

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 83001834

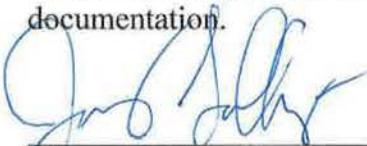
Date Listed: 4/7/1983

Property Name: Graham Historic District

County: Alamance

State: NC

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

2-15-2018

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7: Inventory

Resource #55 is hereby changed to Contributing.

The building identified as 108-112 North Main was considered noncontributing when the original nomination was prepared. The metal false-front has been removed, exposing intact brick walls and windows. The building now contributes to the district, adequately reflecting the areas and period of significance for the Graham Historic District.

This SLR is issued based on materials found in tax credit file #38111

The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service

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date entered

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

1. Name

historic Graham Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

~~Courthouse Square, East and West Harden Streets, East and West Elm Streets, North and~~
street & number South Main Streets, and W. Pine Streets, not for publication

city, town Graham vicinity of

state Alamance N.C. code 037 county Alamance code 001

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alamance County Register of Deeds

street & number Alamance County Courthouse

city, town Graham vicinity of state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Alamance County Architectural Heritage, Carl Lounsbury
title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Alamance County Historic Properties Commission

city, town Graham vicinity of state N. C.

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Graham Historic District vividly reflects the origins and development of the mid-19th century courthouse town which expanded and flourished in the late 19th and early 20th century. The district centers upon and derives its distinctive character from the courthouse square. Around the square is a dense streetscape of late 19th and early 20th century masonry commercial buildings unified by their one to three-story scale, rhythmic windows, and ornamental brickwork. Extending out from the square, axial and secondary streets are lined principally by commercial buildings for one, two, or three blocks before changing to mixed, residential, or parking use. Although the commercial fabric dominates the district, there is an important sprinkling of other types of buildings: a small number of antebellum domestic buildings dating from the mid-19th century founding of the town; a few elaborately adorned late 19th century residences expressive of industrial wealth, and several simpler dwellings; and key institutional buildings of the early 20th century, reflecting the growing town's prosperity and ambitions. To the west of the district's core is an intact, predominantly late nineteenth century area consisting of well-preserved late nineteenth century houses along W. Elm Street, the town's best surviving residential thoroughfare (#s 75-83), and the exceptionally fine Graham Presbyterian Church (#67). The boundaries have been drawn to focus on the central core commercial/government W. Elm Street and to encompass the contiguous and intact key institutional and residential buildings. They exclude recent commercial and institutional, construction and parking lots that surround the district.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

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The following account will describe the plan and courthouse square; antebellum survivors; late 19th and early 20th century dwellings; late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture; key 20th century institutional buildings; and recent construction.

Plan and Courthouse Square

The courthouse town, an expression of the primacy of county government in North Carolina, is one of the state's most important types of communities. Far more than city hall, the courthouse has been the center of government and society in this rural state, and the courthouse town the political (and often commercial) center of the county. The county has been the locus of political identity. Graham, laid out as the courthouse town of Alamance in 1849, has remained a small community, for nearby Burlington siphoned off commercial development. Thus Graham embodies the importance of the courthouse in unmistakable terms, for the centrality of the courthouse square and the surviving frame of commercial fabric stand intact.

Graham, laid out by a local surveyor, Silas Lane, follows the Lancaster square plan--one of three main types of plans seen in North Carolina courthouse towns. A quarter of the state's one hundred county seats have a simpler scheme, with a courthouse square on a central block amid a town grid. Another quarter have a courthouse set on one corner of a primary intersection. Some have no defined courthouse square. Only a few have the Lancaster square plan, a plan that is the most dramatic in its visual impact and also the "least resistant to traffic congestion by virtue of its being 'in the road.'"¹ Named after its early use at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the plan features a large square at the meeting of the main streets, created by "notching out the corners of the adjacent blocks." In North Carolina this scheme survives in only a few towns, including Pittsboro, Whiteville, Carthage, Mocksville, Lincolnton==and Graham. Graham's square is among the most emphatic examples, principally because of the quality and intactness of the block faces that frame the square and reinforce vertically the horizontal plan. Commercial buildings surround the notched-out square and turn the corners to the axial streets--Main running north-south and Elm running east-west. Commercial and residential buildings line these axes and the secondary streets.

Antebellum Survivors

Today Graham's courthouse square is occupied by a handsome, conservative Neoclassical Revival courthouse erected in the 1920s. The original courthouse begun in 1849 was a simple brick structure, probably enriched with Greek Revival or Italianate detail. It was altered over the years and eventually razed for the present building. But probably its character, along with the original town plan, influenced building in the community in its early years. There are some vestiges of the original building period surviving. They reflect the simple rectangular forms and mid-19th century pattern book details that probably appeared in the courthouse.

Although altered, both the Harden House (#1) and the Hunter House (#20) are identifiable as remnants of the early building era. Both are two-story frame dwellings with the prevalent central passage plan, shallow roofline, and plain, vaguely Greek Revival woodwork typical of the period. The Harden House is the more ambitious and intact of the two. It reflects pattern book influences and a general Italianate flavor in its paired windows, hip roof, and simple curved brackets. Comparison with a key rural

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house is noteworthy and suggestive. In 1849 local industrialist E. M. Holt employed Eli Denny, a local builder, to erect a country villa after designs by New York architect A. J. Davis--either copying a Davis scheme in *The Horticulturalist* or obtaining a custom design from Davis directly.² In that same year, Denny and other men erected the new courthouse in Graham. Resemblances between the simple Italianate details of the Harden House and the Holt villa, particularly the simple Davis-esque brackets, suggest the possibility of a connection.

Other antebellum survivors in the district include several commercial buildings, which occupy key locations and have been subjected to various degrees of alteration. The most intact and imposing is the Nicks Store (#28), sited on a corner of the square. Its fine, plain brickwork, unpretentious woodwork, and handsome porch recall the character of commercial building in the town's antebellum years. Altered but important for its age and location, is the Scott Store (#34), also on a corner of the square. It is a stuccoed two-story masonry building of the 1850s, with surviving elements of corbel cornice. Less recognizable is the antebellum origin of the small brick building that survives as a fragment of the once sprawling Trollinger Hotel (#21); only the massive masonry walls and simple Greek Revival interior woodwork recall its early date.

Late 19th Century Architecture

In contrast to the fragmentary character of Graham's antebellum buildings, the post-Civil War growth period left a generous and diverse heritage. Domestic and commercial architecture alike embody the vigor and eclecticism of the period.

Late 19th Century Dwellings

Standing on generous lots on the axial and secondary streets, and clustered in a group on W. Elm Street, are several key examples of late 19th century domestic architecture. Many of them reflect the growing wealth of the locally dominant Holt family and the family's desire for impressively stylish if not fabulously costly architecture.

The late Italianate style, more ornate than the antebellum Italianate mode, appeared in several dwellings. The most notable surviving example is the Captain James White House (#29), erected in 1871 for a daughter and son-in-law of industrialist E. M. Holt. The cross-gable roof, bracketed eaves, and projecting entrance bay faintly recall the elder Holt's Davis-inspired villa and perhaps a lasting interest in the mode. Several outbuildings stand on the spacious, lushly shaded lot. A later example of the family's predilection for the Italianate is the ca. 1885 McBride Holt House (#75), an L-shaped frame house with bracketed eaves, bay windows, and crisp detail.

Other two-story frame houses repeated the familiar L-shaped or central hall plan plus an infusion of various other late 19th century styles and the increasing availability of mass-produced wooden ornament. The Captain J. N. Williamson is the most dramatic. The Second Empire style composition of towers, porches, and rich wooden decoration was also built for a daughter and son-in-law of E. M. Holt. Another stylish but basically conservative Holt family house is the Holt-Mebane-Ward House (#63), built in 1892. The two-story central passage plan dwelling has a high cross-gable-and-hip roof, bold

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bargeboards and kingpost ornament in the gables, and something of the flavor of the Queen Anne style. The contemporary Tate House (#78) built for merchant-developer A. B. Tate in 1894 is similar in scale and materials, but it has simpler wooden ornament combined with the shingled textures and cut-out corners of the Queen Anne style. There are a good number of simpler dwellings dating from this period as well. Typical is the small rental house (#77) built by Tate. It has a symmetrical plan, central front gable, and simple porch ornament. Other modest frame dwellings, ranging from utterly plain to modestly decorated, survive on axial and secondary streets, recalling the close physical relationship of residential development to commercial hub. Examples include #81-83, #84-86.

Late 19th and early 20th century Commercial Architecture

The predominant historic fabric of the Graham district, and one of its most important elements, is the fine late 19th century and early 20th century commercial architecture. The town grew rapidly in prosperity and ambitions. Like many North Carolina towns, its leaders and builders saw the permanence and quality of brick building as an important sign of urban progress. This, coupled with more money and the easier availability of brick, meant that thousands of brick commercial buildings rose throughout the towns of the urbanizing state to replace older frame buildings. In Graham, the quantity, cohesiveness, variety, and high quality of these buildings are especially outstanding.

The commercial buildings range in size from one to three stories and in extent from a single bay to the impressive 9-bay width of the Vestal Hotel (#17). Their styles encompass a wide range of possibilities characteristic of the period: the bold arches of the commercial Italianate, the simple rhythm of rectangular windows, the imposing classical motifs reflecting the influence of the 1920s courthouse, notes of Art Deco modernity in the movie theatre and a few other examples, and other examples that combine current styles with vigorous brickwork detail. These buildings date from the immediate postwar period through the Depression, with the principal concentration probably dating from the first two decades of this century. Their integrity ranges from the perfectly intact Mont-White Theatre (#60) which retains its full program of street level as well as upper facade treatment, to the more typical Wrike Drug Store (#60) where street level alterations have occurred but upper stories remain intact, to buildings such as the Green-McClure Furniture Building (#57) where original fabric survives under a later skin, or the Graham Underwriters' Agency (#8) where the condition of original fabric beneath plastic or metal front is dubious. The chief concentration of commercial architecture focuses on the square and extends for a good distance along N. Main Street, and shorter distances on W. Harden and W. Elm streets.

Notable landmarks on the square include the massive Vestal Hotel (#17) of ca. 1904 with its long facade articulated by a central pavilion, arched windows, and the strong geometry of pilasters, cornices, and belt courses of corbelled brickwork. Neighboring the hotel, and defining the northeast corner of the square, is the ca. 1900 Scott Building (#14). It repeats the belt courses, pilasters, corbeled cornices, and arched windows, but here the brickmason incorporated yellow with red brick to emphasize the bold lines and create a vivid polychromy. The southeast corner of the square is dominated by the antebellum Nicks store and also contains handsome later structures (#26-27) unified by arched

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windows and two-story scale. The southwest corner, like the southeast one, has a prominent antebellum corner building (#34), but the others on the corner date from the later eras. The Holt-Nicholson Building (#38) is actually two buildings, fronted by a highly textured stone facade of a material seen on other early 20th century buildings including the Fire Station (#44). The most outstanding facade in this quadrant, and one of the most elegant in the town, is the National Bank of Alamance (#35). It boasts an beautifully preserved combination of two eras: a dignified Italianate or Renaissance Revival upper facade with fine brickwork arches and pilasters, and a lower facade whose smooth stone classicism and stylized Ionic pilasters link it to the Neoclassical courthouse it overlooks. The fourth corner (the northwest) is dominated by two powerful buildings. At the south corner stands the ca. 1912 Paris Building (#48), a three-story, eight bay by six bay structure. Simple rectangular openings at the upper levels are framed by broad corner pilasters that rise to a corbeled cornice. The north projecting corner is anchored by one of the most important structures in town, the three-story Patterson Building (#52) of 1898. A full program of Italianate commercial elegance survives in one of the earliest of the elaborate commercial buildings in town. Pairs and trios of bays are defined by pilasters and united by a heavy cornice, all executed in the most skillful and vigorous brickwork. The corner is given emphasis from the angling of the corner bay, which is also framed by pilasters. This building combines with key buildings at all the projecting corners--#14, 17, 25, 34, 38, and 48--to form a strong frame for the courthouse square and bold corners to the axial streets that extend from the square. Each is vital as an anchor in the district, and each has the vigorous architectural character appropriate to its place in the town.

The other principal concentrations of commercial architecture extend north along Main Street and west along Harden and Elm streets. Those on N. Main Street are the most distinctive. The three-story Wrike Drug Store of ca. 1901 (#56) embodies a version of Italianate commercial architecture common in other towns but rare in Graham. A simple corbeled band outlines the facade, within which are shallow arched and rectangular windows. The roofline features a heavy metal bracketed cornice, in contrast to the brickwork cornices more standard in Graham. More expressive of Graham's apparently indigenous commercial vocabulary is the striking Mont-White Theatre (#60) of 1906. It is a large three-story building, eight by four or five bays. The polychrome brickwork of red and yellow and the arches and corbeling and pilasters link it to the contemporary Scott Building and Vestal Hotel, while its massing and particularly the cut-off corner entrance by link it with the earlier (1898) Patterson Building a block south. Another forceful corner building is the 1933 Graham Sporting Goods building (#59). The two-story brick building gains presence from startling corner pilasters that rise as Art Deco ziggurats above the plain roofline. The Art Deco theme recurs, predictably, in the 1928 Theatre (#10), where a streamlined ziggurat motif defines the central bay.

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The two side streets to the west contain modest but significant commercial buildings. Their masonry materials, one and two-story scale, and simplified arched, corbeled, and other motifs contribute greatly to the totality of the district.

Institutional Buildings (early 20th century)

The major institutional buildings of the district date primarily from the early 20th century. In contrast to the eclectic and Italianate character of the commercial fabric, they embody more literal revival styles and provide an interesting accent to the domestic and commercial architecture.

The focal building is the 1923 Alamance Courthouse, which embodies Greensboro architect Harry Barton's facile handling of classical details and massing. The strictly rectangular stone building has its main entrances facing north and south, each with an impressive portico of six columns whose order derives from the Tower of the Winds. East and west elevations have simple classical entrances and tall pilasters. Rectangular windows are set cleanly into the stone block walls. Slightly contrasting quoins accent the corners of the building, and a broad modillion cornice and balustrade mark the roofline. In mass and location and elaboration the courthouse is the most forceful architectural statement in the town.

North of the courthouse on the central square stands the Confederate monument, a tall pillar of stone topped by a statue of a Confederate soldier.

As handsome as the courthouse, and quite different from it, is the Presbyterian Church (#67). It stands at the west edge of the district amid a large and shaded lot. Its rich red brick and terra cotta work, asymmetric form, warm Gothicism, and verdant setting strike a nice contrast to the cool grey stone, contained symmetry, simple classicism, and tight urban setting of the courthouse. Although including an antebellum original section and later additions, the chief element of the church complex is the fine Gothic Revival cruciform sanctuary and tower. Richmond architect Charles L. Reade combined the deep red brick, rough stone, and fine terra cotta ornament in a design of Gothic character but something of the density and warmth more characteristic of the Romanesque. The predominant brickwork links the building to the commercial fabric of the commercial town, but the Gothicism and obvious role of an architect set it off from the rest of the district's commercial vernacular.

A less ambitious example of early 20th century revivalism is the small United States Post Office of 1935, now used for commercial purposes. The simple brick box (# 68) has the regulation classical details typical of WPA architecture, including plain stone cornices and nicely executed metal and wood motifs.

Intrusions and non-contributing elements in the district consist chiefly of a few parking lots (most are excluded) and later commercial buildings or remodelings. A typical non-contributing building is # 43, a small mid-20th century brick structure. None of the intrusions is big, and most are merely slightly incongruous extensions of the scale and materials that dominate the town fabric. They do not severely detract from the overall impression of the district. It survives as a clear and consistent statement of a courthouse town whose buildings recall its antebellum beginnings and prime development from the Civil War to the Depression.

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INVENTORY LIST - GRAHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALAMANCE COUNTY

The following inventory list includes all properties located within the Academy Hill Historic District, keyed by number to the inventory maps.

Dating: Most dates are based on research conducted by Graham historian Dr. Durward T. Stokes, Ph.D, and contained in his report, "Graham Historic District", submitted to the Division of Archives and History in 1982.

Assessment: All properties are coded by letter as to their relative value within the district, and these assessments are, in turn, color-coded on the inventory map. The following is an assessment key:

- P - Pivotal Those properties which, because of their historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics, play a primary, central or "pivotal" role in establishing the qualities for which the district is significant.
- C - Contributing Those properties which, while not pivotal, are supportive of, and contribute to, the historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics for which the district is significant.
- F - Fill Those properties which have neither an especially positive nor an especially negative impact on the general characteristics of the district.
- I - Intrusive Those properties which have a definite negative impact on the historical, architectural and/or cultural characteristics for which the district is significant.
- PL - Parking Lot Paved area used as parking lot.

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1. Harden House
109 E. Harden Street
mid-nineteenth century
C

Two-story frame mid-nineteenth century house built by merchant Peter R. Harden. Weak tradition maintains that the Ohio carpetbag judge, Albion Tourgee (1835-1905) resided here while serving as a member of the state constitution conventions of 1868 and 1875. The house has interior chimneys, symmetrical facade with long and narrow paired window openings, and simple paneled door with glass in the upper half, flanked by long, narrow sidelights. The center hall plan interior has been altered but plain Greek Revival doors and frames survive as does the early framing in the cellar.

2. Pen Point Studios
105 E. Harden Street
early-twentieth century
C

One-story brick building with stepped roof once used as the office of the Gleaner. The windows on the side elevation, now bricked in, were arched with decorative brickwork above.

3. Commercial building
205 N. Main Street
early-twentieth century
C

Two-story brick commercial building with modern store front on the lower story. Windows on the upper story are 4/4.

- N.C.*
4. Commercial Building
205 N. Main Street
twentieth century
F

Two-story brick commercial building with modern store front on the first floor.

- N.C.*
5. Graham Office Building
201-203 Main Street
twentieth century
F

Two-story brick commercial building with large modern windows and doorways.

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6. Exxon Station
100 E. Harden
twentieth century
F

Triangular shaped station with s-shaped "hypotenuse." Sheathed with enamalized tiles.

7. Gift Shop
133 N. Main Street
1923
C

Two-story brick building with flat roof built by R. N. Cook and Dr. O. J. Paris. The building has round arches on the second story similar to those on the Vestal Hotel. It also has corbeled cornice and pilasters. The first story displays a modern glass store front.

8. Graham Underwriters Agency, Inc.
125 N. Main Street
ca. 1919
I

Two-story brick building with flat roof, metal and glass store front. Flat roofed metal facade extends from first story to end of sidewalk. Originally the site of the town's theatre, the building has been extensively remodelled.

- N.C.*
9. Clothing Store
123 N. Main Street
ca. 1935
F

One-and-a-half story brick building with glass store front and a metal facade from the first story to the street.

10. Theatre and Barber Shop
119 and 117 N. Main Street
1928
C

Two-story theatre with simplified Art Deco style stucco on brick and an adjoining barber shop. The first story, which has been reworked, displays a modern glass store front with enamalized tiles. The structure was gutted by fire and somewhat rebuilt in 1935.

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11. North State Legal Services
113 N. Main Street
twentieth century
C

Flat roofed two-story brick building with reworked first story glass front and metal flat roofed awning extending from the building southward to include buildings #11-12. Notable decorative brickwork on the second story.

12. Graham Flea Market
111 N. Main Street
ca. 1940
C

Two-story brick with black and grey glass tile facade on first story and glass entrance and store windows.

13. R. A. "Bob" Moore Groceries
109 N. Main Street
early twentieth century
C

One-and-a-half story brick structure with first story glass front.

14. Scott Building
101 N. Main Street
ca. 1900
P

Two-story common bond commercial building with decorative brickwork built circa 1900 by James Sidney Scott and W. C. Donald. The modern first story renovation contains a west (front) elevation with picture windows, a recessed entrance containing glass double doors and a flat roof overhang. The second story front elevation consists of three single sash windows on either side of a center double window all beneath individual awnings and semi-circular arched windows. The connecting arches spring from pilaster strips that separate second story bays on the front elevation. Yellow brick distinguishes the building where it is employed in the semicircular arches, in the string course below the brick patterned entablature and along the roof's ledge. Yellow brick is also used in monumental pilasters which appear at the building's corners and side elevations.

15. City Barber Shop/Court Square Engineering
8 Court Square, NE
ca. 1903
C

Two-story brick with yellow brick facade. Decorative brickwork over second story windows and cornice. First story store front contains modern glass

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entrance. The interior is also modern. The building was built by Z. T. Hadley and Dr. W. R. Goley.

16. The Dog House
10 Court Square, NE
ca. 1903
C

L-shaped single story brick building with shed roof built by Z. T. Hadley and Dr. W. R. Goley. Two rows of brick corbelling carry along the front facade. Display windows are set in plain surrounds. The entrance is composed of a single door with side lights. "Z.T. Hadley Jeweler" is set in tile at the entrance.

17. (Former) Vestal Hotel
14, 20, 22 Dourt Square, NE
ca. 1904
P

Long, rectangular, building of brick laid in one-to-five common bond. The structure was built as a hotel in 1904 by W. S. Vestal to replace a previous hotel which burned the preceeding year. The second story has pilastered parapets, numerous string courses and connecting semicircular arches above a pattern of single and narrow, paired window openings. The first story contains four separate commercial establishments with picture windows and glass entrance doors under modern awnings along the front (west) elevation. The entire building formerly operated as a hotel for salesmen, and judges, and out-of-town lawyers during court sessions. It was last used as a hotel in 1928.

18. Commercial Building
102 E. Elm Street
twentieth century
F

One-story rectangular brick with flat roof. Contains glass entrance and metal awning.

19. Hardware Store
104 E. Elm Street
twentieth century
F

Single story rectangular brick veneer over concrete block.

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20. J. T. Hunter House (now David Thompson Surveyors)
126 E. Elm Street
1860?
C

Rectangular two-and-a-half story frame house sheathed with asphalt shingles, two gable end stucco brick chimneys and one rear brick chimney. The house has two over two fenestration, paneled central entrance door flanked by divided sidelights and an entrance porch with turned, paired posts and pilasters flanking the entrance. The core of this buildign is a two-story frame building of mid-nineteenth century vintage with simple--even crude--Greek Revival woodwork.

21. (former) Trollinger Hotel
140 E. Elm Street
ca. 1850
C

Single story stuccoed brick structure that was part of the hotel built by John Trollinger in 1850. The renovated interior retains a pressed metal ceiling and a few plain Greek Revival surrounds and doors. Originally the hotel extended to the courthouse from the northeast corner of Elm and Marshall. Historian Dr. Durward Stokes believes the hotel was three stories originally named the "Orange Hotel;" it was subsequently renamed the "Union Hotel" and later the "Brick Hotel." The hotel served visitors during their stay in Graham, including North Carolina Zebulon Vance during his campaign of 1876. The more modern Vestal Hotel was built in 1904. Since then, this structure has been reduced to its present size and converted to a private residence.

22. Farm Services Equipment
125 E. Elm Street
early twentieth century
C

Much altered single story brick structure with double arches on bricked window and an arched entrance. Present remodeled facade has casement windows. At the rear is a two-bay garage.

23. Dry Cleaners
123 E. Elm Street
early twentieth century
C

Single story brick building with flat roof and modern facade. Awning over the entrance on north elevation.

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24. Cab Company Office
121 Elm Street
twentieth century
F

Single story two-room rectangular frame building.

25. Gas Station
21 Court Square, SE
twentieth Century
C

Rectangular, brick building with L-shaped brick wall extending off northeast corner to form garage. Reworked modern store front on west elevation. The structure stands on the property listed as lot no. 5 in the original town plan.

26. Eric, Inc.
13 Court Square, SE
ca. 1916
C

Two-story brick structure with decorative arches and patterned brickwork on second story. The building has had a number of uses in its history including retail establishments and mills. In 1923, its second floor was used as a courtroom during construction of the new courthouse. The building displays decorative stucco molding between the first and second stories and has a modern first story storefront. Pilasters ornament the corners and the spaces between each set of three bays on the upper story.

27. (former) Dispensary
7-11 Court Square, SE
early-twentieth century
C

Two-story brick building with permastone facade. Windows on the second story are arched with 2/2 sash. The lower story has modern store fronts. The building, which was built by W. J. Nicks, was originally used as the town dispensary, the predecessor for our modern day alcoholic beverage packaging stores.

28. W. J. Nicks Store
102 S. Main Street
ca. 1851
P

Two-story brick building, laid up in common bond, built for Hannah and McLean Trading Company ca. 1851. The oversized bricks were reportedly made by slave labor. The building features two-panel doors with simple molded frames and a porch which carries across the entire front (west) elevation supported by cast

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28. Continued

iron columns with decorative capitals. Originally a three-story building, the top floor was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Sash is 6/6. When Hannah and McLean went out of business in 1857 the building was sold to James D. Bason for retail businesses. Then in 1892 the property was again sold to W. J. Nicks. Nicks expanded the building and lived on the second floor. Part of the retail space was utilized by Sing Lee for Graham's only Chinese laundry. The third floor was rented out for various meetings, etc. Nicks died in 1952, but the business continued to be operated by members of his family until 1964.

29. Captain James White House
213 S. Main Street
1871
P

This rectangular, two-story frame house is an early Victorian house of faintly villa form with a 1900 addition to the south elevation. The dominant feature of the front (east) elevation is a projecting entrance bay and a one-story facade porch. Oversized unusually curvilinear brackets appear under the wide eaves of the gable roof and accent the side, paneled frieze. A triangular arch surmounts the second story central window. A neoclassical doorway was added in 1950. The house was built by E. M. Holt (1807-1884), prominent textile manufacturer, for his daughter, Emma, and his son-in-law, Confederate Captain James White (?-1887), also a textile owner. Outbuildings include a frame, steep gable-roof storage barn, a single story hipped roof frame servant quarter with a shed-roofed porch, and a rectangular single story frame school-house with a post and bell standing near the front entrance.

30. Municipal Building
201 S. Main Street
ca. 1950s
I

One story modern brick building. Originally this was the site of a house built by E. M. Holt for his daughter, Frances, and her husband Dr. John L. Williamson. That house was razed to build this building.

31. Captain J. N. Williamson House
141 S. Main Street
1878
P

This two-story frame Victorian mansion is an excellent and well preserved example of the Second Empire style of architecture. The Williamson House is an asymmetrical composition of bay windows, porches and corbelled and paneled chimneys. An off-center tower with mansard roof and elegant cresting dominates the front facade.

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31. Continued

Bold decorative woodwork occurs on eaves, brackets, and odd tapered porch columns. Fenestration consists of rectangular double sash windows with rounded corners flanked by handsome louvered shutters, some of which have decorative, irregular sawtooth hoods. The interior features plaster medallions and cornices, heavy applied moldings, marble mantels and tooled-leather wainscoting. The house was built by textile businessman E. M. Holt for his daughter, Mary Elizabeth (1844-1935) and her husband, James N. Williamson (1842-1921). Williamson was a commanding officer in the Confederate Infantry and the founder of Ossipee Textile Mill.

N.C.
32. Furniture Store
113 S. Main Street
twentieth century
F

Single-story, rectangular brick veneer with modern store front, corrugated aluminum above metal awning.

N.C.
33. Law Office
111 S. Main Street
twentieth century
F

Single-story, rectangular, brick veneer with modern store front.

34. Holt-Scott General Store
38 Court Square, SW and 105 S. Main Street
ca. 1850-1860
P

Two-story rectangular stuccoed brick structure built as two separate but connected sections. The courthouse facade features a notable corbelled corner and broad molded cornice. The lower corner has had recent "colonial" alterations. Second story wide double sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters. The only original features remaining are two cornices and one original mantel. Originally the building, built by E. M. Holt for his son Alfred, operated as a general store. Estimates of the building age vary but some local residents, including Graham's historian, believe the store is the town's oldest business establishment; all agree it is at least the second oldest commercial structure in Graham. Presently, the building serves as a lawyer's office and realty office.

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35. National Bank of Alamance
36 Court Square SW
ca. 1906
P

Spectacular two-story building with a combination of a Renaissance Revival and Neo-classical style store front. Bounded by structures on both sides, only the front (north) elevation is visible. The first story granite facade is Neo-classical (probably added in the 1920s) with entablature and Corinthian pilasters--relating the facade to the classical style of the county courthouse. The first floor interior contains richly molded classical plasterwork ceilings. The second story, though somewhat altered, is executed in Renaissance Revival style laid in common bond with rich red pressed bricks, a popular material for commercial buildings at the turn of the century. The second story features a projecting cornice, several pronounced string courses and semi-circular arched windows with connecting compound arches. The building displays copper door and window work. The former bank is one of the few which did not close during the Depression.

36. Attorney's Office
10 Court Square, SW
1902
C

Single story brick with light birch veneer facade and windows with marble jack arches with keystones and lintels. Marble forms the wainscot and frames the doorway.

37. Graham Furniture Mart
28 Court Square, SW
ca. 1940s
F

Single story brick with corrugated aluminum above modern store front.

38. Holt-Nicholson Block
20-26 Cort Square SW
1905
C

Two-story concrete building with stone facade and stepped side elevations. The east elevation, facing courthouse square, contains modern store fronts and metal awnings. A rough stone facade (similar to the fire station) with smooth stone pilasters around narrow paired one-over-one sash windows was added to the second story of this structure and to the building next to it which now read as one building. The structure, built by W. H. Holt and A. B. Nicholson, was the first concrete building in town.

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- N.C.
39. Taxidermist
104 W. Elm Street
ca. 1940s?
F

Diminutive single story narrow brick veneer store with a single door with divided lights.

40. Factory Suits Center
106 W. Elm Street
1940s
C

Single story brick with two shades of brick in decorative patterns at corners, above metal overhang and around modern store front entrance.

41. Printing Shop
108 and 110 W. Elm Street
1940s?
C

Single story brick with two shades of brick in decorative patterns and in borders around building's fenestration. Modern glass store front.

42. Alamance News
101, 112 and 114 W. Elm Street
1940s?
C

Single story brick building containing three store fronts. The fenestration of 101 W. Elm has been covered with plywood. The other two store fronts display decorative brick work above the metal awning and over the tile and glass store front. Brick pilasters are located at the corners and between the two bays.

43. Tax Office, Angelo's Pizza
137-139 W. Elm Street
mid-twentieth century
F

Plain, one-story brick commercial structure divided into two stores with plate glass fronts. Metal awnings shelter both store fronts and the smaller entrance on the west side of the building facing Maple Street.

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44. (Former) Graham Fire Department (now Arts Center)
135 W. Elm Street
1911-1912
C

Two-story, concrete block structure with facade of rusticated concrete block erected to house Graham's Fire Department. The cornerstone lists S. T. Johnston as the contractor and builder. The building later served as Graham's town hall and now functions as the community's Arts Center. Smooth-surfaced pilasters of concrete frame the facade, which is unaltered at the second story but has undergone a degree of alteration at the ground level. The principal first floor change involved the filling in of the garage opening with a standard wooden storefront, probably at the time the building was converted to use as the town hall. A metal awning shelters the entire facade at the ground level.

45. (Former) Christo Cola Bottling Works (now Quality Klean)
131 W. Elm Street
1915
C

Simple, one-story brick commercial building originally built to house Graham's first soft drink manufacturing plant. The enterprise was only in business a short time before being succeeded by a second local soft drink firm, the Chero Cola Bottling Company, and the former Christo Cola building eventually became a dry cleaning establishment, its present use. The building has a simple corbelled panel above a mid-twentieth century plate glass storefront; the storefront is sheltered by a metal awning. The eastern wall of the building, which was exposed when the adjacent structure was demolished for a parking lot, displays a mural painted in recent years which depicts a scene of early Graham including the original Courthouse, the W. J. Nicks Store, a grist mill, and some early dwellings.

46. Parking Lot
Between 103 and 131 W. Elm Street
PL

Asphalt-paved parking lot with spaces in four diagonal rows.

47. Law Offices
103 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, but with mid-twentieth century facade
F

One-story brick commercial building with facade heavily remodeled during mid-twentieth century in pseudo-Colonial idiom. Simple corbelled panel above entrances and concrete parapet appear to be only surviving early features.

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48. Paris Building
23 Court Square, NW
ca. 1912
C

Three-story brick commercial building with blond brick facade and corbelled cornice, erected by Dr. O. J. Paris shortly after he purchased the lot on which the structure stands in 1912. The Paris Building, considered one of the finest commercial structures in Graham at the time of its construction, housed such tenants as Citizen's Bank, the Alamance Independent Phone Company, and the U. S. Post Office during its early years. A music shop and florist occupy the two ground floor storefronts today. The upper stories, which formerly contained professional offices, are now vacant. The ground floor consists of reworked storefronts with filled-in transoms flanking a central entrance to the upper floors. The upper two floors have experienced little change and have eight-bay divisions flanked by plain pilaster strips which rise to the corbelled cornice and a small, central, ornamental parapet.

49. Moon Building
17 Court Square, NW
ca. 1912, remodeled mid-twentieth century
F

Two-story brick commercial building with remodeled storefront and aluminum screen. Building probably erected by Thomas C. Moon shortly after he purchased the lot on which the structure stands in 1912.

50. Bar
12 Court Square, NW
ca. 1912
C

Simple, two-story brick commercial structure erected about the same time as the Moon (#49) and Paris (#48) buildings following sale of land on which the building stands. Altered plate glass and permastone storefront with relatively unchanged upper floor with corbelled cornice and three segmental-arched windows.

51. The Gipper Club
8 Court Square, NW
mid-twentieth century
F

Two-story, brick commercial building with pilaster strips and corbelled cornice. Plate glass storefront west side of facade with separate entrance to upper floor on east side. Row of four casement windows and plastic sign on second story facade.

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52. Patterson Building
106 N. Main Street
1898
P

Three-story brick commercial building with elaborate corbeled cornice. Erected in 1898 by three brothers, L. L., George W., and John S. Patterson, the building was the most spacious in Graham at the time of its construction. The building housed such commercial tenants as the Graham Drug Company, the Graham Hardware Company, and Citizens Bank during its early years; the second floor contained office space and the third floor, known as "Patterson's Hall" was frequently used for civic and social meetings and for professional and amateur performances. The building was damaged by fire in 1977 and is now vacant; the future of this pivotal building is uncertain. The building has a five-bay facade facing N. Main St., a six-bay facade facing Court Square, NW, and a one-bay cut-away corner facing the Alamance County Courthouse. Pilaster strips divide the N. Main elevation into two and three bay sections, and separate each of the bays on the Court Square facade. The strips rise to the broad, three-part cornice, which is topped with closely spaced corbels. The ground-level storefronts are sheathed with perma-stone and sheltered by a metal awning; the unchanged upper floors have segmental-arched windows with 2/2 sash.

53. Alamance County Courthouse
Center of Court Square
1923
P

An imposing three story, Neo-classical Revival building located on a hexagonal plot in the center of Graham's commercial district. The courthouse is dominated by a hexastyle portico carrying an entablature which bears the inscription "Alamance County Courthouse." The flat roof is concealed by a parapet wall above the entablature of the building. Windows are linteled and capped by stone cornices and lintels with keystones. Tall stone columns with acanthus and palmette capitals appear on each elevation, unifying the building's four sides. The courthouse entrances, one on each side, have elaborate entablatures resting on scroll consoles decorated with a crest of anthemion and palmetto antefixes. A brick courthouse and jail were erected on this site when Graham became the county seat in 1849. The original brick courthouse was remodeled in 1882, 1888 and again in 1889. It was replaced by the present structure built in 1923 by Northeast Construction Company of Charlotte. The 1923 Courthouse was designed by Harry Barton (1876-1956) of Greensboro. Barton was an architect of public buildings, including many of North Carolina's courthouses. The present courthouse, Graham's most impressive structure, is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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54. Confederate Memorial
Center of Court Square just north of Courthouse
1914
C

Stone monument to Confederate war soldiers of Alamance County, erected in 1914 by the Graham Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The monument rests on two rectangular slabs of rusticated stone and a pair of pedestals with inscriptions praising the heroism and devotion of the county's Confederate troops. Above the pedestals a pillar rises to a statue of a Confederate private at attention.

55. Hardware Store, Law Office, and Finance Company
108-112 N. Main Street
ca. 1898, but with mid-twentieth century facade
F

Two-story brick structure with modern glass storefront and aluminum covering second floor facade. Brick arch covers recessed doorway on first story. Erected by the Patterson brothers, who erected the three-story Patterson Building next door (inventory #52).

56. Wrike Drug Store
114 N. Main Street
ca. 1901
P

Three-story brick structure with blond brick facade and fine, decorative cast-iron cornice. Dr. J. C. Simmons erected the building for his drug store and to house offices and fraternal meetings after a fire destroyed the previous building on the site in 1901. Since 1924 the building has been occupied by the Wrike Drug Company. Slender pilasters and corbelling frame the second and third stories; the four facade windows on each floor have metal lintels above double-hung sash. The altered first story consists of plate glass windows and a glass entrance door beneath a metal canopy.

57. Green and McClure Furniture
118 N. Main Street
1889, altered mid-twentieth century
F

Two-story brick structure with aluminum siding over second story facade and reqorked glass storefront. Green and McClure Furniture Company has occupied the building since 1919.

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58. Commercial Block
122-134 N. Main Street
ca. 1914
C

Typical row of early twentieth century one-story brick stores with simple paneled and corbelled detail above altered, plate glass storefronts. The row was built by the sons of James Sidney Scott, who operated an earlier store on the site and who founded with his sons the Sidney Cotton Mill. The Sidney Mill, founded in 1885, was Graham's second textile operation.

59. Graham Sporting goods
142 N. Main Street
1933
C

Two-story, brick, simplified Art Deco style building with decorative concrete pilasters at corners and patterned brick pilasters and other decorative brickwork at second store. Structure erected in 1933 by the Graham Drug Company and now occupied by Graham Sporting Goods. An especially notable feature is the unaltered display window at the building's northeast corner facing W. Harden Street, which has a frosted glass transom and an apron of black enamel tiles. A broad decorative course of diagonal brickwork carries across the front and side of the building just above the storefronts. The building's Main Street storefront has been altered and is sheltered by a metal awning.

60. (former) Mont-White Theatre (now Kernodle Antiques)
200 N. Main Street
1906
P

Richly detailed, three-story brick building erected for the Mont-White Theatre, which for two decades after its construction was the center of Graham's cultural life. The Mont-White Theatre Company built the structure in 1906 with mercantile space on the first floor, stage and orchestra pit on the second story, and a balcony on the third floor. When no professional performances were scheduled, the theatre was opened for civic functions, fraternal meetings, and plays by amateur groups. The building is one of the most striking commercial buildings in the district, with blond brick on the east (N. Main Street) elevation and on the cutaway corner facing the Main-Harden intersection, and red brick on the south (W. Harden Street) elevation. Contrasting shades of brick and rusticated stone accentuate the building's numerous decorative features, including round-arched transoms at the first and second stories, belt courses between the floors, and the elaborate corbelled cornice.

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61. Commercial Block
103-107 W. Harden Street
ca. 1900
C

Typical row of early twentieth century one-story brick stores with simple paneled and corbelled detail above altered, plate glass storefronts. A metal awning shelters the storefronts.

62. House
115 W. Harden Street
ca. 1940
F

One-and-a-half-story, frame, gable-roofed cottage with chimney on east gable end. Narrow terrace on front elevation carries across to west side and is sheltered there by an extension of the main roofline. Gable-roofed entrance portico with broad arch supported by slender paired columns.

63. Holt-Mebane-Ward House
119 W. Harden Street
1892
C

Notable, two-story, frame late nineteenth century house with high cross gable roof and hip surmounted by unusual deck on hip center section which may have originally had cresting. The dominant features of the house are the facade and side gables, which are adorned with bold, pierced, curvilinear barge-boards, kingposts, and small stained glass attic windows set in fishscale shingles. The front porch, a replacement erected ca. 1925, is upheld by tapered posts on brick plinths. The house was built by Alamance County textile leader L. Banks Holt (1842-1920) for his daughter, Cora, and her husband, Rober Mebane. William I. Ward (?-1973), a prominent local attorney, purchased the house in 1913 and lived there until his death.

64. Thomas F. Cole Real Estate and Insurance Office
121 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1940
F

Tiny, single-story brick store/office building attached to Western Auto (inventory #65). Two rooms deep.

65. Western Auto
127 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, ca. 1935
C

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65. Continued

One-story, common bond brick commercial structure with corner pilasters and aluminum-and-plate-glass storefront.

66. Filling Station

131 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, ca. 1930
C

T-shaped, flat-roofed, brick filling station with handsome classical detail, including dentil cornice. Brick posts with molded capitals shelter service area in front of station office, with two bay garage to east. Rectangular wing on north (rear) elevation.

67. Graham Presbyterian Church

200 W. Harden Street
1855, remodeled and expanded 1897-1908, addition 1920, interior remodeled 1950s
P

Deeply set in a broad lawn facing W. Harden Street, Graham Presbyterian Church is a fine, cruciform sanctuary of Gothic-inspired design whose varied exterior detailing is enriched by the use of two types of red brick, terra cotta, and rusticated stone. The present sanctuary was produced by a complete remodeling and expansion during 1897-1909 of the congregation's second church, which had been erected in 1855. The remodeling and expansion were designed by architect Charles L. Reade of Richmond, Virginia. The principal element of the church's main facade is the square, two-stage, castellated tower, which is trimmed by buttresses capped with rusticated stone. Smooth-surfaced, glazed brick trims the openings of the tower, which is topped by a conical steeple covered with shingles. The openings of the sanctuary are trimmed with the same glazed brick seen on the tower and are filled with stained glass installed under Reade's direction. There is a gable-roofed apse at the west end of the sanctuary and a broader, gable-roofed vestibule at the eastern end; both are trimmed with buttresses capped by rusticated stone. The vestibule gable is decorated with small squares of molded terra cotta set in a checkerboard pattern. The 1920 Sunday School wing is separated from the sanctuary by a pleasant courtyard and an arcade that was erected at the time of the addition. The interior of the sanctuary underwent a major remodeling during the 1950s, but retains the strikingly large wooden brackets resting on stone corbels that were undoubtedly among the most distinctive features of Reade's design.

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68. (former) Graham Post Office (now Bank of Alamance Operations Center)
128 W. Harden Street
1935
C

One and two story brick building of simplified Works Progress Administration classical design with decorative bands of molded concrete around building. Simple entrance with concrete steps, wrought iron rail and pilasters with stone capitals flank entrance. Interior has simple oak paneling and no murals.

69. Parking Lot
between 118 and 128 W. Harden Street
PL

- N.C.*
70. Bank of Alamance
118 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, mid-twentieth century
F

Single-story, brick and concrete structure with modern glass storefront. Drive-in window with metal overhang on west side adjoining parking lot.

71. Office Machines
116 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1930
C

One-story, flat-roofed store building with slightly recessed plate glass storefront.

72. Erwin Block
114 W. Harden Street
1946
C

Two-story, flat-roofed brick building with stone facade. Second story has seven-bay division and is faced with rough-cut stone blocks. Centered over the second floor is a tablet with the inscription "Erwin 1946". The first story is faced with smooth-surfaced stone framing two recessed storefronts and an entrance to the second story at the east end of the facade. The storefronts have double doors with four-pane transoms. A large, centrally placed granite column supports the two light transoms that project over the recessed storefronts.

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73. Women's Clothing Store
112 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1930
C

Two-story, flat-roofed brick structure with modern glass display windows with wooden panels above set in wooden surrounds. Metal awning extending from Pope's Variety shelters storefront.

74. Pope's Variety Store
108 W. Harden Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1930, remodeled mid-twentieth century
F

Brick structure originally erected as two-story building with one store now in use. Upper portion of facade occupied by sign, corbelled brickwork along roofline. Modern, reworked glass and plastic tile front.

75. McBride Holt House
312 W. Elm Street
ca. 1885
P

Large, two-story, frame Italianate residence impressively sited on a broad, sloping lot. House erected by McBride Holt, a relative of Alamance textile leader L. Banks Holt. McBride Holt served as an official at the Holts' Oneida Cotton Mill, and he probably erected this house shortly after L. Banks Holt purchased the mill from the Scott family in 1885. Three-bay facade with projecting, gable-front eastern bay embellished by one-story slanted bay window. Cross gable on east elevation, one story rear ell on west side of rear elevation. Wrap-around porch with broad, gable front roof shelters two western bays of facade and one bay on west elevation. Principal exterior decoration is series of pendant drop brackets along cornice lines. Two frame outbuildings at rear of house, one of which appears to have been erected for servants' quarters.

76. Tate-Warren House
304 W. Elm Street
ca. 1895
C

One-story, frame house with typical triple-A roofline erected by Graham merchant and developer A. B. Tate as rental property. Later owned by J. Frank Warren. House has wrap-around porch upheld by Tuscan columns which may be early twentieth century replacements. House is covered with aluminum siding and has rear ell and shed additions; a single-shoulder exterior end chimney provides a fireplace for the eastern room of the main block.

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77. Tate House
300-302 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century
C

One-story frame duplex said to have been built in two sections. The western, and possibly original section is two rooms wide and one room deep with a rear shed wing; it has a typical triple-A roof profile. The eastern section is one room wide and two rooms deep with a gable-roofed rear wing; it projects forward of the western section and has cutaway corners at the front. A shed-roofed porch upheld by turned posts shelters nearly all of the front elevation.

78. Tate-Moore-Hill House
228 W. Elm Street
ca. 1894
P

Two-story, frame, Queen Anne style house erected by Graham merchant and developer A. B. Tate about 1894. W. A. Moore, a traveling salesman, purchased the house from Tate in 1906, and it is now owned by Moore's daughter, Mrs. R. L. Hill. The double-pile, asymmetrically composed house has projecting two-story gables on each elevation embellished with decorative shingles; there are gable-roofed dormers on the front and west elevations. The ground floor of the western facade bay has cut-away corners adorned with sawn brackets with pendant drops. The two-bay facade porch is an early twentieth century replacement; the original porch probably resembled the entrance stoop on the west elevation, which has turned posts and a spindle frieze. A handsome Victorian wrought-iron fence surrounds the property.

79. Duplex
233-235 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1940
F

One-story brick duplex with clipped gable roof and clipped gable stoops over entrances to each unit.

80. House
231 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1940
F

Two-story brick house with one-story frame wing along west elevation. Simple Colonial Revival detail.

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- 81 J. J. Snyder House
227 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1915
F

One-story, double pile frame residence with decorative facade gable and wrap-around porch upheld by square-in-section posts.

82. Holt-Thompson House
225 W. Elm Street
undetermined age, possibly ca. 1885
C

Two-story, frame, house following traditional piedmont two-story, single pile form with exterior end chimneys. House was owned by Alamance County textile leader L. Banks Holt from time of its construction until 1896; it may have housed an official of the nearby Oneida Cotton Mill purchased by Holt in 1885. Later owners included Dr. J. B. Thompson, a local physician, the Scott-Mebane Manufacturing Company, and J. J. Snyder, a plant superintendent for Scott-Mebane. The house has a symmetrical, three-bay facade with tall, 2/2 sash windows and a decorative center gable. The one-bay entrance portico, as well as the fanlight and pilasters framing the door, are twentieth century additions; the chimneys appear to be original. The house has rear ell and shed wings.

83. E. E. McAdams House
219 W. Elm Street
ca. 1911
C

One-and-a-half-story, frame, double pile house with large gable-roofed facade dormer and broad wrap-around porch erected by Graham drygoods merchant E. E. McAdams. The house has a cross gable at the rear of its east elevation, a shed dormer on its west elevation, and a rear ell. The porch is upheld by Tuscan columns on brick plinths. The house is enhanced by its deep setback in a broad lawn.

84. Duplex
115-117 W. Pine Street
undetermined age, early twentieth century
C

One-story, frame, single-pile duplex with rear ell. Full-facade, shed-roofed porch shelters entrances to both units. Diamond-shaped attic ventilators in gable ends of main block.

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85. Duplex
109-111 W. Pine Street
undetermined age, probably ca. 1935
F

N-C

One-story duplex with one entrance on front elevation facing Pine Street and a second on the building's east elevation. High hip roof with interior chimney.

86. House
107 W. Pine Street
undetermined age, probably late nineteenth century
C

Diminutive, one-story, single-pile frame house with extremely tall and narrow 4/4 sash windows flanking entrance. Gable-roofed rear wing contains most of the house's floor space. Gable-roofed entrance stoop is early twentieth century replacement.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Various **Builder/Architect** Various/Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Graham Historic District, centered on the square surrounding the handsome 1923 Neoclassical courthouse, represents the most intact remaining area of historically and architecturally significant structures in this small piedmont county seat and industrial city. The area comprising the district is associated with the early development of Graham as a government and modest trading center during the thirty years after its establishment as the seat of Alamance County in 1849, and the subsequent growth of the town into a small industrial city during the 1880-1940 period. The architecture of the Graham Historic District reflects the town's changing character. The small number of surviving mid-nineteenth century houses and commercial buildings are specimens of simple vernacular designs used for such structures in towns of the North Carolina piedmont during the mid-nineteenth century. The larger and visually dominant group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, stores, and public buildings reflect the adoption of the nationally popular Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque, Neoclassical, Art Deco, and Art Moderne styles during the 1880-1940 period. Graham's historic district visually links the present city to its antebellum origins and early industrial development while remaining the center of the community's economic life.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the origins and subsequent industrial growth of Graham during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Graham participated in the industrialization and urbanization that characterized the North Carolina piedmont as a whole during the 1880-1940 period.
- C. The Graham Historic District exemplifies the transition from the use of traditional forms and plans with simple embellishments to more elaborate designs based on nationally popular architectural styles as the result of the industrial revolution that swept the North Carolina piedmont during the late nineteenth century. The large and visually dominant group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences, commercial structures, and public buildings represent expressions and adaptations of the Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Romanesque, Neoclassical, Art Deco, and Art Moderne styles popular during this era.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 21 acres approximately

Quadrangle name Burlington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1 1 7</u>	<u>6 4 1 3</u> <u>5 1 0 1 0</u>	<u>3 1 9</u> <u>9 1 2</u> <u>8 1 2 1 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1 1 7</u>	<u>6 4 1 4</u> <u>1 1 8 1 0</u>	<u>3 1 9</u> <u>9 1 2</u> <u>8 1 2 1 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1 1 7</u>	<u>6 4 1 4</u> <u>1 1 8 1 0</u>	<u>3 1 9</u> <u>9 1 2</u> <u>3 1 0 1 0</u>
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D	<u>1 1 7</u>	<u>6 4 1 3</u> <u>9 1 0 1 5</u>	<u>3 1 9</u> <u>9 1 2</u> <u>3 1 0 1 0</u>
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E	<u>1 1 7</u>	<u>6 4 1 3</u> <u>4 1 9 1 0</u>	<u>3 1 9</u> <u>9 1 2</u> <u>5 1 0 1 5</u>
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F	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheets *and plat maps*

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
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state		code	county		code
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11. Form Prepared By

Description: Catherine Bishir, Head, Peter Kaplan, Preservation Planner, Jo Ann Williford, name/title Survey Specialist, Survey and Planning Branch; Significance: Jerry L. Cross, Researcher and Durward T. Stokes, Ph. D.

organization Division of Archives and History date March 2, 1983

street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William S. King, Jr.*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 3, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Melissa Byrn
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/7/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Adolescent Years, 1851-1880

Settlement of the North Carolina piedmont had begun by the 1740s, and a century later the area constituted the most populous region of the state. Between 1750 and 1850, sixty-three new counties were created in the state, thirty one of which were clearly located in the piedmont. One of these was Alamance, carved from Orange County in 1849.¹ Naming the new county seat proved to be a difficult task as members of the General Assembly heatedly debated the issue. Giles Mebane, sponsor of the bill creating Alamance County, successfully pushed through the name Graham, in honor of the contemporary governor, William A. Graham.² The appointed commissioners purchased seventy-five acres for the county seat and hired Silas M. Lane, a local surveyor, to lay out the town. When completed in 1850, the plan formed a large square surrounding a smaller square reserved for the courthouse and jail. Graham was incorporated in January, 1851.³

The first courthouse was a two story brick structure erected at a cost of \$6,400. The contract was awarded to Eli Denny and Company; the brickwork was under the immediate supervision of John and Samuel McClain; and John and William Denny executed the woodwork.⁴ With the courthouse serving civic and religious as well as legal functions, life in early Graham quickly centered around the courthouse square. From all parts of Alamance residents came to the county seat to conduct legal business and, while there, to shop and trade. Law offices, mercantile stores, and several hotels were soon built to serve their needs, and Graham emerged as a trading center, not only for Alamance County, but also for parts of Orange, Chatham, Caswell, and Randolph.⁵

The ink had barely dried on the town's corporate charter when the founding fathers faced a major decision. Plans for the North Carolina Railroad called for track to be laid through the village, and made it an ideal place for the company shops. After considerable debate, town leaders decided that the railroad would have a negative effect upon the trading center, disrupt the operation of the court, and destroy the carefully laid out appearance of the county seat. No tracks were to be laid within one mile of the courthouse and another location had to be selected for the shops. The North Carolina Railroad thus bypassed Graham, and Company Shops was built two miles west of town in 1856.⁶

The decision proved to be a momentous one as Company Shops (now Burlington) soon outstripped the county seat. The denial to the railroad also insured that Graham would remain a small country town until the Industrial Revolution broke loose in the 1880s shifting the economic focus of the piedmont from a rural to an urban setting. Even then, growth in Graham, unlike that in Burlington from 1880 to 1914, was more restrained, a characteristic that preserved much of its early architecture, especially in the area around the courthouse square now being designated as a historic district. Although many of the earliest structures were razed to make room for buildings of the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a few from Graham's adolescent years still survive.⁷

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Building Patterns, 1851-1880

The building patterns during Graham's infancy reflected the town's role as a trading and legal center. The early 1850s saw at least eight mercantile stores erected, five of which were made of brick and five of which were either two or three stories tall. Among the early merchants were T. J. Hunter, James T. Murray, Peter R. Harden, W. C. Donnell, Jaems S. Scott, Alfred Holt, Thomas Sellars, Daniel "Short Neck" Isley, and the firm of McLean and Hanner (Thomas G. McLean and Robert Hanner). Small brick or frame structures housed the offices of local attorneys such as James E. Boyd, Thomas Ruffin, Jr., R. Y. McAden, and James R. Graham. Visiting lawyers and other nonresidents quartered at the wooden hotel of John Klapp or the newer brick hotel built by John Trolinger (#21). Other buildings surrounding the courthouse included a saloon, drugstore, a female seminary, and a smattering of private dwellings.⁸

Graham's antebellum life spanned a single decade, and only five structures remain from those formative years. Probably the oldest extant structure (#34) in the district stands on the southwest corner of Courthouse Square on Lot No. 7 of the original plan. It was built as a store in 1851 for Alfred Holt by his father, E. M. Holt, Alamance County's textile pioneer. The second oldest structure, a three story brick building, was erected also about 1851 on the southeast corner of the Square by Thomas G. McLean and Robert Hanner, a trading firm known as McLean and Hanner (#28). Tradition claims that the bricks were fired on the lot by slave labor. Years later the store was purchased by W. J. Nicks and has since been known by that name (see later).¹⁰

In the early 1900s, L. Banks Holt razed all but the eastern section of the old Trolinger Hotel. With extensive remodeling, the section stands today as a private residence on Elm Street (#21).¹¹ The homes of merchants J. T. Hunter and Peter R. Harden have been preserved also. The former (#20), erected in the early 1850s, now houses the surveyor's firms known as David Thompson, Inc., while the latter (#1), built ca. 1859 with some remodeling in 1915, is now used for insurance and law offices.¹²

Building patterns changed little over the next twenty years, although some modest expansion did occur in the histoirc district. The Trolinger Hotel, the town's leading hostelry, was expanded by the addition of a long, one story brick wing (later known as Brick Row) used for guest overflow and law offices. In 1875, the Alamance Gleaner, founded by Captain E. S. Parker, began publication on the third floor of the hotel.¹³ By 1873 a new Classical and Mathematical School had opened north of the courthouse on Lot No. 46, continuing the emphasis on education begun by the female seminary.¹⁴ W. C. Donnell and James S. Scott built a two story, frame store south of the new school in 1867 and a similar structure was erected on the southwest corner of the Square in 1876 by J. W. Harden. He also added a small annex to serve as the town's post office.¹⁵

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In the 1870s, E. M. Holt, whose family was to play a major role in the town's history, built a home in Graham for each of his three daughters. The house he erected for Frances, wife of Dr. John L. Williamson no longer stands, but the home of his daughter, Emma, wife of Captain James W. White, is now occupied by the George Phillips family (#29). "Elmhurst" (#31), constructed in 1878 for Mary Holt and her husband, Captain James N. Williamson, remained a private residence until 1939 when the present occupant, McClure Funeral Home, acquired the property.¹⁶

By 1880 Graham remained a small country town characterized by general trading activity and the legal obligations of a county seat. But the Industrial Revolution was shifting into high gear and was to change forever the pastoral quiescence of the community.

Expansion and Growth 1881-1914

The decades after 1880 were characterized by rapid industrialization in piedmont North Carolina. Reconstruction had formally ended in 1877, giving a sense of political stability that encouraged business investment. The resumption of specie payments in 1879 instilled confidence among capitalists and initiated an economic upswing in industrial development. The New South "gospel of salvation through manufacturing" was preached throughout the state but took its strongest hold in the piedmont, and the Holt family of Alamance were among the chief missionaries of that gospel. Newspapers called for more industry: "Let us have factories to turn out those things which we need and which will be consumed in the communities where they are made."¹⁷ Between 1880 and 1900, the value of manufactured products in North Carolina increased by \$75,000,000 and the number of industrial employees jumped from 18,000 to 70,500. Alamance County, with a heritage of antebellum pioneer textile manufacturing, nearly tripled the number of industrial plants in the 1880s, reaching a total of seventeen by 1890. Though much of the county's land remained agricultural by 1890,¹⁸ the economic base switched from farm to factory, shifting the focus of life from a rural to an urban environment. Graham was located in the center of the industrial explosion.

Tobacco and textile manufacturing appeared almost simultaneously in the county seat but the latter proved more durable and influential. The first tobacco factory was a converted private school in the southwest part of town. A new tobacco factory was erected in 1885 and by the mid 1880s, the firm of Long, Stockard and Company was manufacturing smoking tobacco on the second floor of Pugh Corner, a building named for John R. Pugh but built by Thomas Sellars in the 1850s.¹⁹ The rise of James B. Duke's American Tobacco Company swallowed up small competitors, however, and those that were not absorbed were driven out of business. By 1890, Graham's tobacco manufacturing had virtually ceased and the growing textile industry became the focus of economic attention.

Though the Holt name is synonymous with the textile industry in Alamance County, the first two cotton mills in Graham were built by the Scott family. In 1882, James Sidney Scott and his brother-in-law, W. C. Donnell, financed construction of a cotton mill on West Harden Street.²⁰ Three years later, L. Banks Holt bought the plant and renamed it Oneida Mill. Scott and his sons then constructed the Sidney Mill in north Graham in 1885.²¹ Textile production has since been a large part of the Graham economy.

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Increasing prosperity brought heightened cultural tastes and a greater sense of artistic appreciation. Ornamented structures following nations trends replaced former utilitarian structures; an Opera House was built where a general store once stood; and the new phenomenon of motion pictures made its appearance on the eve of the First World War.²³ Caught up in the improvement idea, the city leaders authorized macadam streets to replace the dirt roads and in 1892, Graham became the first town in Alamance County to have a macadam street. Electricity came to the county seat in 1902; the town water-works were constructed in 1904; and in 1911 a streetcar line opened that connected Graham with both Burlington and Haw River.²⁴ By 1914 the modern city of Graham had begun to emerge. Much of the growth took place outside the historic district, but there were significant changes within the district itself.

Building Patterns 1881-1914

Between 1881 and 1914, eight structures are known to have been razed, removed from the historic district, or to have burned to the ground. No less than twenty four buildings, nearly all brick, rose in their places, often filling the interstices that characterized the earlier building patterns.²⁵ Many of these structures still stand and, along with the few extant antebellum buildings, form the core of the historic district today. Though predominantly commercial, the specific uses of buildings changed frequently. The almost constant turnover in function reflected the rising prosperity of the era and the effect of that prosperity upon the build environment, an effect that transformed neatly laid out town lots into cluttered city blocks competing for a share of the wealth. Several older structures were reworked. The McLean and Hanner Store (#28), was purchased in 1892 by William J. Nicks who sealed off the second floor for use as his residence. The basement was converted into a dining room for guests during court week and an annex was added to the rear that housed a kitchen on the first floor, an office on the second, and a bedroom on the third. Another two-story addition on the south side of the store was rented to Sing Lee for the town's first and only Chinese laundry.²⁶ By 1914, the store of W. J. Nicks was already a landmark in Graham. In 1889 James H. Holt built an addition to the old Alfred Holt Store (#34) and rented it to Thomas A. Albright for a drug store and post office. In 1899 the Bank of Alamance moved into the structure and remained until 1906. The building was remodeled into its present appearance in 1924.²⁷ In 1901 L. Banks Holt bought old Trolinger Hotel and tore down all but the eastern section and used the brick to construct his cotton mill at Bellemont. In 1904, the remaining part of the hotel was stuccoed and used for a residence. With some improvements by Banks Quackenbush in 1925, the structure (#34) has continued to be a private residence.²⁸

New buildings in the district included the three story Paris Building (#48) erected about 1912 by Dr. O. J. Paris on the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square. The structure housed the Citizens Bank and a variety of other tenants. Two other two-story brick buildings (#49, #50) on the northern side of the lot were erected about the same time.

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About 1898 L. L., George W., and John S. Patterson razed the Pugh Corner building and replaced it with the three-story brick structure now standing on the corner north of the courthouse (#52). When completed, the Patterson Building was the most spacious structure in Graham. Another two-story brick structure was erected on the lot about the turn of the century to complement the Patterson Building(#55). Both are still standing, although the Patterson Building was damaged by fire in 1977.³⁰

In 1902 W. S. Vestal built the town's third hotel on the northeast corner of Courthouse Square. A fire destroyed the structure in July, 1903, six months after its gala opening. Vestal immediately built a new two-story brick hotel on the lot, a structure containing seventeen rooms, large office, parlor, and its own water system. The Vestal Hotel (#17) opened in 1904 and quickly replaced the Brick (Trolinger-Hutson) Hotel in the life of the town.³¹

Brief mention should be made of other structures erected that show the extent and diversification of activity in Graham in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the country flavor of the county seat continually gave way to town life. In 1889, L. Banks Holt erected a mercantile building north of the courthouse (#57) which, according to local press, was "the handsomest store building in the county."³² The store was later bought by Green and McClure and has since housed a retail furniture business.³³ On the same lot J. C. Simmons erected a three-story brick building about 1902 (#56) which functioned primarily as a drugstore though the second floor contained offices and the third a meeting hall. A drugstore has existed in the structure for nearly eight years.³⁴ In the southwest quadrant of Court Square, Captain E. S. Parker built a one-story brick law office (#36) near the bank (old Holt Store) which has served that function since 1902.³⁵

Sometime around 1905 W. H. Holt and A. B. Nicholson constructed "the first building of concrete, now coming rapidly into use, in the town" (#38).³⁶ The popularity of the fad prompted T. C. Montgomery, then owner of the old J. W. Harden Store on the same lot, to add a concrete and glass front to make his facility harmonize with its neighbor (the two now function as a single building).³⁷ A. B. Nicholson, instigator of concrete construction in Graham, had been widely known for his work throughout North and South Carolina. He built a number of structures in town including the Opera House (#60, see later) as well as the infirmary at Wake Forest College (now Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary). Nicholson retired after completing the Holt-Nicholson Building about 1905.³⁸

In 1906, W. J. Nicks erected a two-story brick building which he rented to the town as a dispensary of alcoholic beverages (#27). The people of Graham had decided in a referendum to close the local barrooms in favor of a municipally operated facility, forcing the demise of the old Peco Saloon that had been in business since the early 1850s. The new Dispensary was located in the upper corner of the lot adjoining Nicks' Store lot on the south. Anxious moments followed the arrival of Carrie Nation in 1907, but after berating the purpose of the structure, she left the premises intact. State-wide prohibition in 1908 closed the Dispensary, and the building at 7-11 Courthouse Square, S.E. has since been used for various commercial purposes.³⁹

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Although Graham's first fire-fighting company was organized in 1904, it was not until 1912 that a Firemen's House was constructed, on the lot where John Klapp's wooden hotel formerly has stood (#44). Later serving as the town hall, the structure now functions as the Arts Center.⁴⁰

The first movie theater came to town in 1913 when the "Mexican" opened to patrons on the second floor of a brick structure erected on the southern part of the old J. W. Harden lot (Lot No. 52½). The first floor housed a commercial enterprise. The "Mexican" was changed to the "Alcoa" in 1919 and operated until World War II. The building, which has received extensive alterations, is currently home for the Graham Underwriters' Insurance Agency, Inc., the town's oldest insurance firm (#8).⁴¹

While the number of structures erected and the increasing specification clearly reflected the demographic and commercial growth of Graham into an urban center during this period, an emerging cultural sophistication was perhaps best illustrated by the construction of an Opera House. The Mont-White Theatre Company, Inc., built the three-story brick structure (#60) in 1906 on a lot north of the courthouse where both the Classical and Mathematical School and the J. V. Pomeroy Building had once stood. The first floor contained a mercantile establishment while the stage and orchestra pit were located on the second floor. The third floor provided a balcony for stage productions. Graham's first theater opened on October 19, 1907, and played to a packed house. When no performances were scheduled, the Opera House was opened for civic functions, fraternal meetings, and plays by amateur groups.⁴² For nearly two decades, the Opera House held center stage in the cultural life of the town.

By 1914 Graham, despite growth and modernization, remained a quiet, essentially residential community compared to Burlington. The "city life," so to speak, belonged to Burlington, and to paraphrase one observer, "if city life is what one wants, he can step across the town lines to get it. If not, he can stay on his own front porch."⁴³ The county seat would continue to grow with twentieth century urbanization and the changes wrought by the automotive age, but the central core remained largely intact.⁴⁴

Graham Since World War II

In contrast to the sprawling 20th century expansion of many North Carolina towns, Graham's growth was inhibited by its geographical location. The textile manufacturing community of Haw River lay just to the northeast; Burlington, rapidly growing from a town into a thriving city, was closing in on the northern and western boundaries of the county seat; and the vast L. Banks Holt estate covered most of the southern area of the town and extended into the county. This restrictive ring insured that the building patterns of decades past would be the course of the future. In the booming 1920s, businessmen and investors turned to Burlington where the population was growing over four times as fast as in Graham.⁴⁵ Ironically, the automobile that changed the urban face of Burlington produced the opposite situation for the county seat. Grahamites could enjoy the benefits of a nearby modern city without incurring many of its problems. When the Holt estate was broken up for residential development, many citizens found it convenient to work in

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Burlington while living in Graham.⁴⁶ The county seat thus retained the character it had developed shortly after the turn of the century, a residential community with a central commercial district centered around the courthouse square.

Building Patterns in Modern Times

Between 1914 and 1930, some of the older buildings in the historic district were torn down and replaced by the structures now standing. Others were changed both in structural form and function. Nevertheless, the historical integrity of the district was essentially unaltered and has remained so even though some structures have been added since the 1930s.

In 1916 the old Peco Saloon was razed and the present two-story building at No. 13 Court Square S. E. erected (#26). The owner of the lot (old No. 5) purchased the outdated jail, had the bricks cleaned, and reused them in building the present structure. Over the years it has been used for various purposes including hosiery mills and retail stores and, along with the old Dispensary, currently houses the textile firm of Eric, Inc.⁴⁷

The one-story brick building at 125 East Elm Street (#22) was constructed in 1916 following the destruction of the Young Ladies Seminary Building which for many years had been serving as apartments. A long time automobile dealership, the structure is now occupied by Farm Services, Inc.⁴⁸

The growth of Burlington and increasing use of the automobile brought fewer overnight visitors to Graham; consequently, patronage at local hotels dwindled. In 1928 the Vestal Hotel was sold in eight sections. One part became a cafe while other sections served a variety of mercantile purposes. All retain the same use today. Another portion, however, was converted into a service station until World War II when it was returned to its original design to function as a grocery store. The Isley Brothers Grocery has been its occupant since that time.⁴⁹

In 1918 the James Sidney Scott House, north of the courthouse (old Lot 52½), was torn down and the lot divided into eighteen parcels for sale at public auction. Ten years later the Graham Theater was built which was gutted by fire in 1935 (#10). Remodelled to its present appearance, the theater stands amidst a number of mercantile structures erected in the 1920s and 1930s, including Crawford's Department Store (#9, 11, 12).⁵⁰

By 1924, less expensive and more enticing motion pictures had supplanted live performances in the cultural life of the community. The Opera House (#60) became a financial liability and was sold in that year to Rich and Thompson, furniture dealers and undertakers. It remained a retail furniture store until World War II and today houses Graham Gift Shoppe and Kernodle Antiques.⁵¹

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During the First World War, Graham saw two efforts to capitalize on the soft drink craze sweeping the country. The first effort came in 1915 when W. Ernest Thompson built a one-story building on the east side of the town hall (now the Arts Center) and opened the Christo Cola Bottling Works Company (#45). The enterprise was short lived, however, and the structure is now a dry cleaning establishment.⁵² The second attempt followed in 1916 when Dr. O. J. Paris erected a one story building on the northwest corner of the Square (old Lot 1). First known as Chero Cola Bottling Company, the name was later changed to Carolina Bottling Company. Like other businesses facing the effects of World War II on private enterprise, the company ceased operation during the conflict. For many years the building was occupied by Amick's Tire and Battery Hospital but has since been renovated for use as a law office (#47).⁵³

One of the most notable changes in the district was the alteration of the old W. J. Nicks store (#28). In 1954 Hurricane Hazel wrecked the roof and third story of the structure. Durward T. Stokes, Nick's son-in-law and then proprietor of the store, chose not to replace the damaged floor and altered the structure by capping it with a flat roof. The three-story building was thus reduced to two stories. Ten years later Stokes liquidated the general store business but continues to maintain the building as his residence.⁵⁴

Because it is the focal point of the historic district, the courthouse planned in 1923 (#53) represents the most significant changes in the twentieth century. Initial plans for the structure's location would have destroyed a number of historic buildings, including W. J. Nicks Store. Disagreement over the proposal between merchants and county commissioners was resolved when the architect, Harry Barton of Greensboro, displayed his plans for the new courthouse. The size of the proposed structure dictated that it be constructed on the same site as the original building. The present courthouse was completed in 1924 at a cost of approximately \$250,000.⁵⁵

Since World War II, the business life of Graham has increased slowly but steadily, and most of the town's growth has been in residential areas outside the historic district. Few urban centers in North Carolina can claim a virtually intact district that visually links the present city to its antebellum origins and is still the focal point of commercial activity.

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FOOTNOTES

¹David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 1, Appendix II; and Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), flyleaf, 712, 714, hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina.

²Recorder (Hillsborough), February 14, 1849.

³The Alamance Gleaner (Graham, May 29, 1930 (series of articles entitled "Graham 50 Years Ago"), hereinafter cited as Alamance Gleaner; Walter Whitaker, Centennial History of Allamance County 1849-1949 (Burlington: Chamber of Commerce, 1949), 92-94, hereinafter cited as Whitaker, Centennial History; and Private Laws of North Carolina 1850-1851, pp. 796-798.

⁴Durward T. Stokes, "The Graham Historic District, Graham, North Carolina" (Research report submitted to Archives and History, 1982), 2, hereinafter cited as Stokes, "Graham Historic District"; and Carl Lounsbury, Alamance County Architectural Heritage (Graham: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980), 41, hereinafter cited as Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage.

⁵Whitaker, Centennial History, 95.

⁶Whitaker, Centennial History, 95-96.

⁷Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 41.

⁸Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 6-48. Stokes's report is composed of lot histories related in sequence. The data here quoted represents a summary compiled from the individual lot studies.

⁹Alamance Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Alamance County Courthouse, Graham, Deed Book 1, p. 322, hereinafter cited as Alamance County Deed Book; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 33.

¹⁰Alamance County Deed Book 1, p. 297; Deed Book 2, p. 407; and Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 20, 41.

¹¹Alamance Gleaner, June 29, 1898; April 30, 1925; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 9, 11.

¹²Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 11, 17; Alamance County Deed Book 1, p. 415; and Alamance Gleaner, September 2, 1915.

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance Item number 8 Page 9

¹³ Alamance Gleaner, April 4, 1912; July 18, 1929; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 10.

¹⁴ Alamance Gleaner, July 6, 1875; April 24, 1877.

¹⁵ Alamance County Deed Book 4, p. 446; Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 17, 21-22, 31; and Alamance Gleaner, April 11, 1876.

¹⁶ Durward T. Stokes, Elon College, Its History and Traditions (Elon College, North Carolina: The Elon College Alumni Association, 1982), 38, 41, hereinafter cited as Stokes, Elon College. Julian Hughes, Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County (Burlington Letter Shop, 1964), 142-151; Alamance County Deed Book 4, pp. 54,55; Deed Book 6, p. 314; Alamance Gleaner, June 11, 1878; February 7, 1889; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 35-37)

¹⁷ Raleigh Observer, January 4, 1880. See also Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 503-505.

¹⁸ Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 508; and Whitaker, Centennial History, 164. See also Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 46-51.

¹⁹ Whitaker, Centennial History, 136-137; Bill Sharpe, A New Geography of North Carolina (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 4 vols., 1954-1965), I, 11, hereinafter cited as Sharpe, A New Geography; Alamance Gleaner, June 23, 1880; September 4, 1930; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 25, 26.

²⁰ Whitaker, Centennial History, 165; Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 48; Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 21-22; and Alamance Gleaner, September 13, November 22, 1894.

²¹ Whitaker, Centennial History, 165. See also Alamance Gleaner, September 13, November 22, 1894.

²² Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 54.

²³ Alamance Gleaner, January 23, 1901; September 26, 1907; July 8, 1909. The first motion pictures in Graham were shown about 1908 using canvas for a screen, but the first permanent movie theater was built in 1913. See Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 19-20, 22-23.

²⁴ Whitaker, Centennial History, 137-138; and Alamance Gleaner, December 17, 1902; October 5, 1911. See also Minutes of the Commissioners of the Town of Graham, Book 2, June 1897 - January 25, 1909, p. 145.

²⁵ See footnote 8.

²⁶ Alamance County Deed Book 2, p. 407; Alamance Gleaner, September 11, 1892; June 26, 1902; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 38-40.

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance Item number 8 Page 10

²⁷ Alamance Gleaner, July 5, 1899; July 26, 1906; Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 34; and Whitaker, Centennial History, 138.

²⁸ Alamance County Deed Book 11, p. 348; and Alamance Gleaner, January 22, 1891; February 18, 1892; June 29, 1898; February 14, March 28, April 4, 1901; July 23, 1903; May 17, 1904; April 30, 1925; October 17, 1929.

²⁹ Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 30.

³⁰ Alamance Gleaner, September 18, 1902; October 5, 1905; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 26.

³¹ Alamance Gleaner, February 13, 27, December 10, 1896; January 1, 8, July 9, 1903; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 22.

³² Alamance Gleaner, June 6, 1889; January 14, 1931. See also Alamance County Deed Book 13, p. 431; and Alamance Gleaner, March 27, 1919.

³³ Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 22.

³⁴ Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 23. See also Alamance Gleaner, January 4, 24, 1924.

³⁵ Alamance Gleaner, July 24, 1902; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 35.

³⁶ Alamance County Deed Book 28, p. 502; and Alamance Gleaner, April 8, 1908.

³⁷ Alamance Gleaner, June 3, 1909.

³⁸ Durward T. Stokes, interview with Mrs. D. J. Walker, nee Sarah Nicholson, granddaughter of A. B. Nicholson, June 22, 1982.

³⁹ Minutes of the Commissioners of the Town of Graham, Book 2, pp. 27, 56, 99; Book 3, p. 235; Alamance Gleaner, April 12, 19, 1906; and Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina 571.

⁴⁰ Whitaker, Centennial History, 138; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 42.

⁴¹ Alamance Gleaner, November 26, 1914; February 20, July 3, 1919; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 17-18.

⁴² Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 20

⁴³ Sharpe, A New Geography, I, 12.

⁴⁴ Lounsbury, Architectural Heritage, 70; and Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 587.

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Continuation sheet Historical Significance Item number 8 Page 11

⁴⁵ For relative growth statistics and ratios, see Sharpe, A New Geography, I, 9, 10; and North Carolina Department of Transportation, State Highway System: Maintenance Maps By Counties with Enlarged Municipal and Suburban Areas (Raleigh, 1980), Alamance County, hereinafter cited as State Highway System.

⁴⁶ Whitaker, Centennial History, 137; Lounsbury, Architectural Heritiage, 54; Stokes, Elon College, 38; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 40-41.

⁴⁷ Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 7-8.

⁴⁸ Alamance Gleaner, November 13, 1924; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 8-9.

⁴⁹ Alamance Gleaner, January 5, 1928; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 13.

⁵⁰ Alamance Gleaner, November 28, 1918; March 15, October 25, 1928; March 8, 1934; February 28, April 25, 1935.

⁵¹ Alamance Gleaner, March 20, 1924; and Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 21.

⁵² Alamance Gleaner, August 19, 1915.

⁵³ Burlington-Graham City Directory, 1937; and Alamance Gleaner, February 3, 1916. See also Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 30-31.

⁵⁴ Stokes, "Graham Historic District," 40.

⁵⁵ 100 Courthouses: A Report on North Carolina Judicial Facilities (Raleigh: Administrative Office of the Courts, State of North Carolina, 2 vols., 1978), II, 2.

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Page 2

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Continuation sheet Boundary Justification

Item number 10

Page 1

The boundaries of the Graham Historic District have been drawn to include all those properties which would contribute historically and/or architecturally to the district. To the east of the district, along E. Harden, E. Elm, and Marshall streets, is an area of modest frame and brick dwellings dating from the 1920-1950 period with relatively little historical or architectural significance; on E. Harden there are also a handful of drive-in commercial establishments of more recent vintage. To the south of the district along S. Main Street is commercial strip development of the 1960s and 1970s. To the south and west of the district along W. Pine, S. Maple, and the western end of Elm Street is a residential area similar to that found on the east side of the district. Maple Street, which divides the predominantly commercial eastern portion of the district around Court Square from the predominantly residential western portion of the district along W. Elm, is a major thoroughfare fronted by parking lots and one-story, mid-twentieth century commercial and public buildings of little or no significance. At the southeast corner of W. Elm and Maple is the 1973 Alamance County Administration Building, which has also been excluded from the district. Northwest of the district along W. Harden Street is another commercial-industrial area with heavily overbuilt and early twentieth century remodelled textile mills and drive-in commercial establishments of the 1930-1960 period. To the north of the district along N. Main Street is a mixed residential-commercial area with modest early-to-mid-twentieth century houses and later drive-in commercial establishments.



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ALAMANCE COUNTY

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Photo aa - Court Sq., N.E. (inventory #s 14, 15, and 17)



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ALAMANCE COUNTY

Photo b - Court Square, N.W. (inventory #s 48-52)



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-82-11-158

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Photo c - Captain J.N. Williamson House, S. Main St. (inventory #31)



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ALAMANCE COUNTY

Photo e - Vestal Hotel, Court Square, N.E. (inventory #17)



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Photo f - J.T. Hunter House, E. Elm St. (inventory #20)

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ALAMANCE COUNTY

Photo g - Tate-Moore-Hill House, W. Elm St. (inventory #78)



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-82-12-106
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Photo h - McBride Holt House, W. Elm St. (inventory #75)



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Photo 1 - South side W. Harden St. (inventory #s 70-74)



Crawford's CINEMA

BEHOLD HERE
AN OFFICER AND
A GENTLEMAN

COMING SOON

Quality FLEA MARKET

R.A. BOB MOORE
GROCERY

NORTH
87

NEGATIVE NUMBER N-82-12-70

PHOTOGRAPHER PETER R. KAPLAN

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SUBJECT GRAHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ALAMANCE COUNTY

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Photo j - East side N. Main St. (inventory #s 7-13)



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Photo k - North side W. Pine St. (inventory #s 84-86)

9 13



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ALAMANCE COUNTY

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Photo 1 - Graham Presbyterian Church, W. Harden St. (inventory #67)

241



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Photo m - Alamance County Courthouse (north elevation) and Confederate War Memorial (inventory #s 53 and 54)



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SUBJECT GRAHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ALAMANCE COUNTY

Photo n - (former) Mont-White Theatre Building, N. Main St.



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Photo o - West side N. Main St. (inventory #s 52-59)



FAULKNER REAL ESTATE

NO PARKING

FAULKNER REAL ESTATE CO.

JOHN D. SOMERS

NEGATIVE NUMBER N-82-11-144
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Photo p - (former) Dispensary, Court Square, S.E. (inventory #27)



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PHOTO DATE 10-82

SUBJECT GRAHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ALAMANCE COUNTY

Photo q - Attorney's Office and parking lot, North side W. Elm St.
(inventory #s 46 and 47)

WESTERN AUTO
CONCRETE WORK

SPEED
LIMIT
20

ANY
TIME

NO
PARKING
LIT
BETWEEN
10:00 P.M.
AND 5:00 P.M.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-82-12-77

PHOTOGRAPHER PETER B. KAPLAN

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Photo r - N. side W. Harden St. showing Holt-Mebane-Ward House (inv. #63), Western Auto (#65), and part of Filling Station (#66). Cole Real Estate and Insurance (#64) is hidden by trees.



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Photo s - Captain James White House, 213 S. Main St. (inv. #29)



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Photo t - Holt-Thompson House, 225 W. Elm St. (inv. #82)

W. J. NICKS
CO.
GEN'L
MERCHANDISE



AMOK
W. NICKS
GROCERY
PRODUCE
SEED STORE
W. NICKS

102

MAIN ST.
BARBER SHOP



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-79-9-2177

PHOTOGRAPHER C. LOWNSBURY

PHOTO DATE 11-78

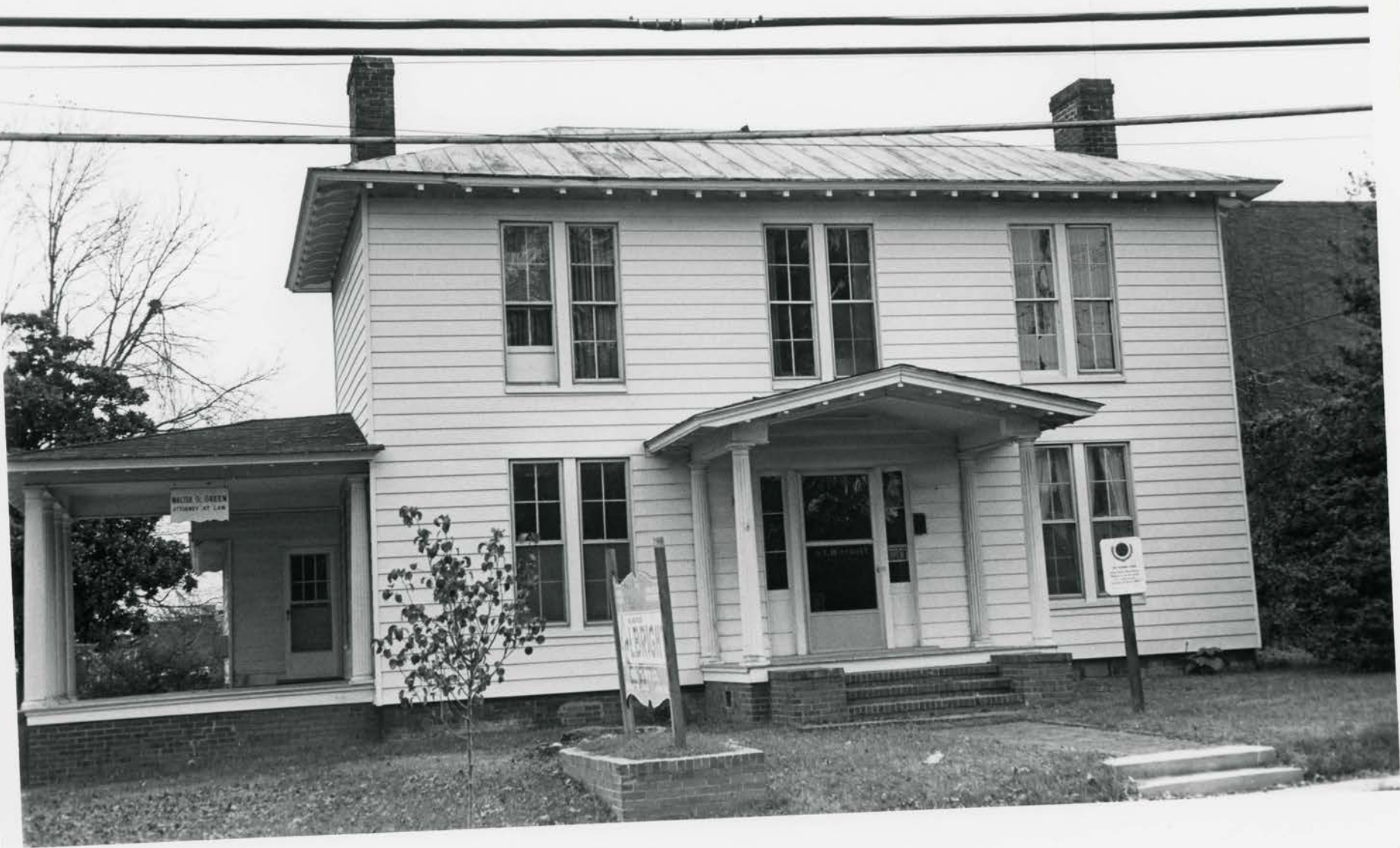
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WALTER G. GREEN
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WALTER G. GREEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

WALTER G. GREEN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

NEGATIVE NUMBER N-79-9-2197

PHOTOGRAPHER C. LOWNSBURY

PHOTO DATE 11-78

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ALAMANCE COUNTY INV #1

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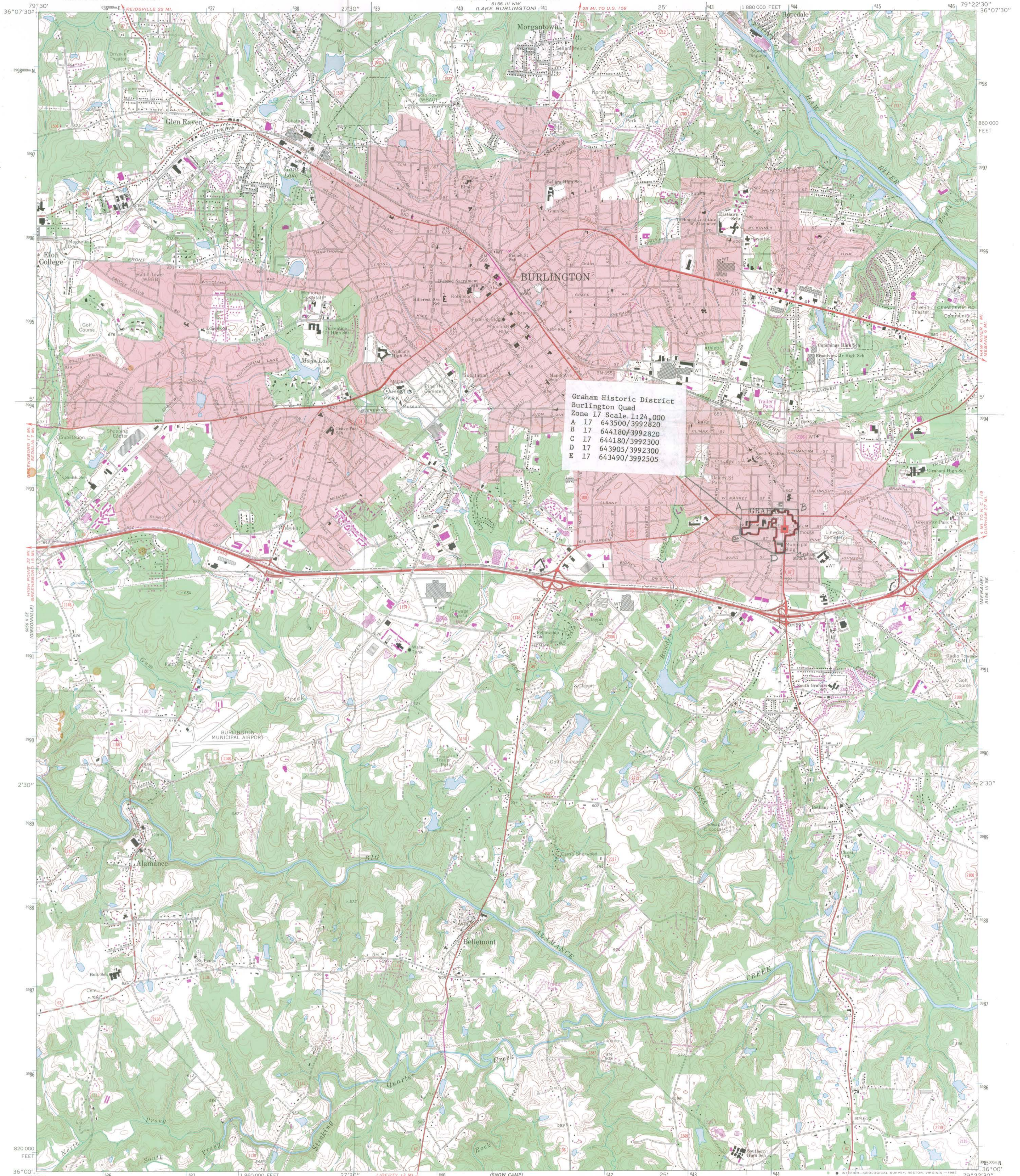
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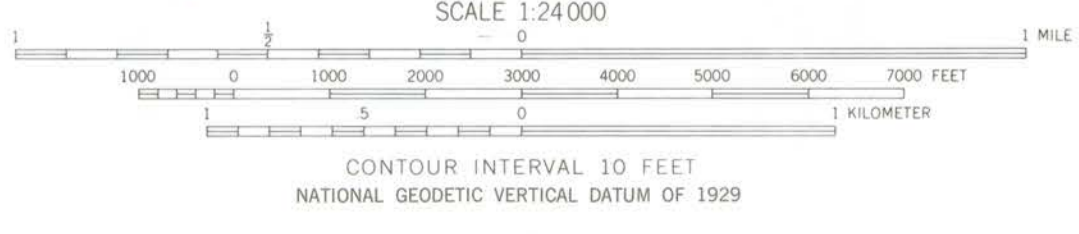
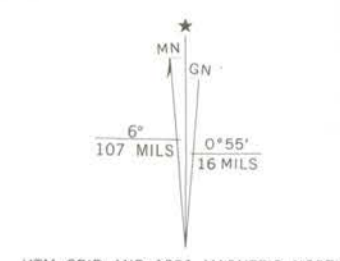
SUBJECT GRAHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ALAMANCE COUNTY

photo w - Graham Municipal Building (inv. #30)



Graham Historic District
Burlington Quad
Zone 17 Scale 1:24,000
A 17 643500/3992820
B 17 644180/3992820
C 17 644180/3992300
D 17 643905/3992300
E 17 643490/3992505

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Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on North Carolina coordinate system. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 11 meters south and 21 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of North Carolina agencies from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981

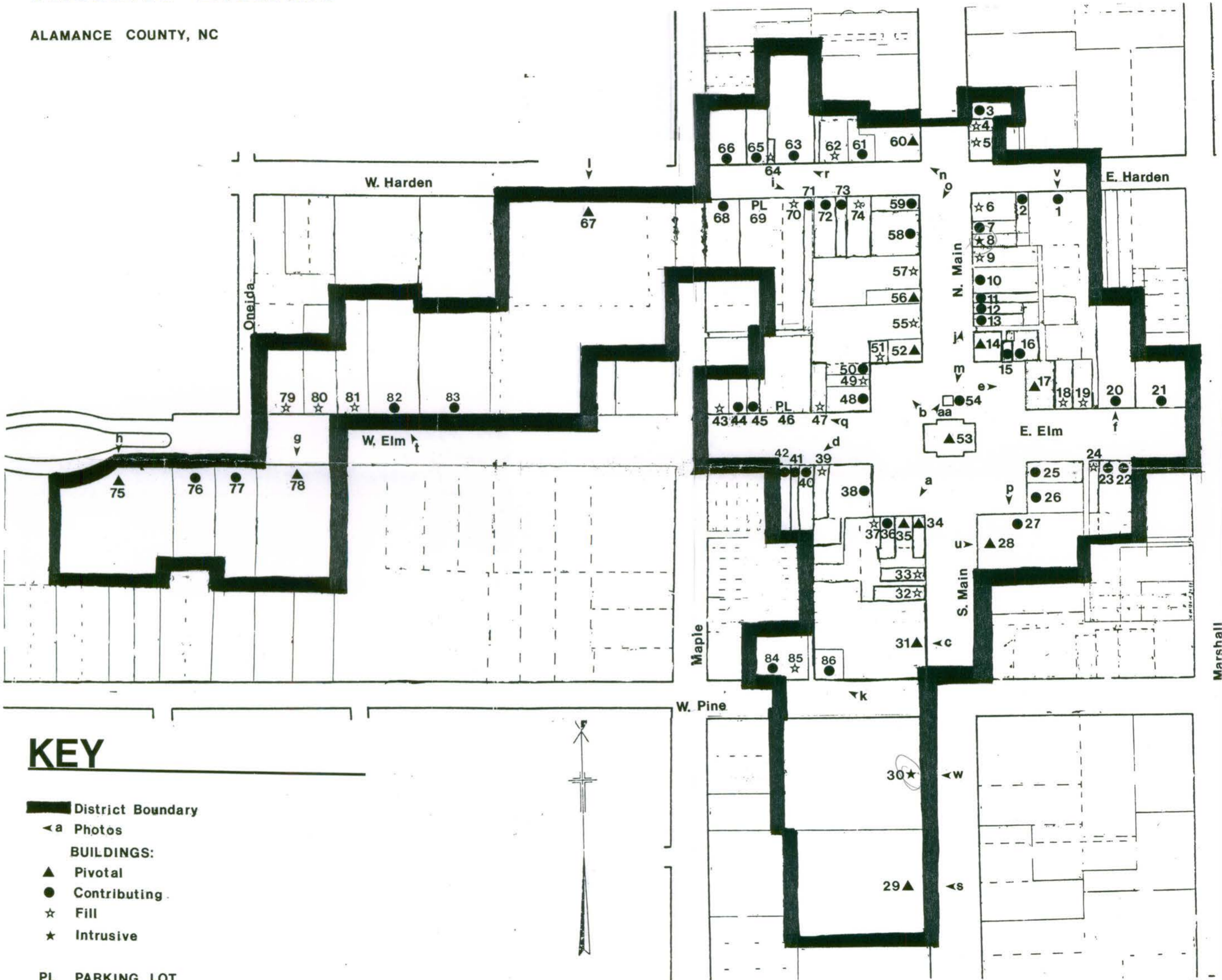


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BURLINGTON, N. C.
N 3600—W 7922.5/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5156 III SW—SERIES V842

Graham Historic District

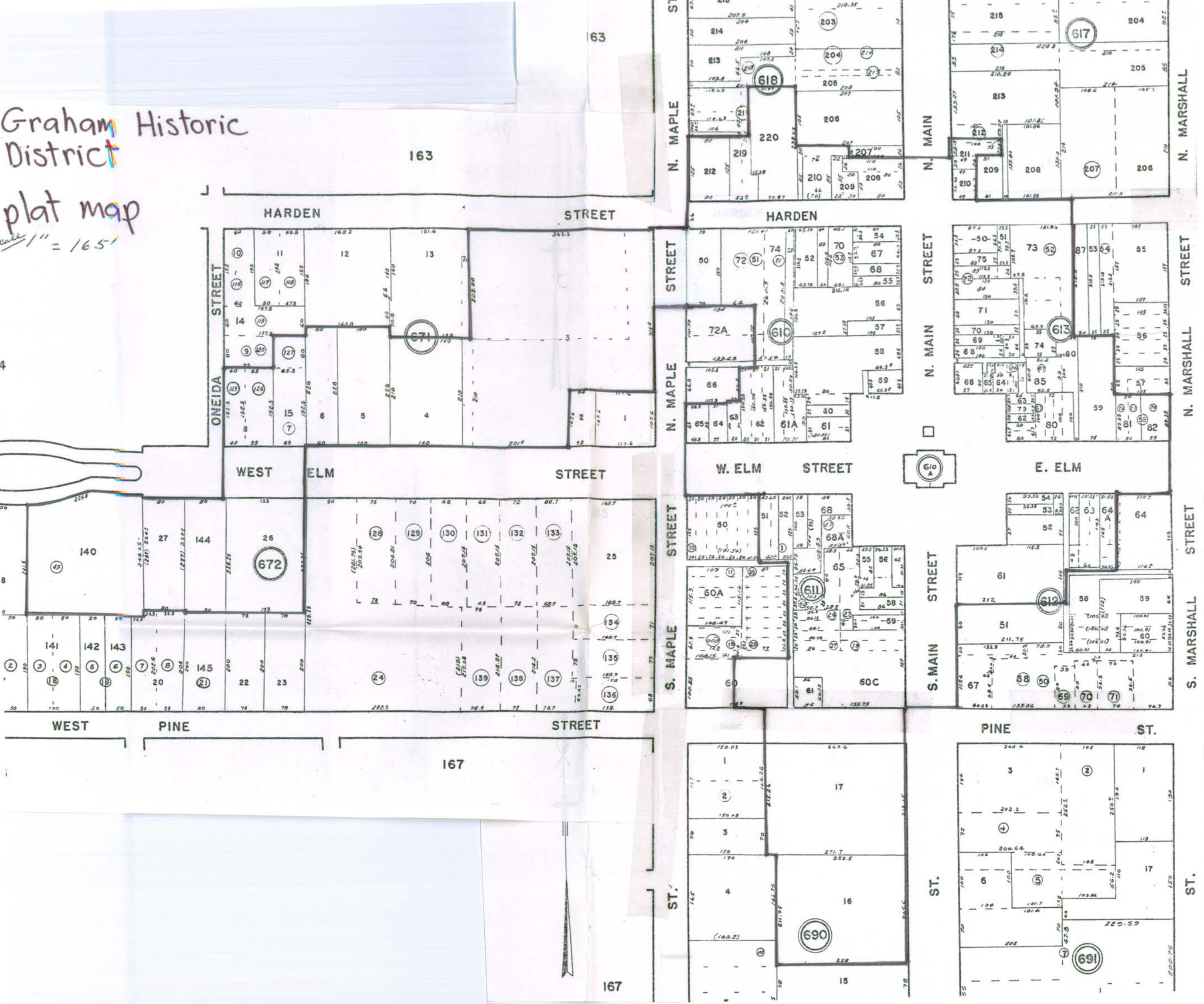
ALAMANCE COUNTY, NC



Graham Historic District

plat map

1" = 165'



63

163

HARDEN STREET

ONEIDA STREET

WEST ELM STREET

WEST PINE STREET

167

167

N. MAPLE STREET

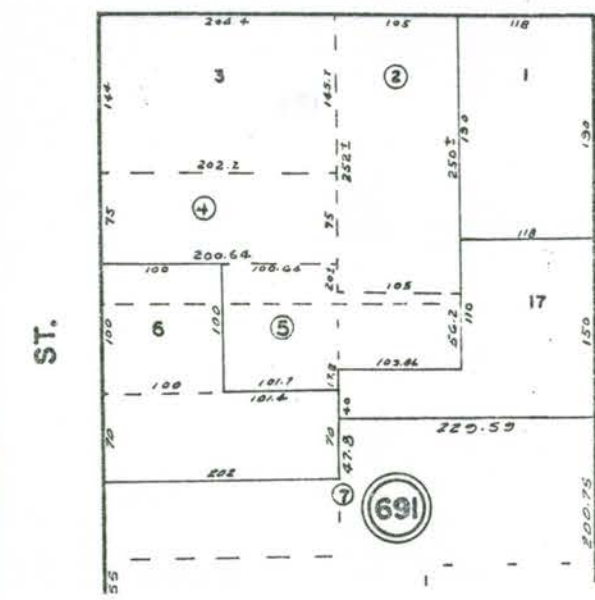
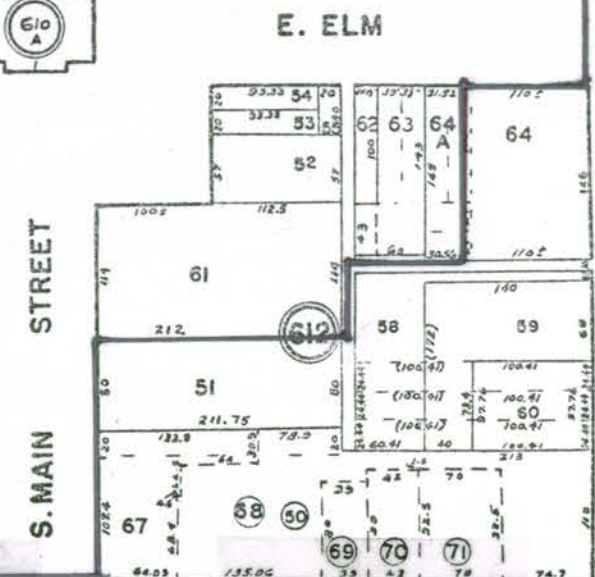
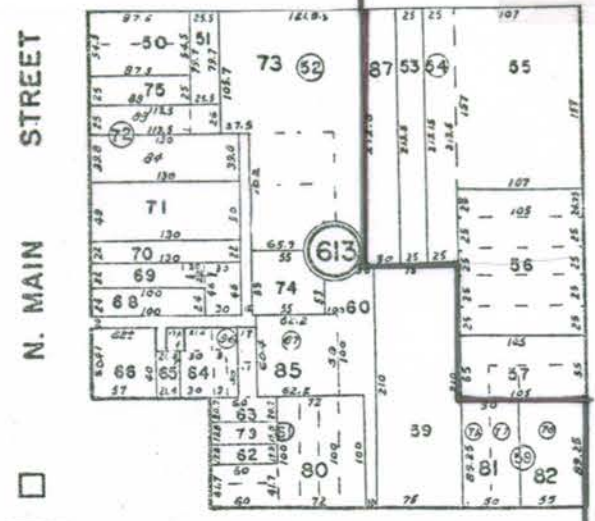
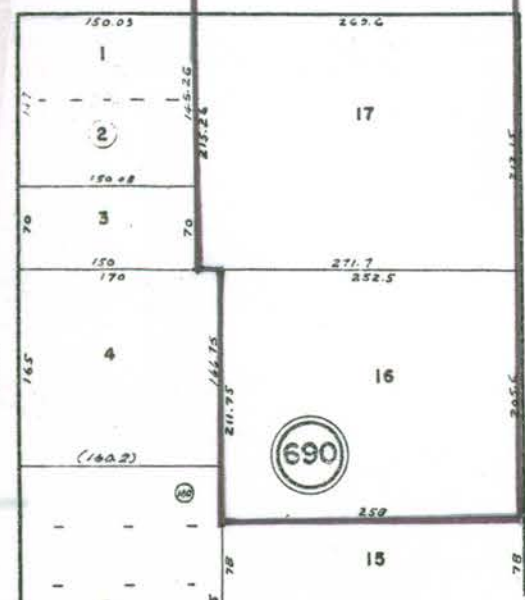
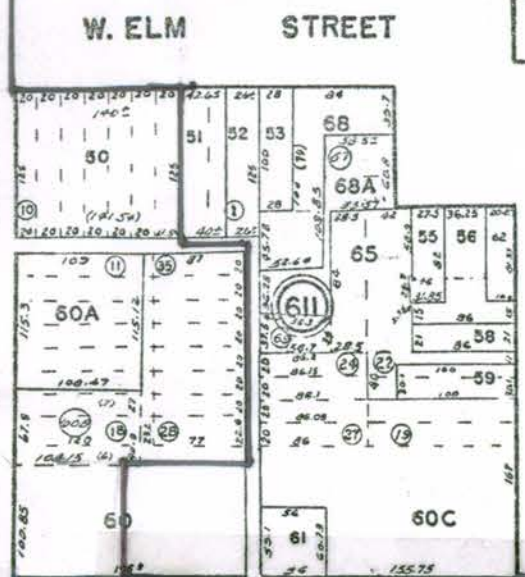
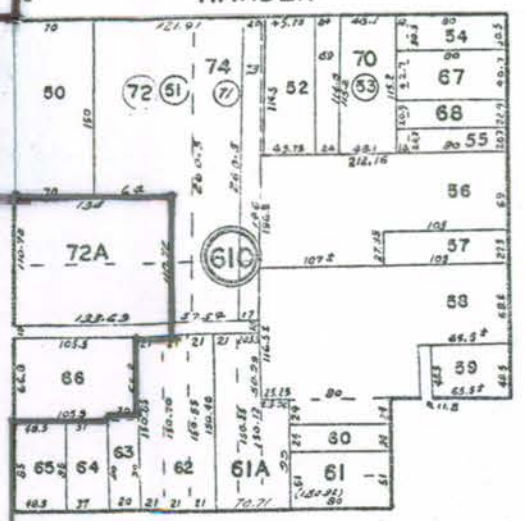
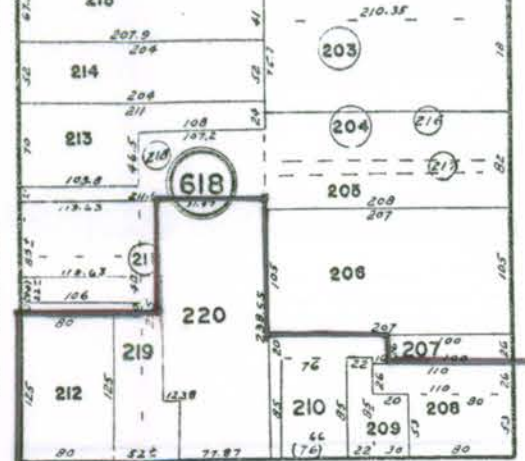
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S. MAPLE STREET

ST.



N. MARSHALL STREET

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S. MARSHALL STREET

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ST.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Graham Historic District
Alamance County
NORTH CAROLINA

Working No. MAR 10 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2, 7, 84

Date Due: 4/7/83 = 4/24/83

Action: ACCEPT 4/7/83

Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS Reference

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Raleigh,
North Carolina
27611

Division of
Archives and History
William S. Price, Jr. Director

Sara W. Hodgkins,
Secretary
James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Governor

March 5, 1983

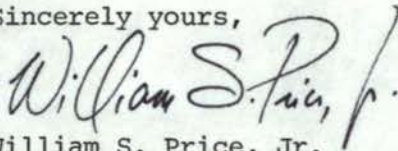
Mr. Jerry L. Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed is the nomination for the Graham Historic District in Alamance County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust that you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,



William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP:bch

Enclosures

cc: Honorable John East
Honorable Jesse Helms
Honorable Robin Britt

