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January 7, 2026

State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Archives and History
4610 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4610

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of my personal properties in downtown Franklin being added to the National Register of Historic Places which is to be presented at the meeting of the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee on February 12, 2026.

My personal properties include:

McCoy Building, 46 East Main Street, PIN 6594196973

Jarrett Hotel 50-60 East Main Street, PIN 6594196973

Farmers Federation Building, 68 East Palmer Street, same parcel as the two above parcels.

The Farmers Federation Building, which housed a place for farmers to buy and sell their farm wares to each other and the public, and the other two properties are the only privately owned properties that go from street (Main) to street (Palmer).

I am attaching a bit of historical information on two of the properties researched by one of our county historians (now deceased). I hope you find the information helpful in choosing my property and our town to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

I totally support this nomination,



Ben J. Swafford

Jarrett Hotel

Built by: Robert H. Jarrett

Construction date: 1894

Lot: Lot 2 of original Town Plat

Previous Owners/ Uses:

One of the first buildings in Franklin, a cabin of round logs, was erected on Lot 2 by Lindsey Fortune about 1820. Bynum Wilkie Bell, the first sheriff of Macon County and Fortune's brother-in-law, bought the lot for \$73 in 1820. He lent the building to the first county court, which met there to organize the county government.



The cabin was incorporated into the original Jarrett Hotel, which was erected on this site at an unknown date. It was in existence in 1887, when R.H. Jarrett & Son appeared on a merchants tax list. Proprietor R.H. Jarrett was described in an 1891 issue of *The Franklin Press* as "the polite and efficient postmaster." Besides the hotel, Jarrett kept a store near the square; the post office was housed there. (Jarrett was postmaster from 1890-1893 and again in 1902; his son Hamilton H. Jarrett also served a stint as postmaster.)

The hotel offered livery services in partnership with Thomas Angel.

The fire of 1894 destroyed the old hotel; it was rebuilt soon after that date.

Weimar Jones, a Franklin native who returned to his hometown and acquired *The Franklin Press* after a distinguished career in journalism, recalled the glory days of the Jarrett Hotel in his 1960 book, *My Affair with a Weekly*. "Ah! how beautiful to a small boy were the ladies who sat on that above-the-sidewalk porch and gaily chatted, with apparently never a care or a duty in the world."

The estate of Hamilton H. Jarrett sold the hotel to W.L. McCoy in 1920. He leased it to Conley and (Church) Hames, who kept a store here. They refurbished the building and operated it as "The Franklin Hotel and Restaurant," C.W. Hames, manager. The hotel had restaurant and shop spaces downstairs and 16 guest rooms upstairs. For much of its career, it was considered Franklin's finest hotel.



The porches and balcony were removed after becoming delapidated and dangerous. The rock facing was added in 1976, as part of the TVA Townlift Program. At that time, Kendal's Camera Shop and the Mary Ruth Beauty Shop occupied the shop space.

Present Tenants (2003):

Books Unlimited, Headquarters and the Rathskeller (in rear).

McCoy Building

Built by: W.L. McCoy

Construction Date: ca. 1916

Lot: Original Town lot 3

Previous Owners/ Uses:

The "Love Brick Block" stood on this spot in 1894, at the time of the great fire. The bricks slowed the fire and ended its rampage up the block. The date the Love building was erected is unknown, but it may have been associated with W.L. Love, a wealthy lawyer from New York, who settled in Franklin about 1870. Until about 1900, a house called the "Love House" stood to the west of the Love Brick Building, near the square.



W.L. McCoy, who developed this block, also purchased the Jarrett Hotel in 1920.

The Franklin Millinery Company opened in the building in 1927, with Mary Allman and Jess Angel in charge. Their shop featured a complete line of ladies' ready-to-wear as well as milinery. The store also housed Pearl's Beauty Shop, operated by Pearl Burleson, and an alterations department in charge of Mrs. Claude Russell.

Present Tenants (2003):

Frog & Owl Restaurant (east side) and Stewart's Jewelry.

~~The Tyrijs Shop~~