

One Lane of Second Street Briefly Blocked



Large section of wall of a 40,000-square-foot building collapsed onto Second Street in North Wilkesboro in a rainstorm Tuesday afternoon.

No vehicles were damaged, but one northbound lane of Second Street was briefly blocked.

Lumber and other materials are being salvaged from the building, which entrepreneur “Nike” Smithey constructed as a warehouse for his chain of department stores in 1940.

The N.C. Department of Transportation removed most of the debris from the roadway with a loader. Town of North Wilkesboro public works and employees of the company salvaging the materials also helped clear the road.