspond to those given in the report).

8. Dunlap's Western Auto Garage - Should be NC due to alterations. Fenestration of front elevation entirely destroyed.
9. Clean Wash Laundry Company - What is the date of the hip roof addition? May make building NC.
25. Family Pharmacy - What is the date of the alteration? It may end up C, if it was done in the Period of Significance.

27. Palmetto Movie Theatre – Maybe too altered to be C since it is missing the marquee and the first-floor storefront is infilled. The building no longer reads as a movie theatre.

32. Llewellyn's Esso – This is too altered to be C. The infill of the original window and door openings with stucco, to create smaller window and door openings, is a major alteration.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT, [mfurr@ncdot.gov](mailto:mfurr@ncdot.gov)

Received: 03/01/2018  
State Historic Preservation Office



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

**ER 18-0408**

To: Renee Gledhill-Earley, NCHPO

From: Vanessa E. Patrick, NCDOT

Due -- 3/23/18

Date: February 19, 2018

H-

Subject: *Historic Structures Survey Report for Construction of a Roundabout at US 311 (North Main Street) and SR 1918 (First Street) in Walnut Cove, Stokes County, North Carolina. TIP No. R-5828. WBS No. 47100.1.1. PA Tracking No. 17-06-0011.*

*gemma  
3/20/18  
ER letters*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Enclosed for your review is a report presenting the evaluation of historic architectural resources in the R-5828, Stokes County project area (one hard copy and one CD-ROM). Survey photographs, GIS data, and site forms are provided on a second CD-ROM, and hard copies of the photographs and site forms are also supplied.

The report addresses one resource, the Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District (SK0889) and recommends it as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Initial screening of the project area by NCDOT Historic Architecture identified which resources warranted additional study.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the report. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vepatrick@ncdot.gov](mailto:vepatrick@ncdot.gov) or 919-707-6082. Thank you.

V.E.P.

Attachments

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# HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Construct a Roundabout at US 311 (North Main Street) and SR 1918 (First Street)  
in Walnut Cove

Stokes County

WBS# 47100.1.1

R-5828

Prepared for:

Environmental Analysis Unit

North Carolina Department of Transportation

1598 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

Prepared by:



CALYX Engineers and Consultants

6750 Tryon Road

Cary, North Carolina, 27518

**FEBRUARY 2018**

# HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT

Construct a Roundabout at US 311 (North Main Street) and SR 1918 (First Street)  
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6750 Tryon Road  
Cary, North Carolina, 27518

**FEBRUARY 2018**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Woodard David, Principal Investigator

February 12, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor  
Historic Architecture Group  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Management Summary

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes constructing a roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Highway 311 (North Main Street) and Secondary Road 1918 (First Street) in Walnut Cove in Stokes County. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) conforms to the project's study area established by NCDOT and follows Highway 311 and extends east along First Street and west along Depot Road (unpaved). From the intersection of First and Main streets, the APE runs approximately 650 feet northeast along First Street, 500 feet north along Main Street, 380 feet south along Main Street, and 500 feet southwest along Depot Road. The APE extends approximately 100 feet to either side of all centerlines. Figure 2 illustrates the APE. NCDOT architectural historians reviewed the properties within the APE and determined that one resource greater than 50 years of age warranted further evaluation.

This project is subject to review under the *Programmatic Agreement for Minor Transportation Projects* (NCDOT/NCHPO/FHWA, 2007, revised and updated in 2015). NCDOT architectural historians established an APE for the project and, following preliminary background research and field investigation, ultimately identified one resource, the Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District (SK0889), for further evaluation.

No other properties within the APE that are greater than 50 years of age appear to be eligible for the National Register, and no properties within the APE that are less than 50 years of age appear to meet Criteria Consideration G for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years.

Stokes County's historic architecture was comprehensively surveyed in 1981, and the Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District was added to North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office's Study List in 1988.

In November 2017, NCDOT requested that CALYX Engineers and Consultants (CALYX) complete research, an intensive-level historic field survey, and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation for the Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District.

Based on the field survey, background research, and the evaluation documented in this report, the recommendation for the NRHP is as follows:

Property Name	NCHPO Survey Site Number	Eligibility Determination	Criteria
Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District	SK0889	Eligible	A and C

## Table of Contents

Management Summary .....	i
Methodology.....	4
Evaluation: Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District.....	5
Description.....	5
Historical and Architectural Context.....	26
National Register Evaluation.....	30
Boundary Description and Justification .....	31
Works Cited.....	33

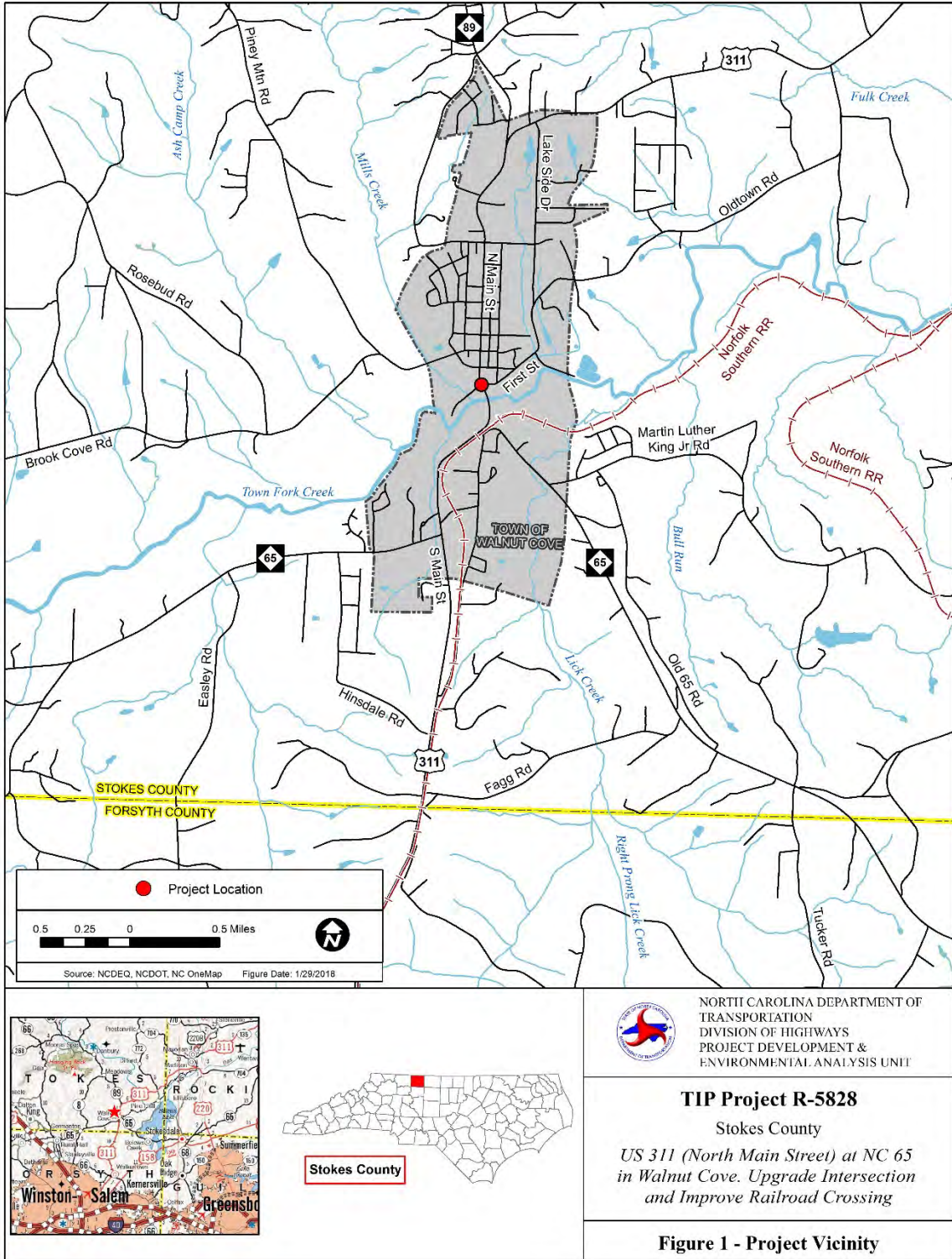


Figure 1: Project Vicinity





Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects

R-5828  
 Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
 Stokes County

## Methodology

On November 27, 2017, CALYX Architectural Historian Sarah Woodard David visited Stokes County and completed photo documentation of the Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District. The investigator undertook research at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, the North Carolina State Library, the North Carolina State Archives, and the Walnut Cove branch of the Stokes County Public Library. The investigator also used online research tools and resources, including the Stokes County GIS Mapping website, Stokes County Register of Deeds, the website findagrave.com, and the web-based subscription services ancestry.com and newspapers.com. Also on November 27, the investigator documented the King Historic District as a comparable example of a commercial historic district in Stokes County.

CALYX conducted all fieldwork, research, and evaluations to meet the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, as well as NCDOT's *Guidelines for the Survey Reports for Historic Architectural Resources*.

## Evaluation: Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District

Resource Name	Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District
HPO Survey Site Number	SK0889
Street Address	Main Street between Second and Fourth Streets
PIN	Multiple
Construction Dates	Ca. 1890-ca. 2000
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible under Criteria A and C



### Description

Walnut Cove is located in eastern Stokes County, immediately north of Town Fork Creek and approximately three miles west of the confluence of Town Fork Creek and the Dan River. From Town Fork Creek, Main Street (U.S. Highway 311) climbs a modest hill north and then straightens to create the town's broad, straight north-south Main Street. The core of the town and Main Street are organized in a linear fashion along the spine of Main Street on a gentle north-south slope.

The town is typical of small towns across North Carolina with a group of commercial buildings lining Main Street. The greatest concentration of commercial buildings is between First and Fourth Streets. Commercial buildings continue between Fourth and Fifth Streets, but the buildings are newer and interspersed with more parking lots and vacant lots. From Fifth to Seventh streets, commercial uses continue, but more residences are mixed in with the commercial buildings.

To the east of Main Street is Summit Street, which is Walnut Cove's traditionally higher-income neighborhood with a collection of two-story Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and other late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century houses. To the west, the town's blocks contain light industrial uses, warehouses, and scattered, traditionally lower-income residential enclaves.

The following inventory list is arranged from south to north beginning on Main Street's east side followed by Main Street's west side and concluding with four resources on cross streets. Estimated construction dates are based on tax records and the investigator's observations and research.

## North Main Street, East Side of Street

### 1. Wildflower Tattoo

224 North Main Street, ca. 1945, contributing

One-story, traditional brick commercial building. The parapet wall is accented with slightly raised piers at each corner of the building. A brick sign panel extends across most of the façade above the fenestration. The double-leaf, glazed front door is centered in an angled recess. Plate glass fills the storefront windows. (Figure 3)



*Figure 3: 224 (right) and 226 (left) North Main Street*

### 2. Commercial Building

226 North Main Street, ca. 1962, contributing

One-story, traditional brick commercial building. Parapet wall is finished with terracotta coping. The side and rear elevations are concrete block. The façade includes a central entrance with a single-leaf, modern plate glass door. Large plate glass windows flank the front door. (Figure 3)

### 3. Northwestern Bank

234 North Main Street, ca. 1980, non-contributing due to age

One-story, brick commercial building. Double-leaf plate glass doors are centered on the façade in a section of storefront that has been infilled with faux stucco. Large plate glass windows flank the entrance. A stone veneer kneewall and a shed roof have been added to the front elevation. A hip-roof addition covered in cementitious siding is located on the south elevation and includes a small inset porch. Originally a bank building, this is now El Cabo Restaurant. (Figure 4)



Figure 4: 234 North Main Street

#### 4. Nelson Building

310 North Main Street, ca. 1940, contributing

Two-story commercial building. The west, north, and east elevations are concrete block. The south wall is brick and may have been associated with a building that is no longer extant. The building is windowless and the storefront opening appears to have been filled with concrete block, but the recessed entrance retains an original glazed door. W.L. Nelson owned this property from 1912 to 1946; the building immediately south was also known as the W.L. Nelson Building. That building is no longer standing, but its north wall forms the south wall of this building. (Figure 5)



Figure 5: 310 (right), 312 (middle), 316 (left) North Main Street

#### 4a. Shed

312 North Main Street, ca. 1995, non-contributing due to age

This shed-roof, open pavilion was added in the mid-1990s and consists of a shed roof on wooden posts. (Figure 5)

#### 5. Cove Haircutters

316 North Main Street, ca. 1930, non-contributing due to alterations

Brick, one-story, traditional commercial building. This building has been heavily altered with the addition of a shed roof porch with wooden posts, and brick veneer over the original storefront. Windows and doors on the façade are not original and, together with the brick veneer and shed roof, significantly detract from the building's original character. Above the shed roof, the original brick parapet wall terminates at a narrow, plain cornice created from one course of slightly projecting brick. (Figure 5)

#### 6. Klean-Rite Cleaners

318 North Main Street, ca. 1960, contributing

Built around 1960 by brothers Elwood and Fred Young, this one-story brick commercial building is set farther back from the street to accommodate a modest parking area fronting the building. The building contains two storefronts, each with a single-leaf door and a large plate-glass window. A brick knee wall projects from the façade's center to separate the two stores. On both ends of the façade, the side walls project forward and are angled back so that the walls project farther forward at the top. Between these two side walls, a wooden pergola-type roof clad in translucent plastic panels shelters the façade. (Figure 6)



Figure 6: 318 North Main Street

## 7. Dunlap's

322 North Main Street, ca. 1973, non-contributing due to age

This one-story, brick commercial building is constructed with concrete block side walls. A double-leaf central entrance is flanked by plate glass windows. (Figure 7)



*Figure 7: 322 (right) and 324 (left) North Main Street*

## 8. Dunlap's Western Auto Garage

324 North Main Street, ca. 1936, contributing

This small one-story building has had a garage door installed in place of its storefront, but it retains its brick façade, original storefront opening, and a soldier course cornice. (Figure 7)

## 9. Clean Wash Laundry Company

328-330 North Main Street, ca. 1960, contributing

One-story, traditional brick commercial building with a plain wooden cornice, plate glass windows, and a single-leaf front door set in a recessed entrance. A hip-roof addition is located on the building's north elevation. (Figure 8)



Figure 8: 328-330 North Main Street

#### 10. Commercial Building

334 North Main Street, ca. 1977, non-contributing due to age

This one-story, brick commercial building is nearly unaltered. It features terracotta coping along the parapet, plate glass windows, a central entrance, and a metal awning. In front of the building, a brick planter forms the base of a sign that has been altered over the years but appears to be original. V.L. DeHart purchased this lot in 1977 from a family that had owned it since the late 1800s, and it appears that DeHart built the existing building around that time. (Figure 9)



Figure 9: 334 North Main Street



10a. Outbuilding

ca. 1960, contributing

One-story, concrete block storage building and a large double-door bay opening. Between this building and 334 North Main Street is what appears to be two foundations for buildings that are no longer standing. It is not clear that this extant outbuilding was associated with 334 North Main Street, but they are on the same parcel of land. (Figure 10)



Figure 10: 334 North Main Street, outbuilding

11. Vernon's Exxon

408 North Main Street, ca. 1950, contributing

One-story gas station. This concrete block building features a very low brick knee wall, plate glass windows around the west and south elevations of the building's retail portion, and two garage bays on the façade. Gas pumps on a raised concrete island stand in front, and a modern Exxon sign is located on the property's north edge. (Figure 11)



Figure 11: 408 North Main Street

12. Vernon's Exxon

416 North Main Street, ca. 1958, contributing

One-story, brick commercial building with a hip roof. Unlike most other businesses in downtown Walnut Cove, this building has a visible roof (no parapet wall) and an asymmetrical façade with an off-center door flanked by plate glass windows and a third window toward the elevation's south end. This property was originally part of Vernon's Exxon. The construction date is based on tax records and supported by the building's modern brick veneer; however, the building's overall form and location relative to the street suggest that this may be the original gas station, possibly dating to the earlier 1900s. (Figure 12)



Figure 12: 416 North Main Street

12a. Outbuilding

Ca. 1958, contributing

One-story, concrete block storage building with barred windows, loading docks at two double-width doors, and a shed roof. (Figure 13)



Figure 13: 416 North Main Street, outbuilding

## **North Main Street, West Side of Street**

### 13. Walnut Cove Post Office

133 North Main Street, ca. 1910, contributing (Property in APE)

This one-story brick commercial building is in poor condition but retains segmentally arched window and door openings highlighted with slightly projecting courses of headers. Projecting brick courses also form bands in the building's cornice. One-over-one sash windows flank the front door and are topped with transoms. A three-light transom finishes the single-leaf front door. Two two-over-two sash windows are located in the south elevation. (Figure 14)



*Figure 14: 133 North Main Street*

### 14. Mercantile Building

135 North Main Street, ca. 1900, contributing (Property in APE)

The largest remaining commercial building in Walnut Cove, this imposing two-story building contains three storefronts. Two storefronts face Main Street directly, and both feature large plate glass windows, transoms, and recessed entrances. The northernmost storefront is situated on the building's corner, with the door addressing the corner of Main Street and Second Street. A round metal column supports the corner. A wooden cornice extends along the length of the façade above the storefronts. Above the cornice each section of the building retains three shuttered windows, which are highlighted with segmentally arched header courses. Flat pilasters separate the three sections. Above the windows, a tall cornice features denticulated courses, a soldier course with the bricks angled in a saw-tooth pattern, and stepped courses. Throughout its history, this building housed offices for a number of doctors and lawyers with retail businesses, including the Stokes Hardware and Furniture Company at the first floor level. (Figure 15)

R-5828

Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
Stokes County



*Figure 15: 135 North Main Street*

#### 15. Commercial Building

203 North Main Street, ca. 1950, contributing (Property is in APE)

This is a one-story, gable-front, frame commercial building to which a brick storefront was added. The side elevations are clad in weatherboards, while the brick façade features a tall stepped parapet and asymmetrical fenestration with a single-leaf door, a plate glass window, and a pair of six-over-six sash windows. The date for this building is based on the brick façade; the frame section probably dates from the early 1900s. (Figure 16)



*Figure 16: 203 North Main Street*

#### 16. Stokes Grocery Company

207 North Main Street, ca. 1910, contributing

This one-story commercial building features a parapet wall and sign panel above a modern awning. The awning shelters a symmetrical façade with a double-leaf entrance centered between two plate glass windows. A modest cornice highlights the top of the building. The south elevation features segmentally arched windows at the basement level and a stepped parapet. Attached to the rear is a gable-front, two-bay garage. John G. Fulton established the Stokes Grocery Company in 1909 and built this building before 1914. At the time of the countywide architectural survey in 1981, the interior retained its pressed metal ceiling. (Figure 17)



Figure 17: 207 (left) and 209 (right) North Main Street

#### 17. Commercial Building

209 North Main Street, ca. 1920, contributing

One-story, brick commercial building. The windows and door in this simple building have been shortened with the upper portions filled in with brick. The door and windows are plate glass and are arranged symmetrically with the door between the two windows. This building had not been built at the time of a 1914 photograph of the adjacent Stokes Grocery Company. (Figure 17)

#### 18. The Milk Bar

213 North Main Street, ca. 1940, contributing

This one-story commercial building is brick with brick knee walls below plate glass windows and a sign panel outlined with soldier courses. Terracotta coping caps the exterior walls. The storefront is asymmetrical with one window on the south side of the door and two windows to the north of the door. (Figure 18)

R-5828

Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
Stokes County



*Figure 18: 213 (left) and 215 (right) North Main Street*

#### 19. Commercial Building

215 North Main Street, ca. 1950, contributing

This is a very plain, one-story, brick commercial building with plate glass windows flanking a centered single-leaf door. A flat parapet wall rises above a modern awning. (Figure 18)

#### 20. Livery Stable

223 North Main Street, ca. 1900, contributing

This building was constructed around 1900 as a livery stable. By 1918, owners had converted it for use as a car dealership. The one-story, gable-front building features a broad arched opening with a fanlight below over a recessed entrance, which was added later. A corresponding arched opening on the rear elevation has been bricked in but suggests the building had an open drive-through when it was a livery stable. Segmentally arched window openings flank the center entrance. The stepped roof parapet features a centered arch. Small segmental arch stall windows are bricked up on the north elevation. (Figure 19)



Figure 19: 223 North Main Street

#### 21. Fulton Motor Company

231 North Main Street, ca. 1923, contributing

George Fulton commissioned this building around 1923 for use as a Ford dealership. The two-story, brick commercial building features plate glass windows and doors on the façade, sign panels on the front second-story elevation, a parapet roof, and metal casement windows on the side elevation. (Figure 20)



Figure 20: 231 (left) and 233 (right) North Main Street

## 22. Commercial Building

233 North Main Street, ca. 1950, non-contributing due to alterations

Narrow, one-story commercial building. This traditional brick building has been covered with weatherboard siding or cementitious siding. An awning shelters a plate glass window and single-leaf door. The construction date is based on tax records; estimating the building's construction with reasonable accuracy is not possible because no original exterior materials are visible. (Figure 20)

## 23. Lash Store

235 North Main Street, ca. 1890, contributing

Two-story, brick commercial building constructed in the late 1800s by W. A. Lash. At the ground level, the building has an asymmetrical storefront with a recessed entrance. On the second floor and along the north elevation, the building retains segmental arch window openings, although the original six-over-six sash windows visible in the 1981 architectural survey photographs have been replaced. Arched, projecting header courses highlight the window openings. The cornice is composed of sawtooth bricks and stepped courses. A row of sawtooth bricks also extends across the façade below the second-story window sills. (Figure 21)



Figure 21: 235 North Main Street

## 24. Tuttle Hardware

311 North Main Street, ca. 1901, contributing

This one-story brick commercial building features a painted sign, a parapet wall that is stepped on the sides, and plate glass windows in either side of a slightly recessed entrance. A flat metal awning extends across the façade. (Figure 22)





Figure 22: 311 North Main Street

## 25. Family Pharmacy

317 North Main Street, ca. 1963, non-contributing due to alterations

Like several other buildings in the district, this building was constructed after car ownership had become very common so the building is set back from the street to accommodate parking in front. The older building is obscured by a brick façade with arched openings that creates a loggia across the front. Under the loggia, the walls are covered in faux stucco and contain modern plate glass windows. (Figure 23)



Figure 23: 317 North Main Street

26. Central Telephone Company Building

323 North Main Street, ca. 1970, non-contributing due to age

One-story, brick, windowless building constructed by the telephone company. The façade features a single metal door sheltered by a small awning, and three plain pilasters. (Figure 24)



Figure 24: 323 North Main Street

27. Palmetto Movie Theater

329 North Main Street, 1947, contributing

J.J. Booth constructed the Palmetto Theater in 1947. The two-story brick building once housed a movie theater. The red brick is highlighted with yellow brick laid to create three vertical lines on the façade and to outline a cornice area. At each corner, the lighter brick frames the letter P, also executed in the lighter brick. A hipped-roof awning is supported with square posts and shelters an altered first floor. The first floor façade now contains vertical wood siding infill and a recessed central storefront. Two metal casement windows are situated toward the upper left corner of the façade. Pilasters accent the side elevation. (Figure 25)



Figure 25: 329 North Main Street

28. Farmer's Union Bank and Trust

333 North Main Street, ca. 1898, non-contributing due to alterations

This one-story, brick commercial building is divided into two storefronts. Above a full-width modern awning, the parapet wall is original with two recessed sign panels. Below the awning, the storefronts have been heavily altered with the addition of stone veneer and plate glass. (Figure 26)



Figure 26: 333 North Main Street

29. Neal Hardware Store

405 North Main Street, ca. 1925, contributing

One-story, brick commercial building with a painted sign panel across the façade. A modern awning shelters plate glass windows and a central entrance. A parapet wall hides a gabled roof. To the rear, a brick addition appears to date from the mid-twentieth century. (Figure 27)



Figure 27: 405 North Main Street

R-5828

Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
Stokes County

30. Commercial Building

407 North Main Street, ca. 1930, contributing

This diminutive building is a gable-front, concrete block building with an off-center, recessed entrance and a metal awning. (Figure 28)



Figure 28: 407 North Main Street

31. Alley's Maytag

409 North Main Street, ca. 1930, contributing

This building housed Alley's Maytag dealership from 1947 to 2002. The gable-front, frame building is a remarkably intact frame commercial building with a stepped parapet, original double-leaf front door, and its original window configuration with tall transoms above the door and windows. A metal awning is mounted between the top of the windows and door and below the transom. A pent roof extends across the façade, above the transom. (Figure 29)



Figure 29: 409 North Main Street

32. Llewellyn's Esso

419 North Main Street, ca. 1950, contributing

One-story former gas station. This building retains stepped Art Deco pilasters, but the garage bays and storefront have been filled with windows and faux stucco. It remains, however, clearly identifiable as a former gas station. (Figure 30)



Figure 30: 419 North Main Street

**West Third Street**

33. Cash Grocery Company Warehouse

204 West Third Street, 1903, contributing

This is a large brick warehouse with two double-width, wooden doors, and metal siding on the side elevations. (Figure 31)



Figure 31: 204 West Third Street

R-5828

Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
Stokes County

### 34. Commercial Building

208 West Third Street, ca. 1930, contributing

One-story, brick commercial building with two storefronts. One storefront is taller, and the taller one features a soldier course cornice. A modern metal awning extends across the entire length of the façade. The windows and doors are modern replacements. (Figure 32)



Figure 32: 208 West Third Street

### East Fourth Street

#### 35. Monitor Roller Mills

104 East Fourth Street, ca. 1959, contributing

This building replaced an earlier roller mill that burned. The complex includes a three-story brick building with metal frame windows. A flat metal awning shelters a loading dock. A modern garage door and an original double-leaf wooden door are located on the south elevation's loading dock. One-story additions are located on the east elevation and, on the north, a brick fire wall extends beyond the main block to separate the mill from a group of six tall grain storage towers. (Figures 33 and 34)



Figure 33: 104 East Fourth Street



Figure 34: 104 East Fourth Street

R-5828  
Construct Roundabout on U.S. Highway 311  
Stokes County

## **West Fourth Street**

### 36. Garage

104 West Fourth Street, ca. 1946, contributing

This is a one-story, side-gable, concrete block garage with two garage bays, both with wooden garage doors. (Figure 35)



*Figure 35: 104 West Fourth Street*

### Historical and Architectural Context

Stokes County was formed in 1789 and reached its current configuration in 1849 when the General Assembly created Forsyth County from the southern half of Stokes. The county has rolling hills and fertile farmland along the Dan River in the county's eastern portion, but most of the terrain is rugged, dividing arable land into small plots and fostering small-scale subsistence agriculture.<sup>1</sup>

The Sauratown Mountains, cutting across the center of the county, were home to several spring-based resorts that enjoyed popularity from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s, but most of the county's modest prosperity came from tobacco cultivation and small-scale milling. Following the Civil War, and specifically after R.J. Reynolds founded his tobacco company in Winston in the 1870s, tobacco production increased in profitability. Rail service arrived in the county in the 1880s and added to the

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<sup>1</sup> Laura A. W. Phillips, "Stokes County Historic Inventory, Final Report," (Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1989), 4-5.



economic growth of the southern half of the county, particularly in Walnut Cove in the east, King in the west, and to a much lesser extent, Germanton in the middle of the county's southern edge.

### *Walnut Cove's Development*

In the 1830s, William and Anne Lash, Moravians from the town of Bethania in northern Forsyth County, bought land along Town Fork Creek and began developing a prosperous plantation. The Lashes operated a store and, eventually, a small trading community informally called Lash's Store grew up in the vicinity.<sup>2</sup> The plantation itself was called Walnut Cove, and an 1845 advertisement for a medicine lists W.A. Lash in Walnut Cove as a merchant selling the product.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1850s, advocates began discussing the construction of a turnpike to connect Salem with Virginia by way of Walnut Cove. By the 1870s, newspapers were reporting rumors of a railroad to be built between Fayetteville in the east and Mt. Airy in the west by way of Greensboro and Walnut Cove.<sup>4</sup> Although several years would pass before the railroad arrived in Walnut Cove, the town was beginning to expand from William Lash's store, particularly in the 1870s, when William and Anne Lash's son, Dr. W.A. Lash, inherited the family's plantation. Dr. Lash expanded the family home into a rambling Queen Anne mansion (no longer standing), located just to the west of Walnut Cove's downtown and began investing heavily in Walnut Cove's commercial development.<sup>5</sup>

Lash emerged as a significant property owner, and he sat on the board of directors for the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley (CF&YV) Railroad, which was the first line completed through Walnut Cove. The CF&YV was created from a merger in 1879, and although work was underway in the early 1880s, it was 1888 before the line opened. The next year, the Southern and Roanoke Railroad initiated service between Winston and Walnut Cove, with the line completed north to Roanoke, Virginia, in 1892. This put Walnut Cove at the crossroads of the busy Norfolk and Western Railroad (the successor to the Southern and Roanoke) and the CF&YV. Very soon, Walnut Cove was home to three hotels, restaurants, and other businesses.<sup>6</sup>

During this era, Stokes County emerged as a major tobacco-producing county, ranking fifth in North Carolina in production in 1880, doubling that number by 1900, and producing well over six million pounds of tobacco in 1920.<sup>7</sup> Walnut Cove was never a major tobacco market, but a few warehouses flourished and the town's commerce was based on tobacco money and railroad access. Late nineteenth

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<sup>2</sup> John R. Woodard, ed., *The Heritage of Stokes County*, (Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Publishing Company, 1981), 102, and The Committee for the Walnut Cove Centennial Celebration, *Echoes of Walnut Cove, 1889-1989*, (Walnut Cove: Town of Walnut Cove, 1989) 6-7.

<sup>3</sup> Greensboro *Patriot*, August 30, 1845, page 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Wilmington Morning Star*, April 7, 1877, page 1, and Greensboro *Patriot*, October 8, 1879, page 2.

<sup>5</sup> Committee for the Walnut Cove Centennial Celebration, 6-7.

<sup>6</sup> Committee for the Walnut Cove Centennial Celebration, 18.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Agricultural Census records, cited in Sherry Joines Wyatt and Sarah A. Woodard, "King Historic District," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 2002, section 8, page 12.

and early-twentieth-century industries included a sawmill and lumber plant, a box factory, and two brick yards.<sup>8</sup>

The town's extant commercial buildings illustrate this period of prosperity and reflect patterns seen across North Carolina at the end of the 1800s when railroads came to rural crossroads. Even the smallest towns hummed with commerce, manufacturing, and trade. Likewise, period architecture filled downtowns with corbelled and paneled buildings rich with combinations of texture, window shapes, columns, and cast iron ornament. Walnut Cove's oldest extant buildings, the Mercantile Building (figure 15), the Livery Stable (figure 19), and the Lash Store (figure 21), embody the enthusiasm and optimism of even small towns in the New South era. The Mercantile Building features pilasters, sawtooth courses, and modest hoods over the windows, while the Livery Stable's bold arches showed that even the most mundane needs could be met with panache.

As the twentieth century progressed, investment in downtown Walnut Cove continued, but less robustly. The resulting buildings became plainer, and most were only one-story in height. An exception is the Fulton Motor Company (figure 19), which is a two-story brick building dating from 1923, but most remaining buildings from the 1920s are one story with a tall parapet wall.

Following World War II, local businesspeople continued investing in downtown Walnut Cove. During the 1940s and 1950s and into the 1960s, builders continued executing one-story buildings but, over time, pushed them farther back from Main Street to accommodate cars. They also used design elements to emphasize the building's horizontal lines, so that these downtown buildings look more like suburban roadside commercial buildings found in suburbs across the state. The Klean-Rite Building (figure 16), for example, features a wide, low façade book-ended with slanting end walls. One notable exception is the 1947 Palmetto Theater (figure 25), which has a tall façade and sits right on the sidewalk. Monitor Roller Mills (figures 33 and 34), a highly-visible fixture in downtown Walnut Cove since 1922, burned in 1959, but was rebuilt that same year and remains in operation today.

### Comparable Examples

Walnut Cove in eastern Stokes County and King, in southwestern Stokes County, are the county's largest towns today, as they were historically. Walnut Cove's historic commercial core is larger than King's, but both contain a mix of late-nineteenth, early-twentieth, and mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings typical of small towns in North Carolina. Both towns also retain historic roller mills. No other town in the county approaches Walnut Cove's concentration of historic commercial buildings, and King's downtown is the only comparable example in the county. King's downtown was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

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<sup>8</sup> Woodard, ed., 102.



Figure 36: Downtown King



Figure 37: Downtown King



Figure 38: King Milling Company Building

## National Register Evaluation

### Integrity

The Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District retains integrity of location. It retains integrity of workmanship, design, materials, feeling, setting, and association as a traditional commercial district in a small North Carolina town. Storefronts have been altered, affecting integrity of design and materials, but, overall, these changes have not altered the streetscape nor have they had a negative impact on the district's feeling and setting.

### Criteria Evaluations

Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with commerce in Stokes County. The town evolved from a trading post to a local rail hub serving eastern Stokes County. Extant commercial buildings housed grocery stores, laundry services, dry goods, hardware stores, and warehousing operations that flourished from the late 1800s until the mid-1900s.

Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past. No such associations were identified during background research.

Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Walnut Cove retains Stokes County's best and largest concentration of historic commercial architecture. King's commercial buildings are similar, but Walnut Cove's downtown was and is more robust, and the existing buildings such as the Mercantile Building, the Lash Store, and the Livery Stable, reflect the popular architecture of the New South era. The Milk Bar building and the Fulton Motor Company Building date to the inter-war years and represent the less elaborate buildings of that period, while Klean-Rite Cleaners illustrates the attempts of downtown investors to accommodate automobiles.

Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D because it has not yielded nor is it likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

### Boundary Description and Justification

The Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District includes the highest concentration of historic resources in Walnut Cove's downtown core. It follows the rear property lines of those properties along Main Street with four exceptions: cutting across a deep Main Street parcel identified with Stokes County PIN 6962382132; along East and West Fourth Street where it incorporates the Monitor Roller Mill and a small automobile garage; and along West Third Street where it includes a commercial building and warehouse. Where the boundary follows a street, it follows the edge of pavement.

Specifically, within the APE, the boundary follows the eastern edge of pavement where it runs north-south in front of the buildings along Main Street. At the boundary's southeastern-most corner, the boundary extends west from Main Street, following the southern edge of the parcel identified as Stokes County PIN 6962373866. The boundary then turns north, following the western edge of this parcel. From there, it crosses Second Street and continues north, following the rear lot lines of the parcels fronting Main Street. The following map, Figure 39, illustrates the proposed boundary.

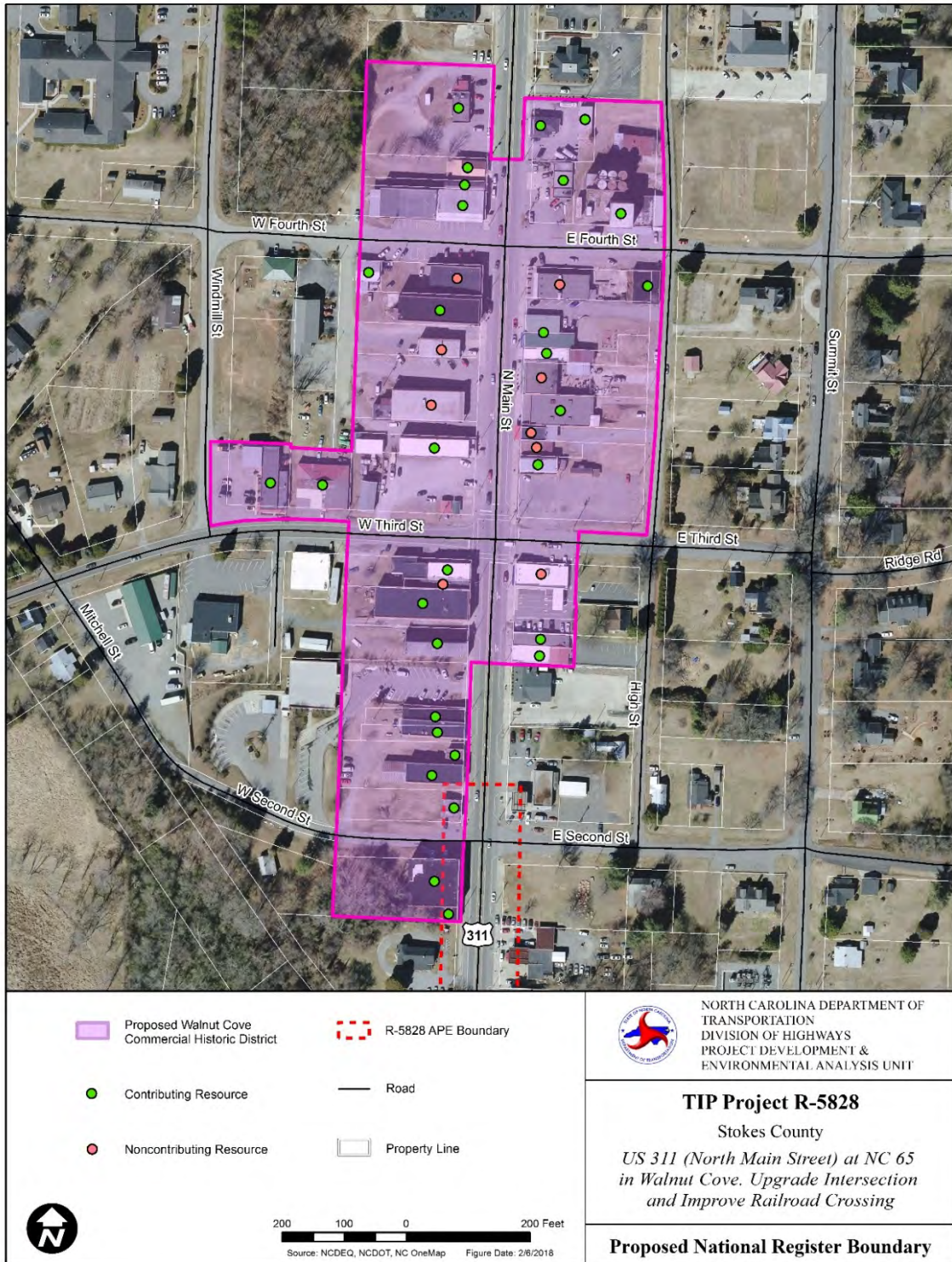


Figure 39: Walnut Cove Commercial Historic District Proposed Boundary

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