

Design Proposal

November 9, 2020

North Carolina Main Street
301 North Wilmington St.
4346 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4346
Phone: 919-814-4658

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MS&RP
NC MAIN STREET & RURAL PLANNING CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Existing Property



Proposed Design

"The Whole"

Rutherfordton, NC



design proposal

"The Whole"
Rutherfordton, NC
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NC
GREENSBORO
Department of
Interior Architecture



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pg. **1** Project Overview



pg. **2** Archival Findings



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Property Description

The building previously located on this lot burned down in April of 1986. This property sits directly across from the Rutherford County Courthouse on a prominent corner of Main St & 2nd Street. The property is grossly underutilized as a gravel parking lot and falls from Main St in elevation to the rear alley of Toms St. There is an entrance to underground shops, currently unused and in disrepair, under Main Street. By at least one account, these abandoned spaces were historically used as segregated shopping areas for People of Color.



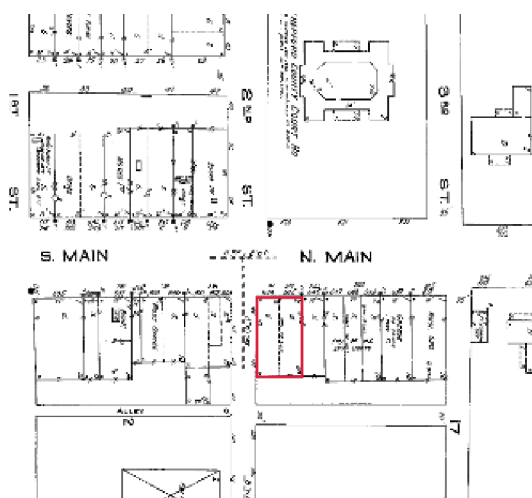
With efforts to keep the community safe while supporting their local businesses during the pandemic, the town of Rutherfordton aims to maintain the strong sense of community while still adhering to the state-mandated orders concerning reduced capacity. Reconfiguring this vacant lot into a social-distanced community gathering space will bring the community together through outdoor dining, local arts and crafts, recreation, and live performances, similar to the FR8YARD project below.



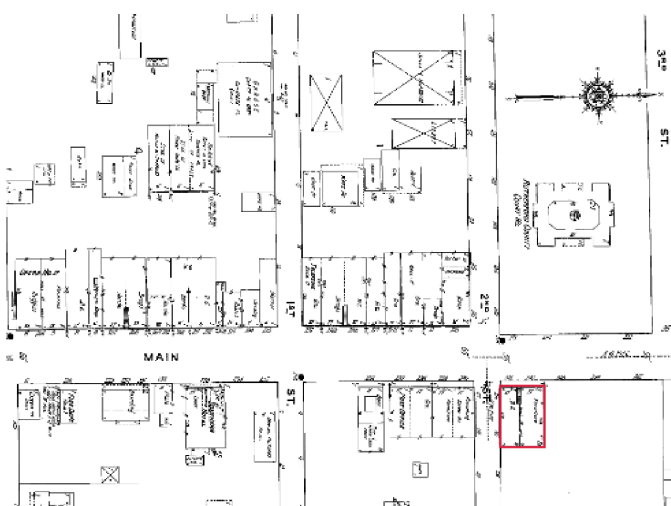
Inspiration: FR8YARD in Spartanburg, SC



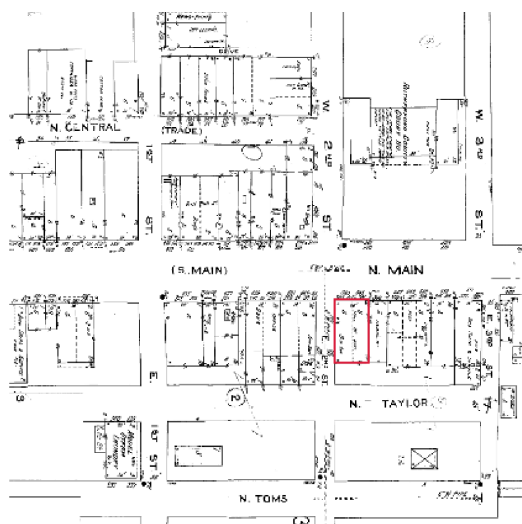
Inspiration! FR8YARD in Spartanburg, SC



Sanborn Map 1865



Sanborn Map 1916

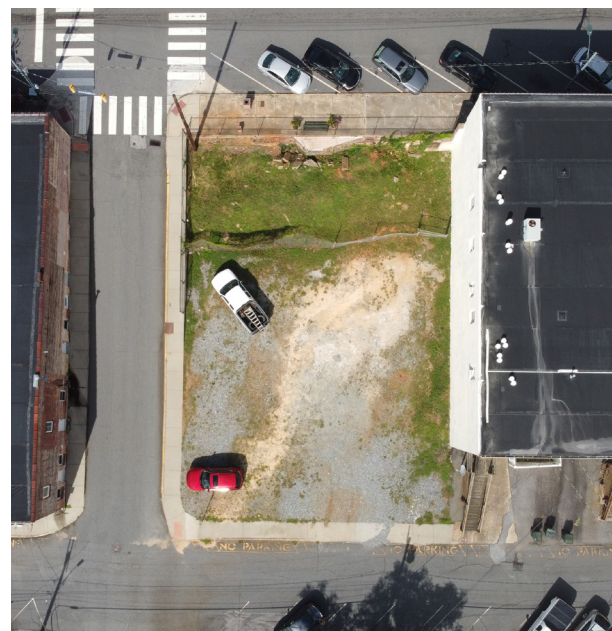


Sanborn Map 1925 - 1938

The 1898 Sanborn Map of Rutherfordton illustrates a one-story-on-basement building, one of a quartet of brick buildings, on this site. Prior to the 1986 fire, those buildings stood as the corner of Main and 2nd streets. The Main Street facade of the buildings dated to the 1930s and was sheathed with wire-cut brick. Brick piers flank a staircase which descended from the sidewalk to the basement level and the recessed storefront entrance: the upper part of the elevation features two panels below a corbelled cornice. The stairwell containing the basement entrance survives as a rare instance of commercial architectural design. It is the only example which survives in Rutherfordton and one of the few which survive intact in the state. It has plastered walls marked by a chairrail, a flight of wood steps, and two doors at the foot of the stair which open into individual rooms.







Main Street Entrance to "The Whole"



Entrance from Rear on Taylor St.



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