MAKING THE CASE: Writing a Local Landmark Nomination

Writing an architectural description: Johnie’s Coffee Shop

Landmark THIS!
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MAKING THE CASE: Writing an Architectural Description

1. Describe the building's relationship to its site, to the street, or to adjacent buildings. Include specific landscaping features or secondary buildings, if appropriate.

2. Write a comprehensive overview sentence that captures the building's major features (including number of stories, style, and use).

3. Describe the other macro aspects: building shape, cladding material, roofing material, and foundation material. Indicate and describe any differences between primary (street) facades and secondary (rear and/or side) facades.
4. Begin to focus on specific features: window type, doors and door surrounds, porches, chimneys, storefronts, etc., and their location on the facades. Focus on particularly distinctive ornamental features or design details.

5. Describe the building’s interior spaces – for a residential structure, note the number of bedrooms and bathrooms and the general configuration of the layout. For commercial, industrial, or institutional buildings, note the primary “public” spaces and their uses, along with the general configuration of the layout.

6. Describe all notable historic interior features, including built-in furniture, fireplace mantles, decorative moldings, plumbing fixtures, tilework, flooring materials, etc.