

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Navasota Commercial Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number In an irregular pattern along *Roughly bounded by* La Salle, Holland, 9th, and Brule Sts. N/A not for publication

city, town Navasota N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Grimes code 185

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See attachment sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of N/A state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grimes County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Anderson state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Navasota Commercial Historic District is made up of approximately seventy-five architecturally or historically significant limestone and brick commercial buildings, including some manufacturing and cotton processing industrial complexes. The majority of the district's buildings, few of which have undergone major alterations, date from the third quarter of the 19th through the early 20th centuries and are vernacular in character. Several early-20th-century commercial buildings reflect late Victorian influence, while some late-19th-century examples employ elements of the Renaissance Revival Style to fulfil demands for sophistication in architectural design. Representative stuccoed building facades contain three or four bays and display segmental or round arched openings. The uniformity of construction materials, in addition to a similarity of building scale, proportion, decorative elements, and design quality, characterize the vernacular commercial architecture of the district and contribute to its visual cohesiveness. The district is primarily commercial in character, but a single residential structure is included because of its architectural quality and its historical association with the state's oldest cottonseed oil mill.

Most of Navasota's early commercial buildings were modest in scale and reflect the availability of natural building materials such as native limestone and locally manufactured brick. Unadorned, functional limestone rubble walls, reflecting a fine quality or workmanship, were finished with plaster and often scored to imitate hewn stone work. Generally, the few brick commercial buildings within the district perpetuate late Victorian design but are simpler, with ornamentation confined to corbelled cornices, decorative belt courses, and contrasting, lighter colored brick detailing.

Platted in a gridiron pattern along Cedar Creek and oriented askew to 45°, the early commercial center of Navasota originated along Railroad Street in the mid-19th century and expanded to include five blocks on the north side of Washington Avenue between 9th and La Salle Streets. The intersection of these two broad thoroughfares formed the original T-shaped business district, within which most of the early stone and brick commercial establishments were located. Unpaved until the 1930s and extending east-west through the center of the commercial district, the main street of Washington Avenue was a section of the early highway connecting the historic settlements of Washington-on-the-Brazos and Anderson. Perhaps the most important natural feature located within the district is Cedar Creek, which runs parallel to Washington Avenue on the north. The creek, with its high pilastered rock wall (a 1930 W.P.A. project), constitutes a predominant visual feature in the downtown area and is adjacent to the Schumacher Oil Works Complex.

Alternating rows of deep and narrow, one- and two-story commercial buildings contribute to the visual unity of the district. The earliest structures maintained a uniform building width and similar floor levels within the block. A few three-story structures, however, are located along Railroad Street and on corner lots. These originally housed hotels or banking establishments.

The majority of the buildings within the district have continuously functioned as commercial and retail establishments. A wide variety of commercial businesses, including general merchandise, dry goods, and restaurants, originally occupied the ground levels of buildings, while upper stories were rented as professional offices or meeting halls. Several modern downtown businesses currently operate types of enterprises similar to those of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, although the upper stories are usually vacant or used for storage.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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37. Camp Hotel. (Precision Printing/H & R Block/Credit Loans) - 212-216 E. Washington Ave.; ca. 1908. Compatible. This large three-story stuccoed brick building is regarded as compatible because of exterior alterations to the upper level facade and store front.

38. (Navasota Abstract Co. Inc.) - 210 E. Washington Ave.; ca. 1908. Compatible. The application of stucco to the brick facade and the modern concrete, glass, and metal store front of this two-story building have resulted in its classification as compatible.

39. J. T. Lott Building. (Shoe World) - 206 E. Washington Ave.; ca. 1909. Compatible. This two-story brick building is crowned with a central arched parapet wall bearing the name of the building. The facade exhibits three moulded pilasters and several brick belt courses. The original second story windows have been obscured by a huge commercial sign.

41. (First National Bank Annex) - located at the rear of main bank (facade facing Farquhar St.); post 1925 (ca. 1932?). Compatible. Although this two-story building is probably less than fifty years old, it reflects the scale and materials prevalent throughout most of the district and rates a compatible categorization.

42. Lott Building. (Duke & Ayres Store/Pasket's Jewelry/Flore's Budget Loans/Lindley's Cleaners) - 120 E. Washington Ave.; 1925. Compatible. The ornamented upper facade of this large one-story building includes contrasting brick work laid in alternating herringbone patterns and a stone-capped stepped parapet wall with a plaque. The application of stucco to the west end of the structure and the alteration of the store front, including the enclosure of the transoms, results in this building's classification as compatible.

43. (Noto's White's Home and Auto Store) - 102 E. Washington Ave.; 1924-25. Compatible. The brick corbelled detailing exhibited on the facade of this one-story reinforced concrete building is identical to that of the structure located at 217 E. Washington Ave. (#20). Compatible because of its modern aluminum store front and partial application of plaster to upper facade, the structure could be restored.

44. Old Citizen's National Bank Building. (Noto's White's Home and Auto Store) - 102 E. Washington Ave.; ca. 1899. Contributing. Concrete panels and a modern aluminum store front cover the entire lower story facade of this three-story brick building; however, the second and third levels remain virtually unaltered. Several transomed 1/1 windows grouped in pairs and triple units pierce the upper levels and are headed by flat, segmented, and round arches.

45. (Kookan Antiques) - 105 W. Washington Ave.; ca. 1880. Compatible. The application of stucco and the alteration of the store front merit a compatible classification for this one-story building. Historic photographs reveal that the structure was originally limestone rubble with large arched, transomed openings.