

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name East Raleigh Street Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 300-400 blocks of East Second Street and
300-600 blocks of East Raleigh Street not for publication

city or town Siler City vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27344

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. J. Crow SHPO 3/15/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register

other (explain) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne
Colonial Revival
Tudor Revival

foundation Brick
walls Weatherboard
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning & Development

Period of Significance

c. 1895-1950

Significant Dates

c. 1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

~~Tippet, William H. (builder)~~
Turner, John W. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	6 3 9 3 7 8	3 9 5 4 3 4 7
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Keane (research assistance from Kaye Graybeal)

organization Retrospective date August, 1999

street & number 321 N. Front St. telephone 910-341-3000

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Chief of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0013), Washington, DC 20503.

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East Raleigh Street Historic District
Chatham County, NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The East Raleigh Street historic district is located about one-half mile east of Siler City's commercial downtown area. Siler City, one of Chatham County's largest towns, is located in Matthews Township, in the western portion of the county. The town is sixteen miles due west of Pittsboro, the county seat. The opening of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway and the location of a depot in Siler City in 1884 were the impetus for development of the town.

At the time of Siler City's incorporation in 1887, the area east of town was still principally farmland. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, the area became increasingly popular and the town's successful doctors, attorneys, and businessmen began building stylish homes incorporating Queen Anne and Gothic Revival details. As Siler City's population continued to increase through the 1930s, the original large lots were subdivided and bungalows became a popular housing choice.

The East Raleigh Street Historic District extends for approximately a third of a mile in a roughly east-west direction along each side of the granite-curbed, East Raleigh Street to include the 400 through 600 blocks as well as two houses in the 300 block. It also includes a portion of the 300 and 400 blocks of East Second Street (formerly Ashboro Street) which runs parallel to East Raleigh Street. North Fourth Street (formerly Overman Street), running roughly north to south, connects the two. Situated on large lots, the houses are uniformly set back from the street and display nicely landscaped yards.

The district comprises a collection of early-twentieth-century houses and one late-nineteenth-century house, exhibiting a variety of architectural styles including the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, transitional and late Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Bungalow. The ebullient architecture of several of the earliest houses reflects the prosperity of the families who first settled in the neighborhood. The diversity of styles in the neighborhood also reveals the evolutionary nature of changing architectural preferences in Chatham County.

Along the gently bending and maple-shaded East Raleigh Street, several architectural styles are represented, with houses dating from 1903 to c. 1945. Anchoring the southwest end of the

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district at 322 East Raleigh Street is the 1903 Queen Anne-style Gregson-Hadley House (9), one of the earliest and most richly embellished houses in the district. It was designed as a one-story variation of the Queen Anne style complete with Eastlake decorations and a multitude of various other period features.

The 1918 Walter Siler House (10) is located just east of the Gregson-Hadley House. It remains today as a two-story frame hip-roofed early Colonial Revival-style house. Across the street at 403 East Raleigh Street, the Joseph J. Jenkins House (18) is a two-story Victorian/Queen Anne house built in 1907. The 1909 Hackney-Andrews House (20) at 415 East Raleigh Street is a vernacular Gothic Revival cottage characterized by a prominent central gable, oversized dormer windows, and lively Victorian embellishments.

Along East Second Street, three distinct periods are represented by an array of architectural styles. The earliest surviving house in the district is the c. 1895 Richardson-Overman House (7) at 327 East Second Street on the corner of North Fourth Street. Its one-story triple-A form alludes to the Gothic Revival style. The 1911 two-story Ned B. Bray House (8) is located east of the Richardson-Overman House. Its high-hipped roof, irregular massing, and wrap-around porch suggest earlier influences of the Queen Anne style, while its block-like form and Tuscan porch columns typify the early Colonial Revival style.

West of the Richardson-Overman House at 319 East Second Street is the Dr. Milligan House (5), a traditional Colonial Revival house built in 1941. The brick two-story side-gable house is three bays wide with a Colonial Revival portico.

The 1923 Rufus O. Welch House (6) at 323 East Second Street represents still another stylistic period with its deep-flared gables and exposed rafters representative of the Craftsman bungalow. The house at 417 East Raleigh Street (22), along with two in the 600 block (16, 17) depict another variation of the Craftsman style with their high side-gabled roofs with bracketed central porch or dormer gables, and full-facade bungalow porches.

Several Sears, Roebuck and Company houses are situated along East Second Street. The c. 1920 J. Lyle Smith House (1), the c.

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1915 Pike House (2), and the c. 1920 Henry Pike House (4) are all bungalows and are representative of precut manufactured houses sent to the buyer by rail for assembly on site. The customer who obtained a house directly from the company avoided middlemen and was assured of the lowest price and reliably high quality (Bisher, p. 427).

The Dutch Colonial Revival style is represented by the 1927-1928 Dorsett House (14). It features a gambrel roof, a full-facade roof dormer, and a small one-story portico, all typical of the style.

Overall, the outbuildings of the district include mostly small one-story detached frame garages built in the 1920s and 1930s and located behind or to one side of the house. These garages are an important element of the district in that they indicate more widespread automobile ownership during the prosperous 1920s. A wide range of outbuildings from the 1930s and 1940s accompany the 1913 bungalow-style Adam Smith House (17) at 321 East Raleigh Street. Individually, these buildings functioned as a smokehouse, wash house, well house and chicken house (Sanborn Maps).

Of the twenty-six primary buildings, all but one are single-family houses and only three are noncontributing. The noncontributing houses in the district, those built after the period of significance are ranch-style houses of both brick and frame built in the 1950s through the 1990s (Siler City Tax Records). The East Raleigh Street Historic District continues to retain a harmonious environment unified by its early twentieth century architecture, large landscaped yards, and quiet tree-lined streets.

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East Raleigh Street Historic District
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Inventory List

The inventory list is organized on a street-by-street basis, first East Second Street, moving from the west to the east, first along the south side and then along the north side. The list then moves to East Raleigh Street, again moving from west to east, first along the south side, and then along the north side. A combination of sources was utilized to determine the original date and owners of the buildings including deeds, tax records, survey files, secondary sources, and interviews.

Key

C = Contributing resource
N = Noncontributing resource
B = Building
OB = Outbuilding
V = Vacant

East Second Street, south side

1. J. Lyle Smith House C/B c. 1920 314 E. Second St.

This one-and-one-half-story side-gable Sears and Roebuck bungalow displays typical Craftsman motifs of exposed rafter ends, gable-front roof dormer, and knee braces. The central door is flanked by triple 6/1, 12/1, 6/1 sash windows. The full-width recessed porch has large square columns on brick piers. The balustrade of the porch is created by corbelled bricks in an "X" pattern.

2. Pike House C/B c. 1915 318 E. Second St.

This one-and-one-half-story side-gable Sears and Roebuck bungalow has a shed dormer and Craftsman details such as knee braces. The front facade is three bays wide with a central door flanked by 14/1 sash windows. The unique porch supports consist of three branching posts that spring from brick piers. A small partially screened porch is attached to the east side of the house.

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3. Mary A. Clapp House N/B 1954 322 E. Second St.

This one-and-one-half-story brick side-gable ranch house has an asymmetrical facade. Four bays wide and two bays deep, the house features a recessed door, 8/8 sash windows, and an exterior-end chimney.

- ✓4. Henry Pike House C/B 1920 326 E. Second St.

The one-and-one-half-story side-gable Sears and Roebuck bungalow has Craftsman details such as knee braces and exposed rafter ends. The weatherboarded house has a gabled portico with brick piers and a shed-roof dormer.

- 4A. Garage C/OB c. 1925 326 E. Second St.

A one-story gable-front single-car frame garage with double-leaf doors is contemporary with the house.

East Second Street, north side

5. Dr. Milligan House C/B 1941 319 E. Second St.

The two-story brick side-gable Colonial Revival house is three bays wide. A gable-front portico with arched roof is supported by Doric columns. The central front door features sidelights and a fanlight. An exterior-end chimney and a one-story screen porch are located on the west elevation. This was the last house built in Siler City before World War II.

- 5A. Garage N/OB c. 1970 319 E. Second St.

A one-story gable-front frame garage.

- ✓6. Rufus O. Welch House C/B 1923 323 E. Second St.

The one-story side-gabled Craftsman bungalow has a pair of deep flared front gables which highlight the porch and adjoining porte-cochere. A brickwork porch balustrade set in an oversized "X" pattern set between heavy piers is a distinctive feature of the house.

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7. Richardson-Overman House C/B c. 1895 327 E. Second St.

The house was built by Isaac M. Richardson and is one of the earliest documented houses in Siler City. The one-story, three-bay triple-A house with hip-roof porch is embellished with modest sawn and turned woodwork including unique fan-shaped brackets. The house is augmented by a small rear ell.

- 7A. Well House C/OB c. 1895 327 E. Second St.

A well house augmented with latticework is located directly behind the house.

- 7B. Shed C/OB c. 1940 327 E. Second St.

A frame garden shed is situated behind the house.

8. Ned B. Bray House C/B 1911-12 401 E. Second St.

The transitional two-story Queen Anne/Colonial Revival was constructed between 1911 and 1912 by builder, J. W. Turner. The asymmetrical high-hip-roof dwelling has irregular massing and tall interior corbelled brick chimneys, which allude to the Queen Anne style. The square form and pedimented wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns typify the early Colonial Revival style.

- 8A. Garage N/OB c. 1970 401 E. Second St.

A one-story frame garage is located behind the house.

East Raleigh Street, south side

9. Gregson-Hadley House C/B 1903 322 E. Raleigh St.

This house was Siler City's first brick residence and is one of Chatham County's most richly detailed examples of the Queen Anne style. The house was designed by prominent Randolph County builder, William H. Tippet, and built for Julius Gregson, a leader in Siler City's business and civic activities from 1895 to 1945. The asymmetrical massing of the house comprises a combination of wings and bays that are repeated in the complex form of the exaggerated hip roof with its multiple projecting gables. A pentagonal turret is built into the southwest corner.

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The house also features a highly decorated wrap-around porch, including robust turned posts, a delicate spindle gallery, simple brackets and a Chippendale-like balustrade. The irregular fenestration includes patterns of multi-colored panes in sash windows. Pedimented gables are embellished with a lacy gable ornament and bargeboarding highlights the raking cornice.

9A. Apartment House N/OB c. 1970 322 E. Raleigh St.

A two-story brick side-gable building is located behind the house.

10. Walter Siler House C/B c. 1920s 410 E. Raleigh St.

This simple boxy, two-story house has a hipped roof, vinyl siding, and a hipped-roof porch. The house is three bays wide and two bays deep. The central front door is flanked by 1/1 sash windows. A transom surmounts the door. One brick chimney is placed on each of the two lateral roof slopes.

10A. House C/B c. 1940 410 E. Raleigh St.

A small one-story side-gable frame building is located adjacent to the rear property line. Four bays wide with simulated siding, it features an asymmetrical facade, 2/2 sash windows and a shed-roof portico. The building, originally used as a beauty parlor, is on the same property as the Walter Siler House.

10B. Smokehouse C/OB c. 1920 410 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story gable-front brick smokehouse is situated behind the Walter Siler House.

10C. Barn C/OB c. 1920 410 E. Raleigh St.

A frame gambrel-roof barn is located near the rear property line.

11. Wm. H. Petty House N/B 1992 414 E. Raleigh St.

A frame one-story ranch house with vinyl siding is three bays wide and has an attached garage. The central door is

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flanked by paired 8/8 sash windows. A gable-front portico shelters the front door.

12. Alfred Hackney House C/B 1937 420 E. Raleigh St.

The complex roof of front and side gables as well as the large chimney placed prominently on the front facade are elements of the Tudor Revival style in this one-and-one-half-story brick house. The gable roof of the porch is supported by brick piers.

12A. Garage C/OB 1937 420 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story frame gable-front one-car garage.

13. Dorsett House C/B c. 1925 424 E. Raleigh St.

This frame one-and-one-half-story Dutch Colonial Revival weatherboarded house has a gambrel roof with a shed roof dormer that spans almost the entire front facade of the house. The front facade is three bays wide with a central front door flanked by 6/6 sash windows. A small one-story pedimented portico over the entry is typical of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. A sun porch and exterior-end chimney are located on the west end, while a screen porch is placed on the east end.

13A. Shed C/OB 1920s 424 E. Raleigh St.

A gable-front frame shed is located near the rear property line.

Vacant lot.

14. Smith-Kirkman House C/B c. 1910 604 E. Raleigh St.

This one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne-style frame cottage features a front-roof pediment and a wrap-around porch with turned columns. The front facade is three bays wide with a central door flanked by 2/2 sash windows, typical of the Victorian era.

14A. Garage C/OB 1920s 604 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story frame gable-front garage with exposed rafters and shed addition.

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14B. Garage C/OB 1920s 604 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story brick gable-front garage with exposed rafters.

15. House C/B 1920s 614 E. Raleigh St.

This one-and-one-half-story side-gable bungalow has Craftsman inspired details such as a gable-front roof dormer with knee braces and ornament at the gable peak. The front facade is five bays wide with a central door flanked by two paired and one single 9/9 sash window. A full-width engaged porch is supported by battered columns on brick piers. The house has simulated siding and retains a metal roof and an interior chimney.

16. House C/B 1920s 618 E. Raleigh St.

This side-gable bungalow with asbestos shingle siding has Craftsman details such as a gable-roofed dormer with exposed rafter ends and knee braces. Three bays wide, with a symmetrical facade, the house features an engaged porch with brick columns on brick piers.

East Raleigh Street, north side

17. Adam Smith House C/B 1913 321 E. Raleigh St.

This one-story, three-bay side-gable bungalow displays an engaged porch with four large, square supports. The roof has two brick ridge-line chimneys and gabled roof dormer.

17A. Garage C/OB 1913 321 E. Raleigh St.

A one-car frame gable-front garage with shed addition.

17B. Garden Shed C/OB 1913 321 E. Raleigh St.

A frame gable-front garden shed with a centrally located door.

17C. Wash House C/OB 1913 321 E. Raleigh St.

A frame side-gable building with exposed rafters and an exterior-end chimney.

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18. Joseph Jenkins House C/B 1907 403 E. Raleigh St.

This two-story Queen Anne house is characterized by a high hip roof with three gable-roof wings, pedimented wrap-around porch and a diminutive asymmetrically placed second-story porch. Queen Anne motifs include sawtooth shingling and intricate bargeboarding in the gables and turned and sawn woodwork embellishing the porches. Elongated 2/2 sash windows light the asymmetrical main block and the one-story ell. An enclosed L-shaped rear porch is partially sheathed in latticework. There are two tall interior corbelled chimneys.

19. W. E. Sharpe House II C/B 1950 411 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story brick ranch house with a recessed door and a screen porch on west side.

20. Hackney-Andrews House C/B 1909 415 E. Raleigh St.

The one-and-one-half-story vernacular Gothic Revival cottage is characterized by a prominent central gable flanked by two gable-front dormers, oversized dormer windows, and picturesque embellishments. The house is three bays and has eight rooms, a center-hall plan, three interior chimneys, and a rear ell with two gable-front dormers on the east side. Queen Anne details include a turned porch balustrade and posts, a sawtooth frieze, drop pendants, and variegated wood shingling embellishing the front gable and dormers.

21. W. E. Sharpe House I C/B 1925 417 E. Raleigh St.

This one-and-one-half-story Craftsman bungalow has a dominant front gable over the large porch. The overhanging roof is supported by knee braces, while the porch is supported by battered columns atop brick piers. The door features sidelights and the chimney is placed within the slope of the main roof.

22. Evans Stone House C/B 1938 419 E. Raleigh St.

This small, one-story L-plan brick cottage has both a gable-end chimney and a smaller chimney in the roof slope. The porch is recessed.

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✓23. Owen Stone House C/B c. 1910 421 E. Raleigh St.

This two-story three-gabled vinyl-clad I-house with a projecting roof displays Victorian features. A hipped porch roof supported by columns features a small pediment marking the front entry. At the gable end where the porch wraps, the front corner of the house is cropped creating a 45-degree angle filled by a decorative window in the second story. The porch has been partially enclosed on the west side.

23A. Garage C/OB c. 1945 421 E. Raleigh St.

A gable-front frame garage with shed additions.

✓24. House C/B c. 1946 603 E. Raleigh St.

This one-story minimal traditional house is sheathed with both brick and weatherboard. It features 6/6 sash windows and an entry through a side porch. A sunporch is located on the west side. Built as a duplex, the house is now a single-family home.

24A. Garage C/OB c. 1946 603 E. Raleigh St.

A gable-front frame garage with shed addition.

25. House N/B c. 1960 609-611 E. Raleigh

This is a one-story hip-roof brick ranch duplex with a chimney situated on the front of the facade.

✓26. Straughn House C/B c. 1910 617 E. Raleigh St.

This two-story L-plan house features vernacular Victorian details such as a wrap-around porch with turned posts and decorative shingles in the gables. The house has a two-story ell and is sheathed with vinyl siding.

26A. Carport N/OB c. 1960 617 E. Raleigh St.

A one-story frame carport located on the west of the house.

26B. Shed C/OB c. 1945 617 E. Raleigh St.

A frame shed is situated near the rear property line.

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East Raleigh Street Historic District
Chatham County, NC

SUMMARY

The East Raleigh Street Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for community planning and development and under Criterion C for architecture. Its group of primarily early twentieth-century houses and their attendant outbuildings are a well-preserved and eclectic collection of resources erected primarily between c. 1895 and c. 1950. The district depicts the succession of nationally popular styles such as Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Tudor Revival. Also prominent are vernacular renditions of these styles. The exuberance of the Victorian architecture exhibited by some of the earlier houses manifests the prominence and prosperity of the families who initially settled in the East Raleigh Street area.

This mostly early twentieth-century residential suburb, with its collection of well-maintained middle- and upper-income housing was not planned, but developed gradually over a rather lengthy span overlapping several stylistic periods. Spread out on curving streets with spacious lots and generous setbacks, Siler City's earliest suburb evoked rural associations, yet was within convenient commuting distance to the city. The East Raleigh Street Historic District is one of the best preserved early suburban neighborhoods in Siler City.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
CONTEXT

Siler City, located in Matthews Township in western Chatham County, was a region of country homesteads and family farms for over one-hundred years before the town came into existence. Early settlers to the region included Plickard Dedrick Siler and his wife, Elizabeth Hartsoe, who came from Germany through Philadelphia and Virginia, and around 1750 settled at a place approximately four miles north of the present town of Siler City. Their son, John Siler (1756-1822), purchased a plot of land close by in February, 1794. By 1805, the home and farm of John Siler were established where the current center of town is now located (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 122).

In December, 1842, after John Siler's death, William W. Matthews (1814-1894) bought the John Siler House and one-hundred-and-forty acres of surrounding land. A crossroads existed here

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as early as 1808, with the east-west road running from Raleigh to Salisbury with branches to Lexington and Salem. The north-south road went from Martinsville (later Greensboro) to Fayetteville. Since Matthews provided food and lodging for stagecoach travelers at his home, the area became known as Matthews Crossroads (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 122).

By 1870, Samuel Siler (1810-1900) was operating a small gristmill on the creek at a point about three blocks south of the Siler-Matthews House. A country store owned by Samuel Siler and operated by his son, Cincinnatus Siler, was located near the mill. A blacksmith shop was also in the vicinity. In 1880, a rural post office was established at the Silers' country store. The new post office was named Energy (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, pp. 122-123). In 1884, with the completion of a track of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway from Sanford to Greensboro, the name was changed to Siler Station, honoring Samuel Siler who donated the land for the depot. In 1886, the name changed to Siler City (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 123).

The completion of the railway through Siler City spurred a period of growth which was to produce Chatham County's largest town. The town streets and lots were laid out in 1884 and two mercantile houses were opened. An act to incorporate Siler City in Chatham County was ratified on March 7, 1887. By 1890, the population of Siler City had grown to 254. Businesses in the town included several general merchandise and produce companies, a hotel, several livery stables and blacksmiths, a physician, a tan yard, a saw and planing mill, a photographer, a cotton gin, a shoe shop, a dry goods and millinery shop, and a general merchandise and harness shop (Hadley, p. 212, 216-217).

By 1900, Siler City's population had increased to 440. The first ten years of the twentieth century marked the emergence of several important industries, including the establishment of the Siler City Bending Company (1901), the Chatham Manufacturing Company (1909), later incorporated as the Oval Oak Manufacturing Company, and the Siler City Milling Company (1910). Local telephone service was established in 1902, the same year the Chatham Bank opened for business. The town population again doubled during that decade reaching 895 by 1910 (Hadley, et. al., p. 216-217).

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Significant residential construction had begun in Siler City in the 1880s. Twenty-five dwellings were built in Siler City between January 1884 and April 1887 (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 123). These earliest houses were one- and two-story frame buildings, many rendered in the vernacular three-gabled form common to the rural county and located primarily to the southwest of downtown.

The East Raleigh Street Historic District developed east of town primarily during the early twentieth century as a residential area for upper-class residents of Siler City. Residents included bankers, local politicians, industrialists, realtors, and builders. The neighborhood emerged from origins typical of upper-middle-class neighborhoods across the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Improved infrastructure such as roads, water, and sewer made it feasible for those with means to move further away from the central business district.

In 1895, the Gothic Revival-inspired Richardson-Overman House (7) on East Second Street was the first to be built in the area just east of the commercial district. The Overman family, who came to own the house shortly after Isaac M. Richardson built it, is the family for whom Second Street was formerly named.

Just after the turn of the twentieth century, more stylish frame houses incorporating Queen Anne and Colonial Revival features were being constructed along East Raleigh Street. These include the Gregson-Hadley House (9) built in 1903, the Joseph John Jenkins House (18) built in 1907, and the Hackney-Andrew House (20) built in 1909. These fashionable houses reflect the prominence of those who built them, the Gregson and Hadley families were bankers, industrialists and land realtors; Jenkins was a politician, sheriff, and banker; and Hackney was a builder (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, pp. 135-136).

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, approximately twenty houses along East Raleigh and East Second Streets had been constructed by 1930. Although building slowed during the Great Depression, it picked back up again after World War II. During the 1940s, the town limits of Siler City were extended and it grew over 100 percent from 2,501 to 4,455 people (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 40). There were several houses constructed

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in the East Raleigh Street neighborhood after World War II, typically one-story brick ranch houses.

The industrial base of the town started an expansion about 1937 and increased after World War II. Two major factors in this growth were the opening of branch plants of companies located elsewhere in the state and nation, and the increase and expansion of locally owned industries. Furniture manufacturing, poultry and meat processing, hosiery, lingerie, yarn, and textiles are among the principal industries located in Siler City at this time. The corporate limits of the town were expanded on June 23, 1959, with the new area containing 4.182 square miles (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 125).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

A general air of prosperity pervaded Chatham County in the first two decades of the twentieth century. During this period, nationally popular styles and standardized forms--some of them inspired by modern technology--increasingly came to predominate over the earlier more locally inspired building patterns and techniques. In domestic architecture, the Gothic Revival style remained popular until about 1900. Next came the Queen Anne style, followed by modest Colonial Revival designs (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 45).

Among Chatham County's towns, Siler City, in particular reflected the emergence of the Queen Anne mode. Siler City's earliest houses erected mostly in the southwestern section during the late nineteenth century, were adaptations of the rural two-story triple-A form. But by the first decades of the twentieth century, a group of stylish Queen Anne and Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-transitional residences had sprung up east of the central business district along East Raleigh Street (Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, p. 46).

The exuberant 1903 Queen Anne-style Gregson-Hadley House (9) is an East Raleigh Street landmark. Designed by William H. Tippet, a prominent area builder from the adjacent Randolph County, the house is an unusual one-story variation of the Queen Anne style complete with Eastlake decorations and other period features. The asymmetrical massing comprises a combination of projecting wings and bays that are repeated in the complex form of the exaggerated hip roof with its multiple projecting gables.

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The typical Queen Anne shape is augmented by a pentagonal turret in the southwest corner, a highly decorated wrap-around porch, a highlighted off-center entry, and irregular fenestration.

The transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival Joseph John Jenkins House (18) is characterized by a high hip roof with three gable-roof wings, a pedimented wrap-around porch, and a diminutive asymmetrically-placed second-story porch. Queen Anne motifs include sawtooth shingling and intricate bargeboarding in the gables with turned and sawn woodwork embellishing the porches.

The Ned B. Bray House (8) is another significant two-story transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival constructed 1911-1912 by builder, J. W. Turner. The asymmetrical high-hip-roof dwelling with irregular massing and tall interior corbeled brick chimneys recall the preceding Queen Anne period, whereas its blocklike form and pedimented wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns typify the early Colonial Revival style.

The implementation of the pure Colonial Revival style brought a more restrained approach to building, with double-pile-plan symmetry and solid, simplified exterior detail. The c. 1920 Walter Siler House (10) offers a good example of an early Colonial Revival-style dwelling. Located along East Raleigh Street, the Walter Siler House is a simple, boxy, two-story house with a hipped roof. Its symmetrical facade is three bays wide and sheltered by a hipped-roof porch supported by classical columns.

From the 1920s through the 1930s, the Craftsman bungalow style was the stereotype for domestic architecture in Chatham County. As with previous styles, variations were commonplace. Siler City's Craftsman-style houses tended to be more elaborate, with patterned brickwork, multiple overlapping gables, and exaggerated eave brackets. The 1923 Rufus O. Welch House (6) on East Second Street, is a notable example of the Craftsman bungalow. Distinctive features include its brickwork porch balustrade set in an oversized "X" pattern and deep flared gables over the porch and adjoining porte-cochere.

Reflecting nationally popular tastes, several traditional Colonial Revivals were built in the Raleigh Street neighborhood prior to World War II. The 1925 Dorsett House (13) on East

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Raleigh Street is a typical Dutch Colonial Revival, complete with a gambrel roof, full-facade dormer, and a small one-story portico over the entry. The last house built in Siler City prior to World War II is the 1941 Dr. Milligan House (5). Constructed in the conventional Colonial Revival style, the Dr. Milligan House is a brick, two-story house with a symmetrical facade and a gable-front portico which shelters a central front door surrounded by sidelights and a fanlight. The 1937 Alfred Hackney House (12), with its complex roof of front and side gables, as well as the large chimney placed prominently on the front facade, reflect elements of the Tudor Revival style.

Several modest traditional brick houses were added to the neighborhood in the 1930s and 1940s, including the 1938 Evans Stone House (22), a small L-plan brick bungalow. Owen Stone, who lived in the adjacent c. 1910 I-house, built the house for his son to live in prior to World War II.

In domestic architecture, the modest ranch-style came to predominate in Siler City, as elsewhere in Chatham County, after World War II. Several brick ranch houses were added to the East Raleigh Street neighborhood, including the 1954 Mary Athelene Clapp House (3).

The East Raleigh Street Historic District comprises a significant collection of houses ranging from the late-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century, along with one 1990 dwelling. The large number of turn-of-the-twentieth-century homes in the district are indicative of the prosperity and prominence of early Siler City businessmen, while the later bungalows and ranch houses typify more modest housing built from the 1930s through the 1950s. The diversity of styles in the district illustrates the evolutionary nature of changing architectural preferences in Chatham County.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the East Raleigh Street Historic District are as shown by the bold line on the accompanying sketch map of the district.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the East Raleigh Street Historic District are drawn to include the area of development east of Siler City's commercial district at the turn of the twentieth century.

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Section 7

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Architectural Classification (continued):

Late Gothic Revival
Bungalow/Craftsman
Ranch

