

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 28 1979

DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME Faculty Avenue Houses of Trinity College: A Thematic Nomination
HISTORIC W. H. Pegram House; J. S. Bassett House; W. I. Cranford-W. H. Wannamaker House; J. S. Crowell House
AND/OR COMMON Faculty Avenue Houses Thematic Resources

2 LOCATION Pegram House: 1019 Minerva Ave.
Bassett House: 1017 W. Trinity Ave.
Cranford-Wannamaker House: 1019 W. Trinity Ave.
Crowell House: 504 Watts St.

CITY, TOWN

Durham

VICINITY OF

4th

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Durham

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE Pegram House
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☒ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE(S)

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE(S)
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

☒ Thematic Group**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Durham County Judicial Building, Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Durham

North Carolina 27701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE North Carolina Historic Structures Field Form

DATE

March 21, 1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N. C. Division of Archives & History

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1916-1918</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Faculty Avenue Houses are linked by their history as the original group of faculty houses erected in 1891 as part of the initial development of Trinity College, the institution that later became Duke University. The stylish but relatively modest frame dwellings were built in a row as housing for the faculty, ranged along the edge of the new campus. As the campus expanded and filled up, the houses were moved in 1916-1918 into the developing suburban neighborhood that provided housing for the growing school, Trinity Park. They stand now amid this early twentieth century neighborhood. They represent the chief vestiges of the early residential amenities of an institution that played a crucial role in the city of Durham and the state of North Carolina.

Trinity Park itself, a 30-square block neighborhood, is composed largely of an area of Brodie L. Duke's farm or "Brodie's Bottom." In 1901 the portion between Lamond and Urban avenues was laid out and lots sold at auction. Further development occurred within a few decades. The presence of both Watts Hospital and Trinity College (later Duke University) stimulated growth. The four Trinity College faculty houses moved into the neighborhood in 1916-1918 are among the oldest houses there. The neighborhood had developed by 1937, and it contains the standard early twentieth century variety of styles--Shingles, Bungalow, Colonial Revival, Spanish, etc. After a period of decline the area began to regain stability in the 1970s, with the support of a strong neighborhood association.

The four Faculty Avenue houses are all one and one-half story frame dwellings, combining the varied materials and irregular roofline of the Queen Anne style with bold hints of the Shingle style and elaboration of the Eastlake mode. Characteristic of the region are the extensive rear service rooms and the functional front porches--some of the porches were added shortly after original construction. The houses exhibit obvious pattern book influence, with a more sophisticated approach to current fashion than is typical of the simple frame urban housing of most of the town. They have more in common with the grander (and largely lost) late nineteenth century housing of Durham than with the more modest dwellings they resemble in scale.

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 type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) geographical	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES erected 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. S. Christian, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Faculty Avenue Houses are both architectural and historical landmarks. Erected in 1891, the late Victorian Shingle Style cottages with their varieties of towers, windows, roofs and porches, were built to house the faculty of Trinity College, forerunner of Duke University, newly removed from Randolph County, North Carolina to Durham, North Carolina. Built by a Durham contractor, T. S. Christian, they are some of Durhams best remaining Queen Anne/Victorian cottages. Moved from their campus sites (1916-1918) within the adjacent Trinity Park neighborhood (Pegram House moved a second time, 1977 within the same neighborhood), they are among the first houses in this neighborhood and serve as landmarks and anchors in a compatible setting, related to and near their original one. They are architecturally and historically a unique group of houses, both individually and collectively.

Few residential architectural reminders remain today of Durham, North Carolina's prosperous 1890s era. The many Queen Anne and Victorian mansions that new tobacco money built have largely disappeared, replaced by a bus station, a skyscraper and, as always, highways.

Philanthropic tobacco barons, in a far-sighted gesture, brought to Durham from Randolph County, the small, Methodist, Trinity College, forerunner of today's internationally respected Duke University. On the 62 acres donated by industrialist Julian Carr rose the original Trinity College buildings--two classroom buildings ("Old Main" and Corwell Science Hall); Epworth Inn and five houses built for faculty members. "Old Main" burned in 1911 and Epworth Inn, after modifications, remains a dormitory.

The row of well executed Victorian Shingle Style cottages echoed, on a less lavish but still detailed scale, the popular building style the newly rich tobacco barons adopted for their mansions.

Composing a small community, many of the Faculty Row occupants had been classmates and graduates of Trinity College before assuming teaching duties there and their long familiarity and close living situation, along with commonly held and dissimilar interests, must have sparked a lively interchange of ideas.

Four of the five faculty cottages survive today as reminders of Duke University beginnings. Erected in 1891 in the SW corner of the Trinity College grounds (now Duke University's East Campus) along "Faculty Avenue", four were moved during the 1916-1918 period of campus expansion becoming the first houses in what is now the Trinity Park Neighborhood, one of Durham's oldest and best preserved communities.

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Named after the most prominent resident faculty members the four houses are: the Crowell House, 504 Watts St.; neighbors now, as they were on Faculty Ave., The Bassett House, 1017 W. Trinity Ave., and the Cranford-Wannamaker House, 1019 W. Trinity Ave.; and the peripatetic Pegram House which seems determined to remain in the neighborhood, originally moved to 308 Buchanan Ave. in 1916 and, threatened with demolition, moved a short distance again in 1977, to 1019 Minerva Avenue.

Significant architecturally and by association with the lives of faculty members instrumental in shaping Duke University, much of the original fabric of these pattern book cottages remains. After its ongoing renovation, the Pegram House will join the other three well preserved, single family homes--comfortably aging Victorian dowagers who anchor the neighborhood with their seniority and lighten it with their whimsies and eccentricities.

Trinity Park residents today, as it always has, include many students, faculty members and administrators from Duke University. They take pride in the Faculty Row houses which have set the architectural and social tone for this vigorous, well-preserved historic community.

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CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

- A. The Faculty Avenue Houses are associated with the beginnings of well respected and influential Duke University. They housed several generations of faculty after Trinity College's 1892 move from Randolph County, N.C. to Durham, N.C. They were among the first building efforts on the college's new site and are the only remaining intact structures associated with Trinity's beginnings.
- B. Associated with several generations of significant Trinity College faculty members and administrators, most notably W. H. Pegram, chemistry professor; J. S. Bassett, noted historian; W. H. Wannamaker, influential administrator; and J. S. Crowell, first president of Trinity College, Durham.
- C. As a group, and individually, they embody the characteristics and retain much of their fabric of late Victorian Shingle Style cottages. Strikingly sophisticated examples of their style in their original prospering small town setting they serve as unique examples of residential construction in late nineteenth century Durham.

EXCLUSIONS:

- B. Although all four houses were moved into neighboring Trinity Park, they retain much of their original fabric and remain in a context of a university oriented quiet, residential neighborhood. Among the first homes in Trinity Park, they are landmark anchors in their community. All of the Faculty Houses were moved to their new settings more than 50 years ago and have achieved significance within their new setting.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Trinity College, forerunner of Duke University, had its roots in Randolph County, North Carolina where, in 1838, a group of Methodists and Quakers established Union Institute. In 1851 it became Normal College and in 1859 it came under the control of the Methodist denomination, was chartered and named Trinity College.¹

Requiring more financing and room for expansion, in 1889 under the leadership of its President John Franklin Crowell, a search was begun for another site. After studying offers from several North Carolina cities including Raleigh, Trinity College decided in favor of Durham following the generous offer of sixty acres of land by tobacco magnate Julian S. Carr, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Randolph County Trinity College and a cash gift by the Duke family, who were instrumental in the enormous growth of Durham's tobacco industry. The Dukes maintained their financial support of Trinity College and later created The Duke Endowment, a philanthropic organization created specifically to aid various educational, medical, and religious institutions in North and South Carolina.

A tiny village built around a railroad crossing, Durham was settled in the 1850s and its major growth period began after the Civil War. Soldiers scattering to their homes after the war, took with them a taste for the fine tobacco grown in the Durham area and their subsequent demand for the product was the basis of the Duke family's fortune.

The clan's patriarch, Washington Duke, returned home from the Civil War, impoverished. But, he did have his 300 acre farm (now a state and national historic landmark) and a small amount of tobacco which he peddled by wagon around the state. From these beginnings came the W. Duke, Sons, and Company tobacco factory, later the American Tobacco Company.

With "no aristocracy, but the aristocracy of labor," this rough industrial city grew dramatically after 1880. W. Duke and Sons started making cigarettes in 1881 and in 1884 became the first manufacturer to mechanize. During this period the growth of the tobacco industry spawned other major industries such as cotton mills, in which the Duke and Carr families were prominent. The civic minded Washington Duke and Julian Carr spearheaded the effort in 1891 to attract Trinity College to Durham: Duke offered a gift of \$85,000 and Carr, 60 acres of land. Washington Duke gave \$100,000 three times to Trinity in 1896, 1898, and 1900 for a total of \$300,000 for endowment. Over the years Trinity was often sustained by such gifts from W. Duke and his son, Benjamin. Later James B. Duke would establish a \$40 million endowment for philanthropic purposes.

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Benjamin N. Duke (1855-1929) was a retiring figure who sought to remain out of the limelight, yet he was keenly involved in the family's business affairs and became the family's chief agent for philanthropy. He is listed among the members of the Building Committee responsible for the construction of the Durham Trinity College campus and the Faculty Houses, which were among the first structures erected.

Brodie L. Duke (1846-1919) was actively involved in the development of Durham. He had interests in tobacco, textiles, railways, real estate and mercantile establishments. Many of the streets in the Trinity Park neighborhood were laid out on land owned by Brodie Duke and subdivided in 1901.

James Buchanan Duke (1856-1925) was the major driving force in the growth of the American Tobacco Company from W. Duke and Sons. He also established the Duke Power Company. Because of his generous sustaining endowment, Trinity College expanded dramatically and became Duke University. Three Trinity College buildings, Craven Memorial Hall, Alspaugh and the school library were removed during the expansion and Benjamin Duke gave them to Kittrell College in Kittrell, North Carolina.

The acreage for the new Trinity College was the site of the old Durham Fairgrounds and was known as Blackwell Park, located west of Durham. The former race track on the Fairgrounds was visible until the early 1920s on this land which is known as East Campus (formerly the Women's Campus) of Duke University. Grounds surrounding the college known as Trinity College Park, were incorporated as a separate municipality under North Carolina law. Trinity Park High School was established on the NW corner of the Park in 1897 and Trinity Avenue appears on Brodie Duke's 1901 map. It was the road to Trinity Park and the surrounding neighborhood was also referred to as "Trinity Park."² (Trinity Park remains a well preserved and vital neighborhood in Durham. A renewed interest in the old neighborhood led to the incorporation of the Trinity Park Association in 1974.)

The three original Trinity College buildings were: College Inn, now Epworth Dormitory, 1892; Main College Building or "Old Main," 1892, destroyed by fire Jan. 4, 1911; and The Technological Building, later Crowell Science Hall, also 1892. Joining these as described in Nora Chaffin's history of Trinity College, were:

"... new residences of 'the cottage type.' The new houses, of frame structure with seven or eight rooms each and a bathroom were erected from plans purchased from an architectural company in New York. Built for the faculty they were known as 'Faculty Row,' fronting on the main driveway at the entrance of the campus with their backyards on the old Guess Road (since renamed Buchanan Blvd.). Their modern conveniences, electricity, toilets

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and bathroom with hot and cold water were unattainable luxuries at Old Trinity."³

The first Annual Catalogue Announcements, 1891-1892 reports: "The residences of the Faculty and Officers of the College are situated on Faculty Avenue in College Park. They are furnished with bathrooms, cold and hot water and are connected with the City water-works. All the buildings in the College Park are lighted with electricity furnished by a 720 light dynamo installed by the Edison General Electric Company of N.Y."⁴ The faculty houses were known as among the first in the State to boast indoor plumbing.⁵

Read into the Building Committee's Minutes of November 23, 1890 were these authorizations and instructions from the Board of Trustees:

1. "To invest such portion of the endowment fund as may be necessary thereto for erect (sic) residences for the members of the faculty of the College on the College ground to be paid for out of the funds donated by Mr. W. Duke and that this committee are hereby authorized to contract for the erection of such residences in time for occupancy at the opening of the collegiate year beginning 9/1/1891.
2. Resolved that the rental income from this investment be debited to the salary of the occupant on a basis of 10% of the investment.⁶
3. Resolved that these residences be left perpetually insured as to guard against any possible loss or destruction. . ."⁷

In the Building Committee's minutes of January 8, 1891, J. S. Carr, R. B. Lyon and J. F. Crowell were appointed the committee to formulate plans for five residences, two costing \$1,800-\$2,000 and three costing about \$500. Materials were to be frame with double first floors having non-conducting building paper between them.⁸ The contract for their construction was dated February 10, 1891 with T. S. Christian listed as builder and payment to be made by B. N. Duke, Treasurer of the Building Committee. (copy attached) According to Nora Chaffin no actual architectural plans have been located and the name of the architectural firm in New York where plans for the late Victorian Shingle Style frame cottages were purchased is also unknown. A 1902 map of Trinity College campus records five newly constructed houses on Faculty Avenue and one older residence on the grounds was remodeled. (map attached)

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During the spring and summer of 1892 the removal of Trinity College to Durham continued. The college clock and big bell were placed in the Main Building's tower and several thousand books were transported. Contemporary newspaper accounts report, "The members of the faculty who had decided to follow the College to Durham moved their families and household furnishings to their new homes on Faculty Row. The 'only chattels' that could not make the trip in the freight car hired for the purpose of transporting household goods, were Professor (W.H.) Pegram's cow and the horses belonging to the Crowell family. These 'footed the journey to their new home'".⁹

The new facilities for both students and faculty were commented on in the student "Trinity Archive" of September, 1892:

"After three years of laborious effort the College opens its first session at Durham in its new buildings. In many respects they are as yet incomplete in minor details of finish and arrangement but in general, the buildings are in shape to enter upon the year's work with incomparably greater advantage to all concerned than ever before. There are now more and better buildings. The furnishings are new and substantial, giving the interior a fresh and comfortable appearance. The grounds themselves with the neat cottages for the Professors are home-like and well drained. The conveniences of modern life are here. To these the body of students have entered earlier this year than usual and therefore added to the difficulty of getting things in as good working order at the start as desired. But these inconveniences are being gradually overcome, in spite of the fact that contractors whose work should have been completed months ago, are still here and in the way of the work of the College proper."¹⁰

Within a few years, the college began to grow, and by the late 1910s there was pressure to move the houses. Each was moved separately into the adjoining, developing Trinity Park neighborhood. In 1924 Trinity College became Duke University under the aegis of the Duke family.

(See the following discussions of each Faculty House for the historical significance of the faculty members primarily associated with the individual houses.)

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FOOTNOTES

¹Joel A. Kostyu and Frank A. Kostyu, A Pictorial History: Durham (Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Co., 1978), p. 92.

²"Trinity Park News", Fall, 1974, Vol. 1, No. 1.

³Nora C. Chaffin, Trinity College 1839-1892: The Beginnings of Duke University. Duke University Press, 1950, p. 509.

Note: Ms. Chaffin incorrectly mentions "six new residences. . ." were built. Five were actually built and one existing house on the grounds remodeled.

⁴Trinity College Annual Catalogue: Announcements, 1891-92, p. 35, Duke University Archives, Perkins Library, Durham, N.C.

⁵"Durham Morning Herald", May 10, 1976.

⁶Earl W. Porter, in his book Trinity and Duke 1892-1924, Duke University Press, 1964, p. 152 notes: "From the arrival of the College in Durham, free faculty housing was available as a bonus to senior professors and was uncharged in the books."

⁷Crowell Official Papers 1888-1894, Section 7, Duke University Archives, Perkins Library.

⁸Ibid., Crowell Papers.

⁹Nora C. Chaffin, Ibid., p. 514; "Raleigh Christian Advocate," March 23, 30, 1892; Crowell Personal Recollections of Trinity College, p. 168, Duke Archives.

¹⁰"Trinity Archive", Vol. VI, Sept., 1892, pp. 23-24.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Duke University Archives. Perkins Library. Durham, North Carolina. Various collections including the Crowell and Pegram Papers.

Nora C. Chaffin. Trinity College 1839-1892: The Beginnings of Duke University. Duke University Press, 1950.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES

UTM REFERENCES

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Pat Dickinson, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

September 13, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

515 N. Blount Street

TELEPHONE

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 X

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

Pat Dickinson
Deputy
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 13, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Schul
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11-29-79

ATTEST:

Carol A. Dubois
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/27/79