

CRP NO. 1000000000 X
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

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

1. Name

historic Lentz Hotel

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number College Street _____ not for publication

city, town Mount Pleasant _____ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ Eighth

state North Carolina code 37 county Cabarrus code 25

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 27632

city, town Raleigh _____ vicinity of _____ state North Carolina 27611

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cabarrus County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Concord _____ state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records none

city, town _____ state _____

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>11/80</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		<u>3 blocks</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lentz Hotel, erected about 1853 and moved from its original site at the center of Mount Pleasant during 1980, is a rare local example of a design in the "bracketed mode" that the American landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) made popular in such works as Cottage Residences (1842) and The Architecture of Country Houses (1850). The building now stands on what was until recently a vacant lot in the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute Historic District, which was listed in the National Register in 1980. The lot is on the west side of North College Street, adjacent to the boarding house, a two-story frame dwelling erected in 1868; it faces the 1854-1855 Main Building, the focal point of the District, which stands on the opposite side of North College.

The Lentz Hotel consists of a pair of two-story rectangular blocks placed side-by-side. The southern block, which is recessed behind the northern block, is a single bay wide and four bays deep. The northern block has a two-bay facade division on the ground floor, a single second story facade bay, and a depth of two bays. A one-story rear ell addition, known to have been erected before 1892,¹ formerly adjoined the rear of the southern block. The ell had deteriorated more severely than the main sections of the building and was dismantled when the Hotel was moved to its present site in 1980. The main sections of the Hotel originally rested upon a set of low stone piers; the building is now fully underpinned with a brick foundation. Underpinning was necessary to secure the Hotel on its new site, which has a considerable slope. A pair of shallow intersecting hip roofs shelters the two blocks of the Hotel. Two broad interior chimneys, rebuilt using the dimensions of the original chimneys after the Hotel was moved to its present location, furnish the Hotel's seven fireplaces.

The Lentz Hotel is covered with vertical board-and-batten siding that is emblematic of Andrew Jackson Downing's cottage designs. The siding rises from a deep baseboard to the broadly projecting eaves above the second story. The eaves are embellished by broadly curved brackets that are also typically seen in Downing's plans. Nearly all of the windows have symmetrical surrounds with simply bracketed hoods that appear in Downing's publications. The windows all have six-over-six sash, except those opening on the northern block's first floor facade comprises a pair of narrow windows with four-over-four sash, while the second story opening consists of three four-over-four windows.

The present one-story, hip-roofed porch, which carries across the full facade and shelters one bay of the south elevation, was erected between 1906 and 1911 to replace the original porch.² Turned posts uphold the porch, and a spindle frieze carries between these supports. An early twentieth century photograph indicates that a low balustrade consisting of a handrail and turned balusters also ran between the porch posts, but this feature has long been lost. At the time the present front porch was built, an exterior stair to the rear second story room of the southern block was erected. This stair rose along the Hotel's south elevation from the porch to a second story door. The stair initially consisted of turned newels, a handrail, and turned balusters, but by 1980 these details had been lost.³ The stair had also experienced severe deterioration and was dismantled at the time the Hotel was moved. A photograph taken about 1905 shows that the Hotel's

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original porch was not continuous but consisted of two pavillions which sheltered the front elevations of the northern and southern blocks of the building.⁴ These pavillions, whose design was typical of Downing's work, were supported by thin posts, grouped in twos or threes and separated by latticework, which rose to latticed friezes. Beneath the friezes, sawn board arches spanned the spaces between the supports of the pavillion.

Each of the Hotel's two block has four rooms, two on the ground floor and two at the second story. A hall bisects the house on both floors behind the projecting front room of the northern block, and this passage contains the stair. The open-string rises from the front of the hall to a rear landing and then rises forward to the second floor.

Like the two other examples of Downing-inspired cottage designs found in Mt. Pleasant, the Lentz Hotel displays a simple vernacular Greek Revival finish, consisting of a deep, plain baseboard, verical flush board sheathing, fluted door and window surrounds with plain corner blocks, and two-panel doors. Perhaps because the building was erected to furnish commerical accomodations rather than to shelter family activities, there is virtually no difference between the finish of the eight rooms.

The seven mantels are of two types. The first is a typical Greek Revival facing whose pilasters rise from plain plinth blocks to molded capitals and support a broad, inadorned frieze below a plain shelf. The facing is framed by a backboard which broadens at the level of the frieze and thus reflects and highlights the mantel's post-and-lintel form. The second mantel type is similar to the first but omits the molded capitals. It thus presents a more abstract reflection of the Greek temple form.

The design of the open-string stair is also vernacular Greek Revival in character. The balustrade, consisting of thin, square-in-section balusters and a molded handrail, rises from a chamfered newel with a rounded top. A series of sawn boards is applied to the outer edge of the treads and risers, giving the stair a bold, simple profile typical of Greek Revival design.

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FOOTNOTES --

¹Sanborn Map Company, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Concord and Mount Pleasant, North Carolina" (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1892). The rear ell appears on the 1892 Sanborn map, the earliest available for Mount Pleasant.

²The present porch configuration does not appear on the 1906 Sanborn map but can be seen on the 1911 map, indicating that the porch was rebuilt between these two dates.

³Photograph furnished by Mr. Charles G. Lentz, Jr. Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina. This photograph is being submitted with this nomination.

⁴This photograph was published in the Fall, 1972 issue of Progress, the magazine of the Concord Telephone Company, on page 27.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1853 - construction **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lentz Hotel, erected in Mount Pleasant about 1853, is rare example of a design in the "bracketed mode" that the American landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) made popular in such works as Cottage Residences and The Architecture of Country Houses. The house displays board-and-batten siding, curved brackets supporting projecting eaves, and bracketed window hoods that are emblematic of Downing's designs. The interior of the Hotel displays a simple vernacular Greek Revival finish that is also seen in other local examples of Downing-inspired designs. The Lentz Hotel is probably the oldest commercial building still standing in Cabarrus County. Built by W. R. Scott, the Hotel was sold to John Lentz in 1863, and the Lentz Family operated the Hotel for the next sixty-three years. During much of that time, the Hotel was considered the social and community center of Mount Pleasant. The house was saved from imminent destruction in 1980 by the Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, Incorporated, the nation's only statewide preservation revolving fund.

Criteria assessment:

- A. Associated with the antebellum and late nineteenth century development of the town of Mount Pleasant and with the increasing prosperity of the southwestern North Carolina piedmont during the decade preceding the Civil War.
- B. Associated with the Lentz Family, which played a prominent role in the civic and economic life of Mount Pleasant during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- C. Though vernacular in character, the Lentz Hotel is a remarkable surviving example of how the "bracketed mode" popularized by American landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing was applied to modest commercial building in the North Carolina piedmont during the decade preceding the Civil War.

This building has been moved from its original location. An explanation of why the move was necessary appears in the text or the significance statement, and a discussion of the building's new setting appears in the description.

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The Lentz Hotel, located in the eastern Cabarrus County town of Mount Pleasant, was built about 1853 by Walter R. Scott.¹ A comprehensive survey of Cabarrus County's historic architecture, conducted during 1979 and 1980, identified the Hotel as the oldest structure built for commercial purposes still standing in the county.² Although built by Scott, the Hotel is principally identified with the Lentz Family, which operated the Hotel for over six decades. Scott sold the property to John Lentz (1819-1905) in 1863 for \$1,350, presumably in Confederate money.³

Mount Pleasant was settled largely by German settlers from Pennsylvania. Although not incorporated until 1859, there were stores in the area as early as 1830. The town was an important trading center throughout the nineteenth century. Until well into the twentieth century it was an educational center, also. The North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America founded the Western Carolina Male Academy in the town in 1852. In 1858 the North Carolina Synod elevated the educational level of the school and renamed it North Carolina College. The following year a Lutheran school for young women, Mont Amoena Seminary, was established in Mount Pleasant. Much of the Hotel's business came from the town's dual role as a trading and educational center.⁴

The Lentz Hotel as the social center of Mount Pleasant during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and the first part of the twentieth. In fact it "was famous for parties and social events."⁵ John Lentz was proprietor until around 1890, when it was taken over by his son Luther A. Lentz (1846-1918). Branson's Business Directories indicate that the hotel was called the Lentz Hotel in 1872, 1877, and 1878, the Lentz House in 1884, and the Mount Pleasant Hotel in 1896 and 1897.⁶ Tax records show that the value of the hotel and lot ranged from \$872 to \$1,200 in a period from 1872 until 1905.⁷

Both John Lentz and his son Luther were involved in activities other than the hotel. John farmed and in 1884 was listed as proprietor of a general store in Mount Pleasant.⁸ Luther Lentz was a Confederate veteran, having served in the 52nd North Carolina Regiment during the latter part of the war. He married Laura Isabelle Barrier and they had twelve children. Luther Lentz served at least two terms on the Mount Pleasant Board of Commissioners and was active in a number of civic and social functions.⁹

Luther Lentz died in 1918. His widow apparently continued to operate the hotel until her death in an automobile accident in 1926.¹⁰ The hotel was then sold outside the family. It changed hands several times until purchased by Hoy A. Moose in 1941.¹¹ Mr. Moose rented the building to residential tenants until 1979, and its condition gradually deteriorated.

Early in 1980, the Mount Pleasant Insurance Company, which occupied a store in a building adjacent to the hotel, was considering the construction of a new building in downtown Mount Pleasant. The firm decided to erect a building on the Lentz Hotel site, and Mr. Moose agreed to sell the lot to the firm. In May demolition of the hotel was begun and the structure's roof was removed.¹² Local preservationists, however, asked the insurance firm to delay demolition and the company agreed to do so.¹³

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During the next several weeks, local preservationists explored three options that would have permitted the Hotel to remain on its original site: adaptation for use as the insurance company office, retention for continued residential use, and adaptation for use as Mount Pleasant's town hall. The insurance firm rejected the first two options, and the Mount Pleasant Town Board informally rejected the third.¹⁴

As it became clear that the Hotel could not be preserved at its original site, local preservationists began to consider moving the property to a new location. An inventory of the town's vacant lots was undertaken, and the owners of the lots were contacted. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mayhew, the owners of a vacant parcel in the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute expressed willingness to sell this land in August.¹⁵

The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, the nation's only statewide revolving fund, had considered purchase of the Hotel earlier in 1980,¹⁶ and when it became apparent that preservation of the Hotel the Fund decided to obtain the structure. Subsequently the Fund received a substantial contribution from the Daniel J. Stowe Foundation to finance the moving of the house and the construction of a new roof and foundation. The Mount Pleasant Insurance Company donated the Hotel building, and the Mayhews sold their lot to the Fund. The Hotel was moved to its new site in December, 1980.¹⁷

The present setting of the Lentz Hotel is discussed at the beginning of the architectural description. The building stands three blocks from its original site at the center of Mount Pleasant. The new site had been vacant for many years prior to 1980, and it is not known whether it had ever been developed.¹⁸ No evidence of archaeological remain was found on the site prior to the moving of the Hotel. Nevertheless, such remains as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, could provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of any structure that may have stood on the site or the building of the nearby Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the lot. The existence of archaeological remains should be considered in any development of the property.

The Lentz Hotel is compatible with the nearby structures of the Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute Historic District. Three of the six buildings in the District (the Mathias Barrier House, the President's House, and the Boarding House) are, like the Hotel, mid-nineteenth century, two-story frame structures. The Lentz Hotel is also associated with the Collegiate Institute and the two schools which occupied the institute buildings during the nineteenth century. Local tradition maintains that in addition to serving the traveling public, the Hotel accommodated students from the institute, its predecessors, and the institute's sister school, Mont Amoena Seminary.¹⁹

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FOOTNOTES --

¹"The Lentz Hotel," Brochure printed by the Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, copy in file, hereinafter cited as "The Lentz Hotel"; The State, Vol. XVIII, No. 12, August 19, 1950, p. 5.

²Peter R. Kaplan, The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina (Concord: Historic Cabarrus, Inc., 1981), p. 268.

³Cabarrus County Deed Book 21, p. 253.

⁴"The Lentz Hotel"; Concord Tribune, October 17, 1965; James Smoot Papers, Unpublished History of Cabarrus County, Chapter 17, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. The last of these schools closed in 1933.

⁵Charlotte Observer, May 3, 1980; Adelaide and Eugenia Lore, Open the Gate and Roam Cabarrus With Us (Salisbury: Rowan Business Forms, Inc., 1971), 76-77.

⁶Levi Branson (ed.), North Carolina Business Directories (Raleigh: various publishers, 9 volumes, 1866-1897), Vol. IV, p. 41; Vol. V, p. 47; Vol. VI, p. 167; Vol. VII, p. 139; Vol. VIII, p. 139; Vol. IX, p. 139; hereinafter cited as Branson's Business Directories. During two of these years, 1877 and 1884, Branson had another hotel listed in Mount Pleasant, the Bangle House, owned by Daniel Bangle.

⁷Cabarrus County Tax Records, 1872-1905. The hotel was valued at \$1,200 from 1873 until 1878. It was valued at below \$900 from 1895 until 1900. In other years it was valued very close to \$1,000.

⁸Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Cabarrus County, North Carolina, Population Schedule; Branson's Business Directory, Vol. VI, p. 168.

⁹Concord Times, July 15, 1918; Branson's Business Directories, Vol. VIII, p. 137; Vol. IX, p. 139.

¹⁰Concord Times, October 18, 1926.

¹¹Cabarrus County Deed Book 118, p. 287; 120, p. 49; 143, p. 134; 162, p. 29.

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¹²The Charlotte Observer, May 3, 1980.

¹³The Charlotte Observer, May 3, 1980.

¹⁴Interview with Peter R. Kaplan, architectural historian, June 1, 1981. Hereinafter referred to as Kaplan interview.

¹⁵Kaplan interview.

¹⁶The Charlotte Observer, May 3, 1980.

¹⁷"The Lentz Hotel".

¹⁸Early twentieth century Sanborn maps do not show any structures on the site.

¹⁹Lores, Open the Gate and Roam Cabarrus With Us, 76-77.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Mount Pleasant

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	7	5	5	1	1	0	1	0	3	9	1	7	6	5	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing										

B

Zone		Easting				Northing										

C

Zone		Easting				Northing										

D

Zone		Easting				Northing										

E

Zone		Easting				Northing										

F

Zone		Easting				Northing										

G

Zone		Easting				Northing										

H

Zone		Easting				Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

See plat map outlined in red

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Myrick Howard, Executive Director

organization Historic Preservation Fund of N.C., Inc date December, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 27632 telephone (919) 832-3652

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina

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. Price

title State Historic Preservation Officer date January 8, 1980

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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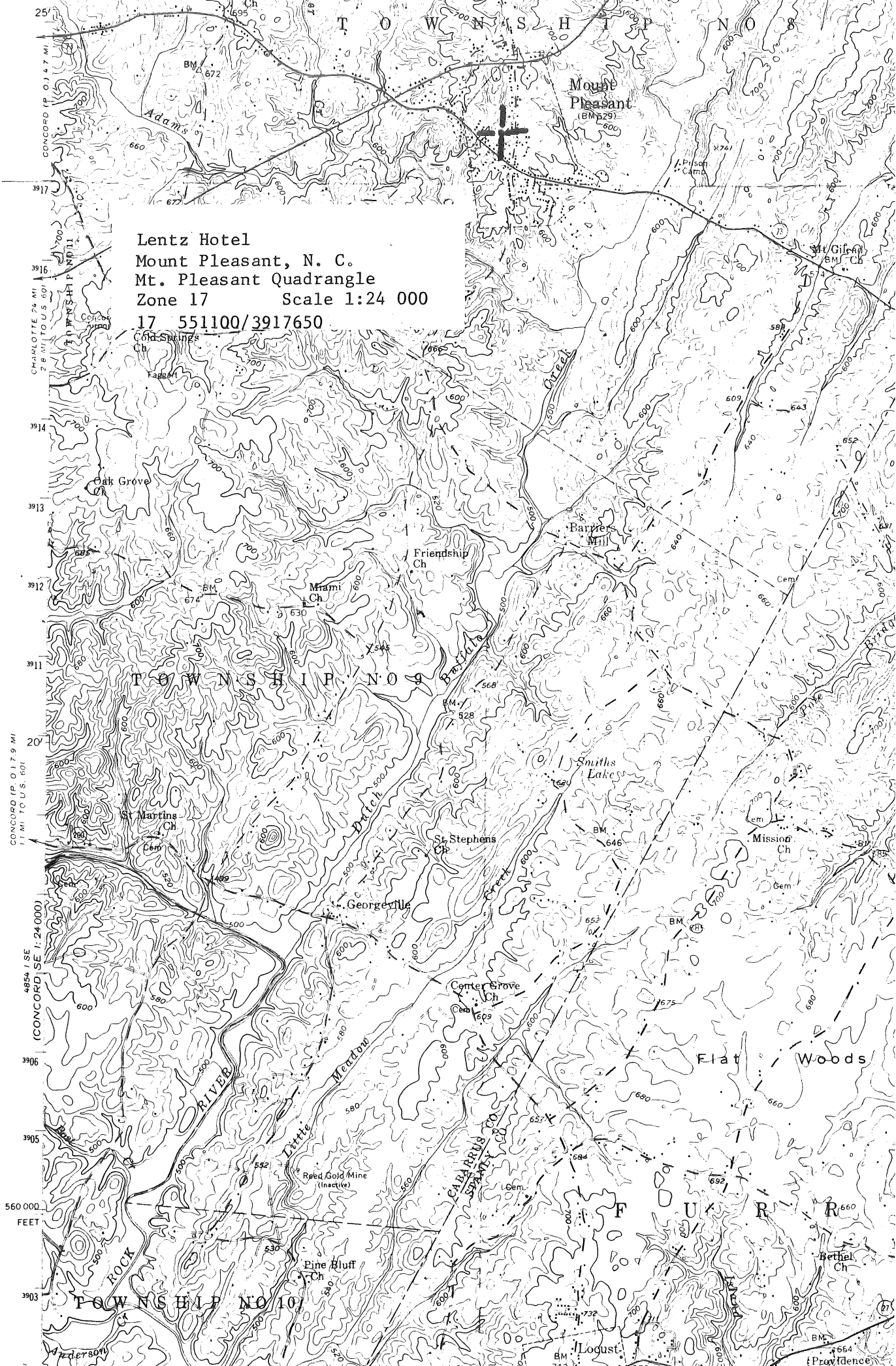
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- Charlotte Observer. May 3, 1980.
- Concord Times. July 15, 1918; October 18, 1926.
- Concord Tribune. October 17, 1965.
- Kaplan, Peter R. The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Concord, Historic Cabarrus, Inc., 1981.
- "Lentz Hotel, The." Brochure published by The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina. Copy in file.
- Lore, Adelaide and Eugenia. Open the Gate and Roam Cabarrus With Us. Salisbury, Rowan Business Forms, Inc., 1971.
- Smoot Papers, James. Unpublished manuscript history of Cabarrus County. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
- State, The. Vol. XVIII, No. 12, August 19, 1950.
- Jim Sumner. Interview with Peter R. Kaplan, architectural historian, June 1, 1981.
- United States Census Office. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Microfilm copy. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.



Lentz Hotel
 Mount Pleasant, N. C.
 Mt. Pleasant Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000
 17 551100/3917650

25'
 CONCORD (P. 0147 MI)
 3917
 3916
 CHARLOTTE 24 MI (N. 28 MI TO U.S. 601)
 3914
 3913
 3912
 3911
 20'
 CONCORD (P. 0179 MI) (1.1 MI TO U.S. 601)
 4854 1 SE (CONCORD, SE 1:24,000)
 3906
 3905
 560 000
 FEET
 3903

T O W N S H I P N O 9
 T O W N S H I P N O 10

Adams
 St. John's Ch
 Mount Pleasant (BM 629)
 Friendship Ch
 Barrier Mill
 Smiths Lakes
 St. Stephens Ch
 St. Martin's Ch
 Miami Ch
 Cold Springs Ch
 Oak Grove Ch
 Center Grove Ch
 Pine Bluff Ch
 Logust
 Bethel Ch
 Mission Ch
 Flat Woods
 Red Gold Mine (Inactive)
 Logansport
 Providence

