

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Salem Street Historic District

Thomasville, Davidson County, DV0841, Listed 8/9/2006
Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips
Photographs by Laura A. W. Phillips, May 2006



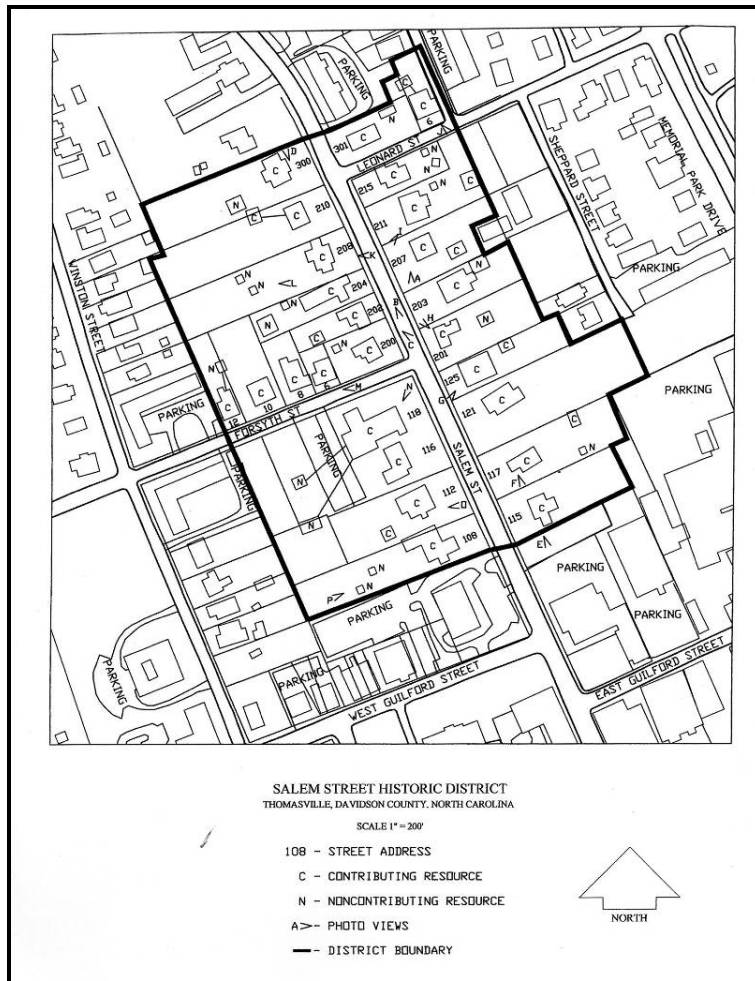
207-215 Salem Street



118 and 200 Salem Street



202-208 Salem Street



Historic District Map

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 Salem Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 108-301 Salem Street, 6-12 Forsyth Street, and 6 Leonard Street N/A not for publication

city or town Thomasville N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Davidson code 057 Zip code 27360

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.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/30/06
Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

- private (checked)
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

- building(s)
district (checked)
site
structure
object

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

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: Contributing (33, 0, 0, 0, 33), Noncontributing (11, 0, 7, 0, 18).

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary building
RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary building
RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
Queen Anne
Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
walls Wood
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Wood
Brick

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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.

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1861-1957

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simmons, Harry and Joseph Sawyer, Architects

Cecil, Schyler - builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Salem Street Historic District
Name of Property

Davidson Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 16.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	582500	3971880
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	17	582740	3972020

3	17	582880	3971680
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	17	582620	3971570

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 Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian, consultant for:

organization City of Thomasville date February 23, 2006

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

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 Multiple owners

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 Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification, cont'd.

Late Gothic Revival
Second Empire
Romanesque
Other: Ranch
Other: Foursquare

Materials, cont'd.

Foundation - Stone

Walls - Stone
Stucco
Vinyl

Other - Cast stone
Iron

Narrative

The Salem Street Historic District (Local Historic District 2001) is a residential district located immediately north of Thomasville's historic downtown (NR 2005) on the main road (NC 109) leading to Thomasville from the north. Of the twenty-five primary resources, all are houses, except for two churches. Of the twenty-six secondary resources, twenty are garages, carports, and sheds or storage buildings. There are also six miscellaneous structures, including a picnic shelter, a deck, a swimming pool, a barbecue pit, a columbarium, and a labyrinth.

Covering approximately sixteen-and-a-half acres, the district is composed of portions of four city blocks. It largely follows a linear plan, with all but five of the buildings arranged along the east and west sides of Salem Street. The other five are located on Forsyth and Leonard streets. These three streets are straight and function together like part of a grid, in the sense that Salem Street runs north-south, and Forsyth and Leonard streets run east-west and "T" into Salem Street at right angles, with Forsyth Street approaching Salem Street from the west and Leonard Street approaching from the east. [To facilitate ease of discussion in this nomination, Salem Street is considered to run north-south,

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though technically it runs northwest-southeast, and likewise, Forsyth and Leonard streets technically run northeast-southwest instead of simply east-west. The same slightly skewed directions are applied in discussing the district's individual resources.]

Overall, the district's topography is flat. There are no natural elements of significance and, except for the three streets and the sidewalks, manmade features are composed solely of the district's buildings and structures. There are no squares or open spaces, except for the open or wooded areas on several of the lots. There are no vacant lots, but there is one parking lot, which is associated with Heidelberg Church.

The Salem Street Historic District forms a cohesive unit of historic buildings that is distinguished from its surroundings in the following ways. On the north are apartment complexes and houses of later dates of construction. On the south are the commercial and government buildings of Thomasville's downtown. On the east are vacant land and houses and apartments of later dates of construction, and on the west are apartments and houses of later dates of construction or different characters.

Because the district evolved over a period of nearly a century and was not a planned development, lot sizes and building arrangements on the lots vary. Lots are from 55 to 211 feet wide and from 96 to 416 feet deep. Likewise, setbacks from the street vary from 15 to 75 feet, though all of the primary buildings are set within the front half of their lots. In addition, some of the primary buildings are set at a slight angle to the street, rather than facing it head-on. Landscaping within the district consists primarily of lawns, a generous number of trees—though they are not in a regular pattern—and a variety of shrubbery, more often than not arranged informally.

Some of the district's overall character can be seen in the scale, proportions, materials, decoration, and design quality of its resources. Of the district's twenty-five primary resources, just over half (thirteen) are two stories in height. Of the remaining twelve resources, half are one-story. Among the others are four buildings that are one-and-a-half stories and two that are two-and-a-half stories. More than two thirds of the buildings are three bays wide. Making up the remaining eight buildings are three that are four bays wide, two that are two bays wide, and one each that are one, five, and six bays wide. The largest building in the district is the two-and-a-half-story brick Heidelberg Church near the district's center at 118 Salem Street; the smallest is probably the one-story frame White House at 12 Forsyth Street. Nearly three quarters (eighteen) of the district's twenty-five primary resources are of frame construction. Of these, half are weatherboarded and half have been vinyl-sided. Of the remaining buildings, six are brick (one is half stuccoed), and one is stone. Building decoration tends to be fairly simple. The most ornate building is the Strickland-Long House at 117 Salem Street, but most of that decoration dates from the mid 1980s and is based on supposition of the original decoration. Most decoration in the district is executed in the same material as the body of the building. Exceptions include the use of wood, cast stone, or stucco on brick buildings and ironwork used in conjunction with one frame house. Building workmanship in the district ranges from good to excellent, and the overall

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quality of design is high. Several buildings—Heidelberg Church at 118 Salem Street, the Leon A. Kress House at 125 Salem Street, the Morris-Harris House at 207 Salem Street, and the Peacock-Pope House at 211 Salem Street—exhibit exceptionally high quality of design.

Stylistically, the district is very diverse, with representatives of many of the styles popular from the late-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The Colonial Revival style, including the Dutch Colonial Revival, is the most prevalent, but it accounts for little more than one third of the buildings. Three of the best examples of the Colonial Revival style, all with refined classical detailing, are the Morris-Harris House at 207 Salem Street, the George W. Lyles House at 208 Salem Street, and the Meade B. Hite House at 203 Salem Street.

Four houses in the district—10 and 12 Forsyth Street, 215 Salem Street, and 6 Leonard Street—are representative of the vernacular late Queen Anne cottage. A typical house type of the 1900s and 1910s, these houses are one- or one-and-a-half-story frame dwellings with a steep hipped roof with intersecting gables and wraparound porches. While they exhibit Queen Anne-style massing, they have very little decoration.

Three houses in the district reflect the Craftsman style of architecture. The most outstanding example is the Leon A. Kress House at 125 Salem Street. It is a one-and-a-half-story brick-and-stucco bungalow with an asymmetrical form, broad braced gables, a porch with heavy features, a side portecochere, and an upper story surrounded by windows that rises high above the center of the house, thereby giving this house type the name “airplane bungalow.” Other good examples of the Craftsman style are the Eugene L. Webb House at 112 Salem Street and the Clarence M. and Corene B. Tomlinson House at 6 Forsyth Street, both two-story frame dwellings.

The district’s two churches—St Paul’s Episcopal Church at 208 Salem Street and Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church at 218 Salem Street—are Gothic Revival in style, with steep gable roofs, lancet-arched windows, and buttresses, among other distinctive features.

Among the other houses in the district are four other stylistic representations worthy of note. The late Victorian vernacular Strickland-Long House at 117 Salem Street has a distinctive mansard-roofed tower that reflects the influence of the French Second Empire style. The Peacock-Pope House at 211 Salem Street, with its rusticated granite walls, round tower, and round arches, is not only a good and rare example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, but is also unique in Davidson County for its extensive exterior use of granite. At the north end of the district, the G. T. Cochrane House at 301 Salem Street is an excellent representative of the Foursquare house form. The two-story frame house is nearly square in configuration and features a two-bay facade with a one-story porch, a low hipped roof, and hip-roofed dormers. Across the street, at 300 Salem Street, the Tom and Bernice Gordon House is the most modern of the district’s houses. Its long, low, Ranch style massing and Minimal Traditional style detailing reflect its mid-1950s date of construction.

The Salem Street Historic District developed over a period of a century, from ca. 1861 to 1957,

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following a natural progression of growth. During the half-century since then, the district's primary resources have remained intact. According to the Sanborn map for 1923, the first year in which the entire area of the district was recorded, six buildings that then stood within the current district boundaries no longer remain. Four of the six were replaced by current district buildings. The sites of the other two, which stood on the south side of Forsyth Street, are now part of the Heidelberg Church property. The Sanborn map also shows that five of the district's current buildings were erected on five vacant lots that existed in 1923. A review of the dates of construction of the district's twenty-five primary resources reveals that the heaviest period of building in the district was during the 1920s, accounting for nine buildings. Seven others were built in the 1910s, though one of these was substantially changed in the 1940s. Five buildings date from the decades between ca. 1861 and ca. 1900; three of these, located on the east side of Salem Street southward from Forsyth Street, have been subsequently remodeled. The remaining four buildings in the district date from the late 1940s through the mid 1950s.

The district's resources are in good to excellent condition. Only one building, the R. W. Thompson House at 204 Salem Street, has been moved (in 1947) and that was to its current site on the same lot but farther back from the street. At the same time, the house was substantially remodeled. Other than that house and four houses erected between ca. 1861 and ca. 1900 that were remodeled prior to the mid 1950s, there have been some additional alterations since the mid 1950s. These have consisted primarily of the addition of vinyl siding to nine houses. However, none of the changes has had a significant effect on the overall character of the district. Of the district's fifty-one total resources, all twenty-five of the primary buildings and eight of the secondary buildings contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district. The remainder of the secondary resources—eleven buildings and five structures—are noncontributing. This translates to sixty-five percent contributing resources and thirty-five percent—all small secondary resources—noncontributing. Thus it can be said that, overall, the Salem Street Historic District retains good historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the Salem Street Historic District. Included are each property's name, current address, date or approximate date of construction and major alterations, contributing or noncontributing status, and a summary of each property's physical character and history. Historic names—based on the first known owner or use of a building or on a building's most historically significant owner or use—are used whenever possible. Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant, were present during the district's period of significance (ca.

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1861-1957), relate to the documented significance of the district, and possess historic integrity, or that independently meet the National Register criteria are contributing resources and are designated as such in the inventory list. Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that do not add to the district's historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant; were not present during the period of significance; do not relate to the documented significance of the district; and due to alterations, additions, or other changes no longer possess historic integrity; or that do not independently meet the National Register criteria are noncontributing resources and are designated as such in the inventory list.

The inventory entries are based on a combination of the on-site recording and research conducted by Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc. during the summer of 2004 as part of the Comprehensive Architectural Survey of Thomasville and on additional on-site recording and research conducted by Laura A. W. Phillips from October 2005 through January 2006. The primary sources of historical information used in the preparation of the inventory are the 1913, 1923, 1930, and 1948 Sanborn Map Company insurance maps for Thomasville, and the Thomasville city directories for the years 1928-1929 (earliest available), 1937, 1941-1942, 1949-1950, and 1956-1957. Also useful were the 2001 Investigation Report for the Salem Street Historic District prepared by the Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission and interviews with James B. Hoover, an elderly long-time former resident of 121 Salem Street. Survey files containing photographs, physical information, and historical data for district properties are maintained by North Carolina's State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

The inventory is arranged alphabetically by street name. The east side of Salem Street is listed prior to the west side. For each street, properties are listed from lowest to highest address numbers. Addresses and contributing or noncontributing status of all district resources are keyed to the accompanying district map.

FORSYTH STREET

Clarence M. and Corene B. Tomlinson House
6 Forsyth Street
ca. 1925

Contributing building

The two-story, frame, Craftsman-style house has weatherboard siding, a shallow front-gable roof with stepped brackets under the overhanging gable eaves, and exterior chimneys on the east and west elevations (the upper stack of the east chimney has been removed). Windows are paired nine-over-one sash, and the slightly off-center front entrance is composed of a Craftsman-muntined glass door. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with tapered wood posts on stuccoed brick plinths with low connecting walls carries across the three-bay facade and extends westward to form a porte-cochere supported by

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replacement metal posts. For its first several decades, this was the home of Clarence M. and Corene Blair Tomlinson. He was a local merchant and, in the 1950s, a clerk at the post office. In the late 1920s, physician W. Gordon Smith and his wife, Aileen, also lived in the house.

Schyler Cecil House

8 Forsyth Street
ca. 1920

Contributing building

A front-facing gambrel roof is the defining feature of this Dutch Colonial Revival house. Sheathed in vinyl siding, the two-story, two-bay-wide, frame house has a stone foundation, wood-shingled shed dormers on either side of the roof, an interior chimney, sixteen-over-one sash windows, and a front entrance with a glass-panel door surrounded by sidelights and transom. The Craftsman-style front porch features large tapered posts set on stone piers and an added balustrade and added turned posts on either side of the entrance. A porte-cochere beyond the east end of the porch has supports matching those of the porch, but it was added between 1923 and 1930. Local tradition asserts that the house was built by contractor Schyler Cecil for his family, but by the late 1920s it was occupied by traveling salesman Robert L. Harville and his wife, Fannie, who remained there until the 1940s.

Harvey A. Leonard House

10 Forsyth Street
1910s

Contributing building

Although local tradition claims that contractor Schyler Cecil built this house—one of many in the area attributed to him—in the late 1910s, stylistically it reflects typical late Queen Anne-style cottages built more commonly ca. 1905-1915. The one-and-a-half-story weatherboarded frame house has a steep hipped roof with wood-shingled cross gables and gabled dormers, a single interior chimney, and a wraparound porch with Tuscan columns. Some of the two-over-one sash windows have been replaced with six-over-six sash, but all retain a refined drip mold above the window. At the center of the three-bay facade is the glass-and-wood-paneled front door. In recent years a balustrade and lattice have been added to the porch. Harvey A. and Alice Leonard, who owned the Leonard Dry Cleaning Company, were the first known occupants of the house, in the late 1920s. Thereafter, the house changed hands multiple times.

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White House 12 Forsyth Street ca. 1910	Contributing building
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The one-story frame house, now covered with vinyl siding, is typical of late Queen Anne-style vernacular cottages built during the early twentieth century. It has a steep hipped roof with intersecting front and east-side gables, a three-bay facade, a hip-roofed front porch with plain replacement posts that has been partially screened in, and a rear ell. Local tradition claims that contractor Schyler Cecil built the house for his in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. White. By the end of the 1920s, Mrs. Cora Cranford occupied the house. From the mid 1930s to at least 1950, Mrs. Flora C. Newsome, an employee of the Wrenn Hosiery Company, lived here.

Garage Third quarter twentieth century	Noncontributing building
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Behind the northeast corner of the house stands a one-story frame garage with German siding and a broad, front-gable roof.

LEONARD STREET

Clarence V. and Myrtle Ritchie House 6 Leonard Street ca. 1910	Contributing building
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Clarence V. and Myrtle Ritchie occupied this typical late Queen Anne-style cottage with classical detailing from at least the late 1920s through the late 1950s. During these years, Clarence Ritchie was a manager at the Thomasville Store Company and then a salesman at the Thomasville Dry Goods Company, both located on Salem Street in downtown Thomasville. The asymmetrical one-story frame house has a steep hipped roof with lower intersecting cross gables and a wraparound hip-roofed porch with Tuscan colonettes set on brick plinths. The house has a central entrance on its three-bay facade and one-over-one sash windows. Vinyl siding currently sheathes the exterior.

Garage Second quarter twentieth century	Contributing building
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Located behind (north of) the house and facing east, the garage was built between 1930 and 1948. It

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is a one-story, German-sided frame structure with a front gable and a partially enclosed front shed with a large, double-leaf vehicular doorway.

SALEM STREET (East Side)

Strickland-Green House

115 Salem Street
ca. 1887; 1950s

Contributing building

The two-story, single-pile, frame house sheathed in vinyl siding has a side-gable roof, a chimney at the south gable end, a one-story rear ell, and an added one-story garage wing extending from the south side of the house. The three-bay facade has a Colonial Revival center-bay entrance and flanking six-over-six replacement-sash windows. A two-story portico with slender posts and a nearly flat roof carries across the entire facade. It dates from the 1950s. An early-twentieth-century photo (of the John Nelson Hauss House, no longer standing) that includes a portion of this house shows that at that time it had a two-tier center-bay porch with a balustrade at each level. According to James Hoover, later in the first half of the twentieth century, the first story of the porch extended across the entire facade. According to local tradition, the house was built in 1887 for Dr. J. T. Strickland and his family. After the Strickland occupancy, the house changed hands frequently. In the late 1920s, the S. G. Moores purchased the house and converted the front to one large room to accommodate their large bridge parties. During the 1950s, the house was owned and occupied by Julius Alpheus Green, who served as a city council member from 1951-1953. It was during the Green ownership that the two-story portico and the garage wing were added.

Strickland-Long House

117 Salem Street
ca. 1887; ca. 1985

Contributing building

Local tradition claims that Dr. J. T. Strickland built this house ca. 1887 but sold it soon thereafter to William Alexander Lambeth. The property changed hands several times until postmaster Keiffer L. Long purchased it in 1916. Long, who held various positions at the post office and later worked for Ragan Knitting Company, occupied the house until at least the early 1960s. Soon after they purchased the house, the Longs removed the front bay window and added a bungalow-type porch. Around 1985 Steve Nixon, who purchased the house in 1978, rebuilt the bay window and added a period-inspired porch that wraps around the southwest corner of the house. The two-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling boasts a tower with a wood-shingled, flared, mansard roof at the junction of its front and south-

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side wings that provides the house with a distinctive, vernacular French Second Empire-style appearance. The house has a gabled roof with bracketed eaves, an interior chimney with a corbeled cap, two-over-two double-hung sash windows with louvered wood shutters, decorative bay windows on the front and side elevations, and a wraparound porch with a turned balustrade, turned and bracketed posts, and a sawnwork frieze.

Barn

First quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

Northeast of the house stands a frame barn-like structure that may be the outbuilding shown on the 1913 Sanborn map. It has vertical-board siding, a front-gable roof with a small, flat-roofed section on the north side, and several doors of various sizes.

Shed

Last quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

Northeast of the house stands a small, privy-shaped frame building with pressed particle-board siding and a shed roof.

Lewis-Hoover House

121 Salem Street
ca. 1878

Contributing building

The two-story, single-pile, weatherboarded frame house features a side-gable roof whose eaves have paired, sawnwork brackets; a three-bay facade with paired, shuttered windows; and a one-story, three-bay, hip-roofed, front porch with Roman Doric columns. The slightly projecting center-bay entrance with a double-leaf door and sidelights has slender Tuscan columns flanking the two corners. The exposed tops, at least, of the interior-end chimneys were removed due to maintenance issues between 2001 and 2004. Windows are one-over-one, two-over-two, and six-over-six sash. A large, hipped and gabled, one-story wing with some board-and-batten siding and a south-side porch extends from the rear of the house. According to family tradition, fire destroyed the original Lewis family home which had been built on the site in 1861. In 1878 the Reverend John Lewis, a Methodist Episcopal minister, built the present house for his family. Lewis's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Leach, inherited the house and remained there throughout their lives. Beginning in 1884, Leach was Thomasville's second mayor. The house passed to Evaline Leach and her husband, Charles M. Hoover, a furniture manufacturer who was at one time the Thomasville postmaster, served as mayor of

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Thomasville 1913-1915, and was on the City Council 1917-1919. The house remains in Hoover family ownership.

Leon A. Kress House

125 Salem Street
ca. 1924

Contributing building

For the first quarter century after its construction, this excellent example of an airplane bungalow was the home of Lithuanian Jewish merchant Leon A. Kress and his family. The Kress family owned a clothing store at 34 West Main Street in downtown Thomasville. The one-and-a-half-story, asymmetrical house has a brick first story and a stuccoed upper half story. Stucco is also used in the multiple gables and for some of the front porch trim. On the first story are grouped Craftsman-style windows and a glass entrance and sidelights with Craftsman-style muntins. The front porch has an off-center, gabled entrance bay and large brick plinths supporting heavy, tapered posts. The porch extends northward to form a cross-gabled porte-cochere. The multiple gables on the first story have triangular braced overhanging eaves. The upper half story is surrounded by twelve-over-one sash windows and has a low hipped roof with exposed rafter ends.

Garage

ca. 1924

Contributing building

At the east end of the driveway is a one-story, one-bay, brick garage with a shallow hipped roof.

Duskin-Morris-Crews House

201 Salem Street
ca. 1861; ca. 1921; last quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

The house is a one-and-a-half-story, frame, slightly asymmetrical, Dutch Colonial Revival-style dwelling with a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a steep side-gambrel roof, and exterior end brick chimneys. The three-bay facade has a slightly off-center entrance. A narrow gambreled dormer projects from the roof above the entrance; it is flanked by a pair of gabled dormers. Windows are six-over-nine and six-over-six sash. A one-and-a-half-story ell with the same gambrel roof and gabled dormers as found on the front of the house extends eastward from the rear. According to local tradition, the house was built ca. 1861 with the Lindsay Duskin family as the first occupants. Tradition continues that from 1870 to 1899, Baptist minister Hezakiah Morton and his family lived here, and that subsequently it was owned by J. M. Morris, who ran a local department store with his son, Arthur. Another son, Dr. Ben

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Morris, a dentist, remodeled the house in the Dutch Colonial Revival style around 1921. Soon thereafter, the house was sold to the Crews family, in whose ownership it remains. From 1928-1929 until at least 1949-1950, Dr. Robert W. Crews, a dentist, and his wife, Corinna W., were listed in city directories at this address. In 1949-1950, Corrina Crews was listed as a music teacher whose music studio was at the rear of the house. From 1923 through 1948, Sanborn maps reveal that the house was a two-story rectangular dwelling with a full-width front porch and a one-story rear ell, indicating that it has been remodeled again since that time.

Carport
ca. 1976

Noncontributing structure

Behind the house stands a two-vehicle open carport. Wood posts with braced collars support a wood truss system that carries a broad gable roof.

Meade B. Hite House

203 Salem Street
ca. 1927

Harry Simmons and Joseph Sawyer, Architects, Greensboro

Contributing building

The two-story, double-pile, brick house has a gable roof with boxed and molded eaves and a gable-end brick chimney. Windows are eight-over-eight sash. The architect-designed house is a strong expression of the Colonial Revival style with many refined features. A one-story porch with a brick floor and classical posts carries across the three-bay facade. The central entrance has a six-panel door with sidelights and an elliptical fanlight transom. Windows are accented by a brick flat arch with a white keystone. Brick quoining defines the corners of the house. Prior to the construction of this house, Meade B. and Margaret Cates Hite occupied a turn-of-the-twentieth-century, one-story house on the site that had been built by Arthur Morris. In order to build this house, the Hites turned the earlier house 180 degrees and moved it back to face Sheppard Street. (It no longer stands, or else it has been moved to yet another site.) Meade Botts Hite moved to Thomasville from Virginia in 1904 and established the town's second retail furniture store, known as Star Furniture. First located in a frame building on West Main Street, the business moved to Salem Street in 1916 after the original store burned. In 1927, the same year as the construction of his house, Hite erected a three-story building for his store at 9 East Guilford Street. Although Meade Hite died in 1940, his family continued to occupy the Salem Street home until selling it in 1985.

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Carport/Storage

Noncontributing building

Last quarter twentieth century

Directly behind the house is a large carport/storage building with a gable roof. Most of the building is an open carport supported on the two west corners by square posts. The east end (rear) of the carport is enclosed and weatherboarded to create a storage room or workshop.

Morris-Harris House

Contributing building

207 Salem Street
ca. 1920

The two-and-half-story, double-pile, frame house is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style. It has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding with beveled corners, a steeply pitched side-gable roof, and an interior chimney. The roof has a modillioned cornice and three pedimented dormers that project from the front slope. Each gable end has a sash window with a fanlight transom. Except for the dormer windows, which are six-over-six sash, the house's windows are six-over-one sash. Those on the facade have wood paneled shutters. The center-bay entrance is the focus of the five-bay facade. Three circular concrete steps lead to the semi-circular portico, which features Tower of the Winds columns and a full classical cornice, above which is a balustraded deck. The entrance itself has a French door surrounded by sidelights and a transom. Above the entrance, the center bay of the second story has a three-part window. On the south side of the house is a one-story rectangular porch that repeats the classical detailing of the entrance portico. Arthur Morris was the original owner of the house, but after a short period, he sold it to Cephas L. Harris, whose family continued to occupy the house until the late 1960s. Harris was a wholesale grocer who was involved with several businesses. For most of his career, he was the secretary-treasurer of the Davidson Wholesale Company. However, in the late 1920s, he was also president of the West End Store and manager of the Thomasville Store Company. For some years he was also treasurer and then president of the Thomasville Dry Goods Company as well as vice-president and president of the Peoples Savings and Loan Association. Most of these businesses were located at the south end of Salem Street in Thomasville's commercial downtown.

Garage

Contributing building

ca. 1920

Southeast of the house stands a one-story, weatherboarded-frame garage with a front-gable roof. It is a simplified version of the house. A garage is shown at this location on the Sanborn maps beginning in 1923 (the first map that covers this area).

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Peacock-Pope House

211 Salem Street
ca. 1911

Contributing building

Local tradition varies on when this house was built. One tradition says that it was erected soon after the stone was delivered to the site in late 1906. However, the December 2, 1910 edition of *The Davidsonian* newspaper reported that "Dr. Peacock is preparing to build a cottage in the near future." Dr. J. W. Peacock was a respected physician and a city councilman from 1907 to 1909 and again from 1919 to 1921, who became infamous when he shot and killed Thomasville Police Chief J. E. Taylor during a prohibition argument. The Peacock family sold the house in 1924 to Thomas Jefferson Finch, who soon thereafter sold it to Robie Lester Pope. For most of his career, Pope was an officer of the First National Bank, and in the late 1920s he was also president of the Thomasville Rotary Club and served as a city councilman. The house remains in the ownership of Pope's descendants. The one-and-a-story house of asymmetrical design is the only one in Davidson County to make such extensive use of granite as a building material. Reflecting the influence of the Richardson Romanesque style, the house is sheathed entirely in coursed, rusticated granite with the exception of its gables, which are wood shingled. The house has a side-gable roof with intersecting front and rear gables, a gabled dormer on the front slope, and an interior chimney. While all the gables have sash windows, the two side gables have paired sash windows flanked by round pivot windows. At the apex of the side gables is a round louvered vent. First-story windows are one-over-one sash with a segmental-arched stone lintel. The front entrance, which has sidelights and a transom, also is headed by a segmental-arched stone lintel. The dominant features of the four-bay facade are a round tower with a conical roof north of the entrance and, extending southward from the tower, an arcaded stone porch with alternating large and small round arches and a low stone balustrade around its roof deck.

Deck

ca. 2000

Noncontributing structure

Behind the house is a detached frame deck with a plain balustrade.

Garage

ca. 1927

Contributing building

Behind the house is a long, German-sided frame, one-story garage. It has a side-gable roof, two vehicular bays on the west side, a storage room at the south end, and a shed roof that extends along the west side to form an open covered area. Sanborn maps show that a garage of this location and

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configuration was built between 1923 and 1930

Clark-Everhart House

Contributing building

215 Salem Street
1910s

The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, frame house, now sheathed with vinyl siding, has an irregular configuration with a multi-gabled roof. Each of the gables facing Salem Street and Leonard Street has a triangular louvered vent. The house has interior chimneys, paired sash windows, and a front entrance with narrow sidelights. The wraparound porch with plain columns set on brick plinths was extended northward post 1948 to create a porte-cochere. Local tradition claims that the house was built by T. T. Clark, but from at least 1928 through 1956, it was occupied by the Charles T. and Sallie W. Everhart family.

Pool

Noncontributing structure

Last quarter twentieth century

Located at an angle east (behind) the house is an in-ground pool.

Shed

Noncontributing building

Last quarter twentieth century

Southeast of the pool is a modern storage shed with vertical-board siding and a gambrel roof.

G. T. Cochrane House

Contributing building

301 Salem Street
ca. 1920

This two-story, two-bay-wide, double-pile frame house is a good example of the Foursquare house type. It features a granite foundation with grapevine mortar joints, weatherboard siding, and a low hipped roof with wood-shingled hipped dormers on the front and two side slopes, and interior chimneys. The overhanging boxed eaves of the main roof, dormers, south-side bay, rear ell, and front porch all have closely spaced sawnwork brackets. Windows are one-over-one sash, and the glass-and-wood-paneled front door retains its sidelights and transom. Above the entrance, the second-story window has been converted to a French door. The front porch has what appear to be replacement posts and balustrade. On the south side of the house is a shallow projecting bay, while the rear has a short, one-story ell. In

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1928-1929, J. Wade and Kathleen Floyd and Carl and Navada Jackson occupied the house. Both Wade Floyd and Carl Jackson were city employees. The longest known occupants of the house, from at least 1937 through 1956, were George Thomas and Kate K. Cochrane. G. T. Cochrane was an agent for the Security Life and Trust Company. After his death, Kate Cochrane rented furnished rooms in the house.

Storage Building

Last quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

Northeast of (behind) the house stands a long, one-story, frame storage building with vertical plywood siding and a gable roof whose ridge runs east-west.

SALEM STREET (West Side)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

108 Salem Street
1949; 1957-1958

Contributing building

The small, Gothic Revival church has Flemish-bond brickwork, a steep, cross-gable roof, and a smaller gabled vestibule at the east end with a lancet-arched wood-paneled entrance with flanking Gothic brass-and-glass lantern sconces. Buttresses with concrete caps are at the corners of the building. Corbeled and dentiled cornices line the north and south sides of the church. Above the east vestibule is a round stained-glass window, at the rear of the church is a three-part lancet-arched stained-glass window, and lancet-arched paired windows with muntined colored-glass are on the sides of the church. On the north side of the 1949 church and attached to it by a brick connecting wing is the parish house that was added in 1957-1958. It has Flemish-bond brickwork, stucco and wood "half timbering" in the east and west gable ends, and flat-headed casement windows. The first Episcopal services were held in Thomasville at the Thomasville Female College in 1876. However, the congregation remained small, and services were not held on a regular basis until the 1940s. Then Mrs. Meade Hite (203 Salem Street), Mrs. Margaret Hoover Mendenhall, and other women in town worked toward reviving the congregation and establishing a permanent church. In 1944 the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese sent the Reverend William Price to work both in Asheboro and in Thomasville. St. Paul's Mission, with a small but devoted membership, soon began holding regular evening services in a converted storeroom on Commerce Street. The Reverend Dan W. Allen, rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington, helped strengthen the congregation to the point that in 1949 they bought a lot on Salem Street. The cornerstone for the church was laid on May 26, 1949; the first service was held in the church on September 25, 1949, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church was consecrated on October 9, 1950.

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Columbarium
ca. 2000

Noncontributing structure

West of (behind) the church and facing southeast is the church columbarium. It is a three-part, vertically oriented structure with the center section taller (approximately seven feet tall) than the two side sections. Low brick walls extend north and south of the columbarium and then east and southeast, forming a three-sided open meditation garden.

Labyrinth
ca. 2000

Noncontributing structure

Southwest of the columbarium is a large, round, walking labyrinth for meditation. It is made of grass and flagstones and at four points outside the circle are small statues of the symbols for Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Eugene L. Webb House
112 Salem Street
ca. 1920

Contributing building

Eugene L. Webb, owner of the Thomasville Drug Store on Salem Street in the commercial downtown, was the first owner of this two-story frame Craftsman-style house. Eugene and his wife, Maye, continued to occupy the house until the mid 1950s, when Mrs. Grace H. Ragan, widow of A. Homer Ragan (vice-president of Ragan Knitting Company, secretary and treasurer of the Insurance and Loan Company, and treasurer and assistant secretary of Peoples Savings and Loan Company) purchased the property. The house remains in the ownership, though not occupancy, of the Ragan family. The house has a simple form but some unusual facade details. The house has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a broad front-facing gable roof with widely overhanging eaves, interior chimneys, and mostly one-over-one sash windows. On the north side of the house is a shed-roofed porch with Tuscan columns, on the south side is a porte-cochere with paired Tuscan columns on brick plinths, and on the rear is a one-story shed room. At the center of the three-bay first-story of the facade, the entrance features a glass-paneled door surrounded by sidelights with rectangular-patterned leaded glass and a leaded-glass elliptical fanlight transom. The whole is sheltered by an entrance portico with Tuscan columns, a broad front gable matching the pitch of the main roof, and an elliptical soffit that matches the transom. In the bays on either side of the entrance are four-part windows with narrow, leaded-glass sash matching the entrance sidelights. The four-bay second story has plain one-over-one sash windows. Above the two center bays and beneath the peak of the roof gable is a slightly projecting area supported

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on brackets. It is composed of a row of three rectangular leaded-glass windows surrounded by panels of wood louvers. The roof above this area extends several inches in front of the rest of the roof both to accent it and to provide additional shelter.

Garage

Second quarter twentieth century

Contributing building

Behind the house is a weatherboarded-frame, one-story garage with a broad, front-facing gable roof.

Heidelberg United Church of Christ Parsonage

116 Salem Street
1957

Contributing building

The parsonage is a two-story, Colonial Revival-influenced house of running-bond brick with a side-gable roof, a near-center interior chimney, and eight-over-eight sash windows with louvered shutters. The main block of the facade is four bays wide with the entrance at the north end. The entrance features an inset six-panel door with narrow sidelights, paneled jambs, and a simple classical surround. One-bay-wide, one-story wings extend from the north and south sides of the house, and on the south side of the rear is a large, attached carport. The parsonage, which stands immediately south of Heidelberg Church, was built in the same year that the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church united to form the present-day United Church of Christ. The parsonage replaced a large, two-story frame house said to have been built by the Whitaker family in 1858. After the property was purchased by the congregation in 1927, and until the present parsonage was built, the older house served as the parsonage for the Reverend Jacob A. Palmer and his wife, Etna.

Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church

118 Salem Street
1954-1955

Contributing building

In 1894 the Reverend J. C. Leonard of the First Reformed Church in Lexington met with members of the denomination in Thomasville to organize the Heidelberg Reformed Church. The following year, the congregation built a frame church on West Main Street south of the railroad. In 1927, after some years of slow but steady growth, the congregation bought the Whitaker property on Salem Street and soon thereafter the adjacent lot on the corner of Salem and Forsyth streets. However, twenty years passed before the congregation was able to finish paying for the lots and gather sufficient funds to start construction on the new church. In 1946, W. Ernest Fouts, a contractor who was a member of the

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church, began construction, laying out the church and completing a ground floor with a temporary roof by 1949 so that it could be used for worship services, Sunday School, and other church activities. Indeed, the church is shown on the 1948 Sanborn map, and the 1949-1950 city directory lists the Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church at this location. Working on a pay-as-you-go basis, the final drive for completion of the building came in 1954, when the cornerstone was laid. The first service in the completed sanctuary was held on May 15, 1955. Two years later, the Evangelical and Reformed Church denomination merged with the Congregational Christian Church denomination to form the present-day United Church of Christ. The large, Gothic Revival brick church with cast stone detailing has a steep, front-facing gable roof with raised parapet gable ends. The symmetrical facade has a center section with a recessed arched entrance and a round stained glass rose window. Extending from either side of the center section of the facade are short, gable-roofed wings. These wings and the sides of the church have Gothic-arched stained-glass windows with cast stone surrounds. At all of the building corners and between the windows are stepped buttresses with cast stone caps. A cast stone stringcourse surrounds the building at water table height, below which is the partially above-ground basement. Two-story Sunday School wings (three-story with the basement) extend both northward and southward at the rear of the church with a projecting two-bay section at the rear of the sanctuary. The south wing is gabled, like the sanctuary, but the north wing has a flat, crenelated roof line. All the sash windows in the rear wings have decorative cast stone surrounds. At the point where the north wing joins the rear of the sanctuary, a square tower rises well above the rest of the church building. It has buttressed corners, louvered Gothic arches, a crenelated parapet, and a Gothic-arched entrance at the base. Behind the church and adjacent parsonage is a paved parking lot entered from Forsyth Street, a garage, a playground area with wood equipment, a picnic shelter, and an expansive lawn.

Garage

Third quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

West of the parking lot and set back nearly as far as the parsonage from Forsyth Street, is a one-story, two-bay, concrete-block garage with a shed roof and openings facing Forsyth Street.

Picnic Shelter

Fourth quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing structure

South of the garage and playground area and west of the space between the parsonage and 112 Salem Street is the church picnic shelter. It is a long rectangular structure with a concrete slab into which are set wood poles that support an east-west, metal-sheathed gable roof.

(Intersection with Forsyth Street)

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Swicegood-Tomlinson House

Contributing building

200 Salem Street
ca. 1900

The two-story frame house with asymmetrical massing has a brick foundation, replacement vinyl siding, a hipped roof on the main block, and a slightly projecting, gabled, north front bay. The overhanging eaves of the gable are bracketed, while those of the hipped roof have shaped rafter ends, visible on the rear where the vinyl soffit has peeled away. Other features include exterior chimneys, two-over-two sash windows, bay windows on the front gabled wing and north side, and a one-story rear ell and shed rooms. The replacement front door is at the center of the three-bay facade, and the wraparound porch has replacement wood posts on brick plinths and a plain balustrade. Local tradition claims that this was one of several houses in the district built by contractor Schyler Cecil. The Swicegood family was the first known to occupy the house, beginning in 1904. Mrs. Mary Tomlinson, widow of J. M. Tomlinson, moved here with her family shortly before World War I and remained here for several decades. It was probably during their ownership that the porch was altered.

Shed

Noncontributing building

Last quarter twentieth century

Behind the house and facing south is a shed with plywood siding, a shallow side-gable roof, and a center door flanked by two small windows.

Blair-Conrad-Fouts House

Contributing building

202 Salem Street
ca. 1917

The symmetrical, two-story, single-pile, frame house has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a side-gable roof, a near-center pair of interior chimneys, one-over-one sash windows, and a two-story, gabled, projecting bay at the center of the three-bay facade. The three front and side gables contain a small rectangular window; the front one has Queen Anne-style patterned muntins filled with stained-glass. A one-story Colonial Revival porch with Tuscan columns wraps around the front and south side of the house. The low, pedimented gable at the center of the porch marks the house entrance with its Queen Anne-style glass and wood-paneled door. A one-story ell extends from the rear of the house. Family tradition says that Mrs. Emma Blair, later Mrs. T. L. Conrad, was the first owner of the house. By the mid 1930s, Sadie Conrad and her husband, Hobert Lee Fouts—a floor finisher whose father, W.

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Ernest Fouts, was the contractor for Heidelberg Church—were living in the house with Sadie’s mother. Thereafter, the Fouts family continued to occupy the house for several decades.

Garage
ca. 1920

Contributing building

Behind the house is a one-story frame garage with weatherboard siding and a front-gable roof. A garage of this configuration and location was shown on the Sanborn maps as early as 1923.

R. W. Thompson House
204 Salem Street
ca. 1910; ca. 1948

Contributing building

The early history of this one-story frame house is unclear. According to James Hoover, the house—which probably had been built by 1910—originally was a simple one-story frame dwelling with a center hall and a porch across the front. Sanborn maps from 1923 through 1948 show a house of this type located closer to the street than houses at 200 and 202 Salem Street. It was occupied successively by Edgar Dixon, Jesse L. and Clara Perryman, and Edmund E. and Martha Searles. Hoover asserts that after World War II, R. W. Thompson substantially altered the house, giving it its present appearance. Another tradition claims that Thompson built the house in 1947. Robert William Thompson was an executive with the Thompson Auto Company. He was a founding member of the Thomasville Lions Club and was a city councilman from 1977-1981. The one-story, vinyl-sided, frame house, which is set farther back on its lot than the original house, has an unusual, asymmetrical configuration. At its core is a side-gable house. At the north end of the facade is a prominently projecting polygonal bay with a corresponding polygonal roof. At the center of the facade is a Colonial Revival entrance with a front-gabled porch hood supported by decorative ironwork posts. Extending from the polygonal bay to the south-side porch is a terrace bounded by an ironwork balustrade of the same pattern as the entrance hood posts. At the south end of the house is an engaged porch with plain wood posts. A one-story ell extends from the rear of the house, and behind it is an added modern ell. Windows on the house are mostly six-over-six sash.

Garage
Third quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

At the rear of the property is a one-story, concrete-block, side-gable building that appears to have been originally a garage. Now the front slope of the roof extends forward to create a covered space

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that is enclosed by lattice.

Shed

Third quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

Directly behind the house is a one-story shed with narrow vertical-board siding, a door on the south side, and a small pivot window on the east side. The low hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves extends southward on the south side, where it is supported by wood posts.

George W. Lyles House

208 Salem Street
ca. 1925

Contributing building

The George W. Lyles family, first owners of this Dutch Colonial Revival house, occupied it for more than half a century. Local tradition asserts that a local builder named Wellingham was the contractor. George Lyles held a variety of positions over the years, including being vice-president of the Thomasville Credit Company, an auto dealer, and vice-president of the Home Building and Loan Association. The two-story frame house, now vinyl-sided, has a clipped-gable roof—an unusual Dutch Colonial Revival feature—with long shed dormers across both front and rear. Projecting from the roof are two interior chimneys. At the center of the three-bay facade is the entrance, composed of a six-panel door with traceried sidelights, the whole sheltered by a gabled hood with a round-arched soffit and robust supporting brackets. The entrance is flanked by a pair of three-part windows (four-over-four/six-over-six/four-over-four sash). Above the entrance is a triple window with four-over-four sash and a flower box supported by carved brackets. A one-story wing projects from each side of the house. On the north side is a sunroom with nine-over-nine sash windows above a weatherboarded base and a front entrance composed of a French door and flanking sidelights. The south side of the house originally had a porch, according to Sanborn maps, but it was enclosed after 1948 with tall casement windows above a weatherboarded base. On the south side of the south sunroom is a partially glazed door. Also after 1948, a one-story wing was added to the rear of the house.

Shed

ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Behind the house stands a small, modern garden shed with plywood siding, a gambrel roof, and a double-leaf door at the south end.

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Barbeque Pit

Third quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing structure

Southeast of the garden shed behind the house is a small patio with a brick barbeque pit that is flanked by curved brick walls

Julius and Elizabeth Blair House

210 Salem Street
ca. 1926

Contributing building

The two-story, double-pile, frame Colonial Revival house has a brick foundation, German vinyl siding, and a side-gable roof with a boxed cornice with corner returns, and interior chimneys. The focus of the three-bay facade is the center entrance with its single-leaf door, partial sidelights, and simple porch with grouped classical posts supporting a plain entablature and a gable roof. Windows are eight-over-eight sash. On the south side of the house is a one-story porch with a dentiled cornice and a balustraded roof deck. The front half of the porch is open, while the rear half is enclosed as a sunroom. Sanborn maps show that it was always this way. The north side of the house has a slightly projecting bay and, on the second floor rear corner, a sleeping porch. At the street, a brick retaining wall separates the yard from the sidewalk. The house was built for Julius(Jule) R. and Elizabeth Blair and has remained in their family ownership until recently. Jule Blair was, for many years, an executive with the Thomasville Chair Company.

Garage

ca. 1926

Contributing building

Behind the house is a one-story, two-bay, frame garage. It has weatherboard siding with beveled corners, and a steep side-gable roof.

Tom and Bernice Gordon House

300 Salem Street
1954

Contributing building

While this one-story, six-bay-wide, brick house has the detailing of a mid-twentieth-century Minimal Traditional style house, its low, elongated form is reflective of Ranch style houses. Visually, the house is divided into three sections: a center section with a Colonial Revival entrance and a large, three-part picture window, and slightly lower side wings, each with a pair of six-over-six sash windows. All of the

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six-over-six sash windows that surround the house have louvered shutters. The center section of the broad, side-gable roof extends forward to encompass a porch with simple classical posts and an arcaded frieze. The roof, including that of the porch, has a dentiled cornice. Local builder Harvey Black constructed the house for Thomas W. Gordon, a pharmacist, and his wife, Bernice. The house remained in Gordon ownership until recently.

Garage

Third quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

At the end of the driveway on the south side of the house is a two-car frame garage. It has weatherboard siding and a broad front gable sheathed in vertical boards.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Architect/Builder, cont'd.

Fouts, W. Ernest, builder

Summary

Located just north of Thomasville's historic commercial downtown (NR 2005), the Salem Street Historic District holds a distinctive place in the city's architectural history. The district forms a cohesive group of twenty-three historic houses, their outbuildings, and two historic churches, whose character is distinguished from its surroundings by land use and periods of development. Ranging in date from ca. 1861-1957, the district's primary resources represent a continuum of architectural styles popular during those years, including the Second Empire, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Foursquare house type, Late Gothic Revival, and Ranch styles. Known architects and builders working in the district include Harry Simmons and Joseph Sawyer, Architects, of Greensboro, who designed the Meade B. Hite House at 203 Salem Street, and Schyler Cecil, a popular local contractor, who built his own house at 8 Forsyth Street, as well as the Swicegood-Tomlinson House at 200 Salem Street and the White House at 12 Forsyth Street. Developing along one of the primary and earliest roads leading into Thomasville, the district evolved over a longer period of time than did any other residential area in the city and thus provides, through its intact and well-preserved group of buildings, a valuable microcosm of Thomasville's history as seen through its architecture. The locally significant Salem Street Historic District fulfills National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance. The district also meets Criteria Consideration A because its two churches derive their primary significance from their architecture, being good examples of the Late Gothic Revival style. The district's period of significance spans nearly a century from ca. 1861, the date of construction of the oldest building, to 1957, the year in which the district's last building—Heidelberg United Church of Christ Parsonage—was erected. The end of the period of significance is just under fifty years ago to recognize the parsonage, whose scale, materials, and Colonial Revival styling are consistent with earlier development in the district and are a natural continuation of that development.

Historical Background and Architecture Context

Located on the eastern edge of Davidson County in piedmont North Carolina, Thomasville is a railroad and industrial city of approximately 25,000 residents. State Senator and railroad booster John

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W. Thomas (1800-1871) established the town that took his name in 1852 specifically to take advantage of the coming of the long-awaited North Carolina Railroad that connected eastern North Carolina with Charlotte (Phillips, 50). On November 9, 1855, the first train arrived in Thomasville to the enthusiastic celebration of a crowd of 5,000. In 1857 the town of Thomasville was incorporated, with corporate limits of one square mile centered on the railroad's water station. In 1893 these physical dimensions were extended by a quarter mile in each direction (Phillips, 52-53; Comprehensive Architectural Survey Report, 7).

Thomasville developed primarily as an industrial town. During the nineteenth century, small-scale industry was diversified, though by the end of the century, the town had become known for its manufacture of shoes. This gave way in the twentieth century to the primacy of furniture manufacturing, which evolved from a single nineteenth-century chair factory. Thomasville became famous as the "Chair Town of the South," celebrated in 1922 by the installation of "The Big Chair"—claimed to be the largest chair in the world—along the railroad tracks in the center of town. [This chair was removed because of deterioration in 1936 and was replaced by the present chair in 1950] (Phillips, 13, 53-54).

Thomasville's industry spurred the growth of the town's commerce as well as housing and a variety of community amenities. The distribution of electricity began in 1902, and the first sidewalk was laid in 1905. The following year, Salem Street was macadamized as far as West Guilford Street (just south of the historic district), and by 1925 Thomasville had fifteen miles of concrete sidewalks and thirteen miles of hard-surfaced streets. In 1911 the town completed construction of a 100,000-gallon water tank, and by 1912 water and sewer lines had been laid. As Thomasville grew, progress in the development of the town's infrastructure continued at a rapid pace (Phillips, 55-56).

By offering evidence of Thomasville's population growth, census records provide a good picture of the town's patterns of development. In 1860, less than a decade after the founding of the town, there were 308 residents. In 1900 this number had more than doubled to 751. The next decade saw a phenomenal growth rate of 416.2 percent, with the 1910 population standing at 3,977. The next large increase was during the 1920s, when the population nearly doubled, growing from 5,676 in 1920 to 10,090 in 1930. Thereafter, the population of Thomasville slowly crept forward, until today it stands at more than 25,000 (Phillips, 55).

Initially, houses in Thomasville sprang up along the railroad corridor, along with industry and commerce. Most of these were later demolished to make way for more commercial and industrial expansion. Later residential areas extended north along Salem Street and south along Randolph Street, together forming the primary north-south corridor through town that became NC 109, and in neighborhoods surrounding downtown (Comprehensive Architectural Survey Report, 1, 7). On Salem Street, houses at first were intermingled with commercial buildings along the first block, but by around 1910, residential development on the street was confined to the area north of Guilford Street, the site of

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the Salem Street Historic District (Sanborn Map, 1908, 1913, 1923). This choice location so close to Thomasville's center became home to many prominent Thomasville merchants, industrialists, and public office holders.

The Salem Street Historic District covers approximately sixteen-and-a-half acres and portions of four city blocks, with properties along the 200 and 300 blocks of Salem Street as well as on Forsyth and Leonard streets. It forms a cohesive area of twenty-three historic houses, their outbuildings, and two historic churches, whose character is distinguished from its surroundings by land use and periods of development. The district's primary resources range in date from ca. 1861 to 1957 and represent a continuum of architectural styles popular during those years.

The earliest house known to have been located in the area covered by the historic district was the Whitaker House, a two-story frame dwelling built on the west side of the 100 block of Salem Street in 1858, only one year after the town's incorporation. It remained on its site, serving during the second quarter of the twentieth century as the parsonage of the Reverend Jacob A. Palmer of Heidelberg Church, until a new parsonage was erected in 1957 (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission).

Four extant houses in the historic district pre-date 1900. The oldest of these is the ca. 1861 Duskin-Morris-Crews House at 201 Salem Street, which was built as a simple, two-story frame house with a one-story rear ell. Around 1921, Dr. Ben Morris, a dentist, completely remodeled the house in the Dutch Colonial Revival style (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 12). Another house south of the Duskin-Morris-Crews House was also built in 1861 by the Lewis family. After fire destroyed that house, the Reverend John Lewis, a Methodist Episcopal minister, built the present house at 121 Salem Street ca. 1878. The two-story, weatherboarded-frame house with a one-story classical porch and a double-leaf entrance with sidelights has remained in the ownership of Lewis's descendants, whose members have included two mayors of Thomasville and a furniture manufacturer, in addition to the minister (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 9). The other two pre-1900 houses were built ca. 1887. The Strickland-Green House at 115 Salem Street is a two-story frame dwelling that originally had a two-tier center-bay porch. City councilman and funeral home owner J. C. Green substantially remodeled the house in the 1950s with the addition of a two-story full-facade portico and a one-story garage wing (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 5). The Strickland-Long House at 117 Salem Street appears to have been the most distinctive of the pre-1900 houses. The house was updated in the late 1910s but was returned to an appearance closer to the original ca. 1985. The two-story, L-shaped house with turned and sawnwork detailing is distinguished by its central tower with a Second Empire-style mansard roof. That several of these houses were remodeled in later years by locally prominent owners attests to the fact that Salem Street continued to be considered a desirable residential address in Thomasville.

The years from ca. 1900 through the 1910s saw the construction of a group of one- and two-story vernacular houses in the historic district. The ca. 1900 Swicegood-Tomlinson House at 200 Salem

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Street and the ca. 1917 Blair-Conrad-Fouts House at 202 Salem Street are both simple, two-story frame houses with three-bay facades, wraparound porches, and projecting bays, although the former has a hipped roof and the latter has a gabled roof. The Swicegood-Tomlinson House was built by local contractor Schyler Cecil, who built several other houses in the district, including the houses at 8 and 10 Forsyth Street (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 11, 22, 24). Four houses, located at 10 and 12 Forsyth Street, 6 Leonard Street, and 215 Salem Street, are simple vernacular examples of a late Queen Anne-style cottage. Built around 1910 and in the 1910s, they are one- or one-and-a-half-story frame dwellings, each with a steep hipped roof with intersecting gables and a wraparound porch. Although they exhibit the asymmetrical massing typical of the Queen Anne style, they lack the often exuberant decoration associated with the style.

One of the most unusual and most individually significant houses in the Salem Street Historic District was also built during this period. With its round tower with conical roof and arcaded front porch, the Peacock-Pope House at 211 Salem Street is an example of the Richardson Romanesque style rarely used in Davidson County and unique for its nearly total use of rusticated granite. Although stones were delivered for construction of the house in late 1906, construction apparently was not completed until around 1911. Dr. J. W. Peacock was a physician and a city councilman. Later owner Robie Lester Pope, who also served as a city councilman, was for years an officer of First National Bank (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 19; Comprehensive Architectural Survey Report; City Directory, 1928-1929).

The 1920s brought a flurry of construction in the district, with good examples of three popular architectural styles of the period. Built ca. 1920, the G. T. Cochrane House at 301 Salem Street is representative of the Foursquare house type. Nearly square in its massing, this two-story frame house exhibits other typical features of the style, including a two-bay facade, a one-story porch, a low hipped roof, and hip-roofed dormers.

The Craftsman style is seen in the Leon A. Kress House at 125 Salem Street, the Eugene L. Webb House at 112 Salem Street, and the Clarence M. and Corene B. Tomlinson House at 6 Forsyth Street. The ca. 1924 Kress House is an excellent example of the so-called airplane bungalow. The one-and-a-half-story brick-and-stucco bungalow has a typical asymmetrical form, a front porch and portecochere with heavy tapered posts set on large brick plinths, and an upper story surrounded by windows that projects above the center of the house. The Lithuanian Jewish Kress family owned a clothing store on Main Street (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 10). The ca. 1920 Webb House and the ca. 1925 Tomlinson House are both two-story frame examples of the Craftsman style. Both have a broad, front-facing gable roof with widely overhanging braced eaves. The Webb House is unusual in its use of rectangular-patterned leaded glass windows on the first story of the facade and within the facade gable, whose peak is slightly projecting and also makes use of panels of wood louvers. Eugene Webb owned the Thomasville Drug Store; Clarence Tomlinson was also a local merchant (Thomasville

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Historic Preservation Commission, 4; City Directory, 1928-1929, 1937, 1941-1942).

With six examples in the district, the Colonial Revival was the style most often built. Five of these houses date from the 1920s, while the Heidelberg United Church of Christ Parsonage at 116 Salem Street is a much later example dating from 1957. The most outstanding example is the Morris-Harris House at 207 Salem Street. Built ca. 1920, the two-story, weatherboarded frame house with a steep side-gable roof has a modillioned cornice and pedimented dormers. The focal point of the five-bay-wide facade is the well articulated, semi-circular, center entrance portico with its Tower of the Winds columns, full classical cornice, and balustraded deck. The south-side porch continues the detailing of the body of the house. Long-time owner Cephas L. Harris was a wholesale grocer who was a central figure in several local companies (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 16; City Directory, 1928-1929, 1937, 1941-1942, 1949-1950, 1956-1957). Immediately south of the Morris-Harris House at 203 Salem Street, the ca. 1927 Meade B. Hite House is the only house in the district for whom the architect is known. Designed by Harry Simmons and Joseph Sawyer, Architects, of Greensboro, the two-story brick house with side-gable roof has many refined details typical of the Colonial Revival style, including brick quoining that defines the corners of the house, window lintels that consist of a brick flat arch and contrasting white keystone, a classical one-story front porch, and an entrance with sidelights and an elliptical fanlight transom. Meade Hite owned the Star Furniture Company, Thomasville's second retail furniture store established in 1904. At the same time that Hite built his house, he also constructed a three-story brick store on nearby East Guilford Street (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 14; Phillips, 19). Another example of the side-gable roof form of the Colonial Revival style is the two-story frame, ca. 1926 Jule and Elizabeth Blair House at 210 Salem Street. Two examples of another version of the style, the Dutch Colonial Revival, are also found in the district. This form of the Colonial Revival derives its name from the use of a gambrel roof. The ca. 1926 George W. Lyles House at 208 Salem Street exhibits the common side-gambrel roof, along with long front and rear shed dormers, one-story side wings, and a hooded central entrance (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 17). By contrast, the ca. 1920 Schyler Cecil House at 8 Forsyth Street has a front-facing gambrel roof. It was first the home of the popular local contractor who built several of the district's houses (Thomasville Historic Preservation Commission, 22). In addition to these six examples of the style, five of which date from the 1920s, the eclectic R. W. Thompson House at 204 Salem Street recalls the style in its use of a broken-pediment front door surround and an entrance porch with an elliptical-arched ceiling. Although the core of this house dates from ca. 1910, it gained its present appearance from a substantial ca. 1948 remodeling (Hoover Interview, January 16, 2006).

No buildings were erected in the district during the Depression years of the 1930s, and new construction did not resume until the end of the 1940s. This final period of building, which included two Late Gothic Revival churches, the 1957 church parsonage (already mentioned within the discussion of the Colonial Revival style), and a Ranch style house, brought the district to its present appearance.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 108 Salem Street was erected in 1949 with a parish hall addition in 1957-1958, while construction on Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church at 118 Salem Street was begun in 1946 but not completed until 1955 (Sink and Matthews, 149, 155). Both have steep gable roofs, lancet-arched windows, and buttresses—all cardinal characteristics of the style—along with a variety of other individual features. Located at 300 Salem Street at the north end of the district, the Tom and Bernice Gordon House represents the last the architectural styles found in the district. Built in 1954, it displays a combination of the Minimal Traditional style in its Colonial Revival-influenced detailing and the Ranch style in its low, elongated form (Melton Interview).

The Salem Street Historic District (Local Historic District 2001) plays an important role in the architectural history of the city of Thomasville. Located along one of the primary and earliest roads leading into the city, it forms a compact grouping of houses that span nearly a century of Thomasville's development—from ca. 1861 to 1957—and exhibits good examples of a variety of architectural styles popular during that period. A few houses of the period can also be found scattered along Randolph Street—the continuation of Salem Street on the south side of the railroad—but these are not only much fewer in number but are also interspersed among buildings of a variety of other uses. Others, particularly early-twentieth-century two-story frame houses and a group of large bungalows, are found along Lexington Avenue. Bungalows, Foursquares, and Colonial Revival houses, many of them deteriorated, can be seen in the area bounded roughly by East Main Street, Fife Street, Memorial Park Drive, and Hobbs Avenue. Additional twentieth-century houses, exhibiting some of the same architectural styles as well as others not found in the Salem Street Historic District, can also be found elsewhere in Thomasville. However, unlike the houses in the Salem Street Historic District, they tend to be located in planned neighborhoods from the 1920s and later. The Colonial Drive School neighborhood (Local Historic District 2005) has among its houses representatives of the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles. Elliott Drive, in particular, features nearly a block of Tudor Revival houses. Other examples of the Tudor Revival style and the smaller Period or English Cottage style can be found in the Kinneywood neighborhood. This neighborhood also contains a grouping of houses in the Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Eclectic styles as well as some good examples of mid-twentieth-century Modernist dwellings. Ranch style houses are found throughout the Erwin Heights neighborhood, and the Wallcliff Park neighborhood contains a mix of Minimal Traditional style houses as well as modest Ranch and Modernist style dwellings (Comprehensive Architectural Survey Report, 11-12, 22-23).

While other good domestic examples of numerous popular architectural styles from the first half of the twentieth-century are found in Thomasville, the Salem Street Historic District holds a distinctive place in the city's architectural history. Developing along one of the primary and earliest roads leading into Thomasville, it evolved over a longer period of time than did any other residential area in the city and thus provides, through its intact and well-preserved group of buildings representing a variety of

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architectural styles from the mid-nineteenth-century through the mid-twentieth century, a valuable microcosm of Thomasville's history as seen through its architecture.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Salem Street Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map, based on Davidson County tax maps and drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Salem Street Historic District is drawn to encompass the cohesive collection of twenty-three houses, their outbuildings, and two churches located along the 100-300 blocks of Salem Street as well as on Forsyth and Leonard streets and dating from ca. 1861 to 1957. The district is distinguished from its surroundings, which exhibit different land uses and/or buildings which, overall, differ in architectural character, period of construction, common history, or level of integrity.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs, except as noted:

- 1) Salem Street Historic District
 - 2) Thomasville, Davidson County, North Carolina
 - 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
 - 4) C, E, F, H, I, J, K, L, N, and P were photographed in October 2005.
 A and M were photographed in December 2005.
 B, D, G, and O were photographed in January 2006
 - 5) North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh
- 6-7)
- | | |
|----|--|
| A: | Streetscape, 207-301 Salem St. view to N |
| B: | Streetscape, 200 block Salem St., view to NW |
| C: | Streetscape, 202-210 Salem St., view to NW |
| D: | Streetscape, 301-208 Salem St., view to S |
| E: | Strickland-Green House, 115 Salem St., view to N |
| F: | Strickland-Long House, 117 Salem St., view to N |
| G: | Leon A. Kress House, 125 Salem St., view to NE |
| H: | Duskin-Morris-Crews House, 201 Salem St., view to SE |
| I: | Peacock-Pope House, 211 Salem St., view to NE |
| J: | Clarence V. Ritchie House, 6 Leonard St., view to NW |
| K: | George W. Lyles House, 208 Salem St., view to W |
| L: | Barbeque pit and shed, George W. Lyles House, 208 Salem St., view to W |
| M: | Streetscape, 6-12 Forsyth St., view to SW |
| N: | Heidelberg Evangelical and Reformed Church, 118 Salem St., view to SW |
| O: | Eugene L. Webb House, 112 Salem St., view to W |
| P: | Labyrinth, columbarium, and rear of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 108 Salem St., view to NE |