

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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Downtown Ruston Historic District
Other Names/Site Number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

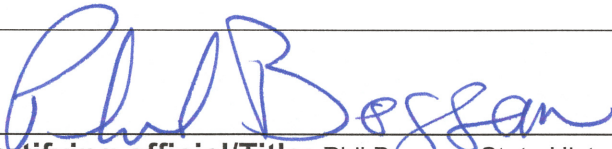
Street & Number: Bounded by N. Monroe St, W. Alabama Ave, N. Bonner St, E. Railroad Ave, S. Vienna St, W. Texas Ave, S. Trenton St, and W. Louisiana Ave.
City or town: Ruston State: LA County: Lincoln
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets, 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national state local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D


Signature of certifying official/Title: Phil Boggan, State Historic Preservation Officer **Date:** 12-6-16
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date:** _____
Title: _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

4. National Park Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
78	29	Buildings
	1	Sites
		Structures
		Objects
78	30	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 4

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): COMMERCE/TRADE: business, financial institution, professional, specialty store, department store; GOVERNMENT: post office, courthouse; SOCIAL: civic, meeting hall; RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, auditorium; TRANSPORTATION: rail-

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.): DOMESTIC: multiple dwellings; FUNERARY: mortuary; COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, financial institution, specialty store, restaurant; RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, museum; LANDSCAPE: park, parking lot, unoccupied land; GOVERNMENT: courthouse; EDUCATION: schools; VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.): No style; Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival: Classical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival; Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial Style, Craftsman; Modern Movement: Moderne, International Style; Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick, Stone, Stucco

roof: Asphalt

other: Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District is located in the center of downtown Ruston. The boundaries are West Alabama Avenue to the north, including the parcels fronting the north side of West Alabama, North Bonner Street to the east, North Monroe Street to the west and West Louisiana Avenue to West Park Avenue to East Railroad Avenue forming the south boundary. The proposed district is 32 acres and includes 108 buildings and one site, of which 78 buildings are contributing to the district with 4 of these buildings being previously listed individually on the National Register. While the proposed district contains several non-contributing resources, it retains its historic integrity as the commercial center for the city of Ruston and the surrounding region. The district retains both its architectural and historic identity to qualify for the National Register under Criterion A as a center of commerce, recreation and entertainment for the city of Ruston and the surrounding rural parts of the parish. The district is an important representative of late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century townscape.

Narrative Description

Setting and General Background

The district is historically what would have been considered the cultural and commercial center of

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

the region. The approximately eight block district is arranged in a standard grid pattern with the wider primary “streets” running north/south and the smaller secondary “avenues” running east/west. Adding additional emphasis to the district is the fact that east/west avenues are offset from the rest of the surrounding city grid. At the center of the district, two entire blocks were reserved for the Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Pacific Railroad Depot and Station. The eight block grouping of buildings is where all major stores, financial institutions, governmental buildings, entertainment venues, offices, and transportation centers were located signifying its regional importance for a rural region. Specific uses included hotels, banks, post office, social clubs, movie theaters, and the courthouse.

Buildings in the district can best be described as commercial row buildings and are representative of early twentieth century downtown commercial buildings. Commercial row buildings developed as a distinct property type throughout the mid-nineteenth century and mid-twentieth century. The commercial row building was constructed to maximize lot coverage. Buildings extended to the sidewalk or right of way edge and to the property line on either side with no separation from abutting buildings. The narrow front elevation often became the buildings’ only identifying feature. Commercial row buildings are normally found within dense commercial districts and main streets. Buildings within the district continuously front the primary north south streets with openings and alley entrances on the east west avenues. The only exception are the buildings that front on the two blocks reserved for the railroad which reiterates the importance the railroad served in the period of significance. While many of the commercial row buildings in downtown Ruston are simply styled, they do feature characteristics of the following architectural styles: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival: Classical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival; Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial Style, Craftsman; Modern Movement: Moderne, and International Style. There are also several landmark buildings within the city of Ruston that definitely fit into specific architectural styles including the Dixie Theater (Art Moderne), the Federal Building (French Renaissance Revival), the Ruston State Bank (Beaux Arts), and the Lincoln Parish Courthouse (International Style).

Integrity and Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources

Non-contributing resources include buildings that are less than fifty years old and fifty-plus-year-old buildings that have been significantly altered. Decisions on non-contributing status due to alterations were made on a case-by-case basis based on the nature of the alterations and the visual strength of the surviving historic features. Typically, it is the storefront level that has been modified or totally replaced. To give an example: For two-story buildings with replaced storefronts, it is easier for alterations to be visually dominant if they are notable and the upper façade is quite plain and does not have good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. By contrast, if that same building had a strongly detailed upper façade or a simpler façade with good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship, then one could argue that it remained contributing.

Many of the buildings in downtown Ruston have had some sort of storefront alteration. Some are original dating to the building’s construction in the 1940s, 50s, or 60s, while many others are older buildings (show up on 1922 Sanborn maps for most of the altered buildings) that had their storefront updated during this period. As this was a phenomenon found among a wide group of buildings in this district, storefront alteration is not considered too great to render a building non-contributing unless it completely altered the configuration and layout of the storefront. Individual

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

building entries discuss storefront alteration and its impact on contributing status in the inventory.

The non-contributing resources are one and two story buildings with a small footprint. Most of these are altered historic buildings or vaguely historic-looking buildings. Several were constructed within the last 20 to 30 years.

Each building within the proposed district has been visually evaluated for alterations and renovations. The majority of the buildings are commercial row buildings with parapets and flat roofs. Most of the buildings have altered storefronts to a degree, but retain enough historic features and characteristics to remain contributing. Individual inventory entries will note specific details that helped certain resources remain contributing or features that have been lost and have rendered the resource non-contributing.

Building Inventory

- 1. 101 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1950. One story brick masonry with a simple parapet and flat roof. The bulkhead of the storefront is low and constructed of blond brick. The central entrance is inset and angled and has a decorative tile floor. The majority of the storefront is made up of large plate glass windows. The rest of the façade is red brick. It does not appear that the building has undergone many changes since construction and has a typical design of a 1950s commercial storefront.
- 2. 102 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1950. One story brick building with a flat roof and stepped projecting brick cornice. It appears that the original storefront was a larger expanse with a more modern infill set within the original opening. The current storefront consists of two large multi-lite plate glass windows flanking two wood paneled entry doors. A fabric awning covers the width of the façade.
- 3. 103-05 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. One story brick masonry commercial building with a stacked brick bond. One half has been painted a light green color while the 105 side is a cream color. The façade is divided in half evenly with two centrally placed entries into each commercial space. The large plate glass windows appear to be either original or replaced within the original openings. The two entry doors are likely replacements as the building appears to have been one commercial space originally. There are decorative tile floors outside of the entry doors. While simply detailed, the building is very typical of a mid-century storefront.
- 4. 104 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1940. One story brick masonry commercial building with a flat roof. This building has details that match 106 and 108-10 W. Alabama and it is clear they were built at the same time and each building's cornice steps down from its neighbor. The façade is composed of blond brick with a tile detail along the bulkheads and a portion of each side. The recessed central entry also has a decorative tile floor. The angled storefront windows are plate glass and the double entry consists of wooden doors with large lites. The cornice has a stepped brick detail matching the building next door at 106 W. Alabama Avenue. A modern awning stretches the length of the façade.
- 5. 106 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1940, This one story blond brick building retains its cornice line and plain blond brick upper façade, but the storefront has been replaced

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

with a much more modern, more residential style infill that is clearly non-historic nor sensitive to the age of the building. It consists of paired six over six double hung vinyl windows and a single glass entry door glanced by two lanterns. A modern awning spans the length of the storefront. These changes, which would fit better on a residential building rather than a mid-century commercial space, render this building non-contributing.

6. **107 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Two story brick masonry building, with a flat roof. This painted masonry building has a recessed central entry with angled plate glass storefront windows. A secondary entrance to access the second floor is located at the far right side of the ground floor. The second floor has two large replacement windows divided into two vertical lites by a thick aluminum muntin evenly spaced over the ground floor storefront. These windows were likely single plate glass windows. A raised brick rectangle is located above the windows and there is a slight ghost sign of the former business inside. Despite the new second floor windows, the building retains enough integrity to remain contributing. It is a simply designed mid-century commercial building and retains these simple features.
7. **108-10 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1940, one story brick masonry commercial row building with a parapet roof, new storefronts, and awnings. This building likely matched its neighbor originally at 104 W. Alabama, but the storefronts have been completely replaced and the only historic material left is the brick between the awnings and cornice line.
8. **111-13 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1950. One story brick commercial building divided into two commercial spaces. Both storefronts are modern reflective plate glass. It is likely the original storefronts were also plate glass based on the age of the building. The masonry is painted and above each commercial space, there is an inset panel for signage. The building is capped with a header course of bricks as a cornice.
9. **112 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960, narrow one story brick masonry commercial row building, parapet roof and new storefront
10. **203 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1950. Two story brick masonry commercial with a flat roof. The façade is composed of stacked bond Roman bricks painted black. The storefront is a modern storefront system. While the storefront has been replaced, the major design feature of this simple building is the large expanse of stacked Roman brick. This helps to outweigh the change in the storefront. For this reason, it is considered contributing.
11. **204 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1922, abuts 301 N. Trenton directly (inventory entry #80). Simple warehouse style building. It has a single entry door at the far left with a window opening infilled with a metal rolling shade. An original 12 lite metal sash sits next to this opening. The rest of the wall is blank. The 1966 Sanborn map shows it as a simple warehouse building, which appears to be its original use as well.
12. **205 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1964. Single story commercial row building, brick masonry, no styling, new storefront.
13. **206 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960, one story brick commercial row building, consistent with typical non-stylized vernacular buildings found within the district; A new glass

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

storefront and cloth awning are not original building, but the building structure remains intact.

14. 207 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1959. One story brick masonry commercial row building, no styling, canvas has been added, retains historical structure.

15. 208 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing: Circa 1960. One story brick commercial row building with simple parapet and flat roof. Storefront has been replaced leaving the main historic materials left the brick between the storefront and the roofline, which is not enough to keep it contributing.

16. 209 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing: Circa 1960. Stucco façade one story building. Original façade has been replaced with neoclassical stucco façade. These alterations make this building non-contributing.

17. 210 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1960. Single story commercial row building. Storefront consists of three multi lite windows and one entry door. A curved metal awning covers the storefront and there is a small, empty, business sign above the canopy.

18. 211 W. Alabama Avenue, Non-contributing: Circa 1960. One story brick commercial building. The original storefront has been replaced with a residential door as a central entry flanked by a faux decorative door frame and two large modern plate glass windows. A cloth type awning has been added. The storefront alterations, primarily the door and windows, render this building non-contributing.

19. 212 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1965. This bank was designed to look like a historic building despite being designed right at the end of the district's period of significance. It features a small entry porch with double Tuscan columns as each side. Six over six multi lite windows flank the entry with a drive-thru at the far left. It is painted white. It does not appear to have been altered much since it was built.

20. 213 W. Alabama Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1960. One story brick commercial row building, with modern cloth awnings. This very simply designed building was built within the period of significance and appears relatively unaltered. A large plate glass window is located on the left side of the façade with an entry door inset into the window system. A sign adorns the right side of the façade.

21. 103 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1922. Two story commercial style brick masonry structure with dentilated brick cornice and parapet roof. The ground floor has been replaced with a more modern storefront system likely dating to the 1950s or 1960s. It consists of a central entry door with a large plate glass window to the left and a secondary entry and smaller plate glass window to the right. A flat metal awning covers the ground floor storefront. The second floor features two sets of double one over one replacement windows. A dentilated brick course topped by two simple projecting brick bands lines up with the top of the windows.

22. 106 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1922. Five story freestanding brick masonry building, block modillion cornice, limestone and granite façade. The ground floor has been updated with granite and aluminum storefront systems. Above that is a stucco detail at the

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

second floor level. A flat awning covers the central ground floor entry. Floors 3 and 4 have double windows on each side flanking a centrally placed smaller window (the second floor has this same small central window). The side banks of windows have stone lintels and headers, which also have small 'x' details at the ends. The windows themselves appear to be replacements, although it's hard to date them. The 5th floor has a single window on each side flanking a larger double set of windows. Decorative tile work surround this central window and surrounds just the tops of the side windows. A cast stone cornice with dentils and projecting moldings tops this and the building ends with a decorative crenellated parapet. While it has had some alterations (storefront, stucco to second floor, and windows), the dominant portions of the building are still made of historic materials and thus, it is contributing.

- 23. 107/109 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront has been replaced with a more modern system and a flat metal awning extends from the neighboring building to cover the storefront of 109 as well. The building is very simply detailed and the original windows have been replaced, but have retain their original size. Simple brick lintels are at the bottom of each window. There are two single windows flanking a central double set of windows. The building has a dentilated cornice and simple flat parapet. While the windows and storefront have been replaced, the building is still recognizable as a simple, historic commercial building.
- 24. 111 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920, altered c. 1950. One story brick masonry commercial row building. While the upper portion of the façade is recognizable as older brick, the storefront of the building appears to date from c. 1950 as it has a typical mid-century design. It is divided in half by a brick column and each side has an angled storefront of Roman brick with an aluminum door and large transom flanking the central column. Two large plate glass windows serve each storefront. A simple flat awning covers the entire storefront.
- 25. 113 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1925, altered c. 1950. One story brick masonry building. Building has a typical mid-century look and includes marble details in the projecting display window at the left side of the storefront. The central entry is an aluminum storefront system and is recessed. Above the flat awning, the second floor is covered with concrete and marble. Panels and has no openings.
- 26. 115-17 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1922, altered c. 1930. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Storefront includes to angled, recessed storefronts with frosted glass transoms above the doors and display windows. Decoratively designed aluminum awning covers both storefronts. The ground floor has green Carrera glass on the columns and the upper portion of the façade has square green composite panels covering it. All materials appear to be original.
- 27. 202 W. Mississippi Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1945, altered c. 1970. One story brick masonry commercial row building. The original brick can be see between the cornice line and storefront system (now painted as is entire façade). The original storefront, likely two large plate glass storefronts, has been infilled partially with more modern brick and c. 2016 storefront windows. A door is located at the far right of the façade. The same brick used for the infill was also used to cover the center dividing structural column. Because of the extensive alterations at the storefront level, this building is non-contributing.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

- 28. 204 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Entry is an angled recessed door almost centrally located. Right side of storefront is flush with the sidewalk and the entire storefront has plate glass windows. A modern fabric awning covers the entire storefront. A simple projecting brick course is found just below the cornice and continues to 206, 210, and 212 W. Mississippi.
- 29. 206 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Storefront appears to be updated, but has been done so in keeping with the building's age and style. Central entry is recessed and slightly angled. A flat awning covers the storefront and sits between the plate glass windows and five single lite transoms. Same projecting brick course below the cornice as 204, 210, and 212 W. Mississippi.
- 30. 207 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1955. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. Storefront consists of tripartite plate glass windows topped by transoms with a dividing bar of either marble or a composite panel. The central recessed entry has a two lite transom and a cloth awning covering it. The second floor features a single band of cast stone connecting the six single windows. The windows themselves are replacements, but the opening size has not changed. There are four infilled vents above the windows (also found on the building next door).
- 31. 209-11 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1922, altered c. 1950. Single story brick masonry building. Building has two storefront systems that are aluminum and likely date to c. 1950. Both consist of a single entry door located in the second bay from the left and plate glass windows on each side of that. A simple cloth awning covers both storefronts individually. The façade is constructed of blond brick. The right storefront has a slightly angled, recessed entry, while the left storefront is flush with the façade.
- 32. 210 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Storefront consists of a central double door entry flanked by plate glass windows on each side. A cloth awning covers the storefront, which makes it hard to tell if there are transom windows underneath it. Simple brick course just below the cornice matches 204, 206, and 212 W. Mississippi.
- 33. 212 W. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. One story commercial row building. Storefront consists of a central double door entry with plate glass windows on each side. A cloth awning covers the storefront, which makes it hard to tell if there are transom windows underneath it. Simple brick course just below the cornice matches 204, 206, and 210 W. Mississippi.
- 34. 104 E. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1945. Single story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront consists of a central double door entry with a curved metal awning covering it. On each side of the entry, there is a replacement storefront based on the differing bricks used for the bulkhead as compared to the upper façade. While it is a replacement, the design fits with the age and style of the building. Each side has three 9/6 windows with a single lite transom above each window. The door also has a two lite transom above it. The upper portion of the façade has 2 rectangular indentations in the brick on each side. The columns that

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

flank each side of the door extend to the cornice line, dividing the façade into three sections. The top of each section has a graduated projecting brick details ending just before the flat parapet.

- 35. 106 E. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1935. Single story brick masonry commercial building. Storefront is finished similarly to 104 next door as both are used for the same business. Storefront consists of six 9/6 double hung replacement windows with six lite transoms above. The door is located at the far right and has a matching curved metal awning above it. Two openings on the upper portion of the façade are covered with board and batten shutters and topped with the same style awning. A graduating projecting brick detail is found at the cornice line.
- 36. 112 E. Mississippi Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Single story brick and concrete building. New brick façade and windows.
- 37. 113-15 E. Mississippi Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1922. Single story brick masonry commercial style building. The only original material is the deep red brick with inset panels found between the modern metal awning and the cornice and new slightly pitched roof. The entire storefront has been replaced with more recent brick, likely from the 1970s or 1980s, and modern reflective glass storefront systems. As the only historic material is the small area of brick along the cornice, this building is non-contributing.
- 38. 100 W. Park Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial building. Former Marbury Rexall Drug Store. Storefront is of a more recent vintage, likely mid-century, and features a central recessed entry with double doors flanked by a large plate glass window on each side. Six single lite transoms are located above the flat awning and are separated into groups of two. Cast iron columns divided the central transoms from the side ones. The second floor is of blond brick and has a central decorative brick arch with cast stone keystone. A set of double windows with one large transom is on each side of the arch. Dentils decorate the area above the windows and along the cornice line. The parapet of the building is stepped with the central portion being slightly taller. These same details can be found on the second floor where the building wraps to N. Vienna Street. After one bay, the brick changes to a red-orange brick.
- 39. 101 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing Site:** Site of the former Vicksburg, Shreveport, and Pacific Railroad freight depot.
- 40. 102 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial building. Front façade is not original, but rather a more recent update to include extensive use of blond brick and beige tile details. The recessed central entry has an elaborate surround with tile, engaged columns with acanthus leave tops, and a faux balconette with arched window. Two small display windows with decorative surrounds are on each side of the entry and have gas lanterns above each. Because of the extensive alterations, this building is non-contributing.
- 41. 106-14 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story concrete and brick masonry building. Building was originally one large store and has since been subdivided into four storefronts. All of the new storefronts do not features any historic materials or configurations and thus, the entire building is now non-contributing.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA

County and State

- 42. 116 W. Park Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920, renovated c. 1950. Single story brick masonry building with brick façade. Wood siding has been applied to upper façade. While the upper portion of the façade has been covered with what appears to be a wood paneling of sorts (that is deteriorating), the majority of the storefront appears to date to a c. 1950 alteration of the building, which was a common trend in Ruston at that time. The storefront is framed by painted Roman brick and has an entry at the left with two large plate glass windows at the right. Because the storefront is intact and dates from the period of significance, this building is considered contributing.
- 43. 118 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story concrete and brick masonry structure with large semicircular oval opening and storefront. While building dates to c. 1920, the façade that is visible today is a modern design, likely done within the last 10-20 years. It features a large arched opening with cloth awning and stucco detailing surrounding the arch. Signage at the top of the building is set within a wood framed rectangle filled with siding. As the façade is completely new and features no historic material or features, this building is non-contributing.
- 44. 120-22 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story concrete and brick masonry structure. While the brick masonry façade and storefront feature materials that have been used historically, local resources have confirmed that this is a completely new storefront and façade. The configuration of the storefront does appear to be original, but the materials used, primarily the addition of all of the brick and red tile to the exterior, has rendered this building non-contributing.
- 45. 124 W. Park Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920, altered c. 1950. Single story concrete building. Storefront is a mid-century aluminum plate glass storefront. Entry is angled and recessed. A large cloth "awning" hangs from the parapet to the top of the glass to serve as signage so it is unclear what is under it on the upper portion of the façade.
- 46. 126 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story concrete and brick masonry building. New brick columns and stucco façade added in recent renovations.
- 47. 130 W. Park Avenue, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920, altered c. 1970. Single story concrete and brick masonry building. New brick columns and stucco façade and metal awning is not original.
- 48. 206 W. Park Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry building. This building retains a high degree of integrity. The ground floor has two plate glass windows with wooden bulkheads and two entry doors (between the windows and at the far right). Above each opening is a single lite transom matching the width of the opening below. Projecting brick bands separate the two floors. Two 12/2 double hung wood windows are on the second floor and there is decorative brickwork surrounding them. Diamond patterns are laid in the brickwork along the cornice line and a simple projecting brick band is located at the parapet.
- 49. 208-10 W. Park Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Known as old Ruston Hotel, three story brick masonry building with hip roof. Ground floor storefront is a recent rehabilitation replacing a

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

later (non-original) 1950s storefront alteration. The materials and design fit more with the age and original design of the building. The far right of the ground floor features a carriage way that leads to the back of the building and would have been where guests were dropped off and then their carriages (or cars) stored behind the hotel. The two story balcony is also from a recent rehab, but the building did have a two story balcony originally. The windows are boarded over. The two hipped roofs as well as the shed roof between feature exposed rafter tails.

50. 212 W. Park Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1920. Ruston *Daily Leader* building, single story brick masonry building. The central entry features replacement doors, but appears to be the location of the original doors. It has a curving metal canopy above it. On each side of the entry is a large opening, which is original, infilled with later materials that include three tall single lite windows and a three part wooden 'transom' above. The opening is arch topped. Decorative brickwork delineates the arch. More decorative brickwork is featured leading up to the dentilated brick courses that define the cornice line.

51. 109 E. Park Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building formerly known as KRVS Radio Station. Ground floor has central double entry doors flanked by a picture window on the right and a second entry leading upstairs on the left. A modern canvas awning covers the storefront. The second floor has decorative brickwork surrounding each window creating three depressed areas with an eight over eight double hung wood window. Because these sections are inset, the brick between form columns of sorts. Stepped stone headers top each window section. Courses of soldier bricks line the top of the window sections and just below the brick cornice.

52. 111 E. Park Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building with parapet roof. Building was formerly Marine Piano House. Storefront has been altered with modern plate glass windows on the right. Doorway on the left with single light transom may be original or date to an early alterations. The ground floor is painted red and the second floor is the original blond brick with red brick bands along the cornice line. There is a single window on the far left and two sets of double windows on the second floor. The double windows are widely spaced from each other giving the second floor an uneven look. The windows themselves are two over two (horizontally) aluminum double hung windows.

53. 113 E. Park Avenue, Contributing: Circa 1920. Former Feazel Motor Car Company building. Single story brick masonry commercial style building. Parapet roof with dentilated cornice. The storefront has been replaced in sections. The far left side of the building has a lower parapet than the rest and has what appears to be an original set of double entry doors. There are two other sets of matching doors further down the ground floor of the building. The storefront windows and bulkheads have been replaced with modern brick and one over one double hung windows. While these changes are noticeable, the overall scale and design of the original building is intact.

54. 119 W. Railroad Avenue, Non-Contributing: Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.

55. 120 W. Railroad Avenue, Non-Contributing: Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA

County and State

building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.

- 56. 211 W. Railroad Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Single story brick masonry commercial freestanding building. Single central entry door on the storefront flanked by four lite plate glass windows. All are replacements within the original openings. Modern metal awning covers the storefront. Building was simply designed from construction and while the windows have been replaced, the simple mid-century commercial design is intact.
- 57. 93 E. Railroad Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Single story brick masonry and concrete commercial building with parapet roof. Built as a warehouse and features a single entry door at far right with stone header. Also has a large roll up door in a bay almost centrally located. On each side of this are two more bays with stone headers that have been infilled with brick, but the outline of the opening is clearly discernible. There is a built-up concrete sidewalk in front of the building and a simple flat metal awning over the bay doors. Upper portion of façade shows remnants of paint and has a simple brick molding cornice.
- 58. 110 W. Louisiana Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1925. Former Continental Railways Bus Station. Single story brick masonry freestanding commercial building with moderne features and curved masonry façade. Street facing façade has a plate glass window in the former central door opening. Above that is a curved flat metal awning. A plate glass window is located to the left and is a replacement. The curved glass block windows to the right of the former entry is original based on a c. 1930 image of the bus station. The side elevation features three doors with three plate glass windows. Today, the plate glass windows are intact and one of the entries has been infilled with plate glass storefront systems. The other two have replacement doors. A replacement awning (original awning was flat) is located on this side as well, where one boarded the buses. Besides the removal of two doors and the replacement awning, the building is almost identical to its c. 1930 historic photograph.
- 59. 202 W. Louisiana Avenue, Contributing:** Circa 1955. One story brick masonry commercial building with an entry door at far right and two original nine lite metal casement windows. A modern cloth awning covers the windows and entry. While simply detailed, this building appears to be in its original c. 1955 design.
- 60. 100 W. Texas Avenue, Contributing:** 1949-50, Neild and Somdal. Lincoln Parish Courthouse. From *Buildings of Louisiana*: "The courthouse's bright salmon-pink brick walls and lively asymmetrical composition of boxlike units exude postwar optimism. A four-story central section with a recessed, asymmetrically located entrance is flanked by lower, differently sized wings. In true postwar style, the building rejects all but essential ornamentation; only its name is spelled out in raised letters above the entrance doors. The building's aesthetic lies in its uncompromising functionalism, the abstract geometry of its forms, its color, and the rhythmic composition of plain rectangular windows across its surface."¹
- 61. 102-08 N. Monroe Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Building also fronts W. Park Avenue. Single story brick masonry building. New wooden façade. Formerly the Lee Young Motor and

¹ Buildings of Louisiana, pg. 376.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

Tire Co.

- 62. 101 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Single story brick masonry building with four original cast iron columns and a corner replacement column at the storefront level. The storefront is now recessed behind the columns. Upper portion of the façade connects to 103 N. Trenton and is a stylized, rounded stucco design. There is also a single rectangular band above that uniting all three buildings.
- 63. 103 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Single story brick masonry building with two original cast iron columns at the storefront level. The storefront has replacement materials, but fits with the original massing and layout of the storefront. The central door is recessed with display windows on each side. Transoms sit above each section of the three part storefront. Upper portion of the façade connects to 101 N. Trenton and is a stylized, rounded stucco design. There is also a single rectangular band above that uniting all three buildings.
- 64. 105 N. Trenton Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story brick masonry building, stucco façade and feva reveals have been added through later renovations.
- 65. 107 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** 1910. Individually listed on the National Register in 1990. From *Buildings of Louisiana*: "The bank's façade is designed in the form of a monumental triumphal arch, with paired pilasters on each side and topped by a broken pediment filled with swirling foliate ornament and cartouches. Anthemions mark each angle of the pediment and half shells highlight the roofline. The entrance door, deeply recessed within the arch, and the bank's interior, date from a 1955 remodeling. Established in 1890, the Ruston State Bank, was the first banking company between Monroe and Shreveport."²
- 66. 109 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1920, altered c. 1950 and 1987. Two story brick masonry building. This building has undergone several updates with the first coming c. 1950 as the second floor's nine windows are typical metal awning windows from that time. The storefronts have also been updated although it is hard to tell exactly when. The two end angled display cases likely date c. 1950 or so and appear to be unaltered. A door at the far right leads to the second floor. The other two entrances are framed with wood and have large plate glass windows. A flat metal awning covers the storefronts. A 1987 alteration seems to be the reason for the addition of some of the stucco detailing found on the upper portions of the façade. It is likely that at this same time, the front gabled parapet with "Baldwin and Sons 1987" inlaid in stucco was added. While it is clear that this building has been altered, it is believed that enough historic features can still be read on the building to keep it as contributing.
- 67. 111 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1945. Rogers Furniture building. Two story brick masonry building. Original neon sign remains. New windows and brick masonry infill on first floor. It appears that the storefront configuration is original, but the materials are replacement. Fortunately, the second floor is relatively untouched. The blond brick façade is broken up by the red brick used to delineate between the three windows that are on each side of the centrally placed neon sign. The windows are three over three, horizontal pane, metal windows that have been painted over. There are four metal vents just below the cornice line. The side elevation,

² Buildings of Louisiana, pg. 376.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA

County and State

also street facing, does not have any windows, but instead using the blond and red brick to mimic the appearance of windows.

68. 114-122 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry building with parapet roof and battlements, block modillions and arch windows. Storefront has three different entries, one located at the far right, one located under the third bay of the elevation, and one under the second bay (from the left). The corner entry is located under a decorative arched opening and has a set of three arch topped windows to its left. Then there is a single door entry, a plate glass window, a double entry, and two corner plate glass windows. A stone molding separates the first and second floor. From left to right on the second floor are three sets of double windows, a set of triple rectangular headed windows, and a single window. All windows are replacements. This, and a new awning, appear to be the only alterations to the building. Each window on the second floor has an arch top, but the windows are rectangular. A dentilated cornice sits above the windows and the parapet is detailed with six projecting brick posts.

69. 200 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1940. One story brick masonry and plaster commercial row building. Storefront dates to either the original construction date or to the 1950s based on the Roman brick bulkheads. The N. Trenton Street entry is centrally located and recessed and flanked by large plate glass windows. A crimped metal awning wraps around the corner. The business sign hangs at the corner on a project pole near the cornice line. It appears the storefront had transoms windows, but these are currently covered over. The upper portion of the façade is simply detailed and features projecting rectangular bands.

70. 201 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1940. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. This simply styled building features a recently updated storefront done in a style that is compatible enough with the building's simple style. A corner entry provides access into the main commercial space. A door at the far right provides access to the second floor. The second story has two large plate glass windows, within the original opening size, and three on the side street-facing elevation. While very simply detailed, this building overall still retains a historic enough look to remain contributing to the district.

71. 202 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1930. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Storefront has been altered and may have originally had plate glass display windows flush with the façade. The recessed central entry actually appears to be the original or an early replacement based on its aluminum and glass materials. A stucco band above the storefront serves as a place for signage and is topped by a single decorative band. A second recessed stucco panel is inset below the cornice, also for signage. A stepped brick band tops this panel. The cornice is detailed with a double band of brick. While the storefront has been altered, the majority of the façade on this simply designed building is original.

72. 205 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1950. One story brick masonry commercial row building. Simply designed commercial style building with a double door entry (almost centrally places) and large aluminum framed plate glass windows above brick bulkheads. A flat metal awning covers the storefront and the transom windows are visible, but currently covered with wood. The upper portion of the façade has no stylistic details except for a projecting band of running bricks at the cornice line.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA

County and State

- 73. 206-10 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** 1916. Two story brick masonry and stucco commercial building with a castellated cornice. Y.A. Harris Building. The storefront of this building has been altered, likely during the period of significance based on the aluminum plate glass windows and doors, but this building is dominated by the intricate details of its second floor. A central set of a multi lite Craftsman styled door flanked by double hung nine over one wood windows is located under the title block with the building's name and construction date. On each side of this bay is a single twelve over one wood window, a set of two twelve over one wood windows, and another single wood window. All windows are original. It is likely that the building either had a balcony on this level or at least a balconette under the central opening based on the presence of a door providing access to the exterior. All windows are surrounded by a decorative band of red brick. Above each window is a vent detailed with red brick against the cream stucco of the rest of the façade. The rest of the façade, including details extending halfway down each window, is detailed with geometric brick designs. The cornice is castellated and has a wider center section with three small projections on each side. A square brick detail is located in each projection. The dominating second floor, in original form, helps this building to remain contributing despite some storefront alterations. The storefront does retain four original cast iron columns separating the façade into three storefronts.
- 74. 207 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1950. One story masonry commercial row building. This simply styled building remains mostly intact. The storefront is a modern system, but is compatible with a building of this age and design. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront. The space where the original transoms were has modern reflective glass in it. The upper portion of the façade has an inset panel with a stepped brick band at the top. The cornice is a simple flat line.
- 75. 211 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1955. Two story brick masonry commercial building. Currently called "Kitishian's", this building is a great example of the mid-century clean style and the entire upper façade is made up of white stone panels with the signage centrally placed. A flat metal awning covers the storefront, which looks to be in its original configuration with a recessed central entry. The aluminum and glass storefront may have some replaced glass, but has its original marble bulkheads.
- 76. 212 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1922. The right side of this two part commercial building is individually listed on the National Register as the Ruston USO. This building has always had two commercial entities to it. The building is a restrained example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style and has stucco walls above the two storefronts, a curved and sculpted parapet surmounted by brick coping, and a narrow central spirelet. The façade above the storefronts also features two long, horizontal panels and a rounded belt course. The original appearance of the two storefronts is unknown. Architectural evidence suggests that both were altered in the 1930's, with each assuming a different geometric shape. The shape of the USO storefront was angled inward from the sidewalk on both sides of the door. The original door appearance of this storefront is unknown. The second storefront and entrance area stood at different angles to the sidewalk. Both storefronts featured large plate glass display windows. The shapes of the 1930's storefronts remain in place today.
- 77. 214 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront consists of a central recessed entry flanked by plate glass display

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

windows. The windows are replacements, but the configuration appears to date to at least the period of significance. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront. The building is a corner building and the side elevation has four small arched transom windows and an entry with arched transom at the rear. The second floor has two large three part windows facing N. Trenton Street. Again, these are replacements, but the opening size is original. On the side elevation, there are three sets of double hung replacement windows, a single double hung window at the rear, and a set of French doors. This door opening appears original or an early alteration so the building may have had a balcony or balconette of sorts at some point.

- 78. 215 N. Trenton Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.
- 79. 300 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Single story concrete and brick building with modernist arch and columns. Style of the building fits close to New Formalism as the roof is flat with repeating arches along both street facing facades. Between each arch, there are slender metal columns with brick infill in between. The entry is located on the corner and has aluminum and glass doors. The lights that are located on the exterior look to be original and are simple cylindrical aluminum lights.
- 80. 301 N. Trenton Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1930. Two story masonry and stucco building. Ground floor awnings were added through later renovations. The three storefronts are also all altered and primarily feature modern aluminum and glass systems. It is unclear what this building looked like originally, but the center section is now a blank wall and each side section has very high set five lite transoms. Because of its altered state, this building is non-contributing.
- 81. 303 N. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1960. Single story brick masonry commercial row building. This is a very simple designed cinder block commercial building. The storefront configuration appears correct for the age of the building and either the glass has been replaced with reflective glass or a film has been applied. The actual storefront system is aluminum and looks to be original. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront.
- 82. 95 S. Trenton Street, Non-Contributing:** Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.
- 83. 101 S. Trenton Street, Non-Contributing:** Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.
- 84. 100-04 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront consists of two central entries and plate glass windows on the side of each entry. The configuration looks to be original, but the glass and framing has been updated to anodized metal. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront. The second floor consists of nine double hung six over six windows, likely replacements, but within the original opening size. Each window has a cloth awning over it. The windows also each have a simple header course

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

as the lintel. There is a decorative brick panel above the windows. A simple stone cornice tops the building.

- 85. 108 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The building was built to match the design of 100-04 S. Trenton, but was built as its own building. The storefront consists of one central entries and plate glass windows on the side of the entry. A door at the far right provides access to the second floor. There is a flat metal awning above the storefront. The second floor consists of four double hung six over six windows, likely replacements, but within the original opening size. Each window has a cloth awning over it. The windows also each have a simple header course as the lintel. There is a decorative brick panel above the windows. A simple stone cornice tops the building.
- 86. 110-12 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1945. Single story brick masonry building. This red brick commercial building was designed very simply. The storefront entry doors, one located on each side of the building, look to be original aluminum and glass. The plate glass storefront windows sit flush with the façade and are replacements. There is a flat metal awning above the storefront. The upper portion of the façade has no stylistic details and the cornice is detailed with tile.
- 87. 114-16 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1950. Single story brick masonry commercial row building. This building is simply detailed and the storefront configuration appears original. It has a central entry with two doors angled leading into each commercial space. The plate glass windows have been replaced within the original opening. A flat metal awning covers the storefront. The upper portion of the façade is red brick with no details. The cornice is detailed with tile.
- 88. 117 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1940. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront consists of a single entry at the far left, providing access to the second floor, and two entry doors flanked by plate glass windows providing access to the ground floor storefront. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront. The second floor have four eight over eight double hung windows with individual cloth awnings. Bands of soldier bricks line the bottom and top of the windows. The parapet is stepped. The windows appear to be replacements within the original opening size.
- 89. 118 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1940. Single story commercial row building. This brick building is simply detailed and has a newer storefront fit within the original opening size. While it is of a more modern glass and aluminum design, it does fit with the simply style of the building. A flat metal awning covers the storefront. At the top of the façade, there is a blond brick rectangle detail where signage could have been placed, contrasting with the red brick of the rest of the façade. While the storefront has been replaced, the overall design and configuration of this simply styled building is intact.
- 90. 120 S. Trenton Street, Contributing:** Circa 1948. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. This building retains a high degree of integrity with the only noticeable alterations being new windows on the second floor, within the original opening size, and new storefront windows, also within the original opening size. The storefront has a central opening with transom flanked by cast iron columns. Plate glass display windows are on each side of the door and have wood

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA

County and State

paneled bulkheads. A second entry at the far right provides access to the second floor. A flat awning covers the storefront and wraps the corner to the other street facing elevation. The second floor has two sets of double hung windows with stone lintels and headers. At the top of the façade is a plaster rectangle, edged with headers, with the store's signage. The cornice features a stone entablature with paired brackets and molding to top the building.

- 91. 100 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1955. Single story brick masonry commercial building. This building fits in with a typical mid-century commercial building with a lighter colored red brick façade, double central entry aluminum and glass doors, and large plate glass windows on each side of the doors. It is a low slung, streamlined building and appears relatively unaltered save for the addition of a modern cloth awning over the storefront.
- 92. 102 N. Vienna Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1950. Small, single story brick masonry building. While the building's structure is older, the current façade is not. Stucco was added, a new door and window installed, and a modern, large metal awning covers most of the upper façade. Because of the extensive alterations done to this building, it is non-contributing.
- 93. 104 N. Vienna Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1950. Single story brick masonry building. Like the building at 102 N. Vienna St, this building's structure is older, but the façade has been completely obliterated with the addition of a rough faced brick. The curved parapet details may be original, but the brick cladding negatively impacts it. The door and display windows have been replaced and a new cloth awning has been added as well. The extensive alterations make this building non-contributing.
- 94. 106 N. Vienna Street, Non-contributing:** Circa 1950. One story brick masonry commercial building. This is another earlier building that has been inappropriately updated in the last thirty years or so. The entry door and small plate glass windows are replacements and the stucco applied to the facade is not original. A modern cloth awning and large cloth sign that covers the entirety of the upper façade cover up any original material or features that may be left on the building. For these reasons, it is non-contributing.
- 95. 108 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. One story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront appears to either be the original or a c. 1940s or 1950s update to the building. It features a black marble bulkhead, angled side recessed entry, and aluminum and glass storefront. A flat metal awning with cloth at the ends covers the storefront. The upper façade is framed by a projecting black band (perhaps an alteration) and is filled with composite panels that again, could be original, or date from an early update.
- 96. 109-13 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Two story commercial style brick masonry building. The building has undergone several renovations including the addition of an asphalt shingle hip roof and modern metal awnings. The building, a masonic temple, has always had two commercial storefronts on the first floor. The left storefront appears to be from a c. 1950s update based on its simple design and use of a projecting side wall. The aluminum and glass storefront also appears to date from that time period. The right storefront may be closer to an original design as it has wooden and brick bulkheads and an angled side recessed entry. The upper portion of the façade has four windows above each storefront although each window is currently infilled with some sort of panels. The brick on the façade is unpainted and the brick on

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

the side elevations has been painted. The addition of the hipped roof with a front facing gable intersecting it is unfortunate, but enough other historic features remain to keep this building as contributing.

- 97. 110 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront was updated during the period of significance and is a typical mid-century design featuring an off center recessed, angled entry. The bulkheads are a pink marble and the storefront system is glass and aluminum. A flat metal awning covers the storefront. The upper façade is all painted brick and features various brick details to add style to the building. The signage for the building is located on the largest portion of blank brick with a rectangular band below and decorative repeating arch band above. It looks like there used to be windows below each arch and it is likely this was altered at the same time that the storefront was during the period of significance. Just below the cornice is a stepped brick band with small dentils.
- 98. 116 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1922. Two story brick masonry commercial row building. The storefront of this building has been altered, but the second floor retains a high degree of integrity allowing this building to remain contributing. The ground floor has a corner entry with decorative column, which appears to be original, but it has been reclad in wood siding. A modern cloth awning covers the storefront. The second floor is brick and has a set of double windows in the center flanked by single windows. All windows have arched tops with decorative brick detailing. The windows are modern replacements within the original size. Above the windows, there are more decorative brick details. In the center bay are vertical rows of projecting brick and on each side are panels of inset brick and stepped dentils are the cornice line.
- 99. 200 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Single story commercial style; brick masonry and stucco building with stucco parapet and decorative stucco band below the cornice. This simply styled commercial building has a storefront that was updated during the period of significance in a typical mid-century design. There is central aluminum and glass door flanked by large plate glass windows. Blond brick columns are at each end of the storefront. Section above the awning was likely transom windows; there are four recessed areas along the side elevation that were likely transoms as well. A flat metal awning covers the storefront. The upper portion of the façade is stucco.
- 100. 201 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** 1909. Old Post Office. Individually listed on the National Register. The Federal Building at Ruston, Louisiana is a small rectangular one story limestone structure, surmounted by a balustrade. Behind the balustrade is a hipped roof, rising to a flat deck and pierced by a series of circular dormer or bull's eye windows. The front or Vienna Street façade has five large rectangular openings, each surrounded by a simple molded architrave. The entrance, in the center opening, is reached by a flight of steps with stone buttresses. The building has a low basement story crowned by a strong, half round molding and pierced by small, grilled, oblong windows, beneath each of the principal windows of the facade. The building is crowned by a well-designed stone cornice with modillions. Modern aluminum block letters "Federal Building" have been inserted in the frieze and cast aluminum circular plaques have been applied to the wall on either side of the entrance door. The balustrade or parapet above the cornice is composed of turned balusters set between a series of paneled pedestals. The rear and the side facades are similar to the front, the sides having four bays and

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

two dormers while the front and rear have each five bays and three dormers. The Mississippi Street facade has two small windows, one in the center of the second bay from the front and the other in the center panel between the bays, besides three windows like those in the front. The original casement windows with transoms, on all four facades have been removed and replaced by smaller metal windows, the space remaining above being filled with masonry. The rather recent additions have somewhat marred the original clean, simple lines of the building. The interior has been remodeled for office use and nothing remains of the original post office lobby.

- 101. 202 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1922. The historic "Moving Pictures" building was constructed prior to 1922 as Ruston's first performing arts theater. The masonry building is a tall two story building that originally housed a balcony. At 32' tall, the theater's plaster façade was once the defining feature until the larger Dixie Theater was constructed on the same block in 1928. The plasterwork begins above the glass/door/windows and extends up and over the towering parapet. The plaster has raised detailing that is simple, but certainly decorative enough to give the façade some interesting details.
- 102. 204-06 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1930. Single story commercial style, brick masonry and stucco structure. The building has undergone several renovations with the most recent renovation attempting to restore the historical integrity of the original structure. Although the storefront is not original, the building retains enough of its historical integrity to qualify as a contributing building for the district. The new entries were installed within the historic openings. Above the entries is a simple decorative stucco band and the cornice has a simple metal cap.
- 103. 212 N. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1928. The Dixie Theatre, listed individually on the National Register in 1993. The Dixie Theatre was built in 1928, but assumed its present appearance in a 1937 remodeling. It is a brick building with a stucco façade. The façade features a four bay ground floor, the two outermost used for signage and a nondescript side entrance. The two center openings serve as the main entrance with an area for movie poster display in between. Above the ground floor is a projecting awning and a large marquee with "Dixie" on it. Flanking each side of the marquee is a decorative stucco frame and an eagle with wings unfurled sits above the marquee. The cornice has a decorative shape to it creating a three part design. The two sides have a low pitch point to them with the center being arched with some stepped detailing. A circle sits at the apex of the cornice.
- 104. 94 S. Vienna Street, Non-Contributing:** Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.
- 105. 101 S. Vienna Street, Contributing:** Circa 1920. Single story brick masonry commercial row building, no stylistic features.
- 106. 209 N. Bonner Street, Non-Contributing:** Circa 1985. Non-contributing building. This building was constructed in 1985, outside the period of significance for the district and is non-contributing.
- 107. Kansas City Southern Railroad Depot, Contributing:** c. 1950; this depot was built between 1922 and 1966 and based on the window style used, 2/2 horizontal pane wood windows, the

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

building construction date is c. 1950. The building is cinder block construction and has a loading dock at each end of the W. Railroad Ave elevation with an entrance situated closer to the left hand loading bay. There is a single 2/2 window to the left of the door and three to the right. This section of the building was labeled "express office" on the 1966 Sanborn while the right section was labeled as the "passenger station." On the west and east ends, there is another large garage bay. On the elevation facing W. Park Ave, there are three entry doors, two situated at the west end near the express office space with three 2/2 windows. A small central projection has two 2/2 windows. The third door is located to the left of this projection and another large bay is located at the far left. As this building was in place during the period of significance and retains many of its historic features, it is contributing.

108. 307 N. Trenton Street, Contributing: Circa 1940. This building does not appear on the 1922 Sanborn map, but is clearly visible on the 1966 Sanborn map (listed as offices). Based on the architectural details and design, it is like this building was constructed between 1930 and 1940. It was in place during the period of significance for the district. It is a single story Colonial Revival cottage with a central arched recessed entryway. The entryway has a front facing gable roof and a keystone at the top of the arch. It is flanked on each side by an eight over eight double hung window with applied shutters. The entire building is red brick. The rest of the main roof is a side gable with an intersecting front gable making up the rear section of the building. While simply detailed, the features that are on the building are clearly Colonial Revival. During the period of significance, this building was used for commercial purposes and is thus considered contributing to the district.

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.)

x	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:

	A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	B	Removed from its original location
	C	A birthplace or grave
	D	A cemetery
	E	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	F	A commemorative property

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

G	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.): Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance: 1890-1966

Significant Dates: N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name): Taylor, James Knox; Neild and Somdal

Period of Significance (justification): These dates cover the earliest date of buildings constructed and through 1966, the 50 year cutoff.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and entertainment/recreation because it was the commercial and entertainment center of the city and surrounding areas. The downtown are provided goods, services, and entertainment to the city of Ruston and the surrounding rural region. The approximately eight block grouping contained all essential retail, entertainment, governmental, and transportation related uses within walking distance. The proposed period of significance is 1890-1966. The dates for period of significance were chosen because construction of some of the earliest buildings in the district began in the late 1890's marking the beginning of the district's emergence. With the closing and relocation of the post office to the suburbs and the development of the I-20 Corridor in the mid 1960's, the downtown historic district began to lose its dominance as the commercial center for the region, and thus marks the ending of the period of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Ruston Historic Background

Following the Civil War, the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad began running east and west across north Louisiana. Robert E. Russ donated 640 acres for the building of a new town. "Russ's Town," later called Ruston, was incorporated in 1884 and became the seat of Lincoln Parish, which had been founded in 1873. Space was created for schools, a courthouse, a cemetery, and residential lots. Cotton farming fueled the economy as it did in much of north Louisiana and in 1900, a second railroad was built in Ruston.³

³ Edwin Adams Davis. *Louisiana: A Narrative History*: Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1971: pg.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

Ruston continued to grow steadily with the help of the local university, founded as Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1895, now Louisiana Tech University, which brought new families to Ruston.⁴ Following World War II, when thousands of soldiers and civilians and their families were relocated to the area to serve at the nearby forts and camps, the population continued to grow. The GI bill after the war also helped to send many veterans to school at LA Tech, further increasing the Ruston area's population.

By the late 1950's, it was decided that a new interstate highway was to be built that would run through the northern edge of the city to protect the downtown core center. Completed by the early 1970's, this highway, Interstate 20, made Ruston even more accessible. Ruston has since added a regional airport to serve existing business and industry. The universities have achieved unparalleled success in many fields and downtown continues to offer people a variety of retail shops and fine eateries. As a result, Ruston now stands poised for future growth and prosperity.

As Robert E. Russ envisioned, it is a place for friends and neighbors. True to his dream, the city continues to open its doors to those looking for a healthy business environment, an opportunity to receive a quality education and a great place to raise a family.

Criterion A: Commerce and Entertainment/Recreation: Ruston as a Center of Commerce in Lincoln Parish

The proposed district is locally significant under Criterion A because the approximately eight block area was the center of commerce, entertainment, and activity for residents of Ruston and the surrounding region until the mid-1960's and the development of the I-20 Corridor. The buildings located in downtown Ruston related directly to the town's growth first from the railroad, Louisiana Tech University, and later, from the influx in population around and after World War II.

The district included a number of functions that were essential to daily life including entertainment, media, professional offices, shopping, and transportation. Entertainment venues included the Dixie Theater (Building No. 103), the Moving Pictures Building (Building No. 101), and the Ruston USO (Building No. 76).

These venues were not only entertainment venues for city residents, but also drew visitors from surrounding communities. These theaters are reminders of theatre going and the role they played in the lives of people in the Ruston area. Older residents remember the Dixie as the place to go. An employee during the period of significance recalls that the Dixie "was the main attraction for the citizens of Ruston and was well attended."⁵ The Saturday night late show was "the big event of the week." This was especially important to students of nearby Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (now Louisiana Tech) who were only allowed off campus on weekends. There were no movies on campus at the time, and thus, the Moving Pictures Building and then the Dixie provided students

295.

⁴ Ibid, pg. 310.

⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Dixie Theatre, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, National Register #19931014.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

with important entertainment opportunities. All in all, the theatres occupied an important niche in the lives of area citizens.

Additionally the district served as the center of transportation for the region moving both goods and people. For example, the freight depot and train station for the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad (Inventory Site No. 39) and the Continental Railways Bus Station (Building No. 58) are both located within the district.

Other professional and civic uses included the Post Office (Building No. 100), the Lincoln Parish Courthouse (Building No. 60), a hotel (Building No. 49), Ruston State Bank (Building No. 65), and the former Rexall Drug Store (Building No. 38). The district also included the region's media outlets. For example, the Ruston Daily Leader Newspaper (Building No. 50) and KRVS Radio Station (Building No. 51) were both located within the district.

The district was the center of retail and professional services for the region and included numerous office buildings and retail outlets. Rogers Furniture Store (Building No. 67), automotive dealerships (Building No. 53), department stores (Building No. 41), and freestanding office buildings (Building No. 22) were all located within the district.

This area of Ruston was vitally important during the period of significance as the commercial and entertainment center of the city and for the surrounding area. It provided places for residents to shop, bank, access professional services, served as a transportation hub, and offered entertainment at theaters, movie houses, and other recreational buildings. The proposed district continued to be the center of commerce for the region until the mid-1960's. With the development of the I-20 Corridor, economic resources and development activity shifted away from downtown towards the periphery. Symbolically, the US Post Office building was relocated to the periphery in 1963, illustrating the shift of the district's regional dominance. Today, the downtown district is once again thriving due to efforts of the city administration and through partnerships with Louisiana Main Street and the Louisiana Department of Historic Preservation.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

<h3>9. Major Bibliographical Resources</h3>
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Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Certified Sanborn Map Report. Environmental Data Resources, Inc. 1966 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ruston, Louisiana; December 7, 2011.

Davis, Edwin Adams. *Louisiana: A Narrative History*. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1971

Dixie Center for the Arts website. <http://dixiecenter.org/about-us/>. Accessed August 8, 2016.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

Fricker, Jonathan. *Louisiana Architecture: A Handbook on Styles*. Lafayette: University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, 1998.

“Good Things Come in Small Packages.” Ruston, LA.

Hays, M.S. *Sketches of Old Ruston*: Ruston, 1976.

Lincoln Parish Assessor. Lincoln Parish GIS. Ruston, 2011.

<http://arcgis.lincolnparrish.org/gisviewer/index.html>. Accessed September 4, 2016.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

National Register of Historic Places, Dixie Theatre, Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, National Register #19931014.

Ruston Daily Leader, various dates, 1928-80, excerpts in National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

“Ruston, Louisiana, 1884” (Brochure) – Published for Ruston’s Diamond Jubilee 1959, City of Ruston website. <http://www.ruston.org/history.php>. Accessed August 10, 2016.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana. (1922) Sanborn Map Company, Jun. [Map]. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03394_007.

Tipton Associates. “Core District Historic Building Survey.” Ruston, LA, 2012.

Written statements from various individuals regarding the Dixie Theater, National Register file, Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Lincoln Parish, LA
County and State

- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: 32 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.531180 | Longitude: -92.640446 |
| 2. Latitude: 32.531172 | Longitude: -92.639199 |
| 3. Latitude: 32.530421 | Longitude: -92.637937 |
| 4. Latitude: 32.530421 | Longitude: -92.636751 |
| 5. Latitude: 32.528024 | Longitude: -92.636751 |
| 6. Latitude: 32.528024 | Longitude: -92.638130 |
| 7. Latitude: 32.526644 | Longitude: -92.638130 |
| 8. Latitude: 32.526644 | Longitude: -92.639459 |
| 9. Latitude: 32.527582 | Longitude: -92.639459 |
| 10. Latitude: 32.527582 | Longitude: -92.640909 |
| 11. Latitude: 32.528656 | Longitude: -92.640739 |
| 12. Latitude: 32.529689 | Longitude: -92.640442 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see the district boundaries on the included map. The district boundaries begin on N Monroe Street beginning at the half block of W Georgia Avenue and W Alabama Avenue running south to W Louisiana Avenue; W Louisiana Avenue east to S Trenton Street; south on S Trenton Street to W Texas Avenue; west on W Texas Avenue to S Vienna Street; north on S Vienna Street to E Railroad Avenue; east on E Railroad Avenue to S Bonner Street; north on S Bonner Street to E Alabama Avenue; west on E Alabama Avenue to N Vienna Street; north on N Vienna Street to the half block of E Alabama Avenue and W Georgia Avenue (along the property line of resource #108) and running west to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries were selected to include the highest concentration of historic commercial buildings in downtown Ruston. The boundaries were adjusted somewhat to exclude stand-alone buildings that were non-contributing to the district as well as large vacant lots and parking lots.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kristi Lumpkin, Economic Development Administrator

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

organization: City of Ruston
street & number: 401 N. Trenton St
city or town: Ruston state: LA zip code:71270
e-mail: klumpkin@ruston.org
telephone: 318-251-8643
date: September, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ruston Historic District
City or Vicinity: Ruston
County: Lincoln Parish
State: Louisiana
Name of Photographer: Kristi Lumpkin
Date of Photographs: September 28, 2016

- 1 of 34: View of 200 block of W Alabama Avenue; camera facing southeast.
- 2 of 34: View of 200 block of W Alabama Avenue; camera facing west.
- 3 of 34: View of 100 block of W Alabama Avenue; camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 34: View of 100 block of W Alabama Avenue; camera facing west.
- 5 of 34: View of 100 block of E Alabama Avenue; camera facing west.
- 6 of 34: View of 100 block of N Bonner Street; camera facing south.
- 7 of 34: View of 200 block of W Mississippi Avenue; camera facing southeast.
- 8 of 34: View of 200 block of W Mississippi Avenue; camera facing west.
- 9 of 34: View of 100 block of E Mississippi Avenue; camera facing southeast.
- 10 of 34: View of 100 block of E Mississippi Avenue; camera facing west.
- 11 of 34: View of 100 block of E Mississippi Avenue; camera facing west.
- 12 of 34: View of KCS Railroad Depot; camera facing southeast.
- 13 of 34: View of 200 block of W Park Avenue; camera facing east.

Downtown Ruston Commercial Historic District

Lincoln Parish, LA

Name of Property

County and State

- 14 of 34: View of 100 block of W Park Avenue; camera facing northwest.
- 15 of 34: View of 100 block of E Park Avenue; camera facing northwest.
- 16 of 34: View of 100 block of W Railroad Avenue; camera facing east.
- 17 of 34: View of 100 block of W Railroad Avenue; camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 34: View of Lincoln Parish Courthouse; camera facing north.
- 19 of 34: View of 300 block of N Trenton Street; camera facing south.
- 20 of 34: View of 200 block of N Trenton Street; camera facing southeast.
- 21 of 34: View of 200 block of N Trenton Street; camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 34: View of 100 block of N Trenton Street; camera facing southwest.
- 23 of 34: View of Railroad Park; camera facing northeast.
- 24 of 34: View of 100 block of S Trenton Street; camera facing southwest.
- 25 of 34: View of 100 block of S Trenton Street; camera facing southeast.
- 26 of 34: View of 100 block of S Trenton Street; camera facing northwest.
- 27 of 34: View of 100 block of S Trenton Street; camera facing northeast.
- 28 of 34: View of 90 block of S Vienna Street; camera facing southeast.
- 29 of 34: View of Sexton Parking Lot between E. Railroad Ave and E. Park Ave; camera facing northeast.
- 30 of 34: View of 100 block of N Vienna Street; camera facing northwest.
- 31 of 34: View of 100 block of N Vienna Street; camera facing southeast.
- 32 of 34: View of 201 N Vienna Street; camera facing northwest.
- 33 of 34: View of 200 block of N Vienna Street; camera facing northeast.
- 34 of 34: View of 200 block of N Vienna Street; camera facing southeast.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.