

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED:

1. NAME

Historic: Ratliff Building
and/or Common: _____

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 70311 N. Main St.
City, Town: Blountsville ---Vicinity of: _____
State: AL County: Blount Zip: 35031-

3. CLASSIFICATION

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Government
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> Military
			<input type="checkbox"/> Museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> Park
			<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: Worth W. Ratliff & Shirley Putney Telephone: () - _____
Street & Number: P. O. Box 398
City or Town: Cullman State: AL Zip: 35056-
Email Address: _____

5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

(Attach sketched floor plan and/or site plan.)

6. DESCRIPTION

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the description.)

CONDITION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |

CHECK ONE CHECK ONE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date Moved |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

The Ratliff Building is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building with a flat roof concealed by low flat parapets with cast copings. One tall interior chimney is centered at the north wall and there are series of brick flues along each of the east-west parapets.

The building faces west and is seven bays wide along N. Main Street and eight bays deep along Lee Street. The first floor level of the façade is divided into three storefronts and a corner entrance by intermediate brick piers. The south storefront has a three-panel fixed aluminum display window over a short brick bulkhead. The center storefront has a similar display window flanking a double-leaf aluminum entrance door with transom to the west. The western storefront opening is divided by an intermediate pier. The storefront system is divided into six segments: the eastern segment is flush with the façade; the western segments are angled inward from the northern pier; the four northern segments are fixed metal-framed display windows with transoms above a brick bulkhead; and the fifth segment has double-leaf wooden entrance doors with a double transom. A continuous narrow molded cornice above the storefronts runs the full-width of the building and wraps to the western portion of the south elevation. A series of transom panels above the cornice corresponding to the storefronts have been infilled. The upper level has double wood six-over-one light double hung sash windows set within rectangular openings with cast sills at all but its sixth bay. The sixth bay has a similar single window. The exterior wall is exposed tan-colored face brick set in stretcher bond with a patterned stylized oversize dentil band below the parapet cap.

The south elevation is similar in design to the west façade. The first floor level has the corner entrance and a three-panel fixed storefront window at its two western bays, small rectangular window openings at the line of the storefront transoms at its three center bays, and single and double entrance doors at its eastern bays. The entrances are covered by a simple flat canopy supported by three posts. The upper level has single windows in its sixth and eighth bays and double windows in remaining three bays. The north elevation is constructed of a common tan brick set in common bond. The first floor level has six openings: small windows at the transom line in its four outer bays with wooden six-light sash, a pedestrian entrance at its third bay, and a double-leaf cargo door at its fourth bay. A simple flat canopy is supported from above by tie rods and covers a wooden loading dock with a pedestrian walkway and staircase extending to its south. The upper level has six double windows. The east elevation is similar to the north. Seven small windows equally spaced along the first floor. Single windows are located in the first, second, and sixth bays of the upper level with double windows in all remaining bays but the eighth which has a pedestrian entrance with side window. An exterior metal staircase provides access to the entrance.

The interior is divided into three store spaces that correspond to the storefront systems at the façade. Each store is similar, with some additional partitioning to separate work and storage spaces, bathrooms, etc. Historic pressed metal ceilings remain in most areas, with later dropped ceilings in others. Walls typically have modern sheetrock or other finishes. Flooring is typically covered with carpet or vinyl except at the center store where wood flooring is exposed. The upper floor is divided into a series of apartments.

The building retains its overall historic design and appearance with minimal alteration that have included the replacement of some storefront framing and the covering of some transoms and windows. The building is in generally good condition.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the significance.)

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-CHECK AND EXPLAIN BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> funerary art	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	

SPECIFIC DATES: ca. 1939

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ratliff Building is historically significant as Blountsville's largest and most prominent commercial building. Constructed circa 1939, the building is a good example of early-twentieth century commercial architecture.

Vernon A. Ratliff purchased three lots from T.W.H. Strickland for \$2,500 on February 22, 1932 and built the present building as a general store complex circa 1939. Ratliff is listed in both the 1920 and 1930 censuses as a merchant operating a general store. The Blountsville Post Office was located in the northern end of the building in the 1940s and was later replaced by a hardware store.

A 1950 insurance map of Blountsville indicates that the building then housed a grocery store in its southern space, a clothing store in its center space, and a hardware store in its northern space. In the 1960s, the two northern bays became a dry goods store. The grocery was later replaced by a clothing store operated by the Ratliff family. That clothing business eventually expanded into a seven-store chain.

The building continues to be owned and operated by the Ratliff family and currently houses antique stores in its southern and northern spaces. The upper floor apartments are vacant.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Davis, Jr., Robert Scott. A Blountsville Picture Book. Blountsville, AL: Blountsville Historical Society. 1999.
Heritage of Blount County. Oneonta, AL: Blount County Historical Society. 1989.
Heritage of Blount County Alabama. Clanton, Alabama: Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., 1999
Powell, George. Blount County, Glimpses of the Past. Oneonta, AL: Junior Blount County Historical Society. 1981.
Ratliffe, Bryce. Cullman, AL. Interview, August 2007.
Rogers, William Warren, et. al. Alabama: The History of a Deep South State. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1994.

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: <1
Quadrangle name: Blountsville

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

10. FORM PREPARED BY

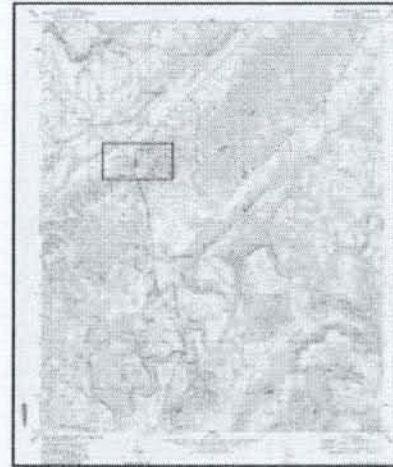
Name/title: David B. Schneider (assisted by members of the Blountsville Historical Comm.)
Organization: Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC Date: August 5, 2007
Street & Number: 411 East 6th Street Telephone: (256) 310-6320
City or Town: Anniston State: AL Zip: 36207-
Email Address: dbschneider@bellsouth.net

11. PLEASE SUBMIT COLOR IMAGES OF THE PROPERTY WITH THIS FORM:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD. Please see the "Instructions for Completing an AR Form" for more details on images or contact the AHC at 334.230.2687.

Topo Map

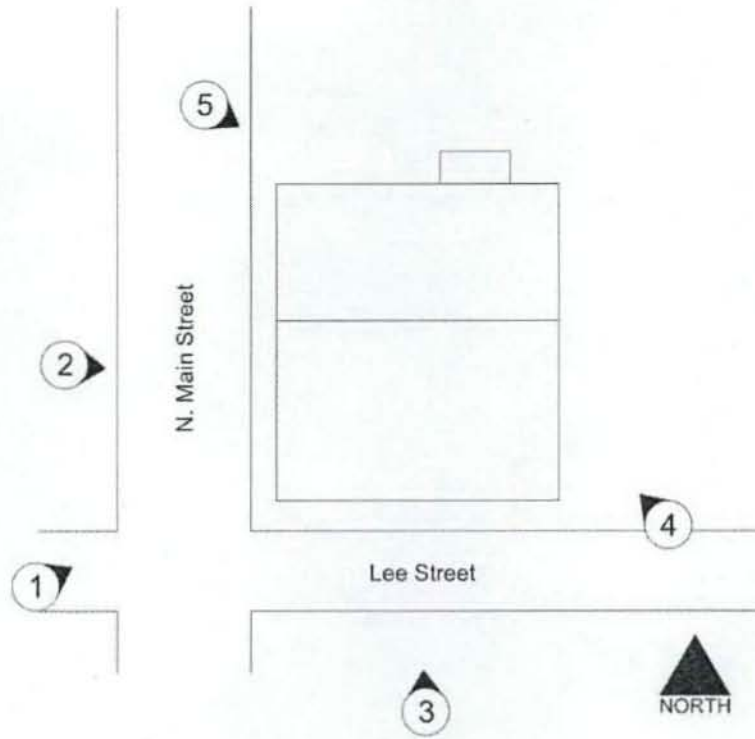
General Location Maps



Blountsville Quadrangle
16 / 537765 E / 3771086 N
Created 1969, Revised 1986

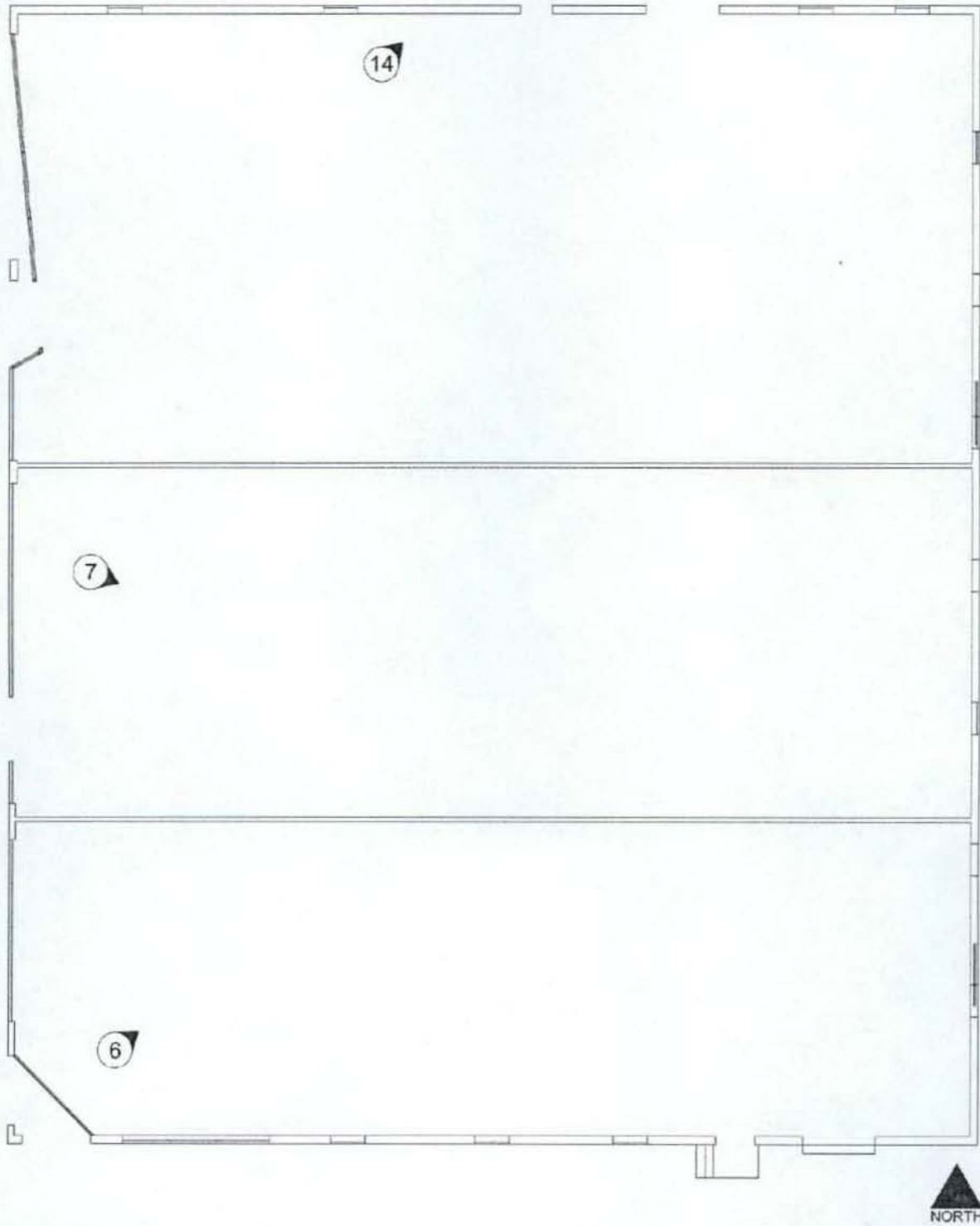


Siteplan
(Not to Scale)



Floorplan Sketch
(Not to Scale)

FIRST FLOOR



Photographs:

1. Ratliff Building
2. Blountsville, Blount County, AL
3. David B. Schneider, Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC
4. July 2007
5. 411 E. 6th St., Anniston AL 36207
6. Exterior, West façade (left) and south elevation, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #01

6. Exterior, west facade, camera facing east
7. Photo #02

6. Exterior, south elevation, camera facing north
7. Photo #03

6. Exterior, east elevation, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #04

6. Exterior, north elevation, camera facing southeast
7. Photo #05

6. Interior, 1st floor, south store, camera facing east
7. Photo #06

6. Interior, 1st floor, center store, camera facing east
7. Photo #07



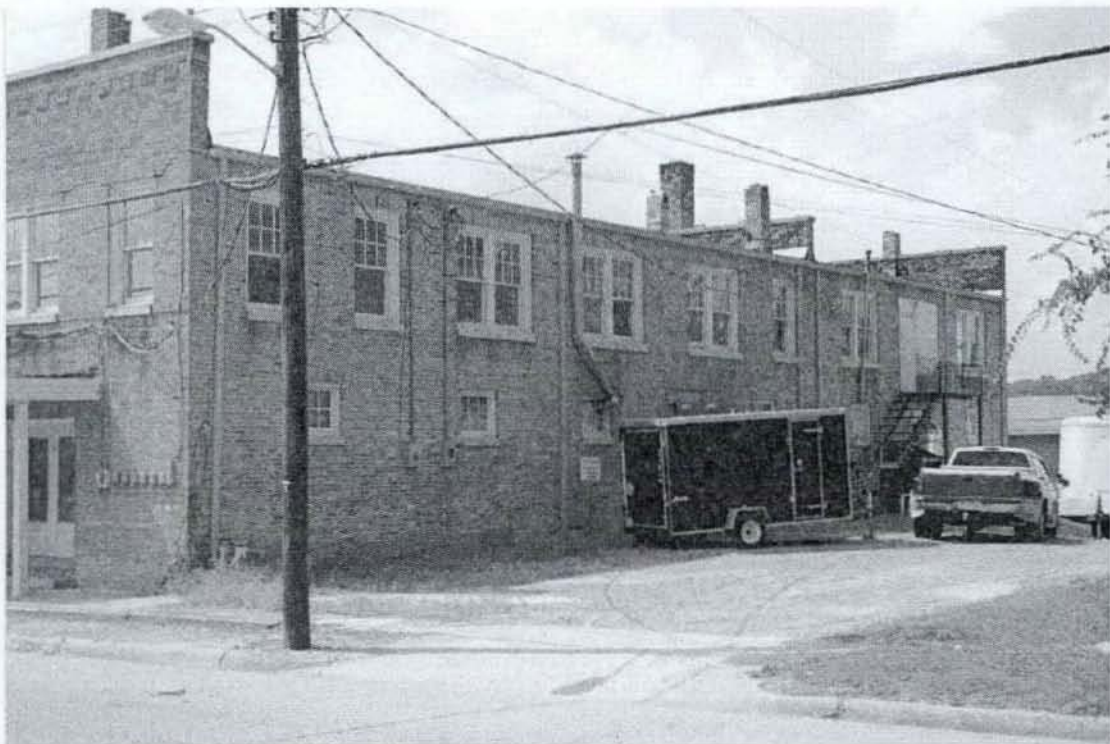
6. Exterior, West façade (left) and south elevation, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #01



6. Exterior, west facade, camera facing east
7. Photo #02



6. Exterior, south elevation, camera facing north
7. Photo #03



6. Exterior, east elevation, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #04



6. Exterior, north elevation, camera facing southeast
7. Photo #05



6. Interior, 1st floor, south store, camera facing east
7. Photo #06



6. Interior, 1st floor, center store, camera facing east
7. Photo #07