

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

102



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Marine Commercial Historic District

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: The Mercado

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly defined by North Main St. between North Side Dr. and North 14th St.

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Worth

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Tarrant

CODE: 439

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 76106

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 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Handwritten Signature]

12-20-00

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beal

Date of Action
2/9/01

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PRIVATE; PUBLIC-LOCAL

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: DISTRICT

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	23	3 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	2	1 STRUCTURES
	0	1 OBJECTS
	25	5 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/TRADE/department store, specialty store, restaurant, professional, warehouse; DOMESTIC/single dwelling, multiple dwelling, hotel; SOCIAL/clubhouse; RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/processing site, energy facility; HEALTH CARE/medical business/office

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE/TRADE/ specialty store, restaurant, organizational, warehouse; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/processing site, waterworks; VACANT/NOT IN USE; WORK IN PROGRESS

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style; LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival; MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne; NO STYLE

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK; CONCRETE; STUCCO; METAL
ROOF CERAMIC TILE; ASPHALT
OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-16).

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Marine Commercial Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

The Marine Commercial Historic District is located on North Main Street, a major city thoroughfare extending between the Tarrant County Courthouse (NR 1970) and the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (NR 1976) in Fort Worth, Texas. The linear district encompasses both sides of the 1300 and 1400 blocks of North Main and a portion of the alleys located behind these blocks. The majority of the resources in the district are one- and two-story commercial buildings constructed of brick. Erected primarily between 1906 and 1946, the architectural styles of the buildings are representative of designs that were popular for small commercial buildings during the first half of the twentieth century. The district also contains a small number of historic industrial structures associated with a large laundry and dry cleaners business. The district includes twenty-five contributing and five noncontributing resources within its boundaries. The majority of the contributing resources retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship from the district's period of significance.

The Marine Commercial Historic District is located along two blocks of North Main Street between North Side Drive and North 14th Street. Essentially linear in form, the two-block district is oriented to the roadway, with the majority of the buildings facing the street. Midway between these two streets is Central Avenue. Ellis Avenue enters the intersection of North Main and Central at an angle from the northwest. The southern portion of the west side of the 1300 block of North Main was sheared off in the original street plan to funnel merging traffic from Ellis Avenue into North Main (see figure 7-1). This angular direction created the wedge-shaped block (Block H) on the west side of the 1400 block of North Main. The City of Fort Worth has since created a small traffic island on the south side of Central Avenue as a safety precaution to separate the southbound traffic on North Main Street from the merging traffic on Ellis Avenue

The district is flanked on the east and west by modest residential development dating from the first decades of the twentieth century. To the south is a long stretch of recent and historic commercial and light industrial buildings, as well as used car lots, open spaces, and vacant lots. The southern portion of each side of the 1300 block have been cut out of the district because of the existence of a large parking lot on the west side and two noncontributing buildings and a parking lot on the east. Immediately northeast of the district is a large paved parking lot that was originally the site of an early public school. Northwest of the district is an early commercial strip and several altered historic buildings.

The irregular shape of the blocks in the district is in account of Nathan Barrett's 1888 plan for North Fort Worth. His plan featured a grand boulevard (North Main Street) aligned with the Tarrant County Courthouse, creating a bold axis 20 degrees off from a true north-south orientation. Intersecting this axis is a grid of east-west streets oriented toward the same skewed degree. The design of this street pattern influenced the shape of several buildings in the district. For example, the building at 1342-1344 North Main reveals an angular wall on its north elevation. However, as the building is oriented to Central Avenue, the irregular footprint is not noticeable from North Main. Another building at 1404-1406 North Main features an angled wall along its south elevation that is only visible from the alley. The building at 1421 North Main Street is situated at the lower tip of the wedge-shaped Block H, giving this structure a T-shaped footprint.

The district is composed primarily of one- and two-story brick and concrete block commercial buildings and one building sheathed with metal panels. Built in the Commercial, Moderne, and Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival styles, they are representative of popular architectural styles used for small commercial buildings during the first half of the twentieth century (see photograph 1). The earliest extant buildings in the district, dating from c.1906 to the 1920s, were

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pedestrian oriented and situated close to the street. The buildings were typically as wide as the lot, and often nearly as long as the lot, stretching back to the alley. The storefronts consisted of large windows surmounted by transoms and the entrances were typically slightly recessed. Examples of these buildings are found on the east side of the 1400 block of North Main. As the decades progressed, new construction accommodated the increasing popularity of the automobile by placing buildings back from the street to allow for parking in front of the store. An example of this is the former Mitchell Tire Company building at 1319 North Main Street. A separate gas station at 1445 North Main was sited at an angle of a street corner to allow for easier passage of cars entering and exiting the street.

In 1998, the City of Fort Worth dedicated the Mercado walk along the alley of Block 58, which runs on the east side of the 1400 block of North Main Street. The alley was paved with stone and a stucco, wood, and a wrought iron wall was erected on the east side of the alley. This walk was created as a tribute to Fort Worth's sister city, Toluca, Mexico, and as part of an effort to revitalize the district as a Hispanic market. Because it is of such recent construction, the walk has been excluded from the boundaries of the historic district.

Within the boundaries of the district are twenty-three buildings and two structures that are contributing and three buildings, one structure, and one object that are noncontributing (see figure 7-1). Contributing resources are properties that contribute to the district's historic character and have retained their overall integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Changes in the composition and materials of a storefront did not necessarily make a building noncontributing, due to the fact that these changes may have occurred during the period of significance and do not alter the overall historic design of the building. Other minor changes that do not detract from a building's integrity include the boarding over and/or brick infill of original storefronts, transoms, and upper story windows. Noncontributing resources are properties that have been severely altered or constructed after the period of significance. Examples of noncontributing resources include the buildings at 1338-1340 and 1446 North Main, which were constructed after the period of significance.

Methodology

The Marine Commercial Historic District was identified as being potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the *Tarrant County Historic Resource Survey of the Near North Side* published in 1988. The district was cited for its architectural qualities and for its associations with the historic community of Marine. However, the identified district only included the east side of the 1300 and 1400 blocks of North Main Street. In 1999, the City of Fort Worth's Certified Local Government Program received a grant from the Texas Historical Commission to assist with the preparation of a nomination for the district. The nomination was to include both sides of the street to take into account the continued development of the district through the first half of the twentieth century and to encompass additional resources that represent the changing architectural trends of that period.

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The following properties illustrate significant trends in the development of the Marine Commercial Historic District. Names printed in bold are the historic names of the buildings or occupants. The unbolded names are the current occupants. Two properties in the district are considered to be individually eligible for the National Register. They are the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners complex (properties # 4-8) and the Roseland/Rose/Marine Theater (property #21).

Contributing Resources

1300 Block North Main Street, east side

1. **1324-1328 North Main Street.** c. 1903; altered c. 1938. Mulholland Company. Moderne influence.

Early Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that the northern portion of this building originally contained three stories. Alterations made in c.1938 removed the third floor and renovated the facade to its present appearance. The two-story, brick building reveals little ornamentation except for the use of brick headers and stretchers to frame window openings (see photograph 2). The brick has been painted gray with a wide maroon stripe along the parapet. The second story presents four large window openings that have been infilled with three nonoriginal 12/4 metal windows with tinted glass and false muntins. The transoms are boarded over and the storefronts have been altered. The rear of the building displays segmental arch window openings; the south elevation has been plastered. An asphalt parking lot is located on the south side of the building. A variety of businesses historically occupied this building, including an auto parts store and a photographer. Prior to the c.1938 renovation, the upper stories were listed as the La Belle Apartments.

2. **1332 North Main Street. Greines Furniture Company/Mulholland Company.** c. 1903, alterations; c. 1935. Moderne Style.

This two-story brick building was strongly influenced by the Moderne style with its smooth brick walls and brick banding laid in a stack bond pattern around the second story windows and round windows and stepped back walls around the recessed entrances (see photograph 2). The original buff and ochre brick used for the banding has been painted gray with a maroon stripe below the parapet. The second story features a round window above the north and south entrances. These windows were originally wood-frame, but have been replaced with metal frames with tinted glass. Between these windows are five window openings that originally contained three 2/2 wood hung windows. These openings are now infilled with three 4/4 metal frame units with tinted glass and false muntins. The first floor consists of two recessed entrances below the round windows. At the center of the first floor is another recessed entrance. Flanking the entrance are the storefronts, which have been altered with metal frames and tinted glass. Although altered, the storefronts' configurations are essentially the same as the original design. The rear of the building displays segmental arched window openings. The Greines Furniture Company occupied this location from 1912 to the late 1980s.

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3. 1342-1344 North Main Street (also 1342-1348 North Main/102-104 E. Central) Renfro Drug Store #15/Piggly-Wiggly/Mulholland Company. 1926. Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival.

Constructed on the site of the first business in the Marine community, this three-part, one-story commercial building is situated on a prominent corner location (see photograph 3). The exterior is constructed of a striated polychrome yellow brick and the facade features a center section displaying a shaped parapet ornamented with cast coping and concrete urns. Bare light bulbs are placed horizontally above the transom windows. Asphalt covered shed roofs with boxed eaves flank the shaped parapet. Curved wood brackets support the eaves. The original wood storefronts and transoms have been replaced with a metal design containing tinted glass. The new windows share a similar configuration as the original. An entrance is located at the corner of Central Avenue and another on the east elevation. The north elevation features a shed roof with boxed eaves, brackets, and light bulbs, as well as six rectangular openings filled with nonoriginal metal frame windows of tinted glass. At the east end of this elevation are two storefronts that have been infilled with wood. A small, concrete block addition is attached to the rear. This building historically housed a drug store and later in 1927, Piggly-Wiggly Store No. 821.

1300 Block North Main Street, west side

4-6. 1307-1317 North Main Street. Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners/Marine Garage/Eilenberger's Blacksmith Shop/Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners. 1927/1926/1917. Commercial Style.

Home to the oldest business in the district, this company, founded in 1927, has been operating out of three adjacent one-story brick buildings since 1944 (see photograph 4). The south building (1307-1311) was constructed in 1927 as the original laundry, and is approximately 75 feet long. It features three bays or storefronts that frame multiple-light wood transoms and multiple-light metal awning windows, all of which can be opened provide ventilation. One wood paneled glazed door remains, the others have been replaced with aluminum frame glass doors. Simple brick corbelling highlights the parapet. The south part of this building contains the sales area, while the north two-thirds is the work area and retains its pressed metal ceiling and interior skylights. The next section of the facility (1313-1315) was constructed in 1926 as the Marine Garage and is approximately 25 feet long. Its facade is constructed of striated brick and the parapet, which is not as high as the south building, displays brick corbelling. What was once a garage bay has been filled with a wood paneled door with a fixed transom above it. A frosted glass window is located to the right of the door and is surmounted by a multiple-light wood transom. To the right of the fixed window are three 2/5 wood casement windows. The side and rear walls of this building are constructed of rusticated concrete block. The north portion of the facility was constructed in 1917, and its parapet is the same height as the center section. It, too, features prominent brick corbelling. This building was originally Eilenberger's Blacksmith Shop, and is approximately 50 feet long. It also contains 2/5 wood casement windows and a wood screened door over a glazed wood paneled door. Toward the north end of this section is a French door with a multiple-light transom over three 2/5 casement windows. At the far north end is a large fixed window with a hinged transom above it. On the roofs of all three sections are fan houses that ventilate the interior. An asphalt parking lot, installed in the 1940s, is located on the south side of the building. All three buildings are counted as contributing.

7. Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners Boiler House. 1927; c.1945. No Style.

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Behind the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners, on the west side of the alley, is a one-story, corrugated sheet metal clad boiler house connected to the main laundry buildings by several steam pipes elevated over the alley (see photograph 5). Constructed in 1927, the boiler house was enlarged to its present size sometime before 1945. The original boiler house measured approximately 30' x 38', and had a side gabled roof covered with corrugated metal. The roof of the current structure is topped by a cupola and originally had two metal smokestacks penetrating the roof. One of the smokestacks has been removed. A side-gabled roof, sheet metal addition is attached to the south elevation of the original structure. An automobile shed is attached to the south side of the addition. A small shed roof addition, most likely constructed at the same time as the large south addition, is attached to the east elevation of the original structure. There are few windows and doors on either building. The boiler house is counted as a contributing structure.

8. Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners Warehouse. No date. No Style.

To the west of the water tower is a one-story, front-gabled warehouse clad in corrugated sheet metal and sheltered with a roof of the same material. The west elevation (facing Houston Street) contains a sliding garage door. The south elevation is pierced with four 8/8 metal hung windows. This structure is also associated with the laundry facility and was constructed prior to 1945. It is counted as a contributing structure.

9. 1319 North Main Street. Mitchell Tire Company/American Canvas Awning. 1946. Commercial Style.

A setback of approximately 50 feet allows for parking in front of this one-story rectangular concrete block and flat roof building. The facade features four large fixed windows. At the center are double slab doors. A full-width awning shades the windows and doors. There are no windows or doors on the north elevation. An overhead metal garage door and one entrance access the rear of the building. The south elevation does not abut the adjacent building. A gravel drive north of the building separates it from 1327 North Main. This small commercial building was constructed in 1946 to house the Mitchell Tire Company.

10. 1327 North Main Street. Royal Cleaners and Dyers/Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. 1946. Moderne Style.

This one-story, rectangular plan building is constructed of concrete block with the facade faced with a smooth plaster that has been painted red (see photograph 6). A stepped parapet surmounts the symmetrical facade, which features a centered recessed entrance flanked by curving glass-block walls. The double wood glazed doors are not original. Flanking the entrance are fixed octagonal windows. Glass block windows are situated at each end of the facade. Nonoriginal awnings span the entrance and outer windows. Multiple-light metal windows are located on the north elevation. The rear reveals non original metal doors and two metal windows. Several window and door openings have been infilled with concrete block. A concrete parking lot is situated behind the building and an asphalt parking is located along the north elevation. The first tenants of this building, Royal Cleaners and Dyers, competed with Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners through the period of significance.

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11. 1329 North Main Street. Sinclair Refining Company Station/Good's Grocery. c. 1933. Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style.

Constructed of hollow tile, covered with stucco and highlighted with clay tiles along the parapet, this one-story former gas station reflects the popularity of the Mission/Spanish Colonial Style as applied to a service station. The north half of the building historically contained the office/retail area with a projecting flat roofed canopy supported by two poles over the pump island. The office storefront is altered but retains the original multiple-light transom over the windows. The pump island is still present, however, the original pumps have been removed. To the south of the retail area is a one-car garage bay. The original garage opening has been infilled with a stucco wall and windows but the original opening is clearly discernible. Above the garage bay is a visor roof covered with clay tile. The north elevation features a shaped parapet on the west, with tile coping and a tiled visor roof on the east. A garage opening on this elevation has been infilled. The south elevation contains two window openings that have been infilled; as well as the same tiled visor roof found on the front. A corrugated metal addition is attached to the rear of the building and most likely dates from the late 1970s.

1400 Block North Main Street, east side

12. 1400-1402 North Main Street (also 105 E. Central Avenue). Hickman and Clark Drug Store/Everett and Lipscomb Drugs/Clark's Drug Store/Wynne's Drug Store/Wren's Drug Store/El Rancho Grande Restaurante. 1918. Frank J. Singleton, architect. R.M. Thompson, builder. Commercial Style.

An excellent example of an early twentieth century Commercial Style design, this two-story building is constructed of brown brick revealing iron flecks (see photograph 7). Sited at a prominent corner location, the building is noteworthy for its intricate band of brick corbelling and cast coping along the stepped parapet. The east elevation features four openings with paired 1/1 wood hung windows. Cast stone sills and a cast stone block at each end of the lintel highlight these windows. Non original shutters flank the window openings. The first floor originally contained two storefronts. These have been infilled with rough stucco walls and narrow fixed windows. The south elevation possesses seven window openings on the second floor with details similar to those on the east elevation. At the east end of the first floor of this elevation is a storefront revealing infilled rough stucco walls and two arched window openings. To the west of the storefront are non original paired wood paneled doors. The rear of the building is constructed of a red brick and displays segmental arch window openings. Throughout the period of significance, this building was occupied by a drug store at the storefront at 1400 North Main. A post office substation was also located in the building. For a number of years, 1402 North Main housed the Great A & P Tea Company.

13. 1404-1406 North Main Street. Pritchard Building/Byblos Lebanese Restaurant. c.1906. Commercial Style.

Another early example of the Commercial Style, this two-story brick building features a facade divided into four bays by brick pilasters (see photograph 7). Each bay features a window opening with a cast sill containing nonoriginal paired fixed windows of tinted glass. The second story reveals the same fenestration pattern and is surmounted by brick corbelling. The storefront has been altered with centered double metal and glass doors and two large openings with paired fixed windows of tinted glass. There is a separate entrance at the south end. A canvas awning shelters the storefront. The brick of the facade has been painted light blue. The rear of the building features segmental arch windows,

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some of which have been filled with brick. City directories indicate that the first floor may have been divided into three storefronts (1404, 1404a, and 1406), while the second story was utilized for furnished rooms. Greines Hardware Store occupied 1404 North Main for many years.

14. 1408-1410 North Main Street. Greines Dry Goods/B and L Flowers (1410 North Main). c.1906. Commercial Style.

This red brick, two-story building exhibits a corbeled cornice below the parapet. The second story displays six single window openings with cast sills and 1/1 windows (see photograph 7). The first floor contains two altered storefronts with covered transoms. Each storefront is accessed through double aluminum and glass doors. At the north end is an entrance leading to the second story. A metal awning extends across the storefronts. Beginning in 1912, Greines Dry Goods occupied 1408 and eventually expanded into the entire building. J.S. Greines sold his business to the K. Wolens Department Store Chain in 1945. The second story served as space for professional offices throughout the period of significance.

15. 1412 North Main Street. c.1918. Commercial Style.

This small, Commercial Style building is composed of brick, and with the exception of a band of brick headers forming a line coping along the parapet, displays little architectural detail. At the center of the one-story building is a double door entrance that is currently boarded over. The hexagonal tile of the original flooring is visible below the doors. A concrete step gives access to the entrance. The storefront has been partially infilled with brick, with two narrow fixed windows on either side of the entrance. During the period of significance, 1412 North Main supported a number of businesses, including a barber, a shoe repair shop, and a cleaners and dryers.

16. 1416 North Main Street. Casa Jose. c. 1925. Commercial Style.

The facade of this building is made of striated brick and contains two rehabilitated storefronts housing multiple-light transoms and wood doors. The entrances to the storefront have been made handicap accessible with a low concrete ramp over the original stoop. There are no windows on the north elevation of the building. The rear features a patio area covered with a deck accessible by a metal staircase. The building is currently painted pink. A parking lot is situated along the north side of the building. It is thought that the building was originally divided into two stores, but currently only contains one retail space.

17. 1422 North Main Street. Marine Hotel. c. 1906. Commercial Style with Italianate influence.

The facade's rusticated concrete block makes this building distinctive in the district. The two-story commercial building is composed of formed concrete blocks, an early-twentieth century building technology that employed concrete to replicate brick masonry. The first floor is divided into symmetrical bays, with the storefronts altered and partially infilled with bricks and the transoms covered with metal panels. The second story contains four windows with paired 1/1 windows. The top of the building's facade is outlined with a shaped parapet. Below the parapet is a cast stone cornice with brackets. An entrance on the north end of the south storefront most likely leads to the second floor. The side and

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rear elevations are composed of brick. Historically the second floor operated as a hotel or furnished rooms and the first floor supported a variety of uses including a grocery store and a social club.

18. 1424-1426 North Main Street. S.T. Percy Building. 1909. Commercial Style.

Although this is a two-story building, it is not as tall as its neighbor to the south, and measures only 25 feet in width (see photograph 8). Constructed of brick that has been painted white, the building displays a name block below the parapet that reads "S.T. Percy/1909." The second floor is pierced with two segmental arched window openings containing paired 1/1 windows that are currently boarded over. The storefront is altered but the original metal sill is still intact. The storefronts are partially infilled with concrete block and the transoms boarded over. A segmental arch is located over the south entrance, which is also boarded over. There are two concrete steps leading to each entrance. Multiple entrances are located on the rear of the building. Each entrance is set in a segmental arch, which are boarded over. A parking lot stretches across the north side of the building. Research indicates that this building has been occupied by a saloon, lunch counter, furniture, grocery, drug, and shoe stores and the second story rented as furnished rooms.

19. 1434-1434 A-1434 B North Main Street. Castillo Building. 1946. Commercial Style.

Constructed of concrete block, this two-story building exhibits no distinctive ornamentation (see photograph 9). The second floor contains eight single window openings that have been boarded over. The storefront on the south half is partially infilled with concrete block and presents a wood veneer slab door flanked by fixed wood windows. To the left is an entrance to 1434, and another storefront at 1434 A. The north storefront may be unaltered and displays small transoms above each door. The south elevation features eight single window openings presently boarded over. All of the window openings on the rear of the building are infilled with concrete block and the three door openings are covered with boards. There is a parking lot on the south side of the building. This building historically housed a barbershop, package store, and a bar on the first floor. The second floor functioned as the Castillo Hotel. A photograph from 1952 indicates that the name "Castillo" was painted below the front parapet.

20. 1436 North Main Street. c. 1928. Commercial Style.

Erected in 1928, this one-story building is made of striated red polychrome brick. The building is topped with a cast parapet painted green (see photograph 8). Below the parapet is a simple band of brick corbelling. The centered entrance is flanked by window openings that are partially bricked in and boarded over. The rear of the building is constructed of hollow core tile and brick. During the period of significance, this building housed a confectionery store, barbershop, dominoes room, and a roofing and sheet metal shop. The building is now owned by the City of Fort Worth and will be rehabilitated along with the theater building to the north. Portions of the interior will be used to house restrooms for the theater.

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21. 1438-1440 North Main Street. Roseland Theater/Rose Theater/Marine Theater. c. 1918; 1920. Commercial Style.

The distinctive facade of this building distinguishes it as the only example of its type in the district. Constructed of striated dark red brick, the facade features an enframe block design with a low peaked parapet cornered by end bays, each possessing a rounded arch parapet (see photograph 10). The bays display cast stone and glazed green tile enclosing decorative brickwork and additional cast ornamentation that could be interpreted as a stylized rose. Within each bay are two boarded over window openings. A historic photograph indicates that the upper windows were filled with multiple-light casement windows. The lower windows contain 8/8 hung windows. A nonoriginal rectangular metal marquee extends over the sidewalk. Below the marquee is a recessed area with a projecting ticket booth flanked by double door openings. The ticket booth and doors are currently covered with boards. Egg and dart molding is used on the trim above the doors and on the ticket booth. The floor in front of the ticket booth is covered with white hexagonal tile with "Roseland" spelled out in green tile. The interior features an eight-foot wide lobby flanked by a restroom on the north and a storage room on the south. Above the lobby is the storage area, projection room, and a restroom. The auditorium has a seating capacity of approximately 200. Some of the seating is still extant. Much of the ceiling has collapsed. The City of Fort Worth purchased this building and commissioned the architectural firm of Corgan Associates to rehabilitate the facility for live theater and events. The exterior of the building will be restored to its 1930s Rose Theater appearance.

1400 Block North Main Street, west side

22. 1421 North Main Street. Gulf Station/Gamez Garage. c.1946. Modern Style.

The exterior of this one-story service station is covered with enameled metal panels that have been painted blue (see photograph 11). The flat roofed building is designed on a T-plan with the office/retail area in the leg of the "T" and the two service bays located in the upper arm. Ribbed metal panels trace the parapet and also divide the office area from the garage, contributing to the modern feel of this building. The service station faces south with the office area oriented toward the narrowest portion of this wedge-shaped block. The pump island is located to the south of the office and is covered with a flat roofed canopy. The original pumps have been removed. Behind the building is an enclosed area surrounded by a concrete block, chain link, and wood picket fence.

23-24. 1441 North Main Street. Garcia Tire Company and Auto Sales. c.1942. No Distinctive Style.

This service facility is a one-story rectangular building constructed of small concrete blocks painted black. The building faces south and is dominated by a garage bay on the east half that has been infilled with windows and one door. The bay on the west half also contains a window and a door. There are no visible window or door openings on the other elevations. Attached to the front of the building is a nonoriginal flat roof metal canopy supported by metal posts. Behind the northwest corner of the building is a small, flat roof storage shed constructed of brick. The storage shed is accessed on the north, east, and south elevations. Both buildings are counted as contributing. The larger building historically housed an auto repair shop and a used car business.

25. 1445 North Main Street. Cities Services Oil Company Station #11/North Side Radio and Appliance/Douglas

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Grocery. c.1923; altered c.1943. Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival.

Located at the intersection of Northwest 14th and North Main streets, this small rectangular one-story building is sited at an angle to take advantage of its corner location (see photograph 12). An early example of a corporate designed gas station, it is constructed of brick with alterations done in concrete block. The original configuration consisted of a small office area with a projecting porte-cochere that allowed automobiles to drive under it for service. The porte-cochere was supported by brick columns that are still extant. The building features shaped parapets with circular panels that once framed the corporate logo. Below the parapet is a tiled visor roof. In approximately 1943, the porte-cochere was enclosed with concrete block and a storefront added to the front elevation. The original multiple-light transom appears to be intact, but the lower part of the storefront has been altered with the introduction of a double door entrance and fixed windows. Two window openings on the southeast elevation are infilled with brick. A concrete block addition is attached to the rear. A small addition of poured concrete with a sloping roof is located on the north side of the building. A portable food wagon is situated near the northwest corner of the lot. A small one-story front gabled building that once sat at the northwest corner of the lot has been demolished.

Noncontributing Resources

1300 Block North Main Street, east side

1. 1338-1340 North Main Street. c.1954. Commercial Style.

The use of elongated, narrow, orange brick is what gives this otherwise plain, one-story commercial building some distinction. The facade has been divided into two storefronts with a window, door, window, door, window pattern. Brick headers are used as coping along the parapet. The center and north windows contain frames with the windows angled in at the bottom. A flat metal awning runs along the storefronts. This building is counted as noncontributing because it was constructed after the period of significance.

1300 Block North Main Street, west side

2. Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners Water Tower. c.1958.

West of the northwest corner of the boiler house is a round water tower that is part of the laundry facility. The tower has riveted joints and a capacity of 20,000 gallons. It is the third water tower at this site. The water tower is counted as a noncontributing structure because it was erected after the period of significance.

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1400 Block North Main Street, east side

3. 1442-1444 North Main Street. c.1903. Commercial Style.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1911 and 1927 indicate that this building originally contained three stories, while the 1951 map reveals only one. Sometime after 1951 a second story was added to the building. The first floor is made of brick and appears to have had two storefronts and a center recessed entrance. Multiple-light transoms are present but the original storefronts are partially bricked in. A metal awning spans the storefronts. The second story is composed of concrete block and features three large openings with metal frame windows. Currently the building is painted green. This commercial building is counted as noncontributing due to severe changes to its historic fabric.

4. 1446 North Main Street. Los Alamos Restaurant. c.1958, with later alterations. Spanish Eclectic.

This one-story building is accented by its tan brick veneer. The east elevation features a false gable flanked by a parapet and coping of simulated ceramic tile. The window and door openings are arched with the arches infilled with brick cut in a radiating fan pattern. The windows are of fixed tinted glass. The north elevation contains a recessed entrance under an arched portico and two windows similar to those on the front elevation. This building is counted as noncontributing because it was constructed after the period of significance.

1400 Block North Main Street, west side

5. Just North of 1421 North Main Street.

This tall billboard supported on wood poles was erected after the period of significance, and is therefore counted as noncontributing. However, a photograph from 1952 indicates that there was a billboard near this location, suggesting the possibility that there were billboards present in the district throughout the period of significance.

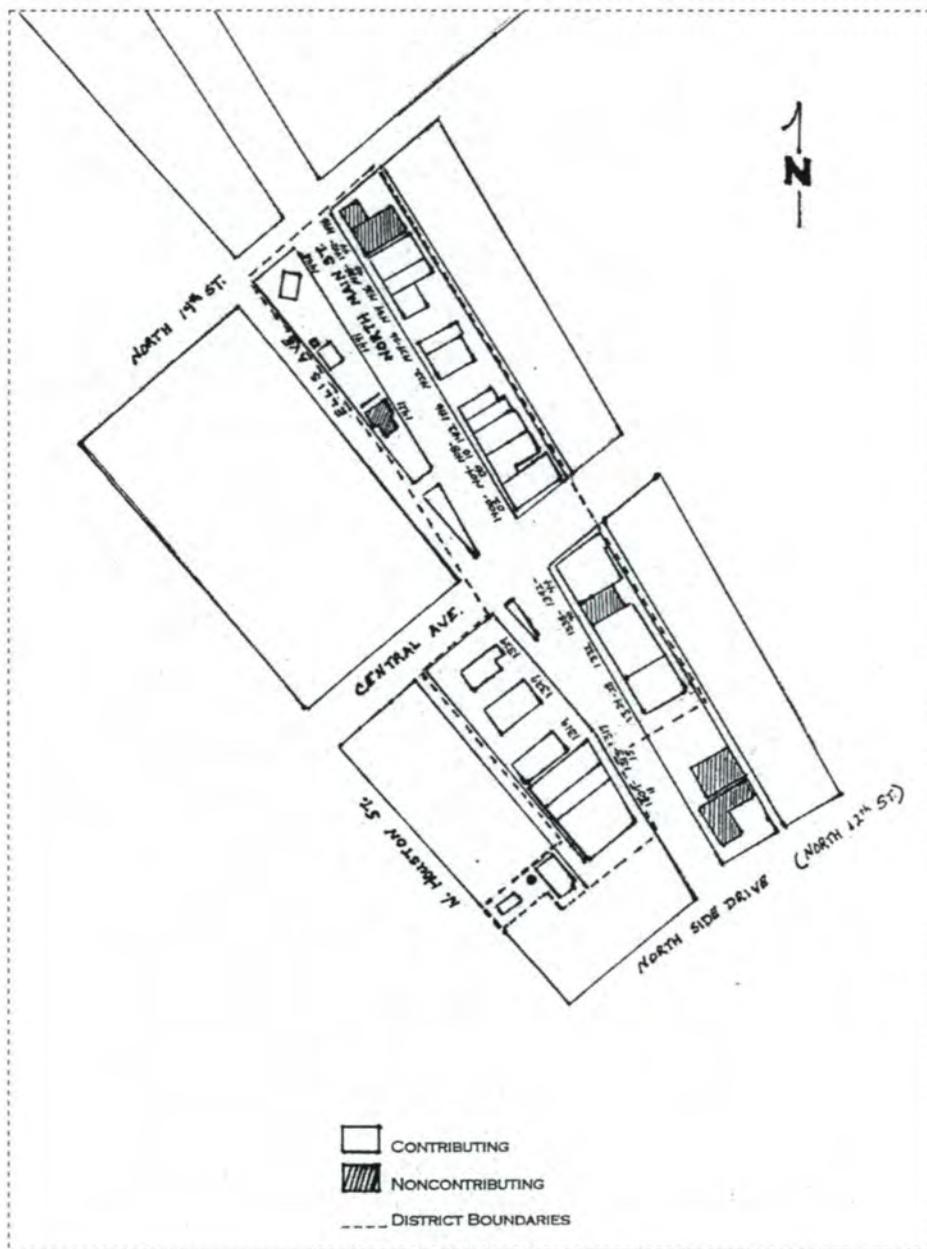
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Figure 7-1 Map of Marine Commercial Historic District (not drawn to scale)



8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: COMMERCE; COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1906-1950

SIGNIFICANT DATES: N/A

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown; Singleton, Frank J., architect; Thompson, R.M., builder;
Weinman, L.B., architect (attributed)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-17 through 8-35).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-36 through 9-37).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (*City of Fort Worth, Planning Department*)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: *Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas*
North Fort Worth Historical Society, Fort Worth, Texas

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The Marine Commercial Historic District contains the core area of commercial activity for the 1888 plat for North Fort Worth. Developed around the historic community of Marine, the district evolved as a traditional commercial area supporting retail businesses, restaurants, hotels, service stations, and a movie theater. Although the community of Marine was eventually absorbed by North Fort Worth, and later the city of Fort Worth, the name "Marine" continued to be used for this commercial area centered on North Main Street and Central Avenue. The buildings included within the district illustrate the continued commercial growth of the area during the first half of the twentieth century and represent styles that were popular for small commercial architecture during the period. Nominated at the local level of significance, the Marine Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development and Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

Historical Background

The oldest sections of North Fort Worth are found within the meandering U-shaped boundaries of the West Fork of the Trinity River. Here, the Clear Fork of the Trinity merges with the West Fork near the bottom of the west side of the "U." Along the south banks of the river are high bluffs that limited early growth of the area. The first settlers on the north side of the bluffs were farmers from Missouri and Tennessee who began arriving in 1848. The following year, Major Ripley A. Arnold of the U.S. Second Dragoons established a camp on the bluffs at the confluence of the two forks. Although the army abandoned the post in 1853, a community evolved around it and became known as Fort Worth. The community was incorporated as a city in 1873, but the area north of the river remained mostly farming land for the next several decades.¹

Before the arrival of the railroads in North Texas, cattlemen drove their herds north through Texas and the Indian Territory to rail centers in Kansas. From there, the cattle were shipped to eastern markets. Located along Chisholm Trail, Fort Worth was the last stopping point of any consequence where drovers could purchase supplies before entering the Indian Territory. With the arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1876, it no longer became necessary to drive the cattle north, as the city evolved into a major stockyard and shipping center.²

One individual who took advantage of the cattle trade was Merida Green Ellis, who operated a successful agricultural supplies and implements business. Ellis soon sold his business because of ill health and devoted his time to raising cattle and horses on his 1,067 acres north of Fort Worth, near the future site of Marine. As part of his large holding, Ellis set aside a tract of land for a school, and in 1879 financed the construction of a one-room frame schoolhouse. This school replaced a log structure that had been used as a school for area children for a number of years. First known as the Ellis School, the school was located near what is now the northeast intersection of North Main and 14th streets. In 1884, it became Marine School #1 after the formation of the Marine School District. The community that developed around the school became known as Marine for the creek that runs through the area. The school building was also used by the Marine Community Church, and in 1905, was replaced with a more substantial structure on adjacent

1 J'Nell Pate, *North of the River: A Brief History of North Fort Worth*, Fort Worth, Texas: Texas Christian University Press, 1994, 1-2.

2 *Ibid.*, 17.

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land. The new school faced 14th Street, and in 1914, was renamed in Ellis' honor.³ Through the period, the small community of Marine served as a center for cattle trading.

Simultaneous with the development of Marine, was the establishment of the stockyards district to the northeast. Chartered on July 26, 1887, the Fort Worth Union Stockyards Company purchased approximately 258 acres of land to build a stockyard and meatpacking operation. The company reorganized several times over the succeeding decade to eventually become the Fort Worth Stock Yards Co. in 1902. Anticipating that the Fort Worth Union Stock Yards would create a boom in the area, a number of Fort Worth businessmen organized the Fort Worth City Company in 1888. This group purchased 2,500 acres north of the two forks of the Trinity that extended approximately to the present North 20th Street. The land company hired New York landscape architect, Nathan F. Barrett (1845-1919), to lay out the new addition. A nationally recognized landscape artist, Barrett was known for his work with architect Solon S. Beman and industrialist George Pullman in developing the plan for Pullman, Illinois, in 1881.

Barrett's plan for North Fort Worth took advantage of the area's topography by designing curving boulevards along the bluff above the West Fork of the Trinity River, providing spectacular vistas of the city. To create the street system, Barrett used a grid interrupted by wide boulevards arranged at skewed angles. Barrett connected the plat to Fort Worth's existing grid by aligning North Main Street with downtown's Main Street, so that the Tarrant County Courthouse, situated on a high bluff, became its focal terminus (see figure 8-1). For the grand thoroughfare, Barrett followed downtown's off center grid until 20th Street, where he rotated the road in a true north-south direction. A newspaper advertisement from January 1, 1889 described the new addition as follows:

. . . This is the most sightly property in Tarrant County. It begins within a stone's throw of the courthouse and its business blocks are within 1500 feet of the business center of Fort Worth and six of the national banks and principal business houses. The addition will be reached by a grand viaduct 950 feet long, crossed by an electrical railway line which belts the property going to and coming from Fort Worth⁴

The effect of his plan was to create a 200-foot wide grand boulevard intersected by a grid pattern of east-west streets. Because much of Barrett's plan was not on a true north-south orientation, many of the blocks in the plat are not strictly rectangular. Blocks 51 (containing the east side of the 1300 block of North Main) and 58 (containing the east side of the 1400 block of North Main) are long trapezoids approximately 600 feet in length, with north-south alleys dividing the middle of the blocks.

Despite Barrett's and the Fort Worth City Company's grand plans for North Fort Worth, the addition developed

³ *Ibid.*, 13-15; Friends of Marine Schoolhouse, Inc., "History of the Marine School," Membership Brochure, n.d. The M.G. Ellis School was destroyed by fire in 1986. The frame schoolhouse that Ellis had constructed still exists and was moved to Circle Park in North Fort Worth in 1993. Preservationists hope to restore the building to its original appearance.

⁴ Charles A. Birnbaum and Lisa E. Crowder, editors, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, Preservation Assistance Division, Historic Landscape Initiative, 1993, 137; Unidentified newspaper article quoted in *North Fort Worth Architectural/Historical Survey and Adaptive Reuse Studies*, Fort Worth, Texas: Motheral Printing Company, c. 1980, n.p.

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slowly. According to one source, the first building erected in the new addition was a business located at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and North Main Street. This area slowly evolved as the commercial center for North Fort Worth. One early resident, Juanita Shannon McCain, recalled when the North Side was "not much more than what is now North Main and Central," now the center of the Marine district. McCain's parents, S.D. and Marie Shannon, ran a small notions store in the area. Other businesses in the nascent community included a drug store and a grocery. The community had sufficient population for the establishment of a post office, using the name "Marine" from 1896 to 1904.⁵

1900s

North Fort Worth's growth exploded with the arrival of the Armour and Swift packing companies in 1902. The same year North Fort Worth incorporated as a separate city, absorbing the community of Marine. The packing plants opened in March 1903, resulting in thousands of jobs created for workers in the meatpacking plants, stockyards, and railroad. By 1904, Fort Worth was the nation's fifth largest livestock market and by the end of 1910, ranked third behind Chicago and Kansas City. Such an industry required a large labor pool and North Fort Worth's population, as well as Fort Worth's, grew dramatically. Within a few short years, North Fort Worth's population grew from 500 to 5,000. In 1909, North Fort Worth was annexed into the city of Fort Worth. Although many were attracted to the North Side for employment in the packing industry, others came to set up shops and businesses catering to the surrounding developing residential areas.⁶ A large commercial district sprang up in the immediate vicinity of the stockyards and packing plants. This area, now part of the Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District (NR 1976) centered along Exchange Avenue and North Main Street, developed with one-, two-, and three-story commercial buildings. These buildings housed hotels, bars, restaurants, leather shops, western wear stores, and other enterprises that serviced the needs of cattlemen and others engaged in the livestock industry.⁷

J.B. Googins was among those who tried to capitalize on the rush for available property when it became known that the Swift and Armour companies were coming to North Fort Worth. Googins, one of the original board of directors of the Fort Worth Stockyards and Belt Railway Company, purchased portions of Blocks 55 through 58 of the North Fort Worth plat and had them subdivided in 1902. These blocks were in the Marine area with Block 58 fronting the east side

⁵ *North Fort Worth News*, July 2, 1948. The *North Fort Worth News* gave the location as the southwest corner of North Main and Central and Pate's book stated that it was at the northeast corner. However, a check of the Tarrant County Deed Records indicated that Hewitt bought Lot 11 of Block 51 of the North Fort Worth section, which is located at the southeast corner. The building was demolished in 1926 by P.L. Dickerman to make way for the erection of the present building located at that site.; Marvin Garrett, "It's North Side Today But Oldtimers Recall When It was 'Marine' and 'North Fort Worth,'" *Fort Worth News-Tribune*, June 25, 1976, p. 13 (photocopy in "Communities File-Marine," Tarrant County Historical Commission, Fort Worth, Texas [hereafter referred to as TCHC]); Charles Deaton, *Texas Postal History Handbook*, Austin, Texas: Published by the author, 1980, p. 118.

⁶ Pate, *North of the River*, pp 23-27.

⁷ Marie D. Landon, Mike D. Yancey, and Joe Williams, "Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1976. Besides the commercial area along North Main and Exchange Avenue, the district also includes the remains of the Armour and Swift packing plants, the Swift Office Building, the stockyard pens, Livestock Exchange Building, the Horse and Mule Barns, the Old Post Office, and a competing packing plant.

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of the 1400 block of North Main Street. The lots in these blocks were typically 50 feet wide, but Googins divided several lots so that they were only 25 feet wide. This helps to account for the existence of several buildings of that width in this block.

The commercial area around the Marine community expanded with its clientele drawn primarily from the surrounding residential areas. This district was located approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the Stockyards district. This two-block area became home to grocery, furniture, dry goods and department stores, barbershops, hardware stores, automobile repair and service stations, a blacksmith shop, laundry and cleaning establishments, cafes, a funeral home, fraternal organizations, a theater, drug stores, and a post office substation. Professional offices were located on the second floor of some buildings, and included offices for doctors and lawyers. Several buildings housed hotels, apartments, or furnished rooms on their upper floors. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the businesses located in the Marine Commercial Historic District provided families with a more "civilized" atmosphere compared to the sometimes rowdy and even criminal elements, who were attracted to the bars and businesses in the Stockyards area.⁸

One of the early landmarks of the Marine district was the Rosen Inn, a two-story brick building located on the east side of the 1300 block of North Main Street, approximately where the former Greines Furniture Store at 1332 stands today. The Rosen Inn became home to two fledgling businesses that grew into prominent enterprises in the Marine area. In 1905, Meyer Greines, a Jewish immigrant from Russia, along with his son Mose, established a small furniture store in the southwest corner of the Rosen Inn. Some sources contend that Greines' business expanded to such a degree that he eventually took over the whole building. However, in 1937, the *North Fort Worth News* noted that the "ruins" of the Rosen Inn were being razed. Following his death in 1937, the business was operated by Mose and then his nephew, Edwin Cohen. The Greines Furniture Company remained in operation until the late 1980s. Greines had four other sons, who also became successful in their chosen careers. J.S. Greines was the proprietor of the Greines Dry Goods Company, located at 1408-10 North Main Street, and together, J.S. and Mose Greines owned the Greines Hardware Company at 1404 North Main. A third son, Abe Greines was a physician who maintained an office in the 1500 block of North Main Street.⁹

Another Marine business that had its beginnings in the Rosen Inn was the North Fort Worth Undertaking Company, more commonly known as Shannon's Funeral Home. Organized by S.D. Shannon, who arrived in Fort Worth in 1883 and over the years held a variety of jobs including operating a meat market. After the store burned in 1906, Shannon was approached by a former boss, George L. Gause, about organizing an undertaking business in North Fort Worth. The two rented a portion of the Rosen Inn and formally opened the business on December 6, 1906. From there the business moved to what was referred to as the Triangle Building at Ellis and North Main, and then again to a small building on North Twentieth Street. In 1922, the business transferred to a newly constructed three-story building at 1301 North Main Street, which it shared with Tarrant Lodge # 942, A.F.&A.M. In 1949, the funeral home opened a chapel across the street to the south, but continued to operate in the original building for a number of years. The building at 1301 North Main Street was demolished around 1967. The property is now used as a parking lot for the funeral home across

⁸ *Fort Worth City Directory*, 1926-1935/36; *North Fort Worth News*, July 19, 1946; Pate, *North of the River*, pp 87-98.

⁹ *North Fort Worth News*, April 30, 1937.

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the street and has been excluded from the boundaries of the district.¹⁰

The three earliest extant contributing buildings in the district date from c.1906. All three are two-story commercial buildings located on the east side of the 1400 block of North Main. Two of the buildings, 1404-1406 and 1408-1410 are adjacent to each other and constructed of brick. Early occupants of 1404-1406 North Main included restaurants and barbershops. The Greines Hardware Store was located at 1404 for most of the period of significance. The Greines Dry Good Company moved into 1410 North Main around 1912 and eventually expanded into the whole first floor. The upper floor served as offices for doctors and attorneys. The concrete block building at 1442 North Main housed a variety of tenants on its first floor and the upper floor served as the Marine Hotel and later as furnished rooms.¹¹

1910s

By 1911, the 1300 and 1400 blocks of North Main Street supported a variety of building types. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates a number of empty lots and open spaces along all of the blocks of the district, a trend that continued throughout the period of significance and up to the present day (see figure 8-2). A wood-frame residence at 1304 North Main, on the east side of the street, had been constructed around 1908 as the home of the S.D. Shannon family. North of the house was a row of brick commercial buildings that started at 1306 and extended to 1334 North Main. The buildings from 1336 to the corner (1348) were all wood-frame, one-story businesses. The west side of the 1300 block contained four one-story, wood-frame dwellings and numerous one-story, wood-frame stores and a livery stable. Some of the stores only filled a portion of the lot. At the north end of the block was a one-story brick building housing three storefronts. The east side of the 1400 block supported a mixture of wood-frame and brick and concrete block buildings. Although the south half of the block was completely filled in, the north half contained several small wood-frame stores that only filled portions of their lots, leaving some open space. A two-story, triangular-shaped brick building was located at the south end of west side of the 1300 block of North Main. The only other building appearing on the map was a wood-frame, one-story building near the north end of the block.¹²

Residents of North Fort Worth gained access to downtown Fort Worth by using the Northern Texas Traction Company's streetcar line between downtown Fort Worth and the stockyards. The line ran along North Main Street, a benefit to the businesses on the route. For a short time, beginning in 1905, Sam Rosen built a competing line to a residential development located just west of North Main at 25th Street. But the competition ended in 1906 when the Northern Texas Traction Company bought out Rosen's line and that of a competitor. By 1908, the company was grossing \$1.25 million a year on five cent fares, most of which were North Side residents. A 1919 map of Fort Worth reveals that

10 Advertisement for "Shannons" [sic], *The Lasso* (Yearbook of Fort Worth North Side High School), Volume 15, 1927; *North Fort Worth News*, April 9, 1948, February 18, 1949; Interview with George Shannon, November 11, 1999.

11 Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, *Fort Worth: Near North Side and West Side, Westover Hills*, Fort Worth, Texas: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1988, pp. 74-75; *Fort Worth City Directory*, various years.

12 See the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for North Fort Worth and Fort Worth, 1911, 1927, and 1949 corrected to 1951; "Biographic File--Shannon Family," TCHC. The Sanborn Map gave the address for the house as 1308 but 1304 was the address given in one of the Shannon family memoirs.

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a branch of the streetcar line entered North Main Street from West Central, thereby providing an extra boost to those commercial ventures located near that intersection. It is not surprising that two of the district's most distinctive buildings were constructed at this intersection, the Hickman and Clark Building at 1400-1402 North Main (1918) and the three-part commercial block at 1342-1344 Main (1926).¹³

The intersection of North Main and Central became a busy location and posed a severe traffic problem. Aside from the connection of the North Main and Central lines, motorists and pedestrians had to contend with the hazards from the way in which Ellis Avenue merged with North Main Street and the presence of a horse fountain. An attempt to ease the problem occurred in early 1923, when the fountain was removed and poles for the streetcar line were relocated. According to the *North Fort Worth News*, "a traffic officer was to be stationed halfway between 12th Street and Central and North Main to prevent reckless crossing of [the] street car track." The intersection became busier in 1927 after the Northern Texas Traction Company spent \$10,000 installing track to begin a through service to downtown Fort Worth off of West Central Avenue. Traffic conditions for motorists and pedestrians were improved in 1928 with the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of North Main and Central Avenue.¹⁴

1920s

The 1920s continued to bring change to the Marine district. In January 1920, the owner of the district first movie, 1918 Roseland Theater, sold it to Dr. J.D. Linthicum and Stanley Smith. It was most likely under their ownership that the theater's facade was renovated. The renovation, which included the use of decorative glazed green tile and cast ornamentation, has been attributed to architect L.B. Weinman.¹⁵

Several of the district's extant buildings were constructed during the 1920s. These include the Cities Services Oil Company Station # 11 at 1445 North Main; a small one-story brick building at 1416 North Main (c. 1925), and the corner building at 1342-1344 North Main, built in 1926. The district's oldest continuously operated business, the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners, was established in 1927. In March of that year, N.E. Gambrell acquired a permit to erect a \$15,000 building at 1307 North Main. In December, he opened the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners Company at the newly constructed one-story brick building. Behind the facility, on the west side of the alley, sat a metal-clad boiler house and water tower constructed of cypress. The boiler house generated all of the power to run the laundry facility and continued this operation for many years.¹⁶

The 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that there still were several wood-frame buildings in the district, particularly on the west side of the 1300 block and on the east side of the 1400 block (see figure 8-3). Each block in the

¹³ Pate, *North of the River*, pp 40-46; "Greater Fort Worth City Map," C.H. Rogers Company, 1919.

¹⁴ *North Fort Worth News*, January 26, 1945, November 18, 1949, February 17, 1950.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, January 9, 1942; Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey. *Fort Worth: Near North Side and West Side, Westover Hills*. Fort Worth, Texas: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1988, p. 75.

¹⁶ *North Fort Worth News.*, July 2, 1948, March 18, 1949, December 16, 1949; The cypress water tower was plagued with a severe leaking problem and was eventually replaced by a metal tower. Interview with Ed Malunowe, December 10, 1999.

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district contained an open space or buildings that did not cover the entire width of a lot.¹⁷

In early 1929, "white way lights" were installed on North Main between 12th and 14th streets. This portion of North Main, between the Paddock Viaduct and Exchange Avenue, was the last to receive the new lights. The contract between the City of Fort Worth and the Eugene Ashe Electric Company called "for the erection of 20 ornamental steel standards which will harmonize in design with those on North Main Street north and south of this section." The lights were turned on in early February and the City completed work on the street improvement project before the opening of the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in March at the Stockyard's Coliseum. The new lights also were deemed of benefit to the flow of traffic to the municipal airport located on the upper section of North Main and the highway to Lake Worth.¹⁸

1930s

By the mid-1930s, the Northern Texas Traction Company had ceased operation of its streetcar lines throughout most of Fort Worth and replaced them with buses. The northeast corner of Central Avenue and North Main Street, at that time the location of Wynne's Drug Store, became the "waiting corner" for riders who caught the bus during non-rush hours and after 7:30 p.m. During morning and evening rush hours, riders accessed the bus on the west side of North Main Street.¹⁹

Although the Depression caused hardships for many businesses in the Marine district, a number of new buildings were constructed and improvements were made to existing buildings. In c.1933, the Sinclair Refining Company built a Mission Revival Style service station at 1349 North Main (now 1329), and in approximately 1935, the Greines Furniture Company completed a major renovation of the facade of its building, choosing a design influenced by the Moderne movement. The building immediately south of Greines Hardware was also renovated a few years later. Although it lacks the detailing of its neighbor, a Moderne influence can be seen in its design. Some entrepreneurs were brave enough to start new businesses during that era. In 1935, grocer W.W. Lampton built a brick store at 1420 North Main (demolished). That same year the owner of the Rose Theater (originally called the Roseland Theater) made improvements to the building while its sister theater, The Isis, located near the stockyards, was rebuilt following a fire. The Rose Theater had been closed for several years in the early 1930s, but reopened in c.1933 (see figure 8-4). Following the building's rehabilitation, it reopened on October 29, 1935 with the Shirley Temple movie "Curly Top." When the "New Isis" was completed in April 1936, the theater's owner, L.C. Tidball, decided to continue operating the Rose Theater. The Rose showed films every evening with special afternoon and matinee shows on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Prices for tickets were between 10 and 20 cents, with matinee tickets selling at 15 cents before 6:30 p.m. Another improvement was made to the theater came in April 1936 with the installation of a new cooling system. In March 1937, the theater lowered its ticket prices, possibly in an effort to compete with the New Isis, the only other theater in North Fort Worth at the time.

17 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Fort Worth, 1927.

18 *Fort Worth Record-Telegram*, January 16, 1929, February 2, 1929. Fort Worth Star-Telegram Clippings Files, University of Texas at Arlington Library, Arlington, Texas.

19 *North Fort Worth News*, January 10, 1936.

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In 1939, John Plummer became the new manager of the Rose Theater. To boost interest in the movies shown at the theater, Plummer tried an unusual stunt. During the showing of the movie "You Can't Get Away with Murder," he set a dummy that appeared to be a murder victim in front of the theater. It attracted a large audience and created a traffic jam in front of the theater.²⁰

The Greines Dry Goods Store at 1408-10 North Main made improvements to its building in 1937 by removing "the ancient roofs over the sidewalks" and installing new awnings. The *North Fort Worth News* noted that the removal "of the old fashioned caves adds a touch of modern feeling to the block, the oldest business section in North Fort Worth." Other stores that made improvements included the Piggly-Wiggly store at 1346 North Main when it became a Safeway store. To reflect the change, the exterior trim of the building was painted a cream yellow known as "Safeway Yellow." In 1938, Wynne's Drug Store remodeled, enlarged, and repainted its store. Owner Paul Wynne, who bought the store from L.B. Clark in 1934, told the *North Fort Worth News* that the changes were made possible as the result of "a splendid increase in business." Later that year, the store's fountain was "worked over and beautified" and new open display cases were installed. Wynne continued to make improvements throughout the rest of the decade, including the addition of air conditioning. The location of the bus stop at the corner likely played a role in this store's success.²¹

Other businesses in the district that were experiencing success in the late 1930s included a variety store opened by Nick Diebs at 1406 North Main. The store carried a large selection of merchandise, notions, dry goods, and school supplies. Over the years, the store expanded into the entire first floor of the building and was still in existence in 1950. Diebs' store benefited from its location next door to its long-established neighbor to the north, Greines Dry Goods. In 1939, the Munden Company Feed and Chick Store at 1448 North Main (demolished) made extensive improvements throughout the store following a steady increase in business.²²

The Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners continued to prosper during the Depression. At a time when jobs were hard to come by, many North Side women found work at the laundry, when as many as forty women were employed at one time. However, the end of the decade brought a minor setback to the company. In late October or early November of 1939, a fire caused an estimated \$2,500 worth of damage to the building. But within two weeks, the business reestablished service following rehabilitation of the building.²³

1940s-1950

In January 1940, workers began the removal of the streetcar tracks down the middle of North Main. This was done in preparation of paving a 28 to 38 feet wide center strip extending from the Tarrant County Courthouse to the Marine Creek Bridge, north of the district. Because the street was paved with brick, the center section also was infilled

²⁰ *Ibid.*, September 8, 1939.

²¹ *North Fort Worth News*, March 26, 1937, May 28, 1937, February 25, 1938, April 22, 1938, October 28, 1938, June 30, 1939.

²² *Ibid.*, October 7, 1938, June 9, 1939.

²³ Interview with Ed Malunowe, December 10, 1999; Interview with Sue Ellen Malunowe, December 14, 1999; *North Fort Worth News*, November 3, 1939, November 17, 1939.

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with brick. Laborers with the Work Projects Administration (WPA) were employed to complete this work. Other street improvements were made in 1942 with the complete repaving of North Main Street from the Paddock Viaduct to Exchange Avenue and the installation of new traffic signals at the intersection of North Main, Central, and Ellis streets.²⁴

With the dawning of World War II, merchants had to adjust to the shortages of labor, supplies, and retail goods. All drug stores throughout the city, with the exception of one downtown, closed at 10:00 p.m. and only made deliveries between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. These measures were taken as a result of the rubber shortage and other defense concerns. During this time, the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners and Fort Worth Cleaners and Dyers, along with other cleaners and tailors, urged their customers through advertisements to return hangers, as these items were difficult to come by because of wartime material shortages.²⁵

In spite of these shortages, business was good for Marine district merchants. Businesses such as Greines Dry Goods reported "getting the break of better business than in many summers" due to the influx of population seeking defense-related work. Even laundries were experiencing a boom in business because of contracts with army installations and the demand from new residents. Throughout the war, the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners continued to improve its operations by acquiring the latest equipment. As more room was needed, the company expanded into the old Eilenberger Blacksmith Shop at 1317 North Main. But with the increased business, it became difficult for the company to keep an adequate labor force, as workers were attracted to the better paying jobs offered by the defense industry. The company tried to attract women through advertisements in the *North Fort Worth News* that claimed that they would be aiding their country by taking "an essential war job in laundry." The advertisement continued by stating "You will be aiding your country, helping your community, satisfying your desire to do something for the war." At a time when Fort Worth was still largely segregated by race, the labor shortage was never more apparent than when the laundry company advertised for workers "Men and Women--White or Colored."²⁶

Even with the material and labor shortages, the good economy encouraged some to start their own businesses. In 1943, Clark Hearn opened the North Side Radio and Appliance Company in the former Cities Service Gas Station at the southwest corner of North Main and North 14th streets. Hearn enclosed the drive-through bay to create additional floor space. Because new appliances were not available during the war, his business centered on radio and appliance repair. When appliances were put back on the market in 1946, the store stocked Philco and Admiral brand merchandise. By 1950, the store had tripled its size.²⁷

²⁴ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, evening edition, January 15, 1940 and evening edition, February 27, 1940. *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Clippings Files, University of Texas at Arlington Library, Arlington, Texas. North Main Street was first paved with brick around 1910 (see *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, evening edition, November 28, 1910); *North Fort Worth News*, June 5, 1942, October 2, 1942.

²⁵ *North Fort Worth News*, January 16, 1942, August 7, 1942, July 2, 1943.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, August 7, 1942, November 5, 1943, April 21, 1944.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, June 8, 1950.

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During the war years, three of the Marine district's most prominent businesses changed hands. In 1943, L. Addison Burkhalter became the manager of the Rose Theater and its name was changed to The Marine. The *North Fort Worth News* reported that under the Burkhalter's management, the theater "has been redecorated throughout, with new seats and air conditioning and, most important, a new RCA sound system." The admission was 10 and 20 cents for all shows with double features offered for each program. However, the Burkhalter's suffered a major setback when a two-alarm fire caused about \$12,000 worth of damage in December 1945. The stage and most of the seats were destroyed. The repairs to the building were completed in May 1946 by Cain and Cain contractors.²⁸

G.L. Wren, a pioneer drug store operator on the North Side, purchased Wynne's Drug at 1400 North Main in 1943. Wren had been in the pharmacy business for 35 years before retiring in 1940 to devote his time to the management of his farm near Rhome. For 25 years, he had been associated with Renfro Drug, one of the largest drug store chains in Fort Worth. Shortly after purchasing the drug store on North Main, Wren installed a new sign on the exterior of the building. The *North Fort Worth News* described the sign as "one of the nobbiest neon signs in this section of the city." A small wren was incorporated on the upper left portion of the sign. The wren became his trademark and was used in advertisements in the local paper.²⁹

The other Marine business that changed hands was the Greines Dry Goods Company. In 1945, J.S. Greines sold his business to the K. Wolens Department Store chain. Greines told the *North Fort Worth News*:

I want to thank my host of friends and customers for the long period of pleasant and profitable relations since I came to North Fort Worth when just a boy and went into business. I am impelled to sell this business so dear to my heart on account of the condition of my health and am especially happy to place it in such excellent hands. I have known Mr. [Joe] Wolens for a number of years as one of the highest class business men in Texas and I know that he and his associates will "make good" with the people of North Fort Worth from the start.

Speaking for his company, Wolens replied, "we are proud to be the successor of such a man as Mr. Greines, who always has been recognized as one of Fort Worth's finest and most honorable merchants." The North Main store became the chain's twenty-first store in Texas. Wolen's proceeded to make its own mark on this location by redecorating the store.³⁰

Following the war, construction materials were more readily available and several buildings were erected within the district. Mitchell Tire, in business since at least the mid-1930s, constructed a new building at 1319 North Main. The Royal Cleaners and Dyers building at 1327 North Main, opened for business in the summer and Jose Castillo built a two-story building at 1434 North Main. The construction of this building is noteworthy as it was possibly the first building

²⁸ *Ibid.*, July 9, 1943, December 14, 1945; "Marine Theater," Tarrant County Historic Resource Survey Files, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas.

²⁹ *North Fort Worth News*, March 5, 1943.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, June 8, 1945, October 5, 1945.

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built by a Hispanic in the Marine district and signifies the changing demographics of North Fort Worth. The area east of North Main and bounded by Northeast 23rd on the north, North Grove on the east, and Northeast 12th on the south had become Fort Worth's largest Hispanic neighborhood by the 1920s. It was only a matter of time before Hispanic merchants found a home on North Main Street. The first floor of the building was divided into three storefronts, one of which housed Castillo's barber shop. Furnished rooms were located on the second floor and operated under the name of the Castillo Hotel.³¹

For the remainder of the 1940s and through 1950, the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners continued to improve its operations. The *North Fort Worth News* commented on the company's success by stating that it was "one of North Fort Worth's leading institutions" with a weekly payroll of \$3,000. Another issue of the paper praised the company, stating that "many authorities claim that it is the largest, cleanest, best equipped, best managed laundry in the city of Fort Worth...During the past several years, Mr. Gambrell has developed a dry cleaning plant... which stacks up favorably against any in Fort Worth ...All along, the policy of this laundry has been to make the work lighter on the employees through better equipment, better lighting, better ventilation and uniform cleanliness." Additional equipment was installed in 1948.

This acquisition was a unit of four machines for laundering shirts that eliminated much of the wear and tear associated with older methods. The newspaper commented, "Watching these machines in operation is a far cry from the old method of using a flat iron by hand on an ironing board in the home." Gambrell encouraged the public to visit the facility to see the innovations. Later that same year, Gambrell added an asphalt parking lot and driveway to the side entrance as a convenience for cash and carry customers who drove their cars to the plant. A moth proofing service for all items processed at the plant was added in 1949. In 1950, the company reported that its water had been tested by an engineering firm and had received a perfect score, indicating that the laundry did not need to add any special treatments to the water.³²

During the post-war years, old and new businesses in the district continued to be optimistic about the future. Wren's Drug Store expanded into the adjacent storefront at 1402 North Main. The *North Fort Worth News* commented that G.L. Wren had made his store "one of the best equipped in the entire city" and that with the additional space, it would become the "drug store deluxe." Other businesses did not have Wren's success. Although restaurants had long been a part of the Marine business community, they generally were short-lived. In January 1947, the It Cafe opened at 1416 North Main at the former location of the Old South Cafe. The It Cafe catered its business to women and families through advertisements that proclaimed "No Beer Sold Here." But this business also was short-lived and replaced by the Rogers Cafe in the fall. By 1949, the Rightway Club had replaced Rogers Cafe, which in turn was replaced by Meta's Cafe by 1950.³³

31 Records of the Tarrant County Tax Assessor's Office; *North Fort Worth News*, July 19, 1946; Carlos Cuellar, "Hispanics in Fort Worth," paper presented at the Fort Worth 150 History Symposium, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, June 5, 1999, copy in author's possession; Fort Worth City Directories, 1947, 1949, 1950.

32 *North Fort Worth News*, January 24, 1947, January 31, 1947, March 28, 1947, August 29, 1947, March 19, 1948, March 4, 1949, August 17, 1950.

33 *Ibid.*, March 5, 1948, January 31, 1947, October 10, 1947; Fort Worth City Directories, 1947, 1949, 1950.

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By the end of the period of significance, there were still a few wood-frame, one-story buildings in the district located on the east side of North Main Street. A house located at 105 Northeast 12th Street had been converted to commercial use and a small wood building located just north of 1312 North Main may have been associated with the used car lot at 1316 North Main. Sanborn maps of the period indicate that two wood-frame buildings were located near the north end of the block at 1334 and 1340 North Main. The 1400 block of North Main contained a number of wood-frame stores at 1428, 1428A, 1430, 1432, and 1446A and 1446B. Not one of these buildings is extant. The west side of the street continued to present numerous open spaces between the buildings; these open spaces continue to exist today.³⁴

With the closing of the Armour and Swift plants in 1962 and 1971 respectively, North Fort Worth entered a period of stagnation. The closing of the plants coincided with a flight to the suburbs. Many residents left the area and businesses in turn closed. As whites left the Near North Side, Hispanics moved into the area and today they constitute the majority of the population.

Throughout the years, "Marine" was commonly used in the names of businesses located on the 1300 and 1400 blocks of North Main Street. Examples included the Marine Garage, Marine Junk Company, Marine Social Club, Marine Poultry and Egg Company, Marine Eat Shop, Marine Coffee Shop, and Marine Wrecking and Parts Yard. Although not all of these businesses existed at the same time, they demonstrate the popularity of the name long after the community of Marine ceased to exist.³⁵

In recent years, the North Side has experienced a revitalization centered on the conversion of the Stockyards area into a tourist destination. However, much of North Main Street remained neglected, including some of the vacant buildings in the Marine Commercial Historic District. Currently the City of Fort Worth is trying to correct this and has begun to study the North Main Street corridor from the Paddock Viaduct to North 28th Street. As a result, the City has hired the planning firm of Kimley-Horn and Associates to spearhead a project, which will focus on design, engineering, and economic development issues along the corridor.³⁶

In addition to the North Main Street Corridor project, attention is being given to the east side of the 1400 block in the hopes of turning it into a Mercado, or Mexican market. In 1998, the Mercado walk was constructed along the alley of this block. The City hired Genesis Design Group, Inc. to design a walkway to serve as a link from the parking lot located at the former site of the M.G. Ellis School to businesses along the 1400 block. The alley is paved with stone and a wall runs along the east side to separate the businesses from the residences behind them. The walk was dedicated to Fort Worth's sister city, Toluca, Mexico "and the new vision of the Fort Worth Mercado."³⁷

34 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Fort Worth, Texas, 1949 corrected to 1951.

35 *Fort Worth City Directory*, 1926-1935/36; *North Fort Worth News*, July 9, 1943.

36 "North Main Street Project," *North Main Views*, Published by the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, September 1999, Issue I, p. 1.

37 Dedication plaque, Fort Worth Mercado, October 24, 1998.

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Several of the buildings in the Marine Commercial Historic District have been purchased by Hispanics and serve a largely Hispanic clientele. In recent year, several Mexican restaurants have opened in the district and are contributing to its revitalization. Part of this effort included placing the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the former Royal Cleaners and Dyers building at 1327 North Main. To assist with these revitalization efforts, the City of Fort Worth purchased the former Marine Theater building. It plans to have the building rehabilitated as a venue for live theater and events, and to serve as the centerpiece for the Mercado.³⁸

Architectural Significance of the Marine Commercial Historic District

The Marine Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance, as a representative collection of one- and two-story commercial buildings constructed between 1906 and 1946. The designs of the buildings provide a view of the changing architectural styles through the first half of the twentieth century. The Commercial Style was popular for buildings constructed from the 1900s to the post-World War II era, with the buildings becoming less ornamented with the advancing decades. Fourteen contributing buildings are classified as Commercial Style. The Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style was applied to three contributing buildings constructed in the 1920s and early 1930s. And a Moderne influence is noticeable on two contributing buildings erected in the mid-to-late 1930s and two contributing buildings built in c.1946.

The four oldest buildings, constructed in c.1906 and 1909, were built in the Commercial Style. All four buildings are two-story. The most elaborate of the three, 1422 North Main Street, was constructed in c.1906. It presents a facade made of rusticated concrete block that simulates rough-cut stone. The building displays a shaped parapet and an elaborate cast concrete cornice with cast brackets. The other two buildings constructed in c.1906 are located at 1404-1406 and 1408-1410 North Main. They display little ornamentation, with the exception of simple brick corbelling below the parapet. The upper story window openings are rectangular and are framed by cast sills. The S.T. Percy Building, at 1424-1426 North Main was constructed in 1909. It, too, reveals a simple facade, however, its second story windows are distinguished by their segmental arch openings.

One of the last examples of the Commercial Style in the district is the Castillo Building at 1434 North Main Street. Constructed in 1946, it is completely devoid of ornamental detail. The two-story rectangular building was fabricated of concrete block. The second story contains eight single rectangular window openings. Another Commercial Style building constructed in 1946, is the Mitchell Tire Company at 1319 North Main. This one-story concrete block building lacks the typical storefronts as found on earlier examples and instead displays large fixed display windows.

In the 1920s and early 1930s, three Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style buildings were constructed in the district, two of which were gas stations. These revival styles were popular for service stations, particularly in the Southwest. The Cities Services Oil Company Station # 11 at 1445 North Main was constructed in c.1923 and features a tile visor roof and shaped parapet, giving the building its distinctive form. The Sinclair Refining Company Station at 1329 North Main and was constructed in c.1933. The stucco covered walls and clay tiles along the shaped parapet also reflect a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival influence. Erected in 1926, the former Renfro Drug building at 1342-1344

³⁸ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 10, 1999.

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North Main is noteworthy for its cast coping and urns along the shaped parapet and a shed roof with bracketed eaves.

Four buildings in the district, dating from the 1930s and 1940s, were influenced by the Moderne Style. These buildings are characterized by their horizontal massing and smooth wall surfaces. Other decorative details include glass-block or round windows. The Greines Furniture Company building, at 1332 North Main, is an excellent local example of the Moderne style. The building was originally constructed in c.1903 but received a major renovation in c.1935. The new design featured smooth wall surfaces displaying little detail with the exception of the stack bond brick pattern used between the second story windows. Round windows were placed on the second floor at each end of the facade above step-backed recessed entrances. The facade of the building immediately to the south, 1324-1328 North Main, was rehabilitated in c.1938. The building presents little ornamentation with beyond the brick headers and stretchers used to frame window openings. The 1946 Royal Cleaners and Dyers building at 1327 North Main reveals a facade sheathed with smooth plaster and curving glass-block walls. The facade of this building is pierced with two octagonal shape windows.

The designers and builders of most of the buildings in the Marine Commercial Historic District are unknown. It is known that Frank J. Singleton designed the building at 1400-1402 North Main Street. This Commercial Style building was constructed in 1918. Little is known about Singleton and few of his works have been documented in Fort Worth. The Saint James Second Street Baptist Church, now known as Greater Saint James Missionary Baptist Church, located just east of downtown at 210 Harding, was also designed by Singleton. The two-story Late Gothic Revival Style church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1999). Another work attributed to Singleton is a c.1927 two-story Period Revival house at 2127 Pembroke Drive on Fort Worth's South Side.³⁹

The 1920 rehabilitation of the Roseland Theater, 1438-1440 North Main Street, has been attributed to architect L.B. Weinman (c.1867-1945). Born in Germany, Weinman immigrated to the United States at the age of 15. He settled in Atchison, Kansas, where he attended Benedictine College. Weinman arrived in Fort Worth in 1890, and his first architectural job in the city consisted of assisting with the design of the old city hall. In 1895, Weinman began his own practice. Weinman designed the old Central Fire Station at Throckmorton, Eighth, and Main in 1899. The station was demolished in 1939. Weinman's other works include the Byzantine-inspired St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 2022 Ross Avenue, in Near North Fort Worth (1917) and numerous commercial and single and multi-family residential buildings on Fort Worth's South Side that range from the utilitarian to Prairie School and Period Revival designs. Weinman retired in 1942.⁴⁰

The Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Inc., at 1307-1317 North Main Street, is an excellent local example of an intact commercial laundry facility. The eligible resources include the three buildings along the 1300 block of North

³⁹ Susan Allen Kline, "Saint James Second Street Baptist Church," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1998; *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Fort Worth Near North Side and West Side, Westover Hills* (Fort Worth, Texas: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1988), 74; *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase III Fort Worth's Southside*, Fort Worth, Texas: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1986, 116.

⁴⁰ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, August 15, 1945, Biographical Clippings File, Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas; Carol Roark, *Fort Worth's Legendary Landmarks*, Fort Worth, Texas: Texas Christian University Press, 1995, 58; *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase III--Fort Worth's Southside*, 27, 33, 40, 44, 45, 60, 85, 91, 129, 130, 138.

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Main Street, as well as the boiler house and warehouse located to the west of these buildings. The boiler house once provided the facility with its own power, making it completely self-sufficient and not reliant on outside energy sources. The metal water tower, erected in c.1958, is a replacement of an earlier structure and is counted as a noncontributing structure.

The Roseland Theater/Rose Theater/Marine Theater, 1438-1440 North Main Street, was an important entertainment venue for the residential areas surrounding the Marine Commercial Historic District. The facade is an excellent example of how a Commercial Style design could be embellished to make it distinctive from its neighbors. It was common for theaters constructed during the first half of the twentieth century to have eye-catching facades as a way to attract patrons and to provide an association with the glitzy movie industry. The use of the cast ornamentation, glazed green tile, and decorative brickwork makes this building unusual in the district. The decorative motif used on the end bays could be interpreted as a rose, playing off of the name "Roseland." After the name of the theater was changed to the Rose, an electric sign with a rose outlined in light bulbs was hung from the parapet. The current restoration plans for the building call for the re-creation of this sign using a historic photograph and oral history.⁴¹

The Marine Commercial Historic District is significant for its association with the early commercial growth and development of the Near North Side of Fort Worth, Texas. During the period of significance, the district functioned as a commercial center for the surrounding residential areas. Although the district has suffered through a period of decline and neglect, current revitalization efforts are bringing businesses and customers back. National Register listing will help to acknowledge the district's significance to North Fort Worth's history and assist to promote its preservation. Nominated at the local level of significance, the Marine Commercial Historic District is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

41 Interview with Paul and Sandra Dennehy, architects, Corgan Associates, December 17, 1999.

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Figure 8-1 Map of Nathan Barrett's Original Plan For North Fort Worth, 1888



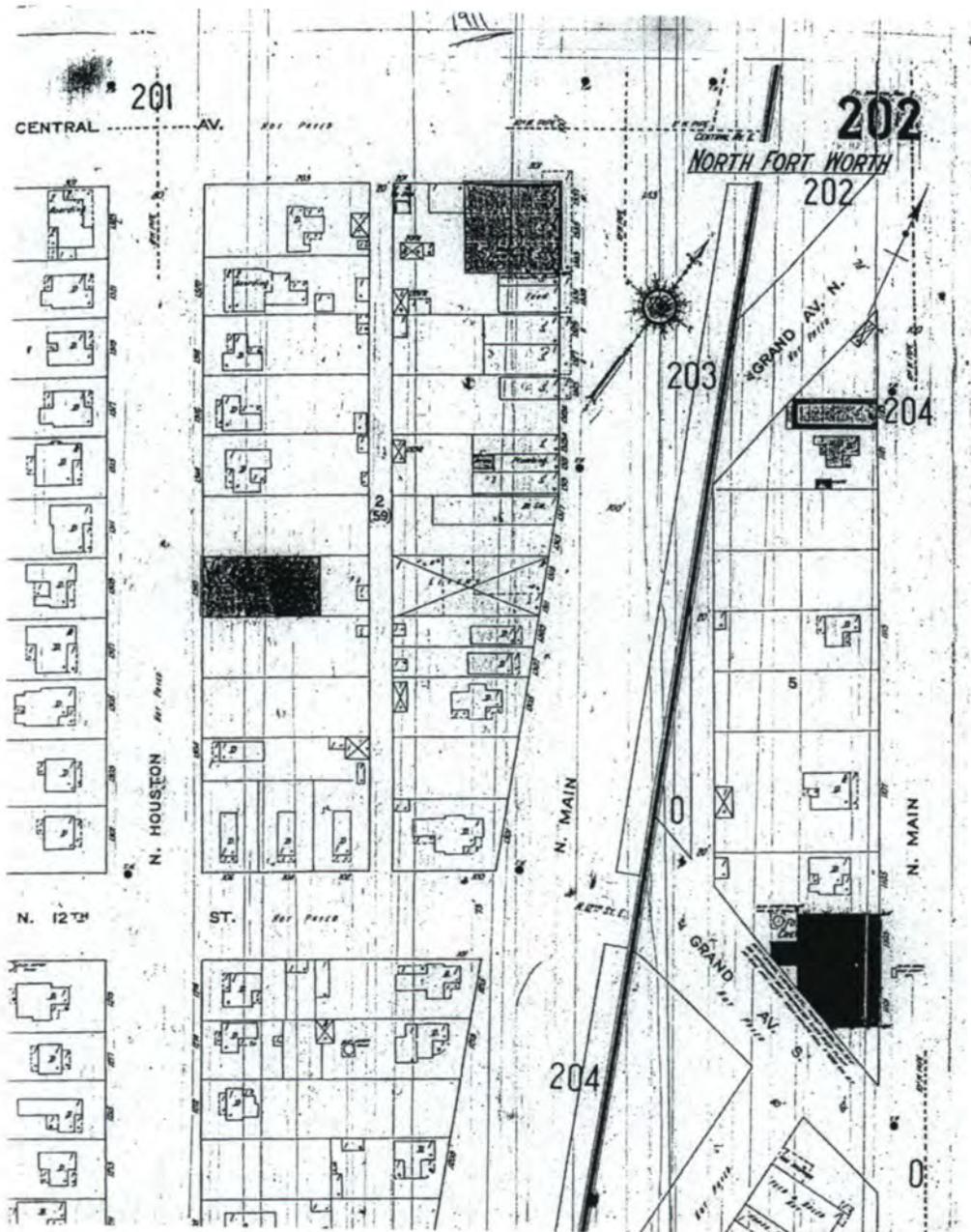
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Figure 8-2 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



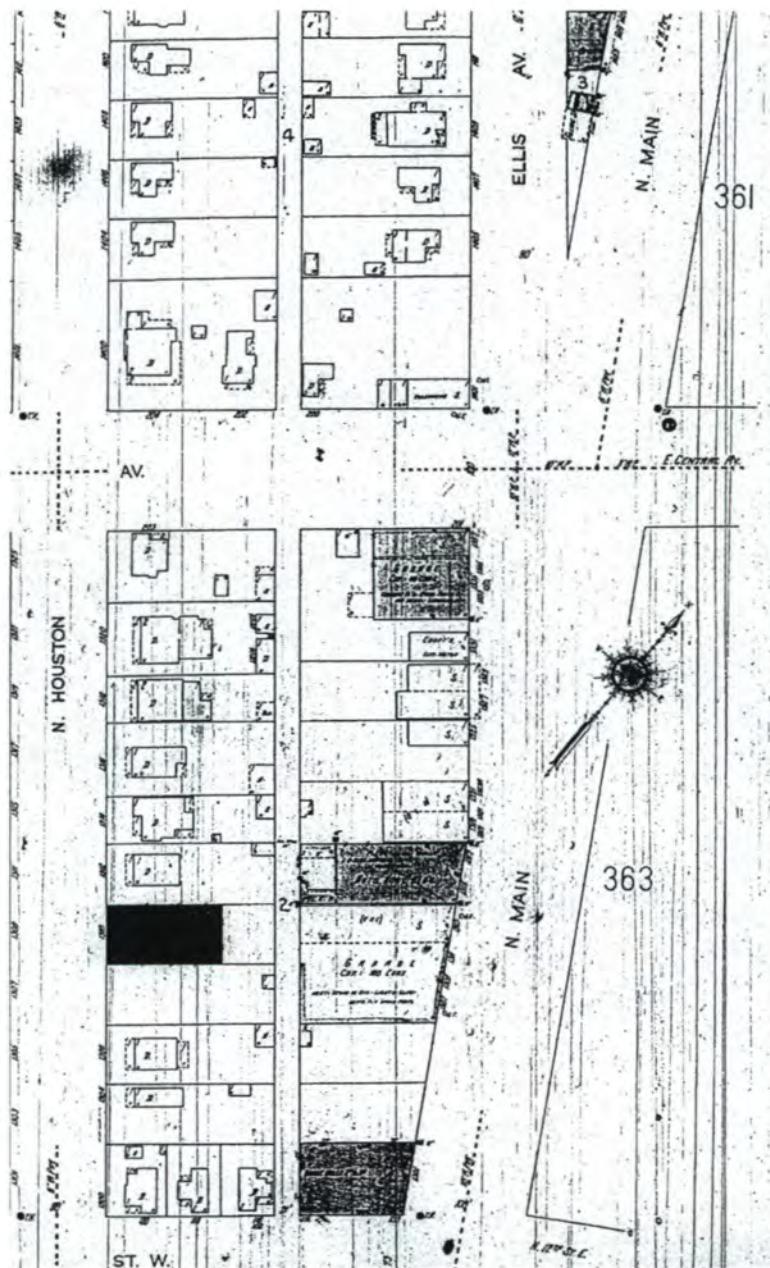
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Figure 8-3 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



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Figure 8-4 Roseland Theatre c. 1933-1936



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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	654720	3627820
2	14	654820	3627920
3	14	654980	3627540
4	14	654860	3627480

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-38)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-38)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from John W. Murphey, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Susan Allen Kline, Planner

ORGANIZATION: City of Fort Worth Planning Department **DATE:** January 12, 2000

STREET & NUMBER: 1000 Throckmorton **TELEPHONE:** 817-871-8012

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Worth **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 76102

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-39)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: A list of property owners is on file at the Texas Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 12276 **TELEPHONE:** (512) 463-6094

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 78711

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Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northwest corner of Block H of the North Fort Worth plat, proceed in an easterly direction along the south curbline of North 14th Street and across North Main Street to the northwest corner of Block 58 of the North Fort Worth plat; continue in an easterly direction along the south curbline of North 14th Street to the west side of the alley of Block 58; turn in a southerly direction and follow the west side of the alley, crossing Central Avenue and proceeding along the west side of the alley of Block 51 of the North Fort Worth plat to the southeast corner of Lot 6, Block 51; proceed in a westerly direction along the southern boundary of Lot 6 and follow that line across Main Street to the west curbline of North Main Street; proceed in a southerly direction along the curbline to the southern boundary of Lot 20, Block 78 of the North Fort Worth plat; proceed in a westerly direction along this line and across the alley to the southern boundary of Lot 2, Block 78, proceeding for 63 feet along the lot line; turn and proceed in a northerly direction to the southern boundary of Lot 3; proceed along the southern boundary of Lot 3 to the east curbline of North Houston Street; proceed northerly along the curbline to the northern boundary of Lot 3; proceed easterly along the north lot line to the east side of the alley of Block 78; proceed in a northerly direction along the east side of the alley to the southern curbline of Central Avenue; proceed in an easterly direction along the curbline to the northeast corner of Block 78; proceed in a northerly direction to the west curbline of Block H; proceed along the west curbline to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Marine Commercial Historic District have been drawn to include the area most strongly associated with the historic use of the word "Marine" when referring to the commercial area. Newspaper and city directory references to the word "Marine" were most commonly used for the 1300 and 1400 blocks of North Main Street. In addition, the blocks immediately north and south of the district do not retain the integrity of the 1300 and 1400 blocks. The southern boundary of the district has been drawn to exclude two noncontributing buildings and portions of a parking lot on the east side of North Main Street and a large parking lot on the west side of the street. The noncontributing buildings include one that is noncontributing due to insufficient age and one historic building that has lost its integrity due to alterations. The large parking lot on the west side of the street was the former location of Shannon Funeral Home and the Tarrant Lodge # 942, A.F. & A.M. This building was demolished around 1967. The boundaries also have been drawn to include several industrial resources associated with the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners. These resources are on the west side of the alley and one of them actually faces North Houston Street. Only that portion of Lot 3 that contains the boiler house was included in the boundaries. The western portion of the lot contains a Bungalow Style house that was constructed in 1918. Although the house was associated with the laundry for several years during the period of significance, it has been altered with the application of vinyl siding and the replacement of its wood windows with metal units. The boundaries also include a parking lot on the south side of the Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners that is historically associated with that resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 39

Marine Commercial Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Marine Commercial Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Kline
Location of Negatives: City of Fort Worth

Photo 1 of 12
1400 block of North Main Street
December 1999
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 12
Greines Furniture Company
1332 North Main Street
December 1999
Camera facing southeast

Photo 3 of 12
Renfro Drug Store
1342-1344 North Main Street
December 1999
Camera facing southeast

Photo 4 of 12
Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners
1307-1317 North Main Street
November 1999
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5 of 12
Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners;
warehouse, water tower, and boiler
1307-1317 North Main Street.
December 1999
Camera facing east

Photo 6 of 12
Royal Cleaners and Dyers
1327 North Main Street
December 1999
Camera facing southwest

Photo 7 of 12
Hickman and Clark Drug Store; Pritchard Building;
Greines Dry Goods
1400-1410 North Main Street
November 1999
Camera facing northeast

Photo 8 of 12
S.T. Percy Building,
1424-1426 North Main Street
November 1999
Camera facing east

Photo 9 of 12
Castillo Building
1434 North Main Street
November 1999
Camera facing northeast

Photo 10 of 12
Roseland Theater
1438-1440 North Main Street.
November 1999
Camera facing east

Photo 11 of 12
Gulf Station
1421 North Main Street
December 1999
Camera facing northwest

Photo 12 of 12
Cities Services Oil Company Station # 11
1445 North Main Street
November 1999
Camera facing southwest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Marine Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Tarrant

DATE RECEIVED: 1/09/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/22/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/08/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000102

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/9/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Left to Right 1412-1444 N. Main St (non-contributing)
Roseland / Rose / Marine Theater, 1438-1440 N. Main St
1436 N. Main St.
Castillo Building 1434, 1434A+B N. Main St
S. T. Percy Building, 1424-1426 N. Main St
Marine Hotel, 1422 N. Main St
1416 N. Main St
1412 N. Main St.
Greines Dry Goods, 1408-1410 N. Main St.
Pritchard Building, 1404-1406 N. Main St
Hickman and Clark Drug Store, 1400-1402 N. Main St

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg. : City of Fort Worth

Looking SE

1



Left to Right: 1338-1340 N. Main St. (portion of building), Noncontributing
Greines Furniture Company, 1332 N. Main St.
1324-1328 N. Main St.

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking SE

2



344
MAIN

The
Milland
Companies
RS
M FRI.
5:00

NO SOLIDARS

Rentfro Drug Store #15 / Piggly Wiggly, 1342-1344 N. Main St.
(also 1342-1348 N. Main St /
102-104 E. Central Ave)

1338-1340 N. Main St. (noncontributing)

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking SE

#3

H LAUNDRY

Phone 624-1123

that money can't buy

1 DAY
SERVICE

QUALITY
DRY
CLEANERS



ODORLESS

FORT WORTH LAUNDRY DRY CLEANERS

QUALITY SERVICE

EST 1927



Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners,
Marine Commercial Historic District

1307-1317 N. Main St.

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

November 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking NW

#4



Fort Worth Laundry and Dry Cleaners

Foreground: Warehouse

Background: Water Tower (Noncontributing)
Boiler House

Behind 1307-1317 N. Main St

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking E

#5

**Fort Worth
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**



Royal Cleaners and Dyers, 1327 N. Main St.
Marine Commercial Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking W/SW

#6



Dyblor Lebanese Restaurant
BRUNCH & LUNCH BUFFET

Central Av
El Rancho Grande
El Rancho Grande
LEFT OR RIGHT ONLY
One Way

Left to Right : Greines Dry Goods, 1408-1410 N. Main St.
Pritchard Building, 1404-1406 N. Main St.
Hickman and Clark Drug Store 1400-1402 N. Main St.

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

November 1999

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking NE

#7



Left to Right S.T. Percy Building, 1424 - 1426 N. Main St
Marine Hotel, 1422 N. Main St.

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

November 1999

Looking E

#8



Left to right : 1446 N. Main St (noncontributing)
1442-1444 N. Main St (noncontributing)
Roseland (Rose) Marine Theater, 1438-1440 N. Main St.
1436 N. Main St
Castillo Building, 1434 - 1434 A + B N. Main St.

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg. : City of Fort Worth

Looking NE

#9



Roseland / Rose / Marine Theater, 1438 - 1440 N. Main St.
Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

November 1999

Neg.: City of Fort Worth

Looking E / NE

#10

TEXAS
FAVORITE
JUST GOT
BETTER!

METROPLEX
AUTO TITLE

NO
TITLE
LOST TITLE?
WE CAN

SPECIALIZING
IN
CLEANING UP
TITLES
AND
FINANCING
YOUR
BUY

GARCIA
TIRE
AUTO
SALES

SPECIAL

Left to Right Gulf Station, 1421 N. Main St. (noncontributing)
Billboard (noncontributing)
1441 N. Main St
Cities Services Oil Company Station #11 / North Side
Radio and Appliance, 1445 N. Main St

Marine Commercial Historic District

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

Susan Kline

December 1999

Neg. : City of Fort Worth

Looking NW

#11



GROCERY
BEER-WINE

DRIVE THRU

D

DOUGLAS GROCERY

NW 14th St

D

D

GARCIA
TIRE
AUTO
SALES

SPEED
LIMIT
30

Marlboro

2.70

GARCIA TIRE CO.
AUTO SALES

Coca-Cola
Coca-Cola

270 240

WESTERN HARDWARE

Cities Services Oil Co. Station #11 / North Side Radio and Appliance
1445 N. Main St.

Marine Commercial Historic District
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, TX

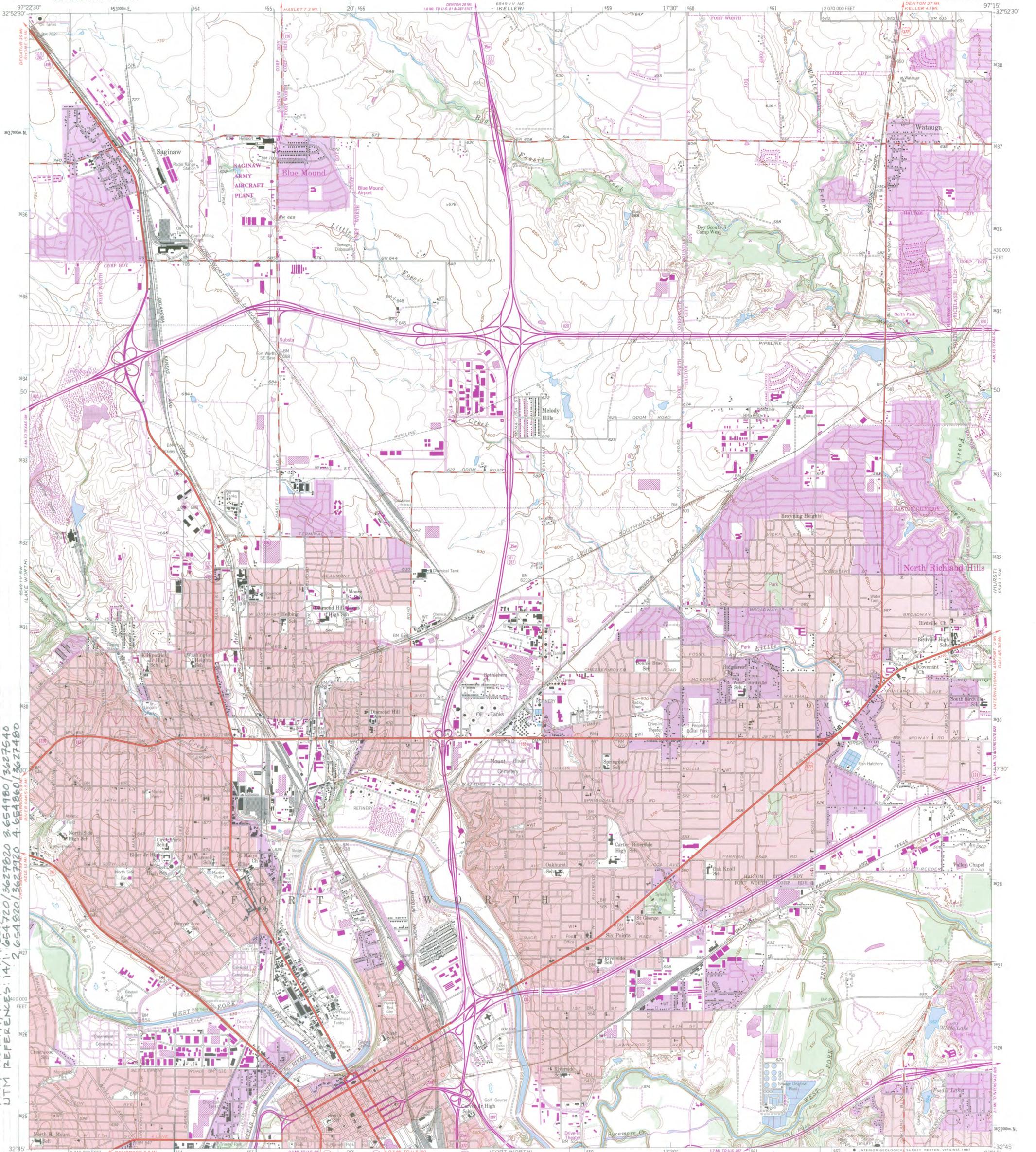
Susan Kline

November 1999

Neg.: City of Fort Worth

Looking SW

#12



MARINE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
FORT WORTH, TARRANT CO, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES: 14/1 654720/3627820 3. 654980/3627540
2. 654820/3627720 4. 654860/3627480

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952-1954. Field checked 1955

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 10 meters south and 28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



HALTOM CITY, TEX.
SE/4 HALTOM CITY 15 QUADRANGLE
32097-G3-TF-024

1955
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6549 IV SE-SERIES V882