United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name South Main Street Commercial Historic District

other names/site number PU0997, PU3084, PU3507, PU3508, PU3509, PU3510, PU3511, PU3512, PU3513, PU3514, PU3515, PU3516, PU3517, PU3518, PU3519, PU3521, PU3522, PU3523, PU3524, PU3526, PU3527, PU3528, PU3529, PU3530, PU9874, PU9875, PU9889

2. Location

street & number South Main Street from 12th Street to 17th Street

not for publication

city or town Little Rock

does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72206

does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally: , state: , locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Signature of certifying official/Title
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)</th>
<th>Category of Property (Check only one box)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)</th>
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<td>☑ building(s)</td>
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<td>☐ district</td>
<td>noncontributing buildings</td>
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<td>☑ public-State</td>
<td>☐ site</td>
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<td>☑ public-Federal</td>
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<td>total</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
- VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
- AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Commercial style,
- Bungalow/Craftsman MODERN MOVEMENT/Art
- Deco LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
- REVIVALS Classical Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival
- OTHER

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Concrete, Brick
- walls Brick, Stucco, Novelty Siding, Weatherboard
- concrete block, Cast Concrete
- roof Tar built up, composite shingles
- other

**Narrative Description**

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

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

☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Primary location of additional data:
☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository:
South Main Street Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.129

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

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward Salo, Senior Architectural Historian
organization Brockington and Associates, Inc.
street & number 1054 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Suite F
city or town Mt. Pleasant
state SC
date 11 January 2007
telephone 843.881.3128

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name
street & number
City or town
State
Zip code
Telephone

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.
SUMMARY
The South Main Street Commercial Historic District is located south of the main downtown part of Little Rock, Arkansas. The city is the capital of Arkansas as well as the county seat for Pulaski County. Two buildings within the district boundaries have been previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lincoln Building (PU3519, listed on 10 June 1975) and the First Hotze House (PU3084) are both located in the southern part of the district. There are a total of 27 resources within the boundaries of this district. Of these resources, 52 percent (14 resources total) maintain a high level of integrity and contribute to the district or are already listed. There are 13 resources, representing 48 percent of the overall district, that are non-contributing. The period of significance for this district is 1905 to 1950; this represents the period of construction for the commercial buildings in the district. The South Main Street Commercial Historic District is a strong collection of early-twentieth-century commercial buildings that are associated with the development of this suburb of Little Rock.

ELABORATION
Pre-1905
There is only one building—the First Hotze House (PU3084)—constructed in the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District that remains from the years before 1905. The house is a small-scale example of Italianate architectural style and a fine example of the style in Arkansas. A successful cotton broker and businessman based in Little Rock and New York City, Peter Hotze built the cottage when he first arrived in Little Rock in the 1860s. After he became more successful, he constructed the more elaborate Hotze House (NR listed 11 August 1975) at 1619 South Louisiana Street in 1900 for him and his wife, Johanna Kraus, and helped finance the 1908 Beaux-Arts Arkansas Gazette Building (NR listed 22 October 1976) in downtown Little Rock. The First Hotze House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. At the time of its construction, it was in a rural area and Main Street had not yet been paved. It had a detached kitchen that was reconstructed in 2005 to match the footprint (PU3084A).
1905-1919
There were only three buildings (11 percent of the overall district) constructed in the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District that remain from the years between 1905 and 1919. The Lincoln Building (PU3519), on the northeast corner of 15th and South Main streets, dates from 1905. The two-story, red-brick commercial building was designed in the Neoclassical style that was popular with commercial buildings around the turn of the century. The first floor was retail space and the second floor served as residential space. Five years later, another two-story commercial building was constructed north of the Lincoln Building. The commercial building at 1417 South Main Street (PU3518) continued the architectural style patterns established by the Lincoln Building. The final surviving building from this early period is the Cohn Building (PU3508) at the southwest corner of 12th and South Main streets. Constructed circa 1911, this two-story, brick commercial building has arched second-floor window surrounds and dentiled cornice features. The 1913 Sanborn maps show a variety of businesses in these buildings, illustrating the diversity of economic activity in the area.

1920-1929
There were eight buildings (30 percent of the overall district) constructed in the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District that remain from the years between 1920 and 1929. The collection of commercial buildings at the 1300-1316 block of South Main Street are typical of the two-story, brick commercial buildings from the time period; however, several of them also have secondary architectural characteristics that make them unique. For example, the Oaklawn Dairy Building (PU3512) has Spanish influences as exemplified in the stucco wall material, arched grouping of windows, a three-story tower on the rear, and a tiled parapet. The Metrailer Building (PU3514) and 1314 South Main Street (PU3515) also have Craftsman-style influences. Finally, the Korsdmeier/Jung Building (PU3516) has Greek Revival influences,

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including its windows and entablature. The Kupferle Building (PU3511) at 1220-1224 South Main Street is a one-story, brick commercial building with Art Deco cast-concrete fluted pilasters. The Imperial Laundry Building (PU3521) at 1501 South Main Street also is a one-story, brick commercial building with some Craftsman detail in stone inserts in the brickwork. The Jones Cleaners Building (PU0997) is the largest departure from the twentieth-century commercial style. This one-story, brick building has heavy Craftsman and English Revival-style influences. The 1930 Sanborn maps show several types of businesses in these buildings, illustrating the growing specialization in the economic activity of the area. For example, several dairy-related businesses and laundries are in the area.

1930-1939
There were only three buildings (11 percent of the overall district) constructed in the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District that remain from the years between 1930 and 1939. These buildings still reflect elements of the twentieth-century standard commercial style; however, unlike the previous buildings, these three buildings lacked any of the secondary style elements. The Samuelson Building (PU3523) and the Safeway Grocery Store (PU3517) are both one-story, brick commercial buildings. Their facades were altered during the 1950s with new windows and veneers. The Madison Cadillac Building (PU3507) was an early-twentieth-century commercial building used for automobile sales; however, it was remodeled in the 1970s and no longer retains its integrity.

1940-1945
There were only five buildings (19 percent of the overall district) constructed in the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District that remain from the years between 1940 and 1945. These buildings still reflect elements of the twentieth-century standard commercial style; however, there is some Art Deco detailing as well. The Munson Price Company Building (PU3528) is a one-story, cast-concrete commercial building with Art Deco horizontal reveals, vertical reveals in the frieze, and glass blocks on the Main Street elevation. The commercial building (PU3529) next door to the Munson Price Company Building is a one-story building
with novelty siding and a plate-glass storefront. The three other commercial buildings from this time period (PU3509, PU3510, and PU3524) are one-story buildings that have been altered and no longer retain their integrity.

1946-Present
Eight buildings, representing 29 percent of the overall district, have been constructed within the boundaries of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District since 1946. These are primarily mid- to late-twentieth-century commercial-style buildings that range from franchise style (PU9875 and PU9889) to typical 1960s suburban strip-mall design (PU9874).

INTEGRITY
With 52 percent of the resources contributing or already listed, the integrity of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District has a strong visual connection to its period of significance. Interruptions in this district can be directly related to infill. Although the ratio of contributing and non-contributing buildings is close, the district is still able to convey its significance. The non-contributing buildings are mainly concentrated near the southern end of the district and largely constitute infill built after the period of significance. As a result, there is still a large concentration of historic buildings, especially near the northern end of the district, that is able to convey the district’s architectural significance. The district is also able to convey its associations with the development of Little Rock because the buildings in the district do date from a wide range of periods, which illustrates the area’s development throughout the twentieth century.

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<td>PU3507</td>
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<td>1210 South Main St.</td>
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### National Register of Historic Places

#### Continuation Sheet

**Section number** 7  **Page** 5

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<td>Holt, Paul Filling Station</td>
<td>1520 South Main St.</td>
<td>plain traditional</td>
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<td>Munson Price Company Building</td>
<td>1600 South Main St.</td>
<td>Art Deco</td>
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## National Register of Historic Places
### Continuation Sheet

**Section number** 7  **Page** 6

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SUMMARY
The South Main Street Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of Little Rock and Criterion C for its assortment and quality of twentieth-century commercial structures. The district is being nominated with local significance. South Main Street Commercial Historic District represents the development of the city through the 1940s. Its period of significance spans the years from 1905 to 1950.

ELABORATION
From the founding of Little Rock in the 1820s, Main Street has served as one of the city’s primary commercial centers. The site of Little Rock was established because it was the center of the Arkansas territory, and it was near two important transportation routes, the Arkansas River and the Southwest Trail. In the 1830s, because it was the territorial capital, Little Rock grew in importance and in size. When the U.S. Congress admitted Arkansas as a state in 1836, Little Rock was a large frontier town. It was not until the 1850s that Little Rock obtained many of the trappings of modern cities. A railroad from Memphis, Tennessee, to Little Rock provided linkage to the growing transportation network of the East. A college was established in town. Gas lighting and a telegraph line were also introduced. The Civil War and its aftermath slowed Little Rock’s growth for a time, like many other Southern cities; however, this decline was reversed by the postwar boom of the late 1800s.

After the Civil War, Little Rock had a population of 4,000 persons, but that would soon change as the city went through dramatic changes in the late 1800s. It was at this time that Little Rock experienced its first building boom. In the 1860s, Main Street south of Tenth Street was a dirt road. Fred Hotze described the area as being very rural, where farmers camped on his property and Main Street was “a dim road alongside of which ran a little rail or path where people walked.

while numerous tree stumps in the middle of the street made wagon transportation rough."

3 After the Civil War, the influx of Northern capital resulted in the expansion of the railroad, allowing for the development of Little Rock along Main Street rather than its traditional growth along the river.4 By the late 1800s, Main Street had a collection of two- to three-story, brick commercial buildings and was losing its rural feel.

In the early years, the area around South Main Street originally was a residential area for several important individuals in the city. For example, Colonel William Davidson constructed a home at 1500 South Main Street for $20,000, and it was “one of the best constructed and most palatial homes in the city.”5 Additionally, Peter Hotze, who had settled in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, in 1856 and entered into the general merchandise business, purchased the plans for a cottage from Memphis architect M. H. Baldwin for $35 and built the 2,000-square-foot house on Block 166 at the southern edge of the original city of Little Rock.6 Also, the map Bird's eye view of the city of Little Rock, the capitol of Arkansas 1871 shows a few residences in the area, although overall it is not very developed.7

The turn of the twentieth century saw the continued expansion of Little Rock and the growth of the South Main Street area. The Perspective map of the city of Little Rock, Ark., State capital of Arkansas, county seat of Pulaski County of 1887 shows some commercial development between

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3 Arkansas Gazette, 7 November 1931.


5 Arkansas Gazette, 25 June 1928.


7 A. Ruger, Bird's eye view of the city of Little Rock, the capitol of Arkansas 1871. Library of Congress. Ruger Map Collection, no. 2.
12th and 14th streets, but the remainder of the area is residential. By the end of the nineteenth century, the commercial district along Main Street only extended to approximately Tenth Street. The Little Rock Board of Trade’s Eighteenth Annual Report of 1 April 1907 stated that “the Year of 1906 was the Most Prosperous in the History of Little Rock,” and among the improvements of 1906 was the construction of the Lincoln Building at Main and Fifteenth.

Several other commercial buildings were constructed along South Main Street. While larger “skyscrapers” like the State Bank building were being built in the downtown area, the commercial development along South Main Street retained the typical nineteenth-century commercial building style. These were one to three stories, with an iron frame and brick veneer. Most had some sort of stylistic detailing. By the late 1920s, several of the large homes in the commercial area were being torn down to make room for commercial construction.

In addition to the commercial buildings, residential buildings in the area also changed primary functions during this time. For example, after Peter and Johanna Hotze moved to New York, the First Hotze House became a rented residence and continued as such until about 1932; the last tenant was Albert Haynes, the local U.S. Army recruiter. During the Great Depression, Mrs. Mary Dodge Hodges, a local schoolteacher, used the house as her private school. She converted the four main rooms into classrooms for kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. Hodges continued to operate the Mary Dodge School for about 10 years until World War II. Because of rationing, many parents took their children out of private schools to attend neighborhood schools within walking distance, and Hodges had to close her school on Main Street. For approximately

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9 Little Rock Board of Trade, *Eighteenth Annual Report, April 1, 1907* (Little Rock: Democrat Printing and Lithographing Co., 1907), 104.

10 *Arkansas Gazette*, 25 June 1928.
the next 25 years, the Ouachita Council of the Girl Scouts used the house as their headquarters. In 1968, a new Girl Scout headquarters building was constructed on West 29th Street in North Little Rock. After the Girl Scouts vacated the First Hotze House, it was used for many businesses, including the Charles House of Beauty Salon, a daycare center, and the Pettit paint stripping shop. The property remained vacant for about 14 years immediately prior to its 2001-2002 restoration.\footnote{Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, “First Hotze House,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. 2006.}

Sanborn maps and city directories from the 1930s and 1940s show that most of the establishments along South Main Street were small businesses that provided services to nearby residences. They included bakeries, dairies, laundries, etc. Ralph Henson, owner of the Community Bakery at 1318 South Main Street, moved his bakery from North Little Rock to Main Street in 1952. He said that at that time the “business block resembled a present day shopping center. The block included a furniture shop, shoe shop, cleaning plant, barber shop, liquor store, grocery-market (Krogers) and the struggling Snell Artificial Limb and Brace Company.”\footnote{“Baker Reminisces About Main Street,” \textit{Quapaw Quarterly Chronicle}. On file at the South Main Street Office, Little Rock. No date.}

During the post-World War II economic boom and the resulting creation of large suburbs separated from the core of the city, the commercial area along South Main Street began to decline. Several of the businesses gradually closed and were replaced or left abandoned. Also, infill such as the construction of gas stations and chain restaurants resulted in the removal of historic buildings.

The 1980s brought an infamous event to the South Main Street Commercial Historic District. In 1984, Jim and Susan McDougal renovated the Imperial Laundry Building (PU3521) as the...
headquarters for the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. They saw it as an opportunity to provide loans and financial services to the area. However, Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan also made loans to then Governor Bill Clinton for the failed Whitewater deals that would be prominent during the late 1990s Clinton impeachment.13

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
The South Main Street Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of Little Rock and Criterion C for its assortment and quality of twentieth-century commercial structures. The district is being nominated with local significance. South Main Street Commercial Historic District represents the development of the city through the 1940s. Its period of significance spans the years from 1905 to 1950.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Little Rock Board of Trade. Eighteenth Annual Report, April 1, 1907. Little Rock: Democrat Printing and Lithographing Co., 1907.


Ruger, A. Bird’s eye view of the city of Little Rock, the capitol of Arkansas 1871. Library of Congress. Ruger Map Collection, no. 2. Available at www.loc.gov.
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The district is bordered on the north by 12th Street and runs south including the lots on the west side of South Main Street until 14th Street. Then the district includes the lots facing South Main Street on the east and west side of the street until 17th Street, which is the southern border.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
This boundary was drawn to include properties in the historic South Main Street commercial area with the greatest density of structures maintaining a high level of historic integrity.
PHOTOGRAPHS

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Cohn Building, 1200 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 1

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
1214-1218 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 2

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Kupferle Building, 1220-1224 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 3

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
1300 block of South Main Street, looking southwest
Photograph 4
South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
1304, 1308, and 1314 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 5

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
1300 block South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 6

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Lincoln Building, 1419 South Main Street, looking northeast
Photograph 7

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
1417 South Main Street, looking east
Photograph 8
South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Imperial Laundry Building, 1501 South Main Street, looking northeast
Photograph 9

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Cash Oil Co. Service Station, 1623 South Main Street, looking east
Photograph 10

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
Munson Price Company Building, 1600 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 11

South Main Street Commercial Historic District
Pulaski County, Arkansas
Edward Salo, Brockington and Associates, Inc.
December 2006
AHPP, Little Rock, Arkansas
First Hotze House, 1620 South Main Street, looking west
Photograph 12
Figure 3. Map showing contributing and non-contributing resources.
Figure 1. The location of the South Main Street Commercial Historic District on the quadrangle.
Figure 2. Aerial showing resources and the location and direction of photographs.