

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tarboro Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Central Portion of Tarboro extending north from Tar River  
See verbal boundary description

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tarboro

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Edgecombe

065

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Victor Herring  
Mr. Donald Taylor  
Mr. Watson Brown, City Planner

STREET & NUMBER

Tarboro City Hall

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Tarboro,

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tarboro

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### Tarboro Historic District

#### I. General, Geographic Description

Tarboro is a small coastal plains town which has served as a political and regional trade center since its establishment at the upper terminus of navigation of the Tar River in 1760. The present character of the historic district of the town is a pleasant combination of many contrasting, complementary elements--of small-town graciousness and considerable energy and bustle; of large historic natural open spaces (including the common, the riverside area, and notable churchyards) and densely filled commercial and residential blocks; of handsome and well-preserved tree-lined residential avenues and the contemporary industrial and compact original commercial areas that produced them; of a substantial number of early days of the town and an important collection of houses, shops, churches, and industrial buildings of the postwar growth era; and a remarkable blend of the Old South charm associated with the historic town, and the New South energy of postwar industrialization that made the town what it is today. In the 1950s and 1960s an intensive modernization and industrialization campaign brought not only growth but also demolition of some important landmarks, including the courthouse and town hall. Growth continues at present but in the 1970s has been accompanied by an exemplary local preservation program that combines the efforts of the municipal government and the local citizenry. The Common remains open, and the edges between the residential and commercial areas remain relatively intact. The chief threat to the integrity and essential density of both areas is in the occasional institutional and commercial construction, but more especially in proliferation of parking (and thus demolition, usually of residential fabric) along the blocks between Main Street and the residential areas.

The central area of Tarboro included in the National Register Historic District retains much of the character of the town as it developed in the antebellum period, the late nineteenth century early industrialization era, and the growth period of the pre-Depression period. The edges of the old section of town, flat land of the coastal plain, are defined not by dramatic hills and valleys but by natural waterways and important open spaces, and crucial manmade features such as the railroad.

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Thus the southern boundary of the district is the Tar River, the stream that fed the town's economy as a trade center. Along its bank is undeveloped open land, a low, natural area originally part of the town Common. It creates an important natural fringe for the town and its improvement as a park is planned. Part of the western boundary is Hendrick's Creek, a narrow but important stream. At the creek's mouth into the Tar, at the southeast corner of the district, the vital boat landing functioned for most of Tarboro's history. The upper part of the western boundary is Albemarle Avenue, a broad thoroughfare divided by the railroad along its midline; this rail branch extends north-south and links the boat landing and industrial buildings around it to the main line of the railway and the depot and freight station, at the north end of town. The east edge of the district is generally Panola Street, which was the easternmost boundary of the town until the early twentieth century, when small houses were erected in a grid development. Originally farmland and later scattered small houses existed beyond it. The northern boundary would most logically have been the railroad line, but it is not: recent commercial development has occurred in the area immediately south of the railroad. Thus the northern boundary is an irregular line, reflecting the edges of surviving residential and pre-1940s fabric, and also generally following the northern boundary of the local historic district.

The historic district consists of fairly well-defined concentrations of buildings of different types, functions, and scale, which add up to a complete and unified community. The district, intentionally, does not focus only on the gracious dwellings of the prominent and wealthy, but on the--fortunately well-preserved--totality of the community as it developed through the early twentieth century. This includes commercial, industrial, institutional, and domestic buildings of a full range of types from the lavish antebellum suburban villa to the simple worker's cottage and middle-class bungalow. One of the most significant aspects of the Tarboro Historic District is that this full range of types survives, concentrated within a compact district.

The original town was composed of the grid of streets laid out from the river-side Common to the northern Common. Main Street (originally St. George Street) forms the spine of the commercial section, which is lined with brick commercial buildings from one to three stories in height. This has always been the commercial area. With a few exceptions, the streetscape is unbroken by gapsites, and there are no towering buildings here: the tallest are the early twentieth century Bridgers Building (#88) and the 1908 Masonic Building (#77), both of three stories with classical detail. Most of the commercial buildings from Water to Church Street date from the mid or late nineteenth century. Although many have received new, simplified facades in the early and middle years of the

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twentieth century, a good number retain the handsome Italianate and classical facades of the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, the two blocks between Church and the Common have been transformed from institutional, residential, and hotel use to increased commercial use. The northern boundary of the commercial area is now the Common, a dramatic open space marked with memorials and great trees, that firmly terminates the central business district.

The eastern and western flanking areas of the grid have historically contained a lively mix of residential, industrial, institutional, and commercial uses. This is still the case. The southwest quadrant (sparsely settled in 1882, according to Gray's New Map) rapidly developed because of the strategic presence of the river boat landing, the creek, and the rail spur, with the industrial and commercial buildings of the first industrial growth period (1880s - 1900). This bustling area supported the agriculture-related industries which gave Tarboro much of its late nineteenth and early twentieth century prosperity. Though the area is now rather run down, there are still important structures, most notably a cluster of one-story frame and brick structures, including the Royster Fertilizer Building (# 12) and the Central Tarboro Warehouse (# 11) (both 1890s) that stand at the southwest corner.

North along the western boundary and Hendrick's Creek are the slightly later substantial brick tobacco and cotton storage and sales buildings of the early twentieth century (#350, #404-5). These represent a continuation of the economic impetus and functional industrial architecture of the southwestern area. This western section, located within a few blocks of the commercial area, is an important concentration of agricultural-industrial history and architecture. The blocks between this and the central business district, and north to the Common, have been primarily residential. However, continued commercial and institutional government development has eliminated all but a few dwellings in the south block of Trade Street and the north end of Trade near the Common. Several big mid-twentieth century buildings and their parking lots create an intrusion into the area.

One crucial concentration of residential fabric on the west side of the early town remains: the 200-300 blocks of Trade and a section of Church from Trade to Main. Here are some of the town's most notable houses including the early nineteenth century Porter-Powell-Edmondson House (#409), the recently renovated brick villa-type Dozier House (#430), the handsome postwar Italianate mansion of business leader O. C. Farrar (#548) and a group of notable Victorian cottages and bungalows (#546-547, #558-559). Development pressures make this valuable section a fragile resource.

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The southeastern portion of the grid section has never been heavily industrial but was long composed of relatively modest housing and light industry such as Hussy's well-known carriage works and a livery stable. Early twentieth century commercial and office buildings extend a block eastward from Main Street, and the recent construction of the massive county courthouse and office building, together with other development, obliterated a few blocks along St. Andrews and St. Patrick streets. East of this, however, stands an important concentration of modest housing dating from the antebellum period through the early twentieth century. These appear to have been built for the residences of workmen, tradesmen, and others, black and white. The 1882 map shows the southeastern area as having the homes of carpenter H. Cherry (gone), painter E. Zoeller (gone), and builder J. W. Lipscombe (#351). Here are located a number of the homes of important postwar black leaders of the community. Here, too, are significant institutional buildings erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for the black community--St. Luke's Episcopal Church (#296) and the Masonic Lodge (#300). This area is vital to the post-Civil War history of Tarboro.

The northeast portion of the grid, abutting the commercial section and the Common, remains staunchly residential and contains many of the town's oldest dwellings. The densely settled domestic grid combines antebellum, Victorian, and early twentieth century fabric of substantial, well-maintained character, enhanced by pleasantly shaded lawns, iron fences, and large trees. This is included in the local historic district. The close orientation to the street of even the earliest dwellings suggests something of the early urban character of the town. A serious threat to this section exists in the spreading commercial usage and parking lots extending along Church and possibly other streets at the present time. This could affect the entire quadrant.

Both the northeast and southeast sections of the original town are valuable and, because of their location, fragile areas. The southeast section has been somewhat reduced from the west by institutional construction and urban renewal in the recent past. The northeast section, despite its present consistency and prosperity that give it an air of serene permanence, is currently threatened by demolitions and parking lots expanding from the commercial area. This has destroyed half the block of Church Street between St. Andrews and St. Patrick, a block until recently totally residential. The edge of this entire section, therefore, is quite vulnerable; its conservation is essential to maintaining one of the most vital areas of the district, the only surviving original residential area of Tarboro.

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Between the northeast residential quadrant and the southeast section is a staggered row of blocks, extending diagonally to create an important institutional/open area: three major churches each with their attendant grounds. The boldly eclectic red brick Methodist Church (#366) is part of a substantial complex. The Presbyterian Church (#204), a handsome early twentieth century classical structure, occupies a corner location and is complemented by the walled open space of the public cemetery. Adjoining it to the northeast is the spectacularly beautiful churchyard, also walled, and deeply shaded with nineteenth century trees, of Calvary Church (#419-419A).

These churchyards, plus the natural open space of the riverside Common and the shaded greensward of the seven-acre Common to the north of the grid, give this early part of the town, and the whole community, unusual natural beauty and calm, a vital foil to the density and bustle of the grid and, thus far, a boundary for commercial expansion.

On the north of the Common is strictly residential fabric. This, like the northeast quadrant, is included in the local historic district. North Main Street is the spine of the area, one of the best-preserved and most attractive such avenues in eastern North Carolina. The street is broad and is flanked by early twentieth century streetlights (some recently rebuilt as a municipal project) and towering shade trees. Evenly spaced along the street stand substantial houses dating primarily from the turn of the century, with a few from the 1870s and 1880s, and others from the 1920s. There are only a few later structures--a library, a few new houses, and a two-story apartment house. Most of the dwellings are handsome and well-preserved, combining elements of the Italianate, Queen Anne, and Neo-Classical styles. North Main Street is flanked by residential streets, which are lined by dwellings from the mid-nineteenth century onward.

The development of the section north of the Common occurred in several stages.

On the west side of Main Street, set back about a block, is a row of antebellum houses, #544, #492, #493, #506, #573. These were built as suburban estates overlooking a broad lawn extending to the street, which was then an unpaved road. Not until the 1880s were many new houses erected on their large lots, creating the row along Main Street which shields the antebellum buildings, and not until the early twentieth century were the secondary streets laid out among these houses. Thus the western part of this northern area is composed principally of large antebellum dwellings and smaller ones from the era 1890s-1920s.

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To the east of Main Street was an area long rural, centering on the prominent and substantial early nineteenth century house of Thomas Blount (#125). As Tarboro grew in the 1880s, 1890s, and especially around the turn of the century, the area was developed: streets were laid out and handsome houses erected. St. Andrews and St. Patrick streets are dominated by Italianate, Queen Anne, and Neo-Classical Revival dwellings, some expansive and expensive two and two-and-one-half story ones, others smaller versions of the same modes. Some were built for specific families; others -such as 1212-1202 St. Andrews Street (#116-#120) and 1301-1315 Main Street (#107-#111)-were erected as a speculative or rental row. Infilling among the Victorian houses, and creating a consistent row along St. David Street, are the vigorous, functional bungalows of the period ca. 1910 - ca. 1930, whose scale and rhythm are like the earlier dwellings. These, like the Victorian ones, range from rather massive houses to small, uniform dwellings such as those along Baker and St. David streets, a modest and inexpensive model.

The latest built block included is the 1100 block of St. David, developed primarily in the 1930s and 1940s, in a scale harmonious with the earlier blocks, and terminating in the grand Tudor Revival C. B. Martin School (#536), a community landmark erected in the 1920s and now threatened with demolition.

II. Chronological (Chronological, historical description of architecture)

The sequence of economic and hence physical development of Tarboro is well represented in its surviving architectural fabric, both in what is present and in what is absent. A summary of Tarboro's development shows that it was established before the Revolution and was only a small village until the turn of the century, that it gained some prominence but little size in the early nineteenth century, and achieved considerable prosperity and growth in the antebellum years as a trading center for a thriving agrarian culture; it worked hard to develop as an industrial center for agriculture in the postwar era, and expanded into a "modern little city" in the years before the Depression, grew relatively little in the subsequent years; but then it grew rapidly, attracting new industry and eagerly seeking modernity, in the early 1960s; and in the 1970s combined growth with attention to conservation of the amenities and character of the town.

Vestiges from each of these eras remain in Tarboro. These become sparser, of course, the further distant in time, for several reasons: the town was so small originally that there were relatively few buildings, and those were located at the center, where most growth, destruction, and rebuilding have occurred; also, successive generations of development have possessed increasing population, wealth, and desire to eliminate the old in favor of the new.

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While the architecture of Tarboro reflects the changing styles of subsequent eras, it nevertheless maintains a certain unity. Like much of the state's rural and small-town architecture, Tarboro's domestic architecture from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century is predominantly frame, one or two stories in height, and generally of small scale, always freestanding. Porches from the mid-nineteenth century onward are almost ubiquitous, following various forms with changing styles. An inherent conservatism makes full-blown versions of high style models all but unknown: with a few notable exceptions, the simple, traditional plans and box form predominate, with modest variations to accommodate current fashion. Commercial buildings, by the mid-nineteenth century usually brick, are typically simple as well, with street facades enriched with decorative detail. Churches and public buildings tend more often to be boldly classical, Gothic, or eclectic in form and detail.

This pattern appears to result from the authorship of buildings. Relatively little is known about the builders and architects of Tarboro beyond this general pattern: a substantial number of local builders--"mechanics," carpenters, brickmasons, and later contractors--were responsible for most of the town's structures, and occasional and influential visits from out-of-town or out-of-state architects introduced scattered and stylish novelties. The large body of buildings erected by local figures is almost entirely anonymous at the present: no specific work is attributed to the many local builders, black and white, of the community.

Dozens of carpenters in Edgecombe County are listed in eighteenth and early nineteenth century apprentice bonds. Battle (see Section 8) noted the presence of 60 or 70 "mechanics" in the early nineteenth century, and the 1850 and 1860 and 1870 censuses list numerous builders. But only in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries does tradition connect specific men with specific buildings. These local mechanics usually erected structures from designs chosen by the client, some of which were inspired directly by buildings in other towns.

A few buildings, the most sophisticated private and public buildings, were designed by non-resident architects--William Percival, E. G. Lind, John Cosby, John C. Stout, Herbert Simpson, and others. In the late nineteenth and especially the early twentieth century, architects and builders from the thriving neighbor communities of Wilson and Rocky Mount had a pronounced influence on Tarboro. This contrasting local and non-local authorship persisted throughout the development of the town.



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EIGHTEENTH AND EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

The primary remnants of the earliest decades of Tarboro--the eighteenth century--lie in the orientation, plan, and names of the town. When Tarboro was laid out in 1760, it was oriented to the Tar River. A bridge crossed the river from the eighteenth century onward. Although the boat landing and scattered structures stood on the north bank, the riverside was most open--part of the Common. To this day the riverside area is informally laid out, with open space and a scattered mixture of industrial uses; this section seems never to have had the dense urban buildup of some riverside towns. A tobacco warehouse and a cooper's shop near the landing and a tanyard occupied land near the river in the eighteenth century. In addition, Hendrick's Creek, feeding into the Tar after running along the west side of the old part of town, created a focus of commercial and industrial activity as well as an important boundary; and though no eighteenth or early nineteenth century structures are known to survive here, the use continues. The town commissioners laid off a grid of streets which they--perhaps influenced by one of their members, Anglican minister James Moir--named chiefly for Christian saints. These names, with the exception of St. George Street, which was changed to Main Street, survive in the heart of town, the original section: St. John, St. Patrick, St. David, St. James. The other major street names recall prominent English leaders of the eighteenth century--Pitt (for William Pitt, Earl of Chatham [1708-1778], English secretary of state) and Granville (for John Carteret, Earl of Granville [1690-1763], a Lord Proprietor who retained ownership of much of North Carolina). The origins of Church and Water streets are more descriptive than allusory, and Albemarle Avenue was formerly Mill Creek Street.

An important survival from Tarboro's beginning years and perhaps the town's most unique visual element is the Common, a seven-acre open space stretching across the north end of the old section to town. It is bounded by Wilson, Albemarle, Park Avenue, and Panola streets. The original acreage for the town included "fifty acres for Commons for the use of the said Town. . . ." Originally surrounding the grid of lots on three sides--north, south, and west, the Common has shrunk over the years to its northern component, and even that has been whittled away. A few buildings have been erected on it: at present the Cotton Press stands at the west end and a mid-twentieth century school at the east (an early twentieth century school that stood in front of it was razed in recent years). The open lawn, crossed by major streets, is planted with large trees and dotted with community memorials of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, chiefly commemorating Edgecombe military figures. These include those to Louis D. Wilson, Mexican War figure, Henry C. Wyatt, Civil War figure, etc.

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A rare survival of town planning and a beautiful open park, the Common functions as a green oasis and center for community activity.

The survival of the eighteenth century orientation, grid street plan, original street names, and Common provides the historic framework for central Tarboro. However, few eighteenth century buildings are known to survive in Tarboro, although it is possible that early fabric exists as the hidden core of overbuilt structures. The earliest known buildings in Tarboro are houses believed to date from about 1800 or possibly slightly earlier, with several from the early nineteenth century, when the town was a small market and political center. Jeremiah Battle's 1810 description of the community (see Section 8) noted that the "'style of building' is as it is in the country, generally plain and cheap." He singled out the "Goal & one of the store houses" as being brick, implying that all else was of frame construction. In the town, he observed about fifty private houses including "a few well built private houses, some of which have lately been finished." The air of growth and improvement was attractive, he observed, to "all industrious persons, particularly mechanics, . . . 60 or 70 mechanics have had full employ here at one time." The identity of these mechanics--the term by which builders were generally known--is unknown. It is evident, however, that they followed similar patterns in the town houses as in the country ones. Few of the "plain & cheap" houses extant in 1810 survive, and there are but a few of the "well built" private ones. Since so few houses are identified as dating from the period ca. 1800-1825, no certain conclusions can be drawn about the early architectural character of the town; however, the consistent nature of those that survive, plus corresponding examples in the outlying county, provide substantial indications.

Not surprisingly, early nineteenth century domestic architecture followed the trends of much of non-urban eastern North Carolina and southern Virginia--the traditional, vernacular patterns of English origin and Virginia-Carolina development in the eighteenth century. Heavy timber frame construction was used to build rectangular dwellings, usually with gable roofs. Their exterior end chimneys were usually of brick in Tarboro, not of stone. Exterior walls were covered with beaded or molded weatherboards, doors usually had the standard six panels, and windows had the usual six-over-six, six-over-nine, or nine-over-nine sash. In the more ambitious houses the exterior was enriched with a classical modillion cornice, perhaps, or a fanlight over the entrance. Floor plans followed one of a few standard types--the two-room hall-and-parlor plan; the more formal central hall plan one or two rooms deep; and the town house type side-hall plan. In many cases shed rooms extended to the rear, to expand the plan, and sometimes plans

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were combined or varied slightly. A notable Tarboro plan variation, possibly acknowledging the urban setting and adapting vernacular patterns to suggest a town house, is the frequent placement of the front door in the left or right bay of the facade, rather than the center. This results in a modified side hall combination of the side-hall and hall-parlor plan, often with one room heated, the entry hall not.

The traditional building habits dominant in early Tarboro survive in a few important small houses--the hall-and-parlor, one or one-and-one-half story form so prevalent in eighteenth century North Carolina and Virginia. The Parker/DeLoach House (#256) is of uncertain date, but the brick chimney, traditional floor plan, and beaded weatherboards attest to its early date; the Federal type woodwork probably dates from the early nineteenth century. Moved in the late nineteenth century and again recently and extensively renovated, the Lloyd House (511A) is another modest early house; the hall-and-parlor plan has the entrance in the left bay of the three-bay elevation. Reeded mantels occur in the rear shed rooms. These houses are significant as rare representatives of the small size of most early Tarboro houses.

Two-story houses that incorporated many of the same features probably followed the smaller ones and reflected the budgets and social needs of wealthier owners. The present Taylor-Brinson Law Office (#390) probably dates from the very late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and was obviously a house unusually large and elegant for its era. Flemish bond chimneys, a handsome modillion cornice, and, inside, woodwork of elaborate vernacular late Georgian character express ca. 1800 Tarboro craftsmanship. The house features a right bay entrance in a four-bay facade, characteristic of many Tarboro houses of the period. The house built for Theophilus Parker ca. 1810 (#425), originally a plantation house at the edge of town, is smaller, with a three-bay facade entered in the left bay, and a two-room plan much expanded over the years. The handsome, compact stair is described locally as the first non-enclosed stair in town, expressing the adoption of more expansive and formal usage in contrast to earlier vernacular habits. Similar in general form are the Porter-Powell-Edmondson House (#409), built before 1829, and the King-Harrell House (#466), dating from the early nineteenth century as well. They are vital vestiges of early Tarboro. Here, too, the entries are in side rather than central bays of the three-bay facades, and the finish is of traditional character.

Slightly larger in scale and more elaborate in detail are two more houses of the era, the Dancy-Battle-Bass House (#145) and the Blount House (The Grove) (#125). The former was built before 1825 for lawyer Francis L. Dancy. The symmetrical

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facade features a handsome, fanlit doorway and a fine modillion cornice; and the interior, which followed the more formal central hall plan, is graced with elaborate reeded mantels and other woodwork, featuring lavish diagonal reeding patterns characteristic of the county. The Grove, probably built for Thomas Blount about 1808, once stood well beyond the town in a rural setting, part of a 296-acre tract. The imposing house shares the symmetrical five-bay facade and modillion cornice of the Dancy House and has paired Flemish bond chimneys. The unusual plan has an off-center central hall flanked by two front rooms of unequal size and a rear stair hall flanked by small rooms. The interiors are of rich, vigorously executed late Georgian-early Federal character and are extremely handsome.

Although early nineteenth century Tarboro had the requisite number of commercial, institutional, and public buildings, only one survives--the Primitive Baptist Church (#359) near Hendrick's Creek. This simple frame gable-end building, said to have been built about 1830, is representative of the simplicity and modest classicism of the early nineteenth century.

### MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY

As in much of North Carolina, the period ca. 1830-1860 was a time of growing prosperity for Tarboro. The effects of the cotton gin and the steamboat produced increased building activity. The town was described by a correspondent of the Salisbury Banner, reprinted in the Tarboro Southerner of April 14, 1860, as being "without the slightest doubt. . .the prettiest place in the State." He noted that "The town is beautifully laid off, the streets clean and well shaded by wide-spreading trees. . . . The village is mostly inhabited by men of wealth who have both the ability and desire to indulge their tastes. There is a great deal of taste displayed in the architecture of the houses and also in laying off the grounds and selecting and setting the shrubbery. . . ." The surviving antebellum fabric consists primarily of domestic buildings, with one notable church and possibly one or two commercial buildings the only non-domestic pre-war structures. The Greek Revival Edgecombe County Courthouse, built in 1835 from an unnamed architect's designs and erected by Lynch & Whitice (Free Press, 12-8-35) was altered in 1911 by Wheeler & Stern of Charlotte and razed in the 1960s.

The distribution of antebellum houses is important. Some were built within the old grid of streets that defined the town--Austin (#137), the Dancy-Norfleet House (#144), and the Pender-Staton House (#210), for example. These were neighbors to earlier houses and have in turn gained new neighbors as development has continued; they have always been part of a dense and varied streetscape.

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At the same time, however, a movement began north of the Common--the construction of suburban estates at a little distance from the heart of town. Thomas Blount's early nineteenth century house (#125) had been a country house, as was Theophilus Parker's on the east edge of town. The 1830s-1860s houses north of town, however, were not farmhouses but suburban villas. Similar suburban estates sprang up around flourishing towns throughout the nation, reflecting changing social patterns and the influence of popular architectural patternbooks encouraging the design of elegantly landscaped villas. Examples in North Carolina include Blandwood in Greensboro and several near Raleigh. All but one of the capital's suburban villas (Montford Hall, NR) have been destroyed. Only in Tarboro, however, is there such a row of suburban villas. The survival in situ of Tarboro's suburban antebellum villas is of great significance to the history of the state's development, as much as or more than the individual architectural character of each house. The 1882 map of Tarboro shows them, in an evenly spaced line, set well back from the road, presiding over spacious grounds and pastures and overlooking St. George Street (Main Street) that proceeded north from the town. The Pender-Lanier House (#492) thought built for Solomon Pender by 1832, the Hyman-Phillips House (#506) dated locally about 1840-1846, the Porter-Hyman House (#544), probably built before 1854 and sold with 26 acres in that year, the house called Norfleet (#493), built in 1858, and the Dancy House (#573), also 1850s, make up the procession. Northwest of town, at the head of an avenue, flanked by the northern two of the Main Street row, stands the Barracks (#1), the grandest and the only full-blown villa.

Although Main Street here, as well as side streets, no longer is open space, and thus the land around the suburban mansions is partially infilled with later houses, the setback and somelargeness of grounds recalls this important settlement pattern in the town's growth.

Downtown or suburban, Tarboro's antebellum houses resemble those in the state and immediate region, most all predominantly localized frame versions of the prevailing mid-nineteenth century revival styles--primarily Greek Revival, with occasional references to the Gothic Revival and Italianate modes. Inherently conservative, they recall in scale and materials, though not so much in form, plan and detail, the substantial dwellings of previous generations. Tarboro's indigenous antebellum houses are characteristically boxy frame structures with symmetrical three-bay facades, marked by broad doorways and paired or single windows. The steep gable roof and flush eaves of earlier houses give way to shallow, overhanging hip or gable roofs, and in most cases interior chimneys replace exterior end ones. The most common floor plan is the central passage arrangement two (sometimes one) rooms deep, with a long stair rising in the hall. Finish is very plain and bold, with heavy but flat and simple pilaster-and-frieze mantels, robust

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newels and decorative brackets finishing the stair, and little ornamental detail. A rather unusual feature of many antebellum Tarboro houses is the use of interior door and window frames with either crosssetted corners, a shallow peaked lintel suggesting a pediment, or a combination of the two. Seldom seen are the elaborate or highly three-dimensional versions of Greek Revival builders' guide motifs seen in some regional Greek Revival work.

The substantial, boxy frame antebellum dwellings, despite their unity, have considerable variety of detail which provides individuality. The Pender-Lanier House (#492), very simply finished and featuring a full-width front porch, is distinguished by a polygonal lantern atop the roof, which adds presence and height to the straightforward, well-preserved house. More typical, perhaps, is "Austin" (#137), thought built before 1843 for Henry Austin and long in the hands of the same family. A handsome version of the Greek Revival was executed for William F. Dancy (#573) in the 1850s, an L-shaped structure with notable porch and doorway; brick veneer was added in the twentieth century, but its form is unaltered. Probably similar, also frame, was the Pender-Staton House (#210) built for sale and advertised in 1857 by G. B. Lipscombe; it was later moved and stuccoed, but also retains its original form.

The basic boxlike antebellum house form was occasionally given a more decorative Italianate flavor by the application of a bracket cornice, paired windows, and other detail. The Hyman-Phillips House (#506) combines a Doric porch with paired windows and bracket cornice. The Porter-Hyman House (#544--bought in 1854 by J. J. B. Pender from J. J. Porter for \$8,000) is a carefully executed Italianate house with especially well-preserved pattern book interiors, more elaborate than most, and an unusual T-hall plan.

Scarcely anything is known of Tarboro's resident antebellum builders. An advertisement for the Pender-Staton House in 1858 describes it as built new "by" G. E. Lipscombe. He owned a saw and grist mill but is not listed as a builder. He may have been related to carpenters William and John W. Lipscombe, who had come to Tarboro from Virginia in the 1850s. There is no certainty, however, concerning the work of any of these men nor the authorship of the antebellum buildings.

Toward the end of the antebellum period, a new note appeared amid the indigenous architecture of Tarboro. The town witnessed the arrival of several talented and industrious men from distant places who produced in and near Tarboro novel, occasionally grand and luxurious new buildings on a scale never seen in the community before.

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Prime among these figures were English-born architect William Percival, Baltimore architect E. G. Lind, and, less glamorous perhaps but also influential, Percival's contractor Thomas Coates and Bavarian fresco painter Edward Zoeller.

Although not a North Carolina resident, Baltimore architect E. G. Lind wielded an important influence in Tarboro in the years around 1860. His best known and fully documented work is Coolmore, a beautifully preserved villa west of town; further, records held by the Powell family for whom it was built show Lind's involvement in other Tarboro projects at the same time. A letter copying information from Lind's papers notes references to Tarboro work, including alterations done for W. S. Dancy (\$2,000) and a store for E. A. Sherman in 1858; and in 1860 a "cottage for D. Pender" and alterations to the residence of J. A. Engelhard (for \$3,861). Dancy may be W. F. Dancy, for whom the house known as Norfleet Apartments (#144) was built, Pender's cottage may be #95, and the Engelhard residence is known to be the Cotten-Engelhard-Howard House (#426). In addition, Lind's notes included work done for W. L. Dozier, probably the handsome Italianate brick house on Church Street (#430). The nature of his role in these projects and whether Lind did other Tarboro work is unknown. The design of Coolmore is a bold Italianate one, and Lind also did some Gothic church designs elsewhere. The impact of his personality upon Tarboro, while doubtless considerable, is uncertain.

William Percival was a somewhat mysterious architect whose brief but prolific tenure in North Carolina produced some of the state's finest romantic revival buildings--Tuscan, Italianate, Gothic, and eclectic mixtures. He designed at least two major buildings in Tarboro--the Barracks and Calvary Church. The Barracks (#1) was begun in 1858 for industrialist William H. Battle and his wife, Mary Eliza, daughter of Francis L. Dancy. The building must have amazed the residents of Tarboro, for it was a dramatic departure from the established and conservative architectural habits of the community. The design resembles a slightly earlier Percival villa in Raleigh, Montford Hall (1858). The massive brick villa combined the three-dimensional massing of the villa, the brackets of the Italianate, and classical symmetry and columns of various sizes. The complex plan centered on a skylit rotunda.

On the heels of Percival's Tarboro villa came his design for Calvary Church (#419), begun in 1859. A newspaper article of 1860 stated, "The Episcopal Churchyard is a beautiful place filled with all kinds of shrubbery and is cared for with great affection. . . . That congregation have just completed a contract from a design by Mr. Wm. Percival, which is said to be exquisite. The cost will be \$13,000." Here, again, there was a vague Raleigh precedent in Percival's First Baptist Church, a soaring Gothic Revival church. Calvary, intended like the Raleigh building to be stuccoed over brick, was never stuccoed; its asymmetrical two-tower design and verdant setting, as well as the different surface,

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make Tarboro's church more picturesque and informal than the symmetry and urban setting of Raleigh's. The brick church, completed in 1867 after the Civil War interrupted construction, is one of Tarboro's chief landmarks and one of the finest antebellum Gothic Revival churches in the state; the interior, dominated by a dramatic hammer-beam roof, is well-preserved and handsome. The churchyard, planned and planted by the Rev. Joseph Blount Cheshire, who came to the congregation in 1842, contains many rare species and is a place of quiet and special beauty, one of the loveliest examples of antebellum landscape design in the state.

Obviously the fashionable ideas and ambitious designs of men like Percival and Lind affected building in Tarboro beyond their own work. Several structures in the community from the late 1850s, 1860s, and possibly early 1870s (their dates are not entirely certain) seem to reflect such an influence. Both the introduction of newly fashioned examples and patternbooks and the direct association with individuals shaped the town's taste.

Direct association with Percival doubtless influenced the work of Thomas Coats, a brick contractor who worked with Percival on several projects, including Calvary Church. Probably Lind, but possibly Percival, influenced the design of the handsome Italianate brick house (#430) built for W. L. Dozier, and Coats may have built it; this is unknown. The arched pediment of the entrance pavilion and the rather sophisticated, simple Italianate detail relate it in concept if not in grandeur to the Barracks. Stylish pattern book plates, such as those of A. J. Downing and Calvert Vaux, possibly provided by Percival, may have inspired Coats to build for himself the charming English cottage style house, also built in brick, at the north end of town (#172). The picturesque and conveniently innovative design is unrelated to the traditional architecture of the town. In addition, the picturesque Gothic cottage mode of Downing's and Vaux's books doubtless inspired the charming gabled cottage of brick erected across from Calvary Church for the Cheshire family about (#423). (Cheshire was rector of Calvary during its construction and thus knew Coats and Percival.) Whether Coats is responsible for this building is unknown but quite possible. A very similar house stands in the county, and a two-story version once stood on Main Street. The execution of the Gothic cottage mode in brick is very unusual in the state. The three quite different mid-nineteenth century Tarboro brick houses--the Gothic Cheshire-Nash house, the Italianate Dozier house, and the Tuscan or "English" Coats house--are all unusual for the region, all obviously style-conscious, pattern book designs, and all sharing some features of brickwork. No documentation for any of their construction has been found, however, to link them with a specific builder.



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The pattern book Gothic picturesqueness of the Cheshire-Nash House is executed in the more commonly employed wood in a delightful Carpenter Gothic cottage built in the mid-century (date uncertain but before 1869) for the Weddell family (#450).

The decorative bargeboards and steep gables characteristic of the Gothic cottage type once also dramatized the facade of the Norfleet House (#493) as seen in old photographs. This long, low one-story house on raised basement has been altered twice since construction, and old photographs show it as a picturesque composition; it was apparently designed by its first owner.

Gracing the Weddell House's gabled facade is sprightly lattice and openwork sawn wooden ornament that links the pattern book picturesque dwelling with much of Tarboro's mid-nineteenth century architecture. Although little is known of Tarboro's carpenters of the period ca. 1850 - ca. 1870s, the prevalence of distinctive wooden decoration seems to suggest a single builder or group of men responsible for a large number of houses. The lattice is obviously copied from Downing's and Vaux's plates. At the Weddell House it adorns a house of pattern book design yet adapted the airy lattice to houses of simpler, traditional form throughout the town and adjoining counties, thus creating a unified regional idiom from a published source. Setting off Tarboro's relatively simple mid-century dwellings from their contemporaries in other North Carolina communities is the prevalence and richness of the airy porch trim, which combines lattice-work posts and bold, intricate sawn decoration forming "capitals" and "frieze" for them. These appear to date from the 1850s through the 1870s. The airy geometric veil occurs on large and small dwellings, in more or less intricate renditions, and provides the town's domestic architecture with charm and unity. The Weddell House and the D. Pender House (#95) are typical of the combination of lattice and curved sawn trim as is the country house called Oakland (see individual nomination). Simpler work of a geometric character occurs on the porch that carries around all four sides of the early nineteenth century Blount House (#125). Postwar examples include the Jones House (#351), said built in 1870-1875 by a builder named Jerry Rutledge; the small, elaborately finished Matthewson House (#421), said built in the late 1860s by builder George Matthewson for his own dwelling; a pair of dwellings associated with the Williamson family (#391 and #392), the smaller having a fully decorated porch, the larger with only the rear porch so treated.

Similar elements are seen at plantation houses in the county, including Cotton Valley, Vinedale, The Cedars, and many others. The treatment, as yet unattributed to a specific builder, is very significant locally and deserves more intensive investigation than is possible here.

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Not only carpenters and masons and builders but also painters enriched Tarboro's mid-nineteenth century houses. Powell family records show that when Coolmore was under construction, architect Lind brought to the community a fresco artist named Dreyer, who executed the fine trompe l'oeil wall and ceiling painting at Coolmore. He may have done other work in town; since Lind had some involvement with the remodeling of the Cotten-Engelhard-Howard House, Dreyer may have been involved in the trompe l'oeil painting there as well. Family tradition, however, attributes this, like other Tarboro interior painting, to the community's resident Bavarian fresco painter, Edward Zoeller. Working in Tarboro from the 1850s through the 1880s, Zoeller (and a group of mid-European craftsmen including a grainer) provided luxurious vivid color to many houses. The molded, painted, and gilded ceilings of the antebellum Norfleet House (#493) and 1880s Redmond-Shackleford House (#53) are credited to him.

Unlike some North Carolina towns, Tarboro's antebellum architecture is not dramatically and definitively different from early post-Civil War work. Several buildings appear to have been erected in the late 1860s and early 1870s, in a fashion not entirely unlike earlier structures. The picturesque cottages mentioned earlier are of mid-nineteenth century date, but though the Coats House and Dozier House are ca. 1860 and the Cheshire House ca. 1868-1869, the Dozier date is somewhat uncertain, and the Weddell House even more so. Likewise, the sawn and latticed porch trim seems to have been a constant motif through the mid-century era. The 1866 cotton crop seems to have been a stimulus for new private construction, as it was for the completion of Calvary Church.

Even before that, however, Tarboro had erected a new public building--the Edgecombe County Jail, built in 1867 and destroyed about a century later. The Southerner of March 14 reported with pride, "Edgecombe County can now boast of having the handsomest, and, when finished, the most secure Jail in the entire state." The architect was identified as John W. Cosby of Raleigh, who "should receive a liberal encouragement from our citizens," the Southerner urged. The newspaper continued, assessing the previous architectural influences in the state,

We have heretofore depended too much upon the North in matters of this kind, as in everything else, and when we find men of genius among our citizens, . . . a proper appreciation of their abilities should be shown by us, and home industry thereby encouraged and fostered. We can confidently recommend Mr. Cosby.

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The one-story brick jail had segmental-arched windows and a combination of Gothic and Italianate motifs giving it a picturesque and not especially jail-like air. Whether Tarboro provided Cosby with further encouragement or employment is not known. (Other Cosby work, on his own and in association with his father Dabney, is known in North Carolina and Virginia.)

**LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

The 1870s and 1880s brought economic recovery and substantial new construction to Tarboro. The Italianate style, popular in a rather boxy version of the villa before the war, continued after the war and dominated domestic work of the 1870s, but in a more vertical, complex, and heavily ornamented edition. Two of Tarboro's finest postwar houses date from the 1870s, and they may be the work of the same (unknown) builder, the O. C. Farrar House (#548) and the Pippen House (#100). The Farrar House, located on a pivotal corner lot, is generally L-shaped with projecting front gable and a full porch in the angle. The tall two-story house is covered with a decorative floral patterned multicolor slate roof, underlined by handsome modillion brackets; the porch and arched door and window openings are richly enframed by heavy moldings, and the interior is elaborately appointed. Quite similar in form and detail, though slightly simpler in ornamentation, is the graciously sited Pippen House: this house, unlike most of Tarboro's houses, retains the spaciousness of setting of the entire front portion of its block, which is shielded by huge magnolias. (Only the back portion of the lot has been developed, in contrast to the general town pattern of the town where houses that once had entire blocks have been surrounded by later ones.)

Though these are the richest that survive, other houses of Italianate inspiration were built in the 1870s, including the Williamson House (#392), probably the tiny but decorative Matthewson House (#421), and others. Common to most of this era are compositions of intersecting gable roofs, ornamental brackets, and turned and sawn porch trim. This mode continued into the early 1880s, as seen in the handsome Havens House (#170), and the Gaskell House (#418).

While specific builders are not linked to specific buildings, the 1870 census shows a number of men in the building trades. Several of these were identified as blacks or mulattoes--William Mitchell (aged 40), Joseph Price (52), Buck Boyd (33), Locust Wright (65), Watson Hagans (34), Thomas Richardson (27), Robert Western (45), Henry C. Cherry (34), John C. Dancy (44), Farrer Prince (24), Anderson Dancy (45), David Jefferson (53), Noah Lloyd (37), all house carpenters

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or carpenters. Of these, Joseph Price may have been the same listed as a free mulatto carpenter (50) in the 1860 census. David Harris (37), John Harrison (65), and George Matthewson (30), for whom #42 was built, were listed as blacks or mulatto brickmasons in 1870. Presumably many of these men were local builders as slaves before the war. The 1870 census also showed several white builders, including John W. Lipscombe (32), a Virginia-born carpenter who, with William A. Lipscombe of the same trade, was active in 1860. The roles of all these men remain uncertain, lacking documentary evidence of their work. The continuity of their work from the antebellum to the postwar period, however, is clear.

Gray's New Map of Tarboro, 1882, shows the various components of the town and indicates a number of structures completed by that date. The town by this time had recovered from war but not yet entered the rapid growth of the 1890s. The area south of Water Street, along the Tar River, was scarcely developed at all, with the steam boat landings at the mouth of Hendrick's Creek the only structures there. The old town grid and size remained little altered, still bounded by Panola Street, the creek, the river, and the Common. Judging from names attached to houses, tradesmen and craftsmen, black and white, tended to concentrate in the southeast section of town. Beyond Panola Street east were only scattered tiny houses. Main Street from Water Street north to Church was lined by businesses and tradesmen's operations, with the north two blocks of Main and most of the blocks east and west of it predominantly residential. The Common, still open, had a school at the west end and the Tarboro Female Academy toward the east end. North of the Common, along "St. George or Main," the large antebellum houses still had an uninterrupted view of the road. By this time, a few large postwar houses shared the spaciousness and the suburban location, the Phippen House, the brand new Havens House (#170, built by 1881), and a smattering of smaller buildings. At the north end of town was the curving track of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and a cluster of buildings, including the frame depot (since replaced) and perhaps the present brick freight station, an imposing structure with pilasters and arched openings (see individual entry). The only evident industrial operation was the Edgecombe Agricultural Works toward the north end of town (individual entry).

The Sanborn Insurance Maps of the 1880s, 1890s, and 1900s show rapid and dramatic growth. In the period 1880-1910, and especially in the 1890s, Tarboro's conscious efforts to gain industrial plants produced substantial expansion of industrial, commercial, and residential fabric. By 1890 the map shows the rapid development of industry along the river, particularly at the strategic location at the west end of Water Street where the Albemarle and N. C. R. R. ran near the boat landing. Here John Shackelford's Riverview Knitting Mill (since burned) and

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the Tarboro Oil Mills (a fertilizer factory) stood: the latter, of which at least two frame buildings survive, was soon F. S. Royster's fertilizer mill, basis of the later major regional operation. From the Royster mill survive two frame gable-roof one-story buildings, now covered with sheet metal, somewhat deteriorated but important vestiges of the early operation. Other factories had arisen across the river and north of town as well. By 1896 the Central Tobacco Warehouse stood near the Royster plant, a large frame structure with sheltering sheds, one of the earliest structures related to the growing importance of tobacco processing and sales in Tarboro. It, too, still stands, a rugged frame one-story building covered with board and batten. By 1901 more tobacco buildings, several textile mills (northwest and west of town), and a variety of small trades shops had opened. Several new structures crowded the area near the boat landing.

In this period, Main Street's commercial concentration remained essentially the same. A high proportion of one, two, and three-story commercial buildings survive from the late nineteenth century, though nearly all of them have had the shop windows altered and many the entire facade. As in most small towns, these brick structures are of simple Italianate character, with arched or rectangular windows, many having metal, wood, or brick hoods of various degrees of elaboration, and occasionally parapetted rooflines. Documentary photographs show the street lined with highly decorated commercial facades, often multicolored.

Extremely important to the commercial fabric of the town are the handsome two-story brick Italianate Main Street buildings. Probably the oldest are along the east side of the street. Built before 1884, and perhaps some even before the Civil War, these are of elegant Italianate and slightly classical character, with stuccoed, brick detail. They are among the oldest surviving commercial buildings of their type in the state. Number 219 Main (#74), the possibly antebellum 229-231 Main (#76), and the outstanding cluster at 401 - 409 Main (#82-84) are especially notable. The latter retain upper story interior plaster detail of high quality. Slightly different in treatment are 402 and 404 Main Street (#48 and #47), currently used by Value-Pak and Cato's. Number 404, built by 1884, boasts elaborate brickwork including quoins, polygonal-headed windows with heavy hoods, and a bold cornice. Floral designs on the brackets enrich the upper facade. Number 402 is slightly more classical in feeling, with alternating triangular and round pedimented window hoods, a bracket cornice, and--especially rare--a surviving first-floor cornice with finials, of pressed metal. Similar form and simpler but similar detail inform other surviving buildings downtown, including 125-127 Main Street (#67), 201 Main Street (#68), the smaller 203 Main Street (#69), 229-231 Main Street (#76), possibly 117 E. St. James (#363), and an important row composed of 401-403 Main Street (#82-#84).

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Despite occasional new construction and the alteration of shop fronts, Tarboro's Main Street maintains essential elements of its late nineteenth century character, particularly the consistent scale and the retention of many of the upper facades of buildings.

During the 1880s the construction of substantial and individually notable new buildings reflected Tarboro's growing prosperity. Most dramatic was the City Hall, designed by a firm called Jones and Hortges in 1887 and erected in 1889, with local craftsmen Henry C. Cherry and George Matthewson. It was painted by Edward Zoeller, including the decoration of the upstairs theatre. The towered Italianate landmark was razed in the mid-twentieth century. Almost as prominent was the construction of the bold stuccoed masonry Second Empire style town house erected about 1886 for James Redmond, whose daughter Kate married industrialist John Shackelford there soon after construction. Zoeller is also credited with the brilliant interior ornamental painting and stucco. With its walled, verdant garden, the impeccably preserved house and its outbuildings compose an oasis of nineteenth century residential grandeur amid the central business district.

Increased growth came in the decades flanking the turn of the twentieth century. Industrial and hence residential development in this period was dramatic. In this period the streets north of the Common and especially those east of Main Street were laid off and soon filled with houses, large dwellings with towers and turrets, and smaller houses as well. The working and tradesmen's class neighborhoods at the northwest and southeast corners of town were laid off and developed at the same time (these two areas as noted earlier have been considerably altered or interrupted). New church buildings were erected in the late nineteenth century, including those for black congregations. The prevalent Gothic mode was used. St. Luke's Episcopal (#296), built in 1892-1894 for a congregation established in 1872-1873, is an especially handsome and well-preserved late Gothic Revival vernacular church with splendid interiors; St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion (#319), though remodeled, is also a notable late Gothic structure; this congregation was established in 1866.

As throughout the state and much of the country, various interpretations of the Queen Anne style dominated domestic architecture in this period, from the grand to the modest. Expansive dwellings on spacious lots combine the dramatic, irregular towered roofline, rich contrasts of shingles and weatherboards, decorative sawn and turned and carved woodwork, and abundant stained glass. Tarboro's North Main Street is lined with various versions of this style, some harking back to the Italianate in their detail, others reflecting in their porch columns and Palladian windows the Neo-Classical or Colonial Revival styles. While many of

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Tarboro's larger dwellings of this era were probably the work of local builders, several vigorous, well-detailed houses are known to be the work of Rocky Mount architect-builder John C. Stout. Among these, listed in a Rocky Mount publication of ca. 1911, are the homes of Dr. Julian Baker (gone), Mrs. James Pender (#461), T. H. Gatlin (gone), J. J. Green (#35), and Dr. Cliff Whitehead (#464). In addition, the elegant, towered frame house that was the residence of George A. Holderness (#192) is described as Stout's work as well, as is the handsome home of C. A. Johnson (#133).

Far more numerous, and vital to the ambience and character of Tarboro's townscape, are the many modest one-story cottages whose character arises from a combination of some of the elements--tall hip or gable roof, occasional use of a corner tower or pergola, wooden apex ornament, and decorative front porch-- the more ambitious houses boast. The gabled ell or central false gable, usually with a decorative vent or window, is a hallmark. This Victorian cottage type is prevalent throughout much of North Carolina, and in Tarboro there is an especially significant collection, ranging from quite elaborate to very small and plain. Many examples have lost the enriching detail of porch and gable that establishes so much of their character and retain only their form. Others, however, maintain their integrity and suggest the charm they all must once have had. Especially notable examples include 504 Trade Street (#547), 506 St. James Street (#385), 514 St. James Street (#382), the Zender House at 1103 North Main Street (#102) and others. There are significant clusters of nearly identical Victorian cottages in the northernmost block of North Main Street, east side, and a modest but charming row along the east side of the 1200 block of St. Andrew Street and in the 500 block of the north side of St. James Street. The simple dwellings combine the functional simplicity of the still-prevalent vernacular basic house with light touches of currently popular style in decoration. The form and plan with minor variations are prevalent throughout the state and are seen, for example, in D. A. Tompkin's publications about industrialization (with decoration). The builder of those in Tarboro is unknown.

### EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

The early twentieth century in Tarboro as elsewhere was an eclectic period architecturally and a time of considerable growth. Prosperity and changing technology brought the desire and means for more and more substantial structures: downtown, especially, larger buildings were erected. The 1907 Bridgers Building (#88), three stories high, became an instant landmark--complementing the towered City Hall diagonally across from it. The brick office structure, richly treated with pilasters and cornices, is believed to have been designed by Henry C. Bridgers, engineer and businessman, for whose East Carolina Railway Company it was erected.

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Not far away, in 1908, rose another big new building, equally handsome and eclectic, the Masonic Building (#77) designed by New Bern architect Herbert W. Simpson. Also three stories tall, it exhibited various eclectic and classical motifs in stone, brick, and stained glass. Not only their Main Street fronts but also the side street elevations of these prominent corner buildings were elaborately finished. The handsome 1912 Carolina Telephone Building (#394) is also red brick and has classical detail.

The same spirit of pride and improvement stimulated construction of substantial new brick churches as well. After the deaths of Judge George Howard and his wife Anna, their children gave the congregation of the Presbyterian Church funds for a new building, which was dedicated in 1909 and described as being "In architecture, . . . pure Grecian." The Methodists, too, replaced an early frame building with a grander, boldly eclectic brick structure in the early twentieth century, a rich combination of red brick and contrasting white trim. (#204, #366)

While the Beaux Arts and Neo-Classical Revival seem not to have gained dominant influence in Tarboro's early twentieth century architecture, there are a few notable examples. The 1914 Post Office (#91), a rather small but elegantly monumental public building situated on Main Street, is the work of the Federal dispensary of monumental public architecture, of course, in this case under the auspices of Oscar Wenderoth, supervising architect of the Treasury Department. It fits well in scale with its neighbors and is a well-preserved early twentieth century public building--one of the oldest U.S. post offices in the state still in active use. Smaller but determined to achieve a degree of classical monumentality is the former Farmers Bank & Trust Company building (#49); used as a florist shop recently, it is to be returned to banking use.

Only one surviving Tarboro house boasts the grand columned portico of the early twentieth century Neo-Classical mansion that dots the small towns of the state, usually bespeaking the wealth of mill owner or banker. This is the handsome white frame Hart House (#103), a prominent feature of North Main Street, graced with a tall, bowed portico with Corinthian columns and rich wooden detail. In 1922 architect Hobart Upjohn's design for a parish house for Calvary Church was executed. Its Gothic character blends with Percival's earlier building. The following year a cloister and a brick enclosing wall were added, enhancing the churchyard. (#419-A)

Domestic architecture of the early twentieth century in Tarboro followed as it usually did national and regional trends in a conservative fashion. It was dominated primarily by the bungalow style between about 1910 or 1915 and about



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1930, and by various versions of the Colonial Revival between about 1920 and 1940. (The latter style, in fact, has persisted in one form or another to the present.) Tarboro had scarcely any examples of the Chateausque, the Tudor, the Shingle Style, the Art Deco, or any other grand or exotic mode of that era; most of the dwellings were relatively modest, and Tarboro architecture has generally, with the exception of a few grand gestures like the Barracks, relied on conservative modes rather than extravagant monuments.

Tarboro has an excellent collection of bungalows, some of which were erected before 1913, others not until after 1931; most, however, appear to date from the 1920s. The bungalow, an Asian-oriented form, was adapted to American tastes and needs by the Craftsman movement in New York state and popularized widely after being developed in California. Publications, both books and magazines, provided homeowners and contractors alike with plans for bungalows. This made the type especially appealing to communities like Tarboro, where local builders were skilled and industrious, but there were no local architects to create designs. In addition, the bungalow was universally popular in eastern North Carolina, where its deep, shaded porches, high roof, wide shading eaves, and informal floor plan--as well as the relatively low cost of construction--suited the climatic, economic, and social needs long established in the region. Tarboro's bungalows range from rather large and imposing houses to quite modest dwellings; some are of masonry construction, such as the massive and boldly designed Pender House (#456) overlooking the Common and built before 1913, and the smaller, rock-studded dwelling nearby, at 910 St. David Street (#242). Most are frame, however, with occasional use of shingled wall surfaces. Characteristic of the style are the spreading, dominant roof, usually a gable roof form, and a powerful and deeply shadowed porch. Wide eaves are usually carried on angular brackets, some of boldly geometric design and somewhat oriental flavor. Massive posts or clusters of posts carry the heavy roof form. Sometimes the roof sweeps down to shelter the porch and carries a central gable or shed dormer; in others, the gable end roof is repeated off-center by the gable end porch roof.

Residents recall at least two local builders responsible for erecting Tarboro bungalows. One was Charlie Pulley, an industrious builder who worked in Tarboro most of his long life. He was not a designer, but a builder, and was known for his solid work and good relations with his clients. Among his projects was the Cherry House (#273), which was inspired by a house in nearby Wilson: the owner recalls that she and her husband had seen a house in Wilson they liked, obtained plans from the builder, Williams Lumber Yard, and took Mr. Pulley to see the Wilson house. He began work on their own bungalow "the next day." Pulley is also said to have built the bungalows at 807 St. Patrick (#213), 1207 St. Patrick (#229), 115 W. Philips (#500), and 208 W. Battle (#528). His sons recall that he

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also erected the row of modest dwellings--an extremely prevalent small house type with token elements of vaguely bungalow derivation--along Baker Street in the 1920s (#478-481). These must, from their numerousness in the state, have been something of a stock model; they bear much the same relationship to the bungalow as the modest L-shaped or gabled cottages did to the Queen Anne houses of a generation before. They are a vital and prevalent component of the domestic architecture of the community.

Another Tarboro builder in this era was David Harris, who built a great many Tarboro houses; like Pulley, he built but did not design. He is known to have constructed, for example, the handsome bungalow at 1402 North Main Street in 1927 for M. S. Brown (#18), and he built dozens more, perhaps including his own house at 210 W. Battle (#529).

Contemporary with the bungalow style and persisting after it was the Colonial Revival style. This style had a powerful appeal in North Carolina in the early twentieth century. Most of the earlier and better examples, from the 1920s especially, are handsomely proportioned and well executed. Later versions, in the 1940s and 1950s, tend to dilute the style both in form and detail. Tarboro's leading citizens of the 1920s erected ambitious Colonial Revival houses, usually of brick, sometimes of frame, with narrow eaves, boxy forms, small-paned windows, and often symmetrical facades dominated by elaborate doorway treatments. Despite their overt traditionalism, these houses are atypical of traditional Tarboro houses in two important respects: they are usually brick, and they seldom boast a big porch--in contrast to generations of frame houses with porches. One of the most elaborate, inspired by Westover according to the first owner, is the Lyn Bond House (#168), which was erected by David Harris. Another example is the George Fountain House (#22) of 1923-1931.

Brick was used more and more in all types of buildings in this period, along with the conservative and associative Colonial and Classical detail. The First Baptist Church on Main Street (1926-1928, #92) and the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Building (1912, #394) combine red brick, contrasting white detail, and motifs of Colonial or Classical inspiration. Some of the warehouses and industrial buildings of the period, such as the handsome tobacco warehouses along Hendricks Creek, were erected in brick and enriched with decorative detail. The Clarks warehouses (#404 and #405) and the somewhat earlier warehouses facing Albemarle Avenue (#4 and #5) are notable examples forming an important cluster.

The Crash of 1929 and subsequent years of the Depression, of course, halted construction in Tarboro: one resident involved in construction recalled, "It was just

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like somebody shut the door." A few buildings date from the bleak years of the early and middle 1930s: The Edgecombe Bonded Warehouse (#406) was built in the 1930s, recalls its owner, by George Harrison, a black mason and his assistant, Jordan Stancil, who sought the work from the owner of the property, who provided the brick. Harrison asked for something to build in order to keep working, and Henry C. Bridgers, his son recalls, said they might as well build a warehouse. The Federal government provided more work for builders than private citizens, however. The Community Swimming Pool (#124), north of the Blount House, and the County Office Building (#90), a stone-faced brick structure of simplified classical design, recall the national work programs that assisted in economic recovery. Municipal government by the mid-1930s was able to invest in new construction, notably the Water Plant (#2), a large brick building with classical details.

Development within the historic district since the 1930s has been generally of two types: generally harmonious if not usually outstanding infilling of vacant lots among extant older dwellings, and demolition of old structures and replacement by new commercial structures. Most new construction in the neighborhoods has been either in the form of one and two-story dwellings of traditional form and vaguely Colonial detail, which harmonize with existing buildings, or low ranch-type houses of various budgets which generally do not harmonize in scale, being so much lower than existing buildings. The most dramatic changes in the historic district have taken place in and around the commercial section. The destruction of the grand Victorian city hall made way for a tan brick boxy city hall with blue panels. The old courthouse was torn down and replaced by a new brick one-story bank. Residential blocks, as well as the jail, the livery stables, and the old Enterprise Carriage works, were lost around the edges of the commercial section. To the west is a block of parking and a supermarket, and to the east are the massive brick Courthouse (#140) and County Office Building (#325), huge structures with colonial detail. A large Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Building (#414), several stories tall, occupies a large section of one downtown block, east of Main Street.

Some of these changes, especially the losses of the nineteenth century courthouse and city hall, have been destructive to the charm and character of the community's heart, yet they have far from destroyed it. Recent preservation work in Tarboro, mentioned above, has effectively recognized and assisted the enhancement of the integrity of the community, the central business district, the varied but unified residential neighborhoods, and the vital green open spaces of the Common, the riverside, and the churchyards.

KEY TO INVENTORY LIST, TARBORO NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Role in district: P, C, N, I

- P--Pivotal. The building or property is individually outstanding historically and/or architecturally and stands as a visual or historic landmark in the community. This includes the intact antebellum buildings because of their rarity, excellent and especially intact later buildings, and buildings connected with important persons or events.
- C--Contributing. One of the many pre-1931 buildings whose architectural or historical significance is important to the total character and history of Tarboro. These add up to be more important, perhaps, than the single important structures. They range from very handsome Victorian houses and bungalows to late 19th century stores, early 20th century industrial buildings. Age and intactness are considered more than condition.
- N--Non-contributing. Although these buildings--such as dwellings of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s--may harmonize with and not detract from the earlier fabric of the town, they are not what gives it its historic character. The age criteria of the National Register is 50 years but here because of Sanborn Maps dated 1923 and 1931 the criteria is really 48 years as of 1979: the 1931 map dating.
- I--Intrusive. This is used for structures that not only do not meet the age criteria but that because of scale, use, materials, or other factors actively detract from and interrupt the historic character of the district.

KEY TO SOURCES REFERRED TO IN INVENTORY ENTRIES:

- SM: Sanborn Insurance Maps; held by North Carolina Collection, copies in Survey and Planning Branch file.
- TSBE: Tarboro Southerner Bicentennial Edition (1976), describing many buildings and events in town's history.
- Q: Responses to questionnaires sent to property owners as part of conducting inventory; copies in Survey and Planning Branch files.
- PC: Refers to pictures of houses seen on a ca. 1910 postcard of Tarboro buildings, possession of Edgecombe County Historical Society.
- GNM: Gray's New Map, 1882; copy in Survey and Planning Branch files; see nomination maps attached for copy.
- HCB: Interview by Catherine W. Bishir with Henry C. Bridgers, Tarboro, 1979.
- Nash: Interview by Catherine W. Bishir with Mr. and Mrs. Pembroke Nash, Tarboro, 1979.
- FPJ: Interview by Catherine W. Bishir with Francis P. Jenkins, Tarboro, 1979, plus extensive additions and corrections supplied by Mr. Jenkins.

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## INVENTORY LIST, TARBORO

1. Tarboro Historic District  
ALBEMARLE AVENUE: WEST SIDE, GOING NORTH TO SOUTH

Name and Address,  
Date if known

Description

Assessment

1. The Barracks  
1100 Albemarle Avenue  
1858-1861

Two-story brick eclectic classical/  
Italianate villa, designed by architect  
William Percival for William S. Battle,  
of the family important in the develop-  
ment of the Rocky Mount Mills. Erected  
during the years 1858-1861, the house  
was doubtless the grandest and most bold-  
ly fashionable in Tarboro. The dra-  
matic interior, rich detail, and much of  
the surrounding yard have been preserved  
and recently restored for continued  
domestic use. Individually in NR.

P

2. Tarboro Water Plant  
Albemarle Ave.  
1934-1935

Large, functional brick structure with  
bold classical detail--contrasting  
quoins, keystones, arched windows, Pallad-  
ian entrance. Asymmetrical composition has  
main block of three stories with unequal  
20-story wings. Important to the history  
of improved public service and municipal  
utilities in Tarboro's early 20th century  
growth; a handsomely detailed, substantial  
utilitarian building. Contractor, William  
C. Olsen of Durham. This is recalled as  
one of the first construction projects in  
town after the stoppage of the early 1930s  
(MP) Merkle Pulley, noted local restora-  
tion craftsman, recalls working on it as a  
young man.

C

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3. Grill & Bus Station Albemarle Avenue mid-20th c.	Plain masonry building covered with permastone		N

AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL AREA, ALONG HENDRICKS CREEK AND RAILROAD TO TAR RIVER

4. Warehouse: Braswell  
Wholesale  
Albemarle Ave.  
1908-1913  
Representative late 19th-early 20th century commercial/storage building, located in an area where the agricultural-oriented commerce and industry focused and supported Tarboro's growth in this period. Sanborn Maps show the building as a storage building in 1913, a wholesale grocery storage in 1923. The parapeted facade, large arched opening, and brick walls are characteristic.
5. Warehouse  
Albemarle Ave.  
1913 - 1923  
Pair of handsome, functional industrial/commercial buildings, part of agriculture-oriented complex here. Cotton storage by 1923. 1931 shows Edgecombe Bonded Warehouse, with cotton storage. The two-story brick structures have dramatic arched openings, corbeled brick panels, small second-level windows. C
6. Warehouse  
Albemarle Avenue  
early 20th c.  
Plain, functional, one-story wood frame warehouse with tin covering. Part of agriculture-oriented industrial complex here, vital to early 20th century development of Tarboro. HCB states built 1936. Form continues tradition of ca. 1890-1910. Although built after 1931, it is a contributing part of the Hendricks Creek area agricultural-industrial complex, in terms of usage and form. C
7. Warehouse  
Albemarle Avenue  
early 20th c. after  
1913  
Plain, functional one-story frame warehouse covered now with tin, shed porch extends from one side. Part of agriculture-oriented industrial complex here, vital to development of town in early 20th century. Built after 1913 (SM). HCB states built 1937; same significance as 6. C
8. Warehouse  
Albemarle Ave.  
early 20th c. after 1913  
Similar to above, built after 1913.

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9. Warehouse <u>Albemarle Ave.</u> early 20th c. after 1913	Smaller gable-roof tin-covered frame structure, part of agriculture-oriented industrial complex. After 1913 (SM)		C
10. Warehouse <u>Albemarle Ave.</u> 1913-1923	Brick one-story warehouse type building, one of few brick structures in this complex, dominated by frame buildings. It was erected between 1913 and 1923 (SM) and in 1931 was shown as a cotton gin, where seeds were removed from cotton and it was baled. Bad condition.		C
11. Central Tobacco Warehouse (Now Helig-Myers Whs) <u>Albemarle Avenue</u> 1890-1896	One-story frame warehouse, covered with board and batten, with projecting eaves sheltering the large doorways. This is one of the oldest in the agriculture-oriented industrial complex in the river-railroad center. It is the oldest tobacco warehouse in Tarboro. It has served the community's economic reliance upon the crops of tobacco and cotton. It was built between 1890 and 1896 (SM) as the Central Tobacco Warehouse, serving that use until at least 1908. In 1913 (SM) it housed the Lumber Company of Tarboro Planing Mill, and by 1931 was the Cotton and General Edgecombe Bonded Warehouse.		C
11A. Site of Steamboat landing			
12. F. S. Royster Guano Co. <u>Albemarle Avenue</u> ca. 1890	This is among the most important industrial structures in the complex, and in Tarboro, in terms of age and significance to the agricultural/industrial development of the town and region. It evidently includes part of the 1890 structure housing the Tarboro Oil Mills begun by George Howard and F. S. Royster, antecedent of Royster's own firm. As early as 1896 it was (in essentially its present form, a frame structure) the F. S. Royster Guano Company Fertilizer Factory. It has been in the hands of the same company continuously, and is now a storage building. Not only is it one of the oldest buildings in the		C

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riverside industrial area, but, most important the oldest known building associated with the F. S. Royster Company. The firm began in Tarboro making fertilizer for regional farmers and, by constant improvement of materials used and marketing techniques, grew to be a major regional firm with headquarters in Norfolk and branches throughout the South. The beginnings of the firm in Tarboro are thus very important (SH) (TSBE) CD.

13. Warehouse  
    Albemarle  
    Avenue  
    1908-1913
- The curiously shaped brick building conforms to the lay of the land and form of the road in the industrial complex. Replacing an earlier building between 1908 and 1913, and was a Cotton and Peanut Warehouse, reflecting the development of those industries in this era. C
14. Warehouse  
    Albemarle Ave.  
    by 1890
- Perhaps the oldest standing structure in the riverside industrial complex, this is a simple, long one-story gable-roof frame building covered with tine, now owed by the Royster Company (see 12). It was certainly there in 1896 and probably is the structure on the site by 1890, and may be earlier. It has been a warehouse and feed operation. C

ALBEMARLE AVENUE: EAST SIDE, MOVING SOUTH TO NORTH

15. Warehouse  
    Albemarle Ave.  
    1890s/by 1931
- A pair of adjoining frame gable-roof structures, ware house-type. As early as 1896 a "cotton platform" stood here, strategically located by the railroad. The open platform was where cotton was loaded to and from trains. The 1931 Sanborn map first shows the roofed, enclosed structure here, but the evolution of the building is uncertain. Part of the agriculture-oriented industrial complex. C
16. Community Center  
    Albemarle Ave.  
    mid-late 20th c.
- One-story new brick structure of ranch house form N



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17.	Albemarle Avenue 1970s?	New one-story brick structure, aluminum prefabricated structure to rear.	N
<u>MAIN STREET: WEST SIDE, MOVING NORTH TO SOUTH. RESIDENTIAL SECTION.</u>			
18.	M. S. Brown House 1402 Main Street 1923-1931	Frame bungalow of representative type, with front sloping gable sheltering deep porch, gabled dormer with brackets. Built for Brown, who ran Coca-Cola Company in Tarboro. The bottling plant, next door, opened about 1925, and Brown built the house soon after. Contractor was David Harris.	C
27.	Constantine House 1008 N. Main Street ca. 1950	1-1/2 story brick blend of Cape Cod, Colonial and Ranch types. This house #28 (below) and #289 were built in the mid 20th century in the yard of the Pender-Lanier House (#492) 1-story brick ranch house, somewhat Colonial details.	N
28.	Deloatch House ca. 1950s-1960s 1000 N. Main St.		
29.	Morris-Powell House 912 N. Main St. 1890 (Q)	Erected before ca. 1890 and probably several years earlier, the 2-story frame house is Italianate in character, with bracketed eaves, paired windows, projecting front central bay, and bay windows; across the front stretches a probably later porch of Neo-Classical design with the Ionic columns common in Tarboro in the first decade of the 20th century; a round pergola occurs on the south. Said built for Morris family who lived here till about 1900-1905. It is said to have been the home of Arthur Morris who moved to Richmond and established the Morris Plan Bank (see Sec. 8). W. H. Powell, first president of Carolina Telephone & Telegraph, community leader & political leader, lived here early 20th century. (Q) Shown on PC as home of W. H. Powell--and painted a dark color with light trim. Still in Powell family.	P

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30. Hart House 906-910 N. Main St. late 19th c.	Late 19th century Victorian porch with multiple gables dramatising roofline, bay windows, multiple rear extensions. The character of the frame house has been altered by the removal of porch and other elements and the application of brick veneer. Said built by a Mr. Arnheim but occupied by J. V. Hart many years (FPJ).		C
31. Porter House 904 Main Street ca. 1900	Well-preserved, richly decorated, L-shaped frame house, of Victorian bracketed Italianate character. Probably dates from 1880s or 1890s. Paired windows, bracketed eaves, gable trim intact; similar to 29 in some respects. Joseph Porter said to have erected this house, and moved from his father's house on Trade Street (FPJ).		C/P
32. McConkey Apartments 902 Main Street 1950s?	The chief intrusion in this section of late 19th early 20th century main Street. Built on site of Victorian house which was razed. Boxy, 2-story brick apartment with flat roof, wrought iron trim.		I
33. S. R. Alley House 900 Main Street 1. 19th century	2-story frame Victorian house with gable roof, richly treated sawn and turned porch; features dramatic horseshoe shaped porch entry, a notable design accent to the entire block. Probably dates from 1880s or 1890s. P. C. shows it as S. R. Alley House.		C
34. _____ House 806 Main Street 1. 19th c.	Typical substantial 2-story frame Victorian house, L-shaped with multiple gables, "Queen Anne" window, original sawn porch treatment, varied surfaces. H. I. Johnston lived here 1920s, builder unknown (FPJ).		C
35. J. J. Green House 800 Main Street 1. 19th c. ca. 1900	Tall 2-story frame house blends Queen Anne and Neo-Classical themes, in well-maintained dwelling. Pedimented gables, rounded 2-story corner bay, well-detailed sweeping porch swelling out around corner bay. One of the Tarboro houses built by Rocky Mt. architect John C. Stout ca. 1900. J. J. Green was cashier of the Bank of Tarboro, early 20th c.		C
36. Save a \$ Gas Station _____ Main Street mid-20th c.	1-story gas station with parking, lights, etc., on pivotal corner lot. (A filling station was on this site since 1931; until then a dwelling was		

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here, which was turned to face the common & later destroyed. The house is said to have been built for Dr. Pittman whose daughter married John W. B. Battle, who lived here. (FPJ). The present filling station dates from 1953-1954 (SOD) and might incorporated some elements of the earlier station.

HERE BEGINS CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

37. Store  
600 Main Street  
After 1931
- Plain 1-story brick box with simple parapet, plate glass windows. Post-dates move of Pittman house and erection of gas station in 1931; thus the formerly residential block became commercial in 1930s. Scale and materials similar to other downtown buildings.
38. Constantine Brothers  
Oil Company  
526 Main Street Street  
1923-1931
- 1-story brick paired structure with curvilinear parapet, recessed brick panels, open at street level: pressed tin and beaded wood ceilings. Combination of office and store on south, Pontiac Company, filling station-auto service on north existed when 1st built, with the auto part accessible from both Main and St. John Streets. Notable early automotive oriented building, little altered. (SOD).
39. Colonial Theatre  
Main Street  
1919
- The facade indicates the construction date of 1919 for this early movie theatre (SOD) on the site of the outbuildings for a large house that stood on the corner. Charlie Pulley, when he worked for David Harris, worked on this building. It was built with hand labor and a large crew (MP). Shallow facade decoration of linear character is notable, with name and date and abstract ornament. Still in original use, unaltered.
40. Town Hall  
500 Main Street  
early 1960s
- Large white brick 2-story municipal building, which replaced the vigorous, towered town hall of the late 1880s, a structure which had combined offices, an opera house, fire station, etc., and was an architectural as well as functional landmark of Tarboro

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41. Edgecombe Homestead & Loan Association 422 Main Street 1967	Until 1967 this was occupied by 2 buildings, and some of the walls of the southernmost are said still to exist (SOD). Was Pamlico Insurance Banking Company with ornate brick facade. Present structure 1-1/2 story Flemish bond brick veneer with "colonial" details.		N
42. Tasty Bakery 420 Main Street L. 19 c. ?	The one-story brick building may be the same one that stood in 1884 and has been variously used as office, insurance agency, store, drugstore. The black tile facade is notable. (SOD) The structure is said to have been built for John W. B. Battle (see #36) as an office; resembled structure formerly at #41.		C
43. Williams Bldg. 418 Main Street 1900 Mid 20th c.	The lot was site of private dwelling until about 1900, when a large 2-story building was erected, known as the Howard Building. It housed the Edgecombe Club and 2 grocery stores; the 2nd floor was usually a single "hall" (where dances were sometimes held), while the 1st floor was shops. The facade was elaborately treated with tall windows and brick colonnettes. The facade was severely changed in the mid-20th century with the new present veneer and plain windows, destroying much of the character of one of Main Street's most ambitious late 19th century buildings (SOD, SM); the property remains in Howard descendants' ownership.		N
44. 414 Main St. by 1884? SM	1-story brick store, used for various purposes in late 19th and early 20th centuries. Was McNair drugstore in early 20th century, later hat shop, drugstore. Present (probably early 20th century) facade has parapet horizontal brick panel typical of period, recent mansard hood; earlier facade had pressed metal enrichment, fancy parapet, seen in early photos. (SOD) Said built for Miss Katherine Pender (FPJ).		C

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45. 410-412 Main Street by 1884	1-story brick commercial building, on 1884, SM, old photo shows projecting cornice and pilasters on facade. Present facade probably early 20th cen- tury, with horizontal brick panel, coping outlin- ing roofline. Various commercial uses in buildings, dry goods, haberdashery, millinery, etc. 1890s photo shows richly decorated Morris Brothers Dry Goods. The pair of shops in a single building have been both separately and jointly operated. Pressed tin and beaded wood ceilings survive. (SOD)		C
46. 408 Main Street by 1884	Similar to above but now covered with metal sheathing. Was linked at times with 410-412. (SOD)		C/
47. Cato's 404 Main Street By 1884	Handsome 2-story brick commercial building, erected by 1884. Though its elaborate shop fronts and roof- line decorations (seen in 1890s photo) are now gone, the bracket cornice, angular arched windows with hoodmolds and keystones, and quoins, survive. The detail is quite fine. The shop windows, like many others, have been remolded. Various uses have been made of the building -- in 1884 and 1890, storage, in 1901 millinery, and a telephone exchange (2nd floor), and in 1913 its 2nd floor (with #48) was the armory. (SOD)		C
48. 402 Main Street by 1890	Handsome 2-story brick Italianate store with bracket cornice, hoodmolds, etc. Occupied in 1890 by a hard- ware store, shared 2nd floor Armory use with #47. Notable detail; shop windows altered.		
49. Colonial Savings & Loan Association (formerly Farmers Bank & Trust Co.) 400 Main Street 1880s /1920s?	An 1890s photo shows 400 and 402 as a pair of similar 2-story brick Italianate buildings, and Sanborn maps show their 2nd stories connected. The present owner recalls use of the building as a bank in the 1920s and states the remodeling to the present appearance and height dates from the 1930s, including the modillion cornice, corner pilasters, and general classicism. This could, however, date from the 1920s, for Sanborn map (1931) shows stories 1 and 2. According to his daught-		C

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- businessman C. A. Johnston "built" the structure (date uncertain) as the Farmers Bank & Trust Company. This bank joined with North Carolina Bank & Trust (which collapsed in the Depression, 1933. Later Security National Bank, NCNB. (Nash)
50. Roses  
322 Main Street  
1960  
Very plain 2-story brick structure erected in 1960 by W. G. Clark, Jr. (SOD) on site of old, locally important Farrar Hotel which was built by 1890, a large 3-story building with iron balcony. N
51. Edgecombe Bank & Trust  
Company  
316-318 Main Street  
by 1890/1974  
A 2-story brick commercial building of the present shape and size stood here by 1890, and served a variety of purposes including shops, office, etc. This was a 2-story brick structure, typical of Main Street, with corbel cornice (as seen in a turn of the century photograph). In 1950 it was remodeled for the Edgecombe Bank and Trust Company, with a new, modern facade; the side walls remained unaltered, as seen in a photograph of the period. In the late 1960's further remodeling and expansion took place. Architects were Edwards, Dove, Knight and Associates of Rocky Mount, contractors J. D. Rose, Inc., of Rocky Mount. The new brick facade is of "colonial" character, with quoins, blinds, and a dentil cornice. N
52. Shackelford Shops  
310-314 Main St.  
1884-1890/L. 20th c.  
Probably built between 1884 and 1890, simple brick 1-story commercial building serving various purposes. Facades possibly remodeled early 20th c. C
53. Redmond-Shackelford  
House  
300 Main Street  
1886  
Grand, unaltered Second Empire town house built for the Redmond family, before Miss Redmond married John Shackelford who was a prominent industrialist and businessman in Tarboro. The house and garden lot retain rich character and domestic use as an oasis amid the commercial section. Still in same family. Listed in NR. P

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54. Adler's 230 Main Street L. 19th c.	This 2-story double store stands on the former site of the Cromwell House Hotel, according to the Bicentennial edition of the <u>Daily Southerner</u> . As early as 1882 (Gray's Map) the double brick store was occupied by S. S. Nash & Co., and has had various commercial uses. Changing uses and fire damage have caused considerable remodeling. The paired facades are framed by handsome brick corbeling forming pilasters and large panels; windows and shop fronts are new.	(
56. Pope's 214 Main Street early 20th c.	2-story brick building with simplified but bold Art Deco facade probably dates from the 1920s or 1930s and the use as the Tar Theatre. Possibly includes elements of ca. 1910 building.	C
57. 210 Main Street 1960s/1970s	The small, 1-story brick building, out of scale with its 2-story neighbors, was recently built as rental property.	
58. Simmons Furniture 208 Main Street ca. 1910	Handsome, little-altered 2-story brick store with parapet, pedimented cornice, arched central window, keystone windows, and bracketed and pilastered first story. Present owner, grandson of founder of firm, states that the firm was begun at 215 Main and that Simmons built this structure in 1910. (SOD) This accords with Sanborn maps, which show new furniture store in 1913 on site of old Howard Hotel. Longtime family business.	C
59. 202-206 Main St. by 1913	A row of small 1-story brick commercial units, erected between 1901 and 1913, with simple horizontal brick panels and glass shop windows. Originally there was a metal cornice, surviving only on 200. 204 is covered with a metal sheathing. Uses have included grocery, store, restaurant, etc.	C
60. 124-126 Main St. 1901-1908	Very simple 1-story brick commercial building, with two units, used for various commercial purposes.	C

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61. Heilig-Levine  
118-124 Main St.  
1901-1908  
1-story brick commercial building with corbeled brick panels, metal cornice. Various uses; in 1920s southern units houses one of town's first auto dealerships. (SOD) C
- MAIN STREET: EAST SIDE GOING SOUTH TO NORTH
62. 99 Main St.  
1950s? 1960s?  
The small riverside block has had many brief uses, blacksmith, fish shop, blacksmith shop, woodland, etc. This building appears to date from the mid-20th century, is two stories, brick, with vaguely colonial detail. N
63. Barber Shop  
105 Main St.  
b/w 1901 & 1908  
Small commercial brick structure, only survivor of a trio built by 1913, similar in scale and character to those across the street. Long used as barber shop. C
64. 109 Main St.  
mid-20th c.  
This was site of a dwelling from 1884 through 1923 replaced by filling station 1931, present large, brick building is mid-20th century. N
65. 119 Main St.  
1901-1908  
Small one-story brick commercial building of several units, built between 1901 and 1908, with units serving a variety of purposes. Brick corbeled panels, simple detail; similar to those across the street. Stuccoed part said to have been J. E. Fountain's delivery stable (FPJ) C
67. 125-127 Main St.  
1884-1890  
Handsome 2-story brick twin commercial building with brick detail including window labels, pilasters, cornice. M. L. Hussey Carriage Factory occupied the building in 1890-1901, and there have been various subsequent uses. Notable late 19th century structure; southern unit's shop fronts little altered. C
68. 201 Main St.  
L. 19th c.  
2-story brick commercial building, unaltered brick Italianate details, notable intact store front. Severe interior alterations but important survival of facade. C



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69. 203 Main Street by 1884	Little-altered, handsomely treated one-story Italianate brick commercial building, with corbeled arcade linking shop windows. Wholesale grocery in 1884, various subsequent uses. Like 68; notable survival despite present condition.		C
70. 205 Main St. date uncertain	Tall two-story brick building of uncertain date, probably early 20th century, with facade covered with plain sheathing that detracts from streetscape's historic character.		C/N
71. 207-209 Main St. by 1908	Small frame buildings occupied the site until ca. 1908 when the 1-story brick commercial units were built, but by 1913 a fire had damaged the structure (SM, SOD). Decorative corbeling and simple detail unite the two units of the building, which is similar to others in the area. Shop fronts altered.		C
72. 213 Main St. date uncertain- early 20th c.?	The small 1-story brick structure may date from as early as 1890 or a little later, and has served varied uses. Metal sheathing covers the facade.		N
73. Western Auto 215-217 Main St. 1880s Mid 20th c.	A brick structure of the present shape and size was here as early as 1884, and in the early 20th century was the home of Simmons furniture. It has served several commercial uses, but Simmons name survives on the sidewalk. Western Auto has covered the facade with plain sheathing. (SOD)		C/N
74. (Home Stereos) 219 Main Street by 1884	Handsome, boldly detailed late 19th century 2-story brick commercial structure. Vigorous arched labels top 6/6 windows at second level. Varied uses since 1884, when it appeared on Sanborn map. Store front altered.		C
75. 225-227 Main St. by 1884?/1965	Small, simple 1-story commercial units, possibly including fabric from structure standing by 1884 (SM); present owner believes date of 1890s or early 1900s, describes building as Rosenbaum Building; renovated 1965 (SOD)		C

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76. 229-231 Main St. 19th c.-- date uncertain	The two-story brick structure is similar to that standing by 1884, and has served a variety of commercial purposes. The 1882 Gray's map shows ownership by W. S. Battle and George Howard. Present owners claim date of ca. 1850s. This is quite possible. Renovation in 1966. Main facade has simple (closed) rectangular windows, pilasters, frieze; side elevation has arched windows. Shop fronts altered. Important early commercial building, handsome detail.	C
77. Masonic Building 301 Main St. 1908 - 1910	Unusually handsome, well-preserved 3-story commercial type building completed in 1910 as Masonic Temple, which had 1st story in commercial use (Cook's Drugstore), fraternal rooms above; this use continues with Concord Lodge #58 using the upper floor. Brickwork with quoins, bold contrasting stone window arches and lintels, and broad bracketed cornice are well preserved, and store front is flanked by pilasters.  The handsome building was designed by Herbert W. Simpson, a prolific turn-of-the-century New Bern architect, whose eclectic revival <u>oeuvre</u> includes the Carteret County Courthouse, Centenary Methodist Church in New Bern, and other N. C. buildings.	C
78. Marrow-Pitt Co., 305-307 Main St. ca. 1923	Two-story brick commercial building shown as "from plans" in 1923. Built by John R. Pender as hardware store. Belk-Tylers covered the facade with blank metal sheathing. Morrow-Pitt is long-time Tarboro firm.	C/N
79. 309 Main St. by 1908	Simple 1-story brick structure with plain facade, seen on 1908 SM, replacing frame one.	C?
80. Demolished since inventory began.		
81. NCNB 325 Main St. 1972	Low, concrete and brick bank building, erected on site of handsome, classical Edgecombe County Courthouse, built 1835, by Lynch & Whitice, enlarged 1912, by Wheeler and Stern of Charlotte. New courthouse opened 1964, permitting disuse and demolition of older one.	N

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82. 401 Main St. by 1884	Two-story brick commercial building, stuccoed elaborate brickwork cornice, linteled windows, altered storefront. Building of same size & shape here in 1884, present owner dates structure ca. 1918. Various uses, including bank, First National Bank in early 20th century. It had in early 20th century a dramatic parapetted roofline, now gone.	C,	
83. Creech Florist/ Zoeller's Drugstore 403 Main ST. by 1884?	Two story brick commercial building, handsome quoins and panels, important pressed tin ceiling. Building of similar shape and size here by 1884. This was longtime site of E. V. Zoeller & Co., Druggists. Zoeller was the son of the Bavarian fresco artist of the same name who worked in Tarboro in the mid 19th c. Traces of Zoeller's painted sign remain (1919) Important commercial building.	C	
84. 403 Main St. by 1884	Paired two-story brick commercial, detail similar to 83, quoins, cornices in brick. Built as pair, same size and shape since 1884 map, various commercial uses (SOD, SM) this building retains handsome interior plaster cornices. Medallions on upper floor. Important commercial building.	C	
85. W. S. Clark & Sons 409 Main St.	Present unified, rather new facade links two buildings evidently built between 1901 and 1908 (SOD, SM). Scale of present facade blends with streetscape, with windows, pilasters.	C/i	
86. 421 Main St. by 1923	Brick structure seen on 1923 map, said to have been Mobley's Tarboro Drug Company 1922-1973. Metal sheathing covers facade.	C/ii	
87. 423-427 Main St. by 1923	1-story brick structure built by 1923, replacing small frame building, serving various commercial uses. Recently covered with metal sheathing.	C/iii	

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88. Henry Clark Bridgers Building 431-435 Main Street 1907	Strikingly handsome early 20th century classical building, well-preserved, with rich detail including pilasters, grilles, cornices, frieze above first floor inscribed with "Post Office" & "Drugstore". Store fronts intact until recently when northern part was covered with metal sheathing; part has black and white tile. Interior features marble stair, brass rail, tile floors. 1913 Sanborn map notes construction of "reinforced concrete," 1908 said "fireproof adobe." This building was, it is said, designed and built by H. C. Bridgers (1876-1951). It housed not only the offices of the East Carolina Railway (with Bridgers as president and general manager) but also a drugstore, post office, etc.	C
89. Tarboro Savings & Loan 501 Main Street 1970s?	1-story modern brick bank, occupying site of dwelling that stood until at least 1931, identified as Dr. Baker's House (SOD, SM).	N
90. Courthouse Annex County Office Bldg. 507 Main St.	Two-story masonry structure built during 1930s by WPA, with stripped classical facade. Despite being less than 50 years old, its association with the nationally important WPA program and its unaltered facade give it significance. There are relatively few WPA buildings in Tarboro.	C
91. U. S. Post Office 525 Main Street 1914	This handsome classical public building is one of the oldest federal post offices still in use in the state. It was built on the site of a frame house, erected in 1914, from designs by supervising architect Oscar Wenderoth. Heavy Doric elements are well-executed, and the scale, materials, and classical character of the building blend well with the townscape. The building was greatly enlarged by an addition in 1964-1965, which blends well with the original.	P

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92. First Baptist Church  
605 Main Street  
1926-1928

The congregation has existed since 1819, with church buildings on other sites through most of the 19th cen. A frame church was built on this Main Street site in 1890, and the building sold to the St. Paul Baptist Church and moved to the corner of Edmondson and Lloyd streets when the present brick structure was built during the years 1926-1928. The symmetrical, classical facade is dominated by a pedimented portico and the church is surmounted by a steeple. The lot contains as well a recent, 1-story brick education building.

92A. Education Building  
1970s?

-----THE COMMON  
BEGIN RESIDENTIAL AGAIN

93. Carlisle House  
801 Main Street  
1. 19th c.  
by 1908

L-shaped frame Victorian house with kingpost gable decoration, recent wrought iron porch posts. Sam Carlisle longtime resident here (Nash).

94. Gatlin - Barden House  
805 Main Street  
1. 19th c.  
by 1908

Similar to 94, L-shaped, simple detailed Victorian frame house, Neo-Classical porch with Ionic columns Sheriff Ed Barden longtime (probably not earliest) resident here (Nash).

95. D. Pender House  
807 Main Street  
mid-19th c.

Boxy, two-story frame Greek Revival house with locally outstanding, sprightly sawnwork porch trim of Italianate inspiration. House may have been moved many years ago. Simple interior finish. Important antebellum component of Main Street. This is believed to be house noted as D. Pender's on 1882 map. E. G. Lind (Baltimore architect of Coolmore) recorded work of "Cottage for D. Pender, " possibly this, in 1860. Also, in 1860, David Pender bought 1-2/3 acres from Robert R. Bridgers for \$1,250, on the Town Common on the east side of Main Street. He mortgaged 1-1/2 acres of this in 1867. The house is typical of late antebellum work in town, and has rather simple interiors. There are several extension to the rear. It is an important element in North Main Street.

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96.	H. I. Johnson House 901 Main Street l. 19th c. by 1908	L-shaped 2-story Victorian frame house, later porch. H. I. Johnson longtime (not earliest) resident (Wash).	C
97.	Allsbrook-Vanlanding- ham House 903 Main Street l. 19th c. by 1908	L-shaped, 2-story Victorian frame house, Neo-Classi- cal porch with Ionic columns, turned balustrade, Queen Anne gable windows. Said erected for attor- ney Allsbrook (Nash).	C
98.	DeBerry-Sallee House 905 Main Street 1911 (Q) 1908-1913 (S)	Large, handsomely detailed frame Queen Anne house with irregular massive, full-blown ornament, porch with paired Ionic colonnettes, notable interiors. Built for Mr. and Mrs. G. T. DeBerry. Architect not known.	C
99.	Edgecombe Co. Library 909 Main Street ca. 1965	Modern Brick institutional building reflecting influence of International style in massing, flat roof, horizontal emphasis. Use and proportions, but not scale, contrast with surrounding historic fabric. Stands on site of notable mid-19th century house.	N
100.	Pippen House 1003 Main Street 1870s	Grand, beautifully sited high Victorian Italianate frame dwelling, one of few of era with lawn, plant- ings so spacious and intact. Similar in character to O. C. Farrar House (#548), beautifully preserved and intact. Built ca. 1870s and seen on GNM as home of W. M. Pippen, L-shaped, bracketed cornices and porch bay windows.	P
101.	Oats House 1101 Main Street by 1908	2-story frame Victorian house with Neo-Classical details gabled projections. Said built for John Oats family (FPJ).	C
102.	Zander House 1103 Main Street by 1908	Small, richly detailed Queen Anne cottage with decora- tive gables, wrap-around Neo-Classical porch, probably later. Said built for Zander family (FPJ).	C
102A.	(site of Synogogue, razed)	Brown House to be moved here from Pitt Street (#357)	

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103A. Hart House 1109 Main Street 1909 (Q)	Rare example in Tarboro of full-blown, columned Neo-Classical house with full height portico, here in Corinthian order with 1-story flanking Ionic porch, porte cochere. Built for Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hart in 1909; he was "churchman, business man and farmer."		C
104. L. E. Fountain House 1201 Main Street by 1913 1880s?	2-story frame house with gables, bracketed eaves of late 19th century, probably slightly later Neo-Classical porch. Said longtime home of mule dealer Lafayette ("Fate") Fountain; but not built for him.		C
105. Orren Williams House 1205 Main Street by 1913 1890 (Q)	2-story frame L-shaped Victorian house, bracketed eaves, gables, intact porch. Said built 1890 for Civil War veteran Captain Orren Williams. House described as having innovative cistern with filters that supplied neighbors with drinking water. Kitchen was linked to dining room by roofed porch passage (Q)		C
106. Bynum House 1209 Main St. l. 19th c. by 1913	Notable 2-story frame Italianate house with projecting gabled central pavilion, rich pierced gable decorations, triangular-arched labels at paired windows. Setting spacious.		C
107. Whitney Bridgers House 1301 Main Street 1890s? by 1913	L-shaped frame Queen Anne cottage with original porch and rich gable ornament, Queen Anne windows in gables. This side of block notable grouping of similar houses of this type and scale.		C
108. W. B. Wooten House 1303 Main Street by 1913	Similar to 107, simpler porch later		C
109. Luther Brown House 1305 Main Street by 1913	Similar to above, porch original, sawn and turned trim.		C
110. R. B. Havens House 1307 Main Street 1913	Similar to above, with heavy bungalow-type porch ca. 1920		C

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111.	Taylor Morrow House 1315 Main Street by 1913	Larger version of this house type, extending to rear, with Queen Anne cottage format, detail, and wrap-around simple Neo-Classical porch.	C
112.	R. Constantine House 1407 Main Street ca. 1915?	Small, simple bungalow type with jerkinhead gable end roof; porch posts replaced with wrought iron. Modest housing type typical of many in Tarboro.	C
ST. ANDREW STREET; WEST SIDE MOVING NORTH TO SOUTH  (RESIDENTIAL)			
113.	H. D. Teele House 1304 St. Andrew mid-20th c.	1-story brick ranch	I
114.	Mrs. G. H. Fountain House 1302 St. Andrew post 1931	Substantial 2-story frame traditional house, "colonial" details, replacing duplexes on site in 1931.	N
115.	M. J. Moye House 1300 St. Andrew post 1931.	2-story gable roof brick traditional house, "colonial" details.	N
116.	Pender House SW corner Johnston & Andrew Streets	1-story, simple detailed L-shaped frame dwelling, 1 of notable, consistent row of similar modest houses seen on SM by 1923, probably earlier. Some have differing gable or porch treatment but function as members of related, small-scale grouping. Chimney at angle of L, interior. These are said to have been built by Lichtenstein family as rental houses.	C
(The corner house originally faced St. Andrew but the entry has been shifted to face Johnston.)			
116A.	Mrs. Perry Pitt House 1210 St. Andrew ca. 1900 (by 1908)	Similar to above.	



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117. _____ House 1208 St. Andrew St. ca. 1900 by 1908	Similar to above.		C
118. _____ House 1206 St. Andrew ca. 1900 by 1908	Similar to above		C
119. R. E. J. Pitt House 1204 St. Andrew ca. 1900 by 1908	Similar to above		C
120. Jim Lloyd House 1202 St. Andrew ca. 1900 by 1908	Similar to above, but reverse plan, slightly larger with decorative detail. This house is like 107-110 on N. Main Street, directly behind.		C
121. Burnett House 1112 St. Andrew ca. 1900? by 1908	1-story frame house, hip roof, gables, turned porch posts; one of group of coeval modest housing giving street its character.		C
122. B. M. Hart Rental House 1110 St. Andrew mid-20th c.	1-story frame house, similar in scale but not form to neighbors. Built by Hart as rental property. (FPJ)		N
123. Pender Museum 1018 St. Andrew early 19th c. moved to site: Mid-20th c.	1-1/2 story frame plantation dwelling of high quality moved to site, restored, and open to public. Notable early rural domestic architecture. Listed in NR.		P
124. Swimming Pool _____ St. Andrew after 1931	Swimming pool, public, with chain link fence. This was a WPA project.		N

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125. Blount-Bridgers House St. Andrew at Bridgers St early 19th c.	Extremely important early vestige of Tarboro's traditional early 19th century domestic architecture, this is one of the finest of its period in town. Gable roof, double chimneys, modillion cornice, excellent interiors, handsome latticed porch (probably mid-19th c.). Built for prominent early citizen, Thomas Blount. It was a suburban estate when built, not a town house. Notable later residents include Louis D. Wilson, John L. Bridgers and his family, etc. To be restored for new adaptive use following long use as school offices. NR		P
126. Ruffin House 1014 St. Andrew by 1908 ca. 1900?	1-story Queen Anne cottage type house much altered and brick veneered.		C/N
127. Howard Roberson House 1012 St. Andrew 1920s	1-story modest bungalow type frame dwelling gable end to street		C
128. G. M. Fountain, Jr. House 1004 St. Andrew mid-20th c.	1-story modest ranch type house built for Judge Fountain when married; he was raised in #1000 (below).		N
129. G. M. Fountain, Sr. House 1000 St. Andrew by 1908	Expansive 1-story frame Queen Anne Cottage with decorative gables, other detail; possibly 2 houses joined or a duplex. Fountain longtime resident, not builder.		C
130. Dr. H.S. Hussey House 908 St. Andrew post 1931	2-story brick late Colonial Revival house, similar to others in town. Built for Dr. M. W. Deloatch (FPJ)		N
131. Pippin Dependencies/ Marvin Horton House 900 St. Andrew post 1931	1 and 2-story rambling frame house of uncertain date, probably post-1931. Said (FPJ) to be two dependencies of Pippin House (#100) joined together by Marshall Staton.		C/N

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132. J. H. Jacocks House 822 St. Andrew by 1908	Large 2-story frame house, on SM by 1908, irregular massing of Queen Anne style, Neo-Classical elements including porch. Attributed to Rocky Mount architect-builder S. S. Toler.		C
133. C. A. Johnston House 816 St. Andrew by 1908	Large 2-story frame Queen Anne/Neo-Classical House, SM by 1908, notable corner porch pergola. The handsome, well-preserved house is described by present owner (daughter of original owner) as the work of architect Stout; she recalls seeing bills from Stout for the work. (John C. Stout of Rocky Mount, who designed other houses in Tarboro.) Present owner recalls the house was built between 1898 and 1900 for her father. C. A. Johnston, who came from Norfolk and was associated with F. S. Royster in fertilizer business, later became president of the local firm. Johnston had broad interests in Tarboro business, industrial, and civic affairs, a major force in the town in his lifetime.		C
134. Dancy House 812 St. Andrew by 1908	Queen Anne L-shaped cottage, original porch on 1908 SM. One of several of type in area. Built by Frank Dancy, home of son J. Spencer Dancy.		C
135. Davis House 810 St. Andrew by 1908, 1904 (Q)	Queen Anne cottage, original porch, complex form Said built 1904 by Mr. Robert M. Davis, Sr., as rental residence. Son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Davis, Jr., lived there many years. The elder Davis was superintendent of schools in Tarboro. (Q)		C
136. Joe Cohen House 806 St. Andrew by 1908 ca. 1900	Queen Anne cottage, original porch, complex form.		C
137. "Austin " 616 St. Andrew pre-1843	Simple, boxy frame 2-story house, simple vernacular Greek Revival detail. Later 19th century porch. Said to date from before 1843.		C



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145. Dancy-Battle-Bass Clark House 601 St. Andrew by 1825	One of the finest Federal style houses surviving in Tarboro, this house has recently gone extensive renovation which have retained most of its character, including the basic form, excellent woodwork, notable chimneys, and plan. Some late 19th century alterations have been given a more Federal character. An important house probably representative of its lost contemporaries. Built by 1825 for Francis L. Dancy, who owned the entire block which included domestic dependencies. Mary Eliza Dancy married W. S. Battle; later home of Dr. S. P. Bass (born here 1883) and recently in locally prominent Clark family, including W. S. and Russell Clark.	P
146. Town Common	A vital open space of great historic importance to the town established at its founding in 1760. There were originally commons on all sides; this, the north one, survives -- a rare example of its type in the south and a crucial open space in Tarboro. N.R.Listed.	P
147. Paul McCabe House 805 St. Andrew 1908-1913 SM	Boxy, 2-story frame house with proportions suggestive of a Prairie style influence, detail of Colonial Revival character, including wraparound porch with paired and tripled Ionic columns, porte cochere. Built for McCabe - first resident (FPJ).	C
148. J. C. Ruffin House 809 St. Andrew 1908-1913	A near twin to 147. Built for Ruffin (FPJ), first resident	C
149. A. T. Nicholson House 813 St. Andrew new 1923	Small bungalow, gable roof, intersecting gable and porch, brackets. Built for Nicholson - first resident (FPJ)	C
150. Doris Moore House 815 St. Andrew new 1923	Small bungalow, gable roof covers porch, large shed dormer, side hall entrance, brackets. Built by J. E. Simmons for rental (FPJ)	C
151. Creech House 817 St. Andrew new 1923	Boxy, 2-story frame house, simple treatment, massive porch posts. Built for V. H. Creech as home Still in family.	C

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152.	Presbyterian Manse 905 St. Andrew c. 1920?	Large frame bungalow with gable roof covering porch, large central shed dormer, brackets, Reached its present form by 1923-in 1908 and 1913; a 1-story house of slightly different form stood here; it may be incorporated in the present bungalow.	
153.	E. H. Lewis House 1005 St. Andrew by 1908	1-story multigabled frame house, long porch, late vernacular type. Originally duplex expanded considerably between 1913 and 1923.	
154.	Jack Hicks House 1007 St. Andrew by 1908	1-story gabled T-shaped frame house, simple detail, central chimney, late vernacular type.	
155.	_____ House 1009 St. Andrew new in 1923	1-story frame small bungalow type house, jerkin-head gable roof, shed/hip porch; common type in Tarboro, region. It is on 1923 SM, twin next door is not, pinpointing construction at the time. These were and are rental houses.	C
156.	_____ House 1911 St. Andrew built soon after 1923	Near twin to 155.	
157.	DeBerry House 1015 St. Andrew by 1908	L-shaped 1-story dwelling, exterior end chimneys, somewhat altered. Late vernacular type. Said moved from Palmyra Community by G. T. DeBerry while he was building his house (#98) on Main Street (FPJ).	
158.	Richard Josey-Moore House 1103 St. Andrew by 1923 apparently new then	Substantial, stuccoed, bracketed house with hip roof, clustered windows, vaguely Mediterranean flavor; typical of eclecticism of 1920s. Notable. Built for Josey (FPJ).	C
159.	Shugar House 1107 St. Andrew 1923-1931	1-story jerkinhead brick house, pedimented porch; Built for rental by P. Shugar (FPJ).	C
160.	Dr. H. E. Weeks House 1109 St. Andrew After 1931	1-story L-shaped frame cottage, gables. Weeks builders and occupant (FPJ).	N

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161. Dr. G. E. Weeks House 1111 St. Andrew ca. 1915? by 1923	2 1/2 story boxy frame house with Queen Anne holdovers in projecting gable bays; Colonial Revival detail, broad porch, upper pedimented gable dormer. Weeks builder & occupant (FPJ).		C
162. Bridgers House 1201 St. Andrew by 1913 (no map earlier)	L-shaped 1-story frame Queen Anne cottage, notable polygonal bay, gables with brackets, decorative porch. Said built over 68 years ago for Marcus and Loulie Bridgers, later home of prominent elementary school teacher and principal, Mary Horne Bridgers. (Q)		N
163. Williford House 1203 St. Andrew ca. 1950?	1-story L-shaped frame cottage with center gable; Williford builder & occupant (FPJ).		N
164. "Red" Harper House 1205 St. Andrew 1923-1925	1-story bungalow, massive gable end roof covering porch, dramatic low massing; very characteristic. Harper builder - occupant (FPJ).		C
165. J. C. Martin House 1207 St. Andrew by 1923	2-story frame house, simple detail, screen porch. Martin builder & occupant, was town superintendent.		C
166. Palamontain House 1209 St. Andrew 1880s?	2-story frame, symmetrical house with bold porch and gable ornament, notable condition. Palamontain was builder - occupant. Family antebellum immigrants to Tarboro, English.		C
167. H. E. Bourne House 1303 St. Andrew 1923-1931	2-story frame late Colonial Revival House, 1920s. Bourne builder - occupant.		C
168. Lyn Bond House 1307 St. Andrew 1925 (Q)	2-story brick Colonial Revival house, unusually viror-ous detail, including massive pediment over door, arched dormers. Built for Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Bond 1925, modeled on Westover as example, and using plans of another house in Emporia, Va. Mrs. Bond supervised construction, which was done by David Harris, Tarboro builder. Doorway, copied from Westover, said to be by a Salisbury, N. C., craftsman. SM 1923-1931.		C
169. John Trueblood House 1311 St. Andrew after 1931	2-story brick house with Colonial details, not on 1931 N SM. MP recalls this as early work by builder Charlie Pulley (his father) as building slowly began again in the mid-1930s. Built for Trueblood.		N

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| 170. Havens House<br>1403 St. Andrews<br>ca. 1881                | 2-story frame gable roof dwelling with rich Italian-ate and other detail. Spacious, handsome grounds. Built Frank Havens, still in family. Family dates construction at 1881; seen on 1882 map. Mrs. Havens was a Walston and her parents had the house built for the Havens couple. Mrs. Havens carefully watched construction process and materials, the family recalls and furniture was bought in Norfolk in 1881 and came up the Tar River. |         |
| 171. W. B. Howell House<br>1405 St. Andrew<br>after 1931         | 2-story brick house with Colonial details. Howell builder - first occupant.  | N       |
| 172. Coates-Walston House<br>1503 St. Andrew<br>ca. 1860         | Picturesque brick cottage type, influenced by pattern books of Calvert Vaux, A. J. Downing, etc., and believed to have been built by Thomas Coates, contractor who worked with architect William Percival in late 1850s in Raleigh, Tarboro. In Willie Walston family much of late 19th century (1882 map). Notable outbuildings, landscaping, and well-preserved exterior and interior fabric. Unusual for Tarboro and region. NR.              | P       |
| ST. PATRICK STREET, WEST SIDE, MOVING NORTH TO SOUTH             |  |         |
| 173. Sheffield House<br>1304 St. Patrick                         | 1 1/2 story brick picturesque house with Tudor detail "half-timbering." This and #174 are unusually early examples of this type cottage here. Thought built for Sheffield family.  | N       |
| 174. Babcock House<br>1302 St. Patrick<br>by 1931                | 1 1/2 story brick house; builder and first occupant Babcock family.  | N       |
| 175. B. D. Causway House<br>1206 St. Patrick<br>by 1923, altered | 1-story hip roof house, brick veneered, wrought iron porch posts added, etc.   | C/N     |
| 176. Crane-Graham House<br>1202 St. Patrick                      | 2-story, simple frame gable roof house. Said moved from Pittman Hospital Nurses home by Presbyterian church for assistant pastor Crane.  | C       |



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177. J. S. Hoard House 1108 St. Patrick ca. 1900? (by 1923)	1-story gabled frame house, large porch, slight Queen Anne detail. Hoard builder-occupant.	C
178. Paul Warren House 1106 St. Patrick 1950s/1960s	Brick ranch house.	N
179. Former Episcopal Rectory 1102 St. Patrick ca. 1900?	2-story frame gable roof house with Italianate details, brackets, rear ell. Handsomely sited. P.C. shows it home of Rev. F. M. Harding, said built for Harding, rector early 1900s.	C
180. Present Episcopal Rectory 1008 St. Patrick Post 1931	2-story frame house with Colonial detail.	N
181. Frank Pender House 1004 St. Patrick ca. 1915?	1 1/2 story frame bungalow with hip dormer, notable tapered sheathed porch posts. Pender builder-occupant.	C
182. Ricks House 1000 St. Patrick ca. 1900?	1 1/2 story Queen Anne cottage of simple form with later bungalow-type porch supports, many gables, Ricks builder-owner.	C
183. Robert Rowe House 904 St. Patrick ca. 1900?	1 1/2 story frame Queen Anne cottage decorated gables, Neo-Classical Ionic porch posts, louvered vents, Rowes builder-owners.	C
184. House 900 St. Patrick by 1908	Unusual form frame house, altered into apartments.	C
185. W. L. Simmons House 814 St. Patrick ca. 1900?	1-story frame Queen Anne cottage, high hip roof, multiple gables, extensive plan. Simmons owner-builder.	C
186. Dr. James Philips House 812 St. Patrick by 1908.	1-story gable roof cottage with broad classical porch; date uncertain, but present by 1908. Builder-owner Philips.	C

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187.	J. L. Hearne House 810 St. Patrick by 1908.	2-story L-shaped house, simple detail. Built for self by Hearne.	C
188.	E. V. Zoeller House 806 St. Patrick 1923-1931	Boxy, 2-story frame house, 1-story addition; Zoeller builder-owner.	C
189.	R. B. Peters House 804 St. Patrick by 1908.	1-story frame house, possibly remodeling of house there in 1908.	C
190.	J. W. Forbes House 800 St. Patrick by 1908	1-story L-shaped frame house with Queen Anne and Neo-Classical detail, clustered "Doric" posts	C
191.	W. G. Clark House 600 St. Patrick by 1901	Large, irregularly massed Queen Anne house altered by application of brick veneer, apparently removal of characteristic ornament.	C
192.	Holderness House 508 St. Patrick 1890-1900	Unusually fine, well-preserved Queen Anne house irregular massing, pediments, gables turrets, dormers, rich surface ornament and variety of material. Neo-Classical porch. Built 1890-1900 by George Howard for his daughter Harriet and her husband George Holderness (1867-1947) prominent Tarboro business leader, who was a founder of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. One report describes it as the work of S. S. Toler, Rocky Mount builder (MP).	P
193.	Mary Howard House 506 St. Patrick 1960	Brick ranch house	N
194.	Edmondson House 408 St. Patrick by 1896? same in 1913	1-story L-shaped, simple detail	C
195.	Manly Mann House 406 St. Patrick by 1913 (not in 1908)	1-story L-shaped house, simple detail; similar to but apparently later than 194, according to SM. Mann builder-owner	C

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196.	J. B. Green House 400-402 St. Patrick ?	1-story house, probably 1940s?	Rental. N
197.	House 308 St. Patrick mid-20th c.	2-story brick house, "Colonial" detail.	Former nurses home for Edgecombe General Hospital. N
198.	Edgecombe Co. Welfare Dept. Building 300 St. Patrick mid-20th c.	1-story flat roof brick institutional office;	Old Clinic Building. N
199.	St. Stephens Church St. Patrick by 1901	Frame church building, vernacular Gothic Revival, with pointed arched windows, central board and batten tower with louvered arched openings, pin- nacles. At end of street located near river area. After 1882. First coverage of area by SM, 1901 shows it as 2nd Baptist Church (colored).	C
ST. PATRICK STREET, EAST SIDE, MOVING SOUTH TO NORTH			
200.	House 103 St. Patrick mid-20th c.	Small frame ranch house, picture window.	N
GRANVILLE STREET			
201.	Bob Cosby House 301 Granville late 19th c.	1-story frame dwelling, symmetrical facade, well-pre- served porch treatment with sawn balustrade. Built for Cosby for home.	C
203.	House 205 St. Patrick 1920s/?	1-story gable end simplified bungalow.	C
204.	Howard Memorial Presby- terian Church St. Patrick Street 1908-1909 <i>James 303 E. St. J.S.</i>	Vigorous eclectic brick church combining Romanesque and classical elements. Skillful brickwork, notable glass. Well-preserved. The church building was given in memory of Judge George Howard (1829-1905) and his wife Anna S. Howard. He was a prominent business figure, she one of the "Three Annas" who are remem- bered as establishing the Presbyterian Church in the 1870s. The "Three Annas" -- Mrs. Howard, Anna Horne,	P

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204. (continued) Macnair and Anna Stronach Wilkinson, had been raised elsewhere as Presbyterians, came to Tarboro as brides, and worked to establish a church of their faith. The original building, a Carpenter Gothic structure, is said to have been designed by these women, and built in 1874. After George Howard's death in 1905, the Howard children announced their intention to give a new building. The old building was given to the Eastern Star Baptist church a black congregation, and moved to the corner of Wagner and Church Streets where it now stands. The May 27, 1909, Southerner described the new building as "In architecture . . . pure Grecian, except the small, short steeple, of brick, native white granite, and terra cotta. The architect is not known.
205. Former Presbyterian Manse House  
401 St. Patrick  
1901 - 1908 SM 2-1/2 story boxy frame dwelling with simple Neo-Classical detail especially in porch; hip roof and central dormer typical of era. PC shows it as home of Mrs. S. P. Jenkins. Presbyterian Manse early 20th c. - 1943.
206. Duplex House  
403-405 St. Patrick  
1901-1908 2-1/2 story frame dwelling with massing recalling Queen Anne style. Present porch detracts from integrity of building, but overall form is intact. Former home of Mrs. Orren Williams, Jr.
207. Clark-Cotten House  
407 St. Patrick  
antebellum 2-story frame house built in antebellum era (local information states ca. 1830), retains some original fabric, especially interior. Some exterior detail of post-Civil War era. Stood originally around corner on Church Street; moved to present site early 20th c. Interior is of simple, locally typical late Greek Revival character. Home of Gov. H. T. Clark. Probably built by James W. Clark, father of Gov. Clark. Home of Josaph Cotten, movie actor, was of this family and is described as having lived in this house. C
208. Cheshire-Winslow House  
503 St. Patrick  
ca. 1915-1920 Picturesque, atypical frame dwelling with very steep gable roof, central gables, gable dormers, bay windows. Built for John and Helen Cheshire on Cheshire family block (see 423, 425).

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209. R. Howard House 507 St. Patrick post -1931	Luxuriously detailed late Colonial Revival house, which post dates 1931 but harmonizes with character of district. Built 1950s for Howard.	N
210. Lipscomb-Wilkinson-Staton Hs. 601 St. Patrick 1858	Boxy, 2-story dwelling with hip roof; was frame as late as 1901, stuccoed in 20th century. Greek Revival detail, central hall plan. Notable sawn trim of sunporch on south side. Built by George B. Lipscombe, who advertised it as newly built in 1858: a "splendid two-story residence on St. Patrick's street, which he has recently completed," with a verandah front and rear. ( <u>Southerner</u> , 1-2-58). On January 30th it was reportedly sold to J.J.B. Pender for \$6500.00. Important as only known example of Lipscombe's work in town. Originally frame with a "Tarboro lattice" porch, it was altered and stuccoed by Dr. L. L. Staton. In the interim, Frank Wilkinson, who ran the Tarborough Academy, lived here (he bought it in 1879).	C/i
211. H. S. Bunn House 803 St. Patrick late 19th c.?	2-story L-shaped frame house, simple detail; simplified Queen Anne massing. Noe-Classical "Doric" porch probably early 20th century. Bunn builder-owner.	C
212. J. W. Wiggins House 805 St. Patrick late 19th c.	2-story frame house, simple detail, pedimented gables; simplified Queen Anne massing. Broad porch with "Doric" posts. Wiggins builder-owner.	C
213. Jacocks House 807 St. Patrick 1914 (Q)	1-story bungalow of unusually complex massing, notable detail well-preserved. Said built for Anna Jacocks in 1914 by local builder Charlie Pulley; son, Merkley Pulley a prominent restoration craftsman in Tarboro (Q).	C
214. Leroy Bell House 811 St. Patrick early 20th c.	1-story, stuccoed cottage with interesting, repeated jerkinhead roof, some bungalow details; replacement wrought-iron porch posts. Bell builder-owner.	C
215. C. H. Fluck House 813 St. Patrick early 20th c.	2 1/2 story boxy frame hip roof house with central hip roof dormer; pedimented 2-story bays of Queen Anne form. Neo-classical wraparound porch with Doric type posts.	C

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216. Robert J. Pender House 901 St. Patrick early 20th c.	1-story dwelling with hip roof and front central gable. Date uncertain, probably ca. 1900. Porch with gallery probably later.	C
217. H. B. Keehl House 903 St. Patrick late 19th-early 20th c.	1-story frame dwelling with high hip roof, front central gable, intact front porch with sawn and turned trim. 216 may once have been more similar to this than it now is. Keehl builder-owner.	
218. House 905 St. Patrick late 19th-early 20th c.	L-shaped 1-story dwelling with simple late 19th c. detail.	C
219. House 907 St. Patrick late 19th c.?	1-story house with gable roof, central chimney, simple detail. Duplex format with two front doors; asymmetrical facade; reflects long retention of some vernacular forms.	C
220. J. D. Woodley House 1003 St. Patrick early 20th c.	Boxy 2-1/2 story frame house with hip roof, broad porch, typical of period. Central hip roof dormer. Woodley builder-owner.	C
221. W. P. Bryan House 1005 St. Patrick early 20th c.	Asymmetrical 1-story bungalow, shingled porch gable end facing street, well-preserved detail. Bryan builder-owner.	C
222. R. J. Walker House 1007 St. Patrick late 19th-early 20th c.	1-story L-shaped frame dwelling with simple detail. Walker builder-owner.	C
223. Frank Brown House 1009 St. Patrick late 19th-early 20th c.	1-story Queen Anne cottage with high hip roof and irregular massing, expansive plan, wraparound Neo-Classical porch with Doric posts. Brown not first owner.	C
224. W. H. MacNair House 1103 St. Patrick late 19th-early 20th c. 1913 (Q)	Large, expansive Queen Anne style house with handsome, richly ornamented wraparound porch and corner pergola; sawn and turned decoration is notable; irregular massing, high hip roof with gables and dormer. Said to have been built for McNair family.	F
225. Randolph House 1107 St. Patrick date uncertain	1-story frame house, date uncertain.	

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| 226. Purvis House<br>1109 St. Patrick<br>late 19th-early<br>20th c. | 1-story L-shaped cottage with unusual, delicate sawn and turned openwork frieze of porch.   |         |
| 227. Dew House<br>1203 St. Patrick<br>early 20th c.                 | 1-1/2 story bungalow with central shed dormer, engaged porch, typical detail. Built as rental house.  |         |
| 228. Luther Stancil Hs.<br>1205 St. Patrick                         | 1-story dwelling with pyramidal hip roof extending to shelter porch with bungalow-type posts. Stancil builder-owner.  |         |
| 229. Dr. Graham House<br>1207 St. Patrick<br>by 1931<br>(1920 mp)   | 1-story frame L-shaped dwelling, casement windows; gable end chimney facing street; brackets. This house, recalled his son, was the first built by Tarboro builder Charlie Pulley when he went into business for himself in 1920. Graham was a veterinarian (MP). |         |

ST. DAVID STREET, WEST SIDE, GOING NORTH TO SOUTH

- |  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| 230. House<br>1106 St. David<br>mid-20th c.  | 1-1/2 story brick house with dormers, "Colonial" detail.      |     |
| 231. House<br>1104 St. David<br>mid-20th c.  | 1-story brick ranch.  |     |
| 232. House<br>1102? St. David<br>mid-20th c. | 1-1/2 story brick ranch, "Colonial" detail.                   |     |
| 233. House<br>1012 St. David<br>by 1931      | 1-story shingled dwelling, complex roofline, bungalow detail. |     |
| 234. House<br>1010 St. David<br>by 1931      | 1-1/2 story frame house, complex roof, bungalow detail.       |     |
| 235. House<br>1002 St. David<br>post-1931    | 1-story frame hip roof house, bungalow detail.                | N/C |

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236.	St. Catherine's Catholic Church 1004 St. David 1929	Domestic scale building of Tudor Revival character (unusual in town), church usage.	C
237.	House 920 St. David 1923-1931	1-story frame dwelling, triple door & windows.	C
238.	House 918 St. David 1923-1931	1-story frame house, picturesque mode, steep central front gable.	C
239.	House 916 St. David 1923-1931	1-story simple gable end bungalow, jerkinhead roof, Typical format.	C
240.	House 914 St. David 1923-1931	1-story small frame house, gable end screen porch.	C
241.	House 912 St. David 1923-1931	1-story simple gable end bungalow, jerkinhead roof.	C
242.	House 910 St. David 1923-1931	Forceful, low 1½-story bungalow, massive porch posts, notable stuccoed walls with irregular stones in- corporated into surfaces.	C
243.	House 908 St. David 1923-1931	1½-story frame bungalow, irregular facade, center gable dormer.	C
244.	House 906 St. David. 1923-1931	1-story simple frame dwelling, some alterations.	C/N
245.	House 904 St. David by 1923	1-story small frame dwelling, tiny scale.	C
246.	House 810 St. David 1923-1931	1½-story bungalows, shed dormer, porch extends to create porte cochere.	C
247.	House 808 St. David (by 1923) 1922	2-story brick Colonial Revival house, side porch and porte cochere. Vigorous detail, double windows. Built 1922 by an architect and contracting company from Wilson for Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Spier. (Q)	C



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248.	House 806 St. David 1920s	2-story frame boxy house, hip roof; typical form, C
249.	House 804 St. David by 1923	1-1/2 story bungalow, pyramidal roof with dormer shelters deep porch. C
250.	House 802 St. David by 1923	Boxy 2-story frame house, simple detail. C
251.	House 506 St. David	1-story gable roof cottage. Date uncertain, probably mid 20th c.? N
252.	House 310 St. David	Simple 1-story gable end dwelling, brackets. C
253.	House 208 St. David	1-story traditional gable roof frame house, central chimney; aluminum sided. C
254.	House 112 St. David by 1923, probably a lot earlier	2-story traditional frame house, probably late 19th century version of standard type. Pivotal ending for street before open area. C
ST. DAVID STREET, EAST SIDE, GOING SOUTH TO NORTH		
255.	House St. David mid-20th c.	Simple 1-story frame house, asbestos siding. I
256.	Parker-DeLoach House 301 St. David early 19th c.	1-story frame dwelling with exterior end chimneys, simple early finish including beaded siding, tiny gable windows, beaded raking board. Interior retains vernacular Federal era finish. An important example of modest early house type in Tarboro; form is tradi- tional and recurs throughout 19th century; this is one of earliest small houses in town. 1882 map shows M. E. Parker name. )

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257.	House 303 St. David mid-20th c.	Modest 1-story brick ranch type.	
258.	House 305 St. David mid-20th c.	Small gable end concrete block structure; material not scale intrusive.	
259.	House 309 St. David late 19th c.?	Small L-shaped frame dwelling.	
260.	House 315 St. David L. 19th/mid-20th c.	Small 1-story frame late 19th c. house remodeled in mid-20th c.	C/T
261	Moore House 507 St. David mid-19th c. (antebellum)	Small 1-story hip roof frame house, side hall plan, 2 bays wide; vernacular Greek Revival detail. Geometric sawnwork porch supports typical of town in this era. Notable large lawn, with iron fence by Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnati. Small frame outbuilding. This is probably the house referred to in a Tarboro <u>Southerner</u> article of 10-59, stating that 1/3 of lots 22 and 33, between St. James and Church Streets together with the "neat little building recently erected thereon," owned and occupied by William A. Moore, had been purchased by George B. Lipscombe for \$1405. (SMB files)	
262.	Miss Emma Barker Hs. 513 St. David 1920's	Well-preserved bungalow, gable dormer. Miss Parker owner-builder.	
263.	Robert Edmondson Hs. 601 St. David by 1923	1-story brick and stucco bungalow; material contrasts with more usual frame in this era. Edmondson builder-owner.	
264.	Sol Edwards House 605 St. David early 20th c.	1-story multigabled cottage.	
265.	Thos. P. Barden Hs. 609 St. David	1-story gable roof dwelling, central chimney.	
266.	House 805 St. David date uncertain probably ca. 1900	Massive 2-story gable end multi-family dwelling 1 of several of type in town; unusual format.	

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267.	House 807 St. David after 1931	1-story gable end frame bungalow, gable roof extends to shelter porch.	C
268.	House 809 St. David after 1931	1½-story frame house, "Colonial" detail.	N
269.	Ruth Ballard House 813 St. David mid-20th c.	Frame ranch house.	N
270.	W. J. Livesay Hs. 815 St. David 1920s	1½-story bungalow, gable dormer and porch supports shingled.	N
271.	House 903 St. David by 1923	1-story gable roof house, arched door and flanking windows. Date uncertain.	C
272.	House 905 St. David by 1923	1½-story frame bungalow, hip roof covers porch, hip roof dormer.	C
273.	Cherry House 907 St. David 1925 (Q)	1½-story frame dormer/ jerkinhead roof covers shed porch; jerkinhead dormer with paired colonnettes flanking recessed double window/ similar colonnettes on porch. Notable and vigorous blend of Colonial Revival and bungalow modes. Said built for Cherry family 1925 by Charlie Pulley (see #213). Present owner, for whom it was built, recalls that after she came from Wilson to Tarboro in 1923, she saw a house when riding around in Wilson and wanted one like it. She and her husband obtained the plans from Williams Lumber Company in Wilson, Mr. Cherry took Charlie Pulley to see the Wilson example and the Tarboro house was built by Mr. Pulley: "We started on it the next day." (Interview, CWB with Mrs. Cherry, 1-16-79).	C/1

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274.	House 909 St. David 1923-1931	Boxy, 2-story frame house, central shallow gable interrupting hip roof; wraparound porch.
275.	House 911 St. David 1923-1931	Boxy, 2-story frame house; apparently a remodeled version of 274.
276.	House 913 St. David 1923-1931	1-story frame cottage, date uncertain, 1930s or 1940s?
277.	House 915 St. David 1923-1931	1-story gable end; jerkinhead roof; simple dwelling simplified bungalow bracket detail.
278.	House 917 St. David 1923-1931	1-story gable end dwelling, jerkinhead roof; roof extends front to cover deep porch; triple window with miniature "balcony" in gable; amplified version of 277.
279.	House 919 St. David after 1931	1-story gable roof brick house, engaged porch.
280.	House 1003 St. David 1950s	1-story L-shaped brick house.
281.	House 1005 St. David 1923-1931	1-story frame house, multigabled; bungalow detail.
282.	House 1007 St. David by 1923	1½-story frame bungalow, shed dormer.
283.	House 1009 St. David by 1923	1-story brick house, gable roof, wrought iron posts.
284.	Claude Wilson House 1011 St. David by 1931	Bold 2-story frame gable end house, bungalow bracket detail. Wilson builder-owner.
*285.	House 1101 St. David	1-story frame house, front curved steep gable, chimney picturesque cottage type of 1940s.
*286.	House 1103 St. David	1-story brick, stucco, half-timbered picturesque cottage N?

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\* 287. House 1½-story brick picturesque gabled cottage  
1105 St. David  
1940s?

\* 288. W. J. Ausbon House Similar type to 287.  
1107 St. David  
1940s?

WEST SIDE PANOLA STREET, GOING NORTH TO SOUTH

289. House Tiny concrete block structure.  
510 Panola  
mid-20th c.

290. House Typical jerkinhead gable end house, bungalow detail  
508 Panola  
1923-1931

291. House 1-story L-shaped gable roof house, center chimney.  
506 Panola  
by 1913

292. Store? 1-story frame commercial type building, stepped parapet  
502 Panola facade, shed porch; now a church.  
b/w 23 & 31

293. House Small 1-story hip roof frame house, duplex housing.  
310-312 Panola  
by 1913

EAST SIDE PANOLA, GOING SOUTH TO NORTH

294. House 1-story L-shaped frame house, poor condition, slated  
217 Panola for demolition (gone).

295. House Similar to 294.  
215 Panola

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- | CONTINUATION SHEET   | ITEM NUMBER | PAGE 42  |
|--|-------------|--|
| 296. St. Luke's Episcopal Church<br>Panola<br>1892-1894  |             | Simplified version of late Gothic Revival style, gable end building with lancet windows, corner tower. Simple exterior contrasts with richly finished, unaltered interior with dramatic late Gothic Revival detail. Church established in 1872, closely associated with nearby Calvary Church. A pivotal building and institution in the community, loved and preserved by congregation. Erected in 1892-1893. The tower was completed 1894. |
| 297. House<br>309 Panola Street  |             | 1-story simple L-shaped house, poor condition  |
| 298. House<br>313 Panola Street  |             | 2-story frame traditional dwelling, with "brick" covering; gable roof, shed porch.   |
| 299. House<br>409 Panola<br>by 1913  |             | 1-story gable roof brick office structure; medical office.   |
| 300. Masonic Lodge<br>415 Panola Street<br>by 1913   |             | 2-story frame structure, gable end facing street, notable institutional building in community.   |
| 301-307 Eastside Panola St.  |             | Omitted since inventoried, owing to demolitions, alterations, condition.   |
| WATER STREET   |             |  |
| 308. Moore Lumber Company Warehouse (Cotton and Peanut Warehouse)<br>221 Water Street<br>1908-1913 |             | 1-story functional frame warehouse with stepped facade, irregular doorways. As cotton and peanut warehouse built between 1908 and 1913, it is significant as a vestige of the agricultural-oriented businesses of the 1880-1930 period that produced much of Tarboro's growth in this period; related to riverside location of industrial development.   |

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309. Warehouse 215 Water Street 1901-1908	This pair of frame warehouses stands on the site of the important Riverside Knitting Mill, a brick structure. This was built between 1901 and 1908, served first as "Sales and Exchange Building," but by 1913 was "Cotton and Peanut" warehouse; thus significant to agriculture-oriented commercial development of riverside area. Central section flanked by lower sheds gives monitor roof effect.	C	
310. Baker Funeral Home 201 Water Street	1½-story stuccoed building, apparently a dwelling originally apparently remodeled into other purpose with features resembling gas station; until recently a funeral home. Slated for demolition.	N	
311. Gulf Station Water St. mid-20th c. (GONE)	Standard mid-20th century gas station. Demolished.	N	
312. Exxon Station Water St. mid-20th c. (GONE)	Standard mid-20th century gas station. Demolished.	N	
313. House 206 Water Street by 1913	Simple gable roof house, exterior and chimneys, late use of vernacular form.	C	
GRANVILLE STREET, SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST			
314. 109 Granville b/w 1901-1908	Plain 1-story masonry commercial structure.	?	
315. Winstead's Auto Service Granville since 1931	Set back service structure, gas station type.	?	
316. Warehouse 117-119 Granville	Representative brick warehouse building with stepped gabled end facade, broad central entrance, large arches in brick.	C	
317. Gulley's Garden 121 Granville b/w 1908-1913	Simple 1-story, 3-bay commercial building.	C	

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318.	Quigless House 315 Granville	2-story L-shaped house, evidently brick veneered and remodeled in mid-20th century.	C/N
319.	St. Paul AME Zion Church Granville	Late Gothic Revival church with central tower, triangular-arched windows. Exterior alterations include partial stone veneer. Interior little altered, notable example of vernacular Gothic Revival. Important component in community. On 1882 GNM-marked as "Col. Meth. Ch." A "Col." School stood next door.	P/N
	<i>↑ destroyed 2/6/02</i>		
320.	House 403 Granville late 19th c. GRANVILLE STREET, NORTH SIDE, MOVING EAST TO WEST	2-story L-shaped frame house, late 19th century, typical representative.	C
321.	House 404 Granville mid 20th c.	Simple frame ranch.	N
322.	House 310 Granville prob. by 1923	Boxy 2-story frame house, central dormer, later "Colonial" porch.	C
323.	House 306 Granville ca 1900?	1-story simple gable roof house, shed porch.	C
323A.	House 302 Granville ca. 1900?	1-story simple gable roof house, central chimney, rear shed, shed porch.	C
324.	Henry Cherry-George White House 300 Granville mid 20th c.	1½-story frame house, recently renovated. Traditional form, Greek Revival type entrance. Described as the home of George White, black political leader and congressman after Civil War, one of Tarboro's most important blacks of this era, a figure of statewide importance. Also said to be home of his father-in-law Henry C. Cherry, prominent black builder and political figure. 1882 GNM shows J. Ward's house here.	P
325.	County Office Bldg. Granville 1976-1978	Huge 5-story brick office building with tall mansard roof, I elaborate "Colonial" detail including pedimented entrances, corner quoins, Flemish bond brickwork, stone lintels with keystones, giant modillion cornice. Obviously related to slightly earlier courthouse but even bigger.	



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326.	Granville by 1896, perhpap by 1884?	1-story, well-detailed cottage, central gable, decorative porch with corner pergola. One of rare domestic survivors of this quality in immediate neighborhood. A livery stable stood next door (east) for many decades. A 1-story house here by 1884, (the residence of E. Cromwell on GNM 1882); 1½-stories by 1896 may include the earlier dwelling; pergola and wraparound porch added 1908-1913 (SM).	C
327.	102-104 Granville b/w 1913 & 1923	1-story brick commercial building (pair) western half's back extended b/w '23 & '31.	C
328.	106-110 Granville b/w '23 & '31	1-story brick commercial unit, corbeled panel across upper level, plate glass shop windows. Row includes 327! typical of 1-story side street commercial fabric.	C
329.	GONE		
330.	J. E. Simmons Furn. 200 Trade b/w 1896 & 1901	Plain gable roof, metal-sheathed storage building; Original No. 1 of Shackelford & Monk Tobacco. Prizeries .	C ?
331.	Tommy Dew's Auto Granville Since 1931	1-story garage type building.	N
332.	Granville b/w 1901 & 1908	Simple 1-story frame dwelling.	C
333.	Granville b/w 1901 & 1908	2-story brick warehouse, typical brickwork and segmental arched windows, arched vehicular entrance. One of more substantial brick components in railroad/riverside agricultural-industrial complex.	C
PITT STREET, SOUTH SIDE, MOVING WEST TO EAST			
334.	FCX Farm Supplies Pitt mid-20th c.	1-story brick structure, stepped parapet facade. component of agricultural-commercial complex.	Late N
335.	Robbie's Rec Center mid-20th c.	Recent 1-story brick commercial structure .	N
336.	W. & W. Garage mid-20th c.	Recent metal & concrete block structure .	N

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337. Chamber of Commerce 123 Pitt probl. on GNM '84	1-story hip roof frame house, probably 19th c. Much altered in recent renovation. Said to be early bank and post office structure		C/N
338. _____ Pitt ?	Frame shed and garage--metal siding; date uncertain--not seen on 1931 map. Could be 1920s-1940s.		?
339. W. B. Howell Peanuts 105 Pitt prob. b/w '84-86	2-story brick structure with arched windows, corbel cornice, good brickwork detail. Said built for George Howard a century ago, was hardware store, mill, manufacturing concern. Important component of agricultural/industrial complex in area.		C
340. _____ Pitt new	2-story brick, date uncertain, but probably by 1931; links with 339. New.		C
341. 109-111 Pitt b/w '23 & '31	1-story brick commercial structure, unusually fine corbel brickwork unites row of 4 units. Typical 1-story commercial structure of early 20th century.		C
342. 115 Pitt date uncertain ca 1900?	Small frame structure, now shop, perhaps once an out-building.		C
343. Edgecombe Prof. Bldg. 201 E. Pitt	2-story new office structure, arched windows.		N
344. _____ House 207 E. Pitt prob. by 1913	1-story L-shaped frame house, later porch; type rare now in neighborhood, probably once typical here; other examples elsewhere in town.		C
345. Weeks, Muse, Surles, Attys. 209 E. Pitt mid-20th c.	New 1-story brick office structure.		N
346. _____ House 311 E. Pitt ca. 1900?	2-story plain vernacular house, rafter brackets, doorway with sidelights and transom; important as beginning consistent residential section on east side of commercially developed area.		C

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347.	House 313 E. Pitt 19th c.	1-story cottage, frame with two interior chimneys, geometric openwork porch supports notable, typical of town.	C
348.	House 401 E. pitt by 1882?	1-story frame cottage, similar to 347. This may be that marked J. C. Allen on GNM (1882) .	C
349.	House 403 Pitt early 20th c.?	2-story gable end frame house, simple detail and rafter and bungalow type roof brackets. Side hall plan; two bays wide.	C
350.	House 407 Pitt by 1913 (SM)	1-story, L-shaped frame house, return eaves in projecting ell, typical of area.	C
351.	Jones House 411 Pitt 1870-1875 (Q)	1-story, L-shaped frame house, beautifully preserved with fine full-width front porch having excellent openwork geometric porch supports characteristic of Tarboro domestic architecture. A pivotal house in this section of the town. Said built 1870-1875 by builder Jerry Rutledge for a Professor Jones, a black educator, who taught many Tarboro citizens in this era. Jones is described as the second principal of the black public school. Later the home of Dr. Alexander S. McMillan, longtime physician and Mrs. Viola Gray McMillan, teacher, missionary, founder of Union Baptist Church (Q). SNM of 1882 shows J. W. Lipscombe owning this site and next door, and as Lipscombe was a builder, it could also be his work.	P

PITT STREET, NORTH SIDE, MOVING EAST TO WEST

352.	House 418 E. Pitt by 1913	1-story frame hip roof house, central chimney, enclosed front porch.	C
353.	House 412 E. Pitt by 1913	Typical 1-story frame gable roof house, central chimney, two front doors.	C
354.	House 408 E. Pitt	Typical 1-story shotgun, gable end two bays wide, poor condition; slated for demolition.	C
355.	House 406 E. Pitt by 1913	Similar to 354 .	C

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(SHIFT HERE FROM RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL SECTION, PASSING COURTHOUSE)

356.          Pitt  
mid - 20th c.                      1-story brick chapel-like structure, part of adjoining funeral home.                      I
357. Brown House  
(Carlisle Funeral Home)  
         Pitt  
mid-19th c.                      2-story frame house, probably antebellum, with simple, characteristic mid-19th century detail, interior chimneys, central hall plan; adapted as funeral home. Survival of domestic fabric in present commercial area. To be moved to North Main Street.                      C
- ST. JAMES STREET, SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST.
358. Tobacco Prize House  
         St. James  
before 1907 (HCB)                      1-story frame, metal-sheathed warehouse with skylights, stepped parapet facade. Part of agricultural-industrial complex on this edge of town, near Hendricks Creek. This was a tobacco prize house, where tobacco was put into hogshead.                      C
359. Tarboro Primitive Baptist Church  
         St. James  
ca. 1830?                      The simple, well-preserved frame church is the oldest church building in Tarboro; the congregation was established in 1819. Present building is thought to date from ca. 1830.                      F
359. A. Cemetery                      Cemetery of 359.                      C
360. 205-209 St. James  
mid-20th c.                      1-story commercial building.                      N
361.          St. James  
mid-20th c.                      2-story brick structure, commercial building with "Colonial" details. Date uncertain.                      N
362. Carolina Telephone  
105 St. James  
mid-20th c.                      2-story brick structure, windowless upper facade.                      N
363. 117 St. James  
1. 19th c.                      2-story, 3-bay commercial building of type prevalent in late 19th century; brick with upper level 4/4 sash, lower level windows and doorways original or early.                      C
364. Howard Building  
121 St. James  
mid 20th c.                      2-story mid-20th century yellow brick commercial building, metal-framed windows; scale harmonious.                      N

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365. 123-125 St. James 1906	3-story brick commercial building, paired windows, entries with simple hoods. Placque says "1906 W. O. W."; corner location important.	C
366. St. James Methodist Church 203 St. James 1916 ?	Forceful, eclectic, late Gothic/Romanesque Revival brick church with vigorous form, bold detail. Frame churches were built here in ca. 1830 and 1855. The present structure was erected in 1916.	P
366 A. Methodist Church Annex 203 St. James mid-20th c.	Boxy 2-story brick structure, "Colonial" detail.	N
367. House 403 St. James by 1913 perhaps by 1882	Small 1-story frame house, center chimney; 1882 GNM shows this & 367 sites as small L-shaped dwellings owned by George Howard.	C
368. House 405 St. James by 1913, perhaps by 1882	Similar to 367.	C
369. Shaw House 407 St. James by 1882	1-story L-shaped frame house set back, well-kept; possibly incorporating earlier dwelling; main block has 6/6 sash. Seen on GNM (1882) as belonging to H. H. Shaw.	C
370. Norfleet House 415 St. James by 1882?	1-story gable roof house, hip roof porch, sidelight and transom entrance, interior end chimneys. Perhaps that seen on 1882 GNM as "T. Norfleet Est."	C
371. House 501 St. James l. 19th c.	Notable late Victorian house, elaborate version of type prevalent in town showing richness that may have once been characteristic. Multiple gables of 1-story house adorned with curvilinear brackets; porch retains decorative sawn and turned trim, brackets.	P
372. House 505 St. James l. 19th c.	L-shaped frame dwelling, also retains decorative bracketed eaves, bay window, some porch elements; complements 371 in suggesting original character of area.	C

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373 A.	House 523 St. James L. 19th c.	1-story L-shaped house, modest version of 371-372, turned porch posts, but covered with new surfacing.	C
374.	House 529 St. James early 20th c.	Boxy, 2-story frame house, hip roof, massive porch supports.	C
375.	House 533 St. James ca 1930	Gambrel roof frame Colonial Revival house, broad center dormer, triple windows. Characteristic of 1930s. Positive in streetscape even if not quite 50 years old.	N
ST. JAMES STREET, NORTH SIDE, GOING EAST TO WEST			
376.	House 526 St. James ca 1900	1-story traditional gable roof frame house, center chimney, return eaves, shed extension in rear.	C
377.	House 524 St. James ca 1900	Small 1-story frame house, hip roof.	
378.	House 522 St. James ca 1900	2-story, L-shaped house, simplified Queen Anne type, bungalow type porch.	C
379.	House 520 ST. James ca 1900	2-story symmetrical frame house with central gable with Queen Anne windows, central chimney; lower level severely altered with brick veneer, picture windows.	C/N
380.	House 518 St. James ca 1900	2-story L-shaped frame house with polygonal gable bay facing street, bungalow type porch.	C
381.	House 516 St. James ca 1900	2-story frame hip roof house, bungalow porch posts, enclosed 2nd story porch.	C
382.	House 514 St. James ca 1900	L-shaped 1-story multigabled Queen Anne cottage type dwelling, bracketed eaves, Neo-Classical porch posts. Said built by York Garrett, black grocer of downtown Tarboro (BB).	C
383.	House 512 St. James ca 1900	L-shaped 1-story house, shingled gable, bungalow porch posts.	C
384.	House 508 St. James ca 1900	L-shaped frame 1-story house, simple detail.	C

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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385. House 506 St. James	Similar to 383, 384, but survival of rich trim of sawn and turned porch posts and balustrade suggests original charm and character of entire row. Notable for intactness and good state of repair.	C/P
386. House 502 St. James	Small, simple gable roof "duplex" with center chimney	C
387. House 500 St. James	1-story hip roof house, bracket cornice, possibly antebellum or soon after Civil War. Bungalow porch posts.	C
388. 306 St. James	1½-story frame house, "Colonial" details.	N
389. 304 St. James	1-story frame late traditional small house	C
390. Baker? - Howard? Hse. Taylor-Brinson Law Office 210 St. James ca. 1800	Fine, well-preserved traditional frame house, late Georgian/early Federal finish inside and out. Flem- ish bond chimney, modillion cornice, notable interiors.  According to Tarboro brochure, this house was pro- bably built by 1801 for Blake Baker, prominent political figure. A series of notable men -- Edmund McNair, Edward Hall, Spencer Cotten, Dr. W. S. Baker, G. W. Whitfield, Orren Williams--also owned it. Other research suggests it was built ca. 1800 as a Methodist parsonage and later owned by the George Howard family, who came to Tarboro in the early 19th century. The history of this important house merits further study.  One of few early houses surviving in Tarboro. Excellent use of adaptive use by private firm.	P

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|--|---|---------|
| 391. Williamson House<br>204 E. St. James<br>by 1860 (Q)               | Simple 1-story gable roof dwelling, duplex form, notable geometric sawn porch lattice posts, richly detailed. Well preserved example of characteristic form, trim in Tarboro. Date uncertain--probably 1850-1880. House said owned 1860 on by Jesse A. Williamson while he built 200 (next door). Seen on 1882 map.   | C       |
| 392. Jesse A. Williamson House<br>200 E. St. James<br>ca. 1872 (Q)     | Handsome L-shaped frame 2-story house, well-preserved, with notable Italianate detail (window treatment, bracket cornice) and Tarboro's latticework porch supports. Location at edge of residential district, plus quality, makes this a pivotal structure. It was there by 1886. House said built for Jesse A. Williamson, merchant, about 1872, who had lived at 200 while it was built. Breakfast room and kitchen added ca. 1917. Still in hands of family, who provide information on its history (Q). Seen on 1882 map. | P       |
| 393. Carolina Telephone & Telegraph<br>122 E. St. James<br>mid-20th c. | Massive, 6-story modern business building of huge scale relative to surroundings.   | I       |
| 394. Carolina Telephone & Telegraph<br>120 St. James<br>1912           | 3-story brick commercial building erected for the company in 1912; pilasters, paired windows, bold classical detail. Date is on plaque. Company was established by George Holderness, William "Buck" Powell & others. Building said to be by Rose & Company of Rocky Mount. ( <u>Bicentennial Southerner</u> ).   | P       |
| 395. 118 St. James<br>by 1931  | 2-story brick office building, Neo-Classical detail, typical of era 1910-1930. Was office by 1931. SM   | C       |
| 396. 110-114 St. James<br>by 1931                                      | 2-story brick office building, quoined arched doorway.  | C       |
| 397. 106-108 St. James<br>1907-1908                                    | 1-story brick office building, large arched openings, built for office space in 1907-1908.  | C       |
| CROSS MAIN STREET AND BEGIN ON WEST SIDE, W. ST. JAMES STREET          |   |         |
| 398. Great Southern Finance<br>110 St. James                           | Plain 1-story brick commercial building.  | N       |



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399.	W. G. Clark, Inc. 118 W. St. James	Similar to 398.	N
400.	The Beauty Bonnet 122 W. St. James late 19th c.	Small 1-story shotgun type house, rich bracket cornice, simple wooden porch; survival of domestic fabric of late 19th century amid later commercial development. Said to have been justice of Peace Office for a Mr. Price (HCB).	C
401.	Building 124 St. James since 1931	Simple 1-story brick commercial building.	C
402.	Service Station 401 Trade St. 1920s? 1930s?	1-story brick service station, handsomely detailed, example of substantial early 20th century buildings of type, with stepped parapet, open corner drive-in area under main roofline. Blends with contemporary commercial fabric of period.	C
403.	Anderson-Batchelor Motors, Inc. 210 St. James mid-20th c.	Car sales lot with mobile home.	I
404.	Clark's Warehouse #2 ____ St. James  early 20th c.	Boldly detailed brick tobacco warehouse with arched openings, pilasters, handsome brickwork. Pivotal components in early 20th century tobacco industrial development.	P
405.	Clark's Warehouse #1 ____ St. James early 20th c.	Similar to 404, some variations in detail, form.	P
406.	Edgecombe Bonded Warehouse ____ St. James by 1931	Brick warehouse with simplified classical detail, quoined corners, flat roofline. 1923 Sanborn Insurance Map shows a frame building with brick partition walls, of E. B. Ferguson Co., In. 1931 shows brick and frame stemming, redrying building of Carolina-Virginia Tobacco Company. HCB recalls it was built during Depression by black brickmason George Harrison and assistant Jordan Stancil. Built for Henry C. Bridgers, who supplied brick in response to Harrison's offer to work during bleak times; was a storage warehouse.	C

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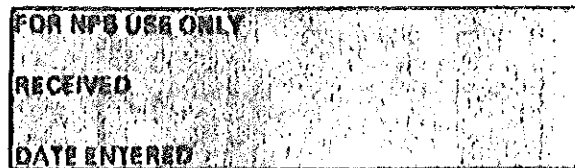
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| 407. Barber Shop<br>___ St. James                                   | Simple 1-story brick commercial building, corbel brick panel across facade.  | C    |    |
| 408. Abram's Barbecue<br>___ St. James                              | 1-story commercial building, uncertain date, simple weatherboarded facade, stepped parapet.  | C    |    |
| CHURCH STREET: SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST                       |  |      |    |
| 409. Battle-Porter-Powell<br>House<br>111 W. Church<br>ca. 1800?    | Traditional two-story frame house, one of oldest structures in town, with double-shoulder exterior end brick chimney, side hall plan with much original finish, and extensive side and rear additions. It is one of oldest in town. The date of construction is uncertain; Ely Porter bought the property in 1819 from Jeremiah Battle for \$2,200, and it evidently existed then. It is not certain if the house stood in 1801 when Benjamin Buichell bought this and the adjoining lot for 100 pounds (SMB). | P    |    |
| 410. Porter-Bass House<br>109 W. Church<br>1889 (Q)                 | 2-story L-shaped frame house, simplified Italinatate detail including bracketed cornice. Handsomely detailed one-story porch with sawnwork brackets flanking posts. Said built 1889 for Porter family for rental use; later residents include Dr. H. T. Bass and family.   | C    |    |
| 411. 107 and 105 W. Church<br>b/w 1901 & 1908                       | 1-story brick commercial building with paired shop fronts, simple brickwork detail.  | G    |    |
| 412. Holderness Building<br>103? W. Church<br>1923-1931             | New or remodeled 1-story brick commercial structure with "Colonial" detail. A structure of same dimensions was erected on site b/w 1923 & 1931.  | N    |    |
| 413. Church Street Apart-<br>ments<br>101-105 E. Church<br>ca. 1931 | This imposing four-story office building was marked on the 1931 Sanborn Map as "vacant, unfinished," nicely dating its construction and possibly suggesting the impact of the Depression on its completion. Brick and stone accents in eclectic classical fashion, with two-story ground level treatment with arches and stylized pilasters. With neighboring Bridgers building, creates concentration of early 20th century ambitious commercial structures expressive of the prosperity of the period.       | C    |    |
| 414. Carolina Telephone<br>111 E. Church                            | Large, stark and very plain facade, possibly concealing earlier structure to rear, detail suggests construction in 1950s-early 1960s.  | I    |    |

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(SHIFT TO RESIDENTIAL)

415. Lichtenstein-Thigpen House  
215 E. Church  
by 1896  
2-story L-shaped frame house, bracket cornice, simplified Italianate detail including window labels. Porch of Neo-Classical character probably early 20th century. House has had various owners. Writer Gaston Lichtenstein said to have lived here (FPJ). C
416. J. R. Pender, Jr., Hs.  
301 E. Church  
ca. 1930  
Built by the 1931 Sanborn mapping; 2-story frame Colonial Revival house with gambrel roof, full-width dormer; vigorous bracketed entrance hood. This type built in late 1920s and early 1930s in Tarboro as elsewhere. Built for J. R. Pender, Jr. C
417. Pender House  
307 E. Church  
1882 map  
2-story frame house, simplified Queen Anne massing, new porch; handsome ironwork fence. John Pender built it; 1882 map shows "Mrs. Pender." C
418. Gaskill-Hussey House  
311 E. Church  
1882  
L-shaped Victorian house with well-preserved, high quality Italianate detail--bracketed eaves, engaged side tower, bay windows, window labels, etc. Important corner location and well-kept yard with notable iron fence. Early 20th century garage of merit. 1882 map shows "Gaskill." P
419. Calvary Church & Churchyard  
411 E. Church  
1840s (churchyard)  
1858-1867 (church)  
The Gothic Revival church designed by William Percival shortly before the Civil War and not completed until after the war, is among the most important antebellum Gothic churches in the state. It stands amid a churchyard planted with various botanical specimens by Calvary rector Joseph Blount Cheshire in the early 19th century. Listed individually in the National Register, the church and churchyard compose one of the most absolutely beautiful places in North Carolina, and are pivotal in defining the character of Tarboro, historically and esthetically. Parish Hall by Hobart U. Mohn 1920s. P

NORTH SIDE CHURCH STREET, GOING EAST TO WEST

420. 424 E. Church  
mid-20th c.  
Plain 2-story concrete block commercial building. I
421. Matthewson House  
414 E. Church  
late 19th c.  
Simple 1-story frame dwelling richly adorned with wooden ornament--decorative sawnwork front porch and sawn and turned gable ornament, bay window suggests P

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original character of other, now stripped small 19th century houses. Said built in 1860s for George Matthewson, a prominent black builder in Tarboro. The house is said to have been "built according to specifications of George Matthewson who did most of the work." He was an early member of St. Paul AME Zion Church, civic leader, and brick layer. House said to have one of town's first cisterns with a force pump in the kitchen. (Q)

422. Calvary Church Parish Hall  
406 E. Church  
mid-20th c. 2-story brick church hall. N
423. Cheshire-Nash House  
310 E. Church  
ca. 1869 Well-preserved and important brick Gothic cottage erected P  
about 1869 by Rev. J. B. Cheshire on the block all owned  
by the family. Cheshire is said to have had the house  
built for his daughter Annie Gray, who was ten at the time,  
to live in when she grew up. 1869 was the first good  
cotton crop after the Civil War, providing some prosperity.  
For a time the house was rented to the Presbyterians as a  
manse. Annie Gray Cheshire married S. S. Nash at nine-  
teen, and the couple and their descendants have lived here  
ever since. He was from Hillsborough. He, like Cheshire  
a generation earlier, came to stay with the Cheshire family  
with a letter of reference, married the daughter and  
stayed. He was druggist and later a banker in Tarboro,  
establishing Edgecombe Savings & Loan. The L-shaped 1 1/2-  
story house has notable brickwork and a patterned slate  
roof. Bold sawnwork bargeboards outline the dormers and  
gables. The house is thought to have been built by  
Thomas Coates, builder, and is obviously related to a  
similar brick cottage in the country a few miles away.  
Brick cottages of this type, inspired by patternbooks of  
Calvert Vaux, A. J. Downing, etc., are most unusual in  
North Carolina. A frame example also exists in Tarboro  
(# 450 ). A two-story brick example once faced Main  
Street but has been destroyed. Original kitchen stands  
in separate yard.
424. Johnston House  
306 E. Church  
1935 1 1/2-story frame Colonial Revival house with gambrel C  
roof. Built in 1935 for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnston;  
Mrs. Johnston was daughter of S. S. Nash (#423).

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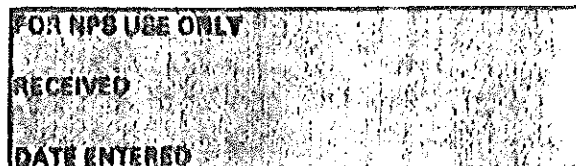
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| 425. Parker-Cheshire House<br>302 E. Church<br>ca. 1810                      | Traditional, vernacular 2-story frame house, one of earliest surviving in town. The main block, which follows a two-room plan, has well-preserved transitional Georgian-Federal detail. Additions include a wing to the west, a pleasant lattice-post porch, and rear extensions. Local history notes the lot was bought in 1808 by Theophilus Parker, merchant, planter, and part owner of privateer <u>Snapdragon</u> in War of 1812; he is believed to have completed his house by 1810. The house was once the homeplace for the noted plantation Panola that extended to the east, a plantation renowned for its advanced farming techniques in the antebellum period. In 1842 young Episcopal priest Joseph Blount Cheshire came to Tarboro with a letter of reference from a friend of Parker, who invited him to stay with the family. Cheshire soon married Elizabeth, Parker's daughter and remained here over half a century. They occupied the property in 1859. Cheshire was longtime rector of Calvary Church, and designer of the lovely churchyard. Son Joseph B. Cheshire, II, became a bishop of the diocese. The house remained in his family until 1935, and it was for the Cheshires that most of the additions were made. Some woodwork was carved by an artistic daughter, Kate Cheshire. | P       |
| 426. Cotten-Engelhard-Howard House<br>210 E. Church<br>1820s, 1868, ca. 1900 | Like many Tarboro houses, this frame dwelling is the product of several eras of construction. Local history states it was a two-story, four-room dwelling built by 1829 for Spencer Cotten, a Tarboro merchant. During the 1850s it was a school taught by Rev. T. R. Owen, who also lived there. In 1860 E. G. Lind (Baltimore architect who designed Coolmore) did alterations to residence of J. A. Engelhard. Engelhard was married to Margaret Elizabeth Cotten and owned this house from the antebellum era to 1868. Notable interior painting, probably work of E. V. Zoeller, or the Mr. Dreyer who did work at Coolmore. Howard family tradition cites Zoeller. In 1868 Judge George Howard acquired and remodeled and enlarged the house; he was an important business and political figure in Tarboro. The 1896 and 1901 Sanborn maps show the house much larger than at present, with essentially the present house on the corner, linked by a 1-story room to a narrow 2-story building to the west.  | P       |

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By 1908 the two were separated and the present house surrounded by a wraparound porch. The present small entrance stoop was built in the 20th century. The 2-story frame house has primarily the late 19th century character with Italianated peaked window frames, broad eaves with gable ornaments, and heavy interior woodwork.

427. House 1-story gable end ranch--apartment house. N  
208 E. Church  
mid-20th c.

428. House 1-story L-shaped frame house with notable detail C  
204 E. Church intact--bracketed cornice, bracketed, decorative  
late 19th c. lattice porch posts. Well-preserved example of  
by 1882 (GM) representative type. Aluminum siding added mid-  
20th century.

SHIFT TO COMMERCIAL AREA

429. Municipal Building 1-story plain institutional building. N  
106 W. Church  
mid-20th c.

430. Dozier House Important mid-19th century brick dwelling apparently P  
112 W. Church built or at least influenced by architect William  
ca. 1860 Percival, who erected the grander Barracks in eclectic  
villa style. Reference in E. G. Lind records to  
work done for Dozier, however, may indicate Lind as  
designer. The central front pavilion is one bay wide  
and capped by an unusual semi-circular cornice springing  
from brackets. The broad bracket cornice continues  
around the house. Paired linteled windows occur  
consistently, except in the second story of the entrance  
pavilion, where a Palladian motif is capped by a heavy  
round hoodmold. A rear ell is more simply finished. The  
property was owned from the 1850s to the 1880s by the  
Dozier family, for whom the house was doubtless built.  
The house has been renovated to serve as city offices.  
It is important in showing the influence of the popular  
villa style in Tarboro.

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ST. JOHN STREET, SOUTH SIDE MOVING WEST TO EAST

- |      |   |   |    |
|------|---|---|----|
| 431. | Fire Station<br>___ W. St. John<br>mid-20th c.                        | 1-story brick modern fire station, simple design.   | N  |
| 432. | Federal Land Bank<br>Assn. Building<br>___ W. St. John<br>mid-20th c. | 1-story brick office building with low roof, "colonial" details.  | N  |
| 433. | House<br>107 W. St. John<br>1920s?                                    | Simple 1-story house with porch under main hip roof.  | C? |
| 434. | House<br>305 E. St. John<br>b/w '23 & '31                             | Typical 1-story gable end simplified bungalow type, jerkinhead roof, brackets; plain porch.   | C  |
| 435. | House<br>309 E. St. John<br>b/w 1908 & '13                            | Tall 2-story frame house, Queen Anne massing, classical detail; several wings.  | C  |
| 436. | House<br>405 E. St. John<br>by 1931                                   | Boxy 2-story hip roof house, simple finish; porch with Doric posts on brick piers.  | C  |
| 437. | House<br>407 E. St. John<br>L. 19th c.                                | Simple 1-story gable roof frame house, 3 front doors, central chimney; decorative bargeboards survive on gable ends. Perhaps "R. H. Lewis" house on 1882 map. | C  |

ST. JOHN STREET, NORTH SIDE MOVING EAST TO WEST

- |      |                                     |  |   |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 438. | House<br>406 E. St. John<br>by 1931 | Boxy, plain 2-story frame house, rafter brackets. Similar in form to 436, others.                    | C |
| 439. | House<br>310 E. St. John<br>ca 1900 | 1 1/2-story frame L-shaped house with irregular dormers, gables. Perhaps is the house on SM by 1901. | C |
| 440. | House<br>306 E. St. John<br>ca 1900 | 1-story frame L-shaped typical house, built by 1901; details altered in 20th century.                | C |

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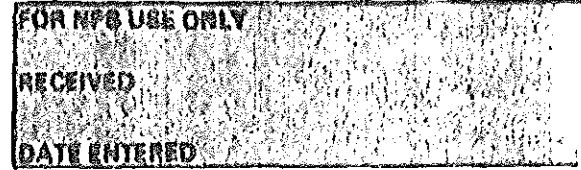
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| 441. House<br>114 E. St. John<br>by 1923  | Notable, vigorous bungalow with singled surfaces, bold<br>roofline and shed dormer, porch and porte cochere.<br>Important corner location.  | C/      |
| 442. House<br>110 W. St. John<br>mid-20th c.  | Small 1-story minimal ranch house, frame.   | N       |
| 443. House<br>112 W. St. John<br>1920s  | 1-story frame L-shaped house, casement windows fill<br>gable of ell to street; typical of several in town.<br>Built between 1923 and 1931, SM.  | C       |
| WILSON STREET, SOUTH SIDE GOING WEST TO EAST (there is no north side of this street)      |   |         |
| 444. Smoot Wholesale<br>___ Wilson St.<br>mid-20th c.                                     | Large brick & metal commercial building; brick colonial<br>facade.  | I       |
| 445. Edgcombe-Martin Co.<br>Electric Membership<br>Corp.<br>___ Wilson St.<br>mid-20th c. | Plain 1-story brick commercial building.  | I       |
| 446. Zip Mart<br>___ Wilson St.<br>mid-20th c.  | 1-story brick market, "mansard" shingled roof.  | I       |
| 447. Thomas B. Grainger Hs.<br>211 E. Wilson<br>b/w 1901 & 1908                           | 2-story house, apparently on original frame house<br>from about 1900, brick veneered in mid-20th century and<br>given "colonial" details. Beautiful landscaped<br>setting. (Not on 1882 map).                                 | C       |
| 448. House<br>309 E. Wilson<br>by 1923  | Typical 1-story bungalow, gable end porch, gable end<br>roof.   | C       |
| 449. House<br>403 E. Wilson<br>by 1923  | 1-story frame bungalow, similar to 448, but with notable<br>open timbering in gable of porch roof.  | C       |
| 450. Weddell-Pender Hs.<br>441 E. Wilson<br>before 1869                                   | Built shortly before or shortly after the Civil War,<br>this is Tarboro's chief domestic example of the<br>Carpenter Gothic mode. Steep gables and gabled dormers<br>outlined with decorative bargeboards; porch has latticed | P       |



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- posts typical of 19th century Tarboro. Board and batten walls, peaked Italianate window labels. Interior quite plain. This may, local history surmises, have been built for a Mathew Weddell, and for many years was in the Pender family. It is on pivotal corner lot at the southeast end of the Common.
451. Bridgers School Annex  
    \_\_\_ Wilson  
    mid-20th c. Plain 2-story brick school building, strip windows, art deco detail; stood to rear of earlier, handsome Bridgers School, recently demolished. The present building is said to be the work of architect Benton of Wilson. C
- PARK AVENUE, NORTH SIDE, MOVING EAST TO WEST (there is no south side)
452. House  
    406 E. Park  
    by 1923 Typical bungalow, gable roof sheltering porch and extending to porte cochere; gable dormer, brackets. Some shingled surfaces. C
453. House  
    404 E. Park  
    1913-1923 Boxy, simple finished 2-story frame house, two bays wide. C
454. S. G. Jenkins House  
    402 E. Park  
    by 1913 Large frame 2-story boxy house with Neo-Classical detail. Gable dormer with Palladian window, porch and porte cochere with paired colonnettes on pedestals. House said built in 1910 for T. Perry Jenkins family; Jenkins lived there until his death in 1937. Said built of heart pine, and fitted with ice box in basement. Builder unknown. C
455. Dr. T. H. Royster Hs.  
    400 E. Park  
    by 1913 Bungalow adaptation with rafter brackets, other details, and curiously complex massing, beginning with 1-story front and climbing to 2 full stories in rear. Curious inset front dormer with balustraded gallery. C
456. L. D. Pender House  
    306 E. Park  
    by 1913 Massive, powerfully designed early bungalow, among the most dramatic and individualized examples of the style in town. Gable roof with oriental angular brackets sweeps to shelter broad porch and porte cochere carried on huge pillars creating broad arches. Paired dormers project and flank balustraded dormer P

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- gallery. Walls are stuccoed. Pivotal corner site overlooking Common. Said built for Lorenzo Dow Pender; he ran a hardware store with his father John R. Pender (Nash). Possibly built by Charlie Pulley.
457. George Pennington Hs. Boxy frame house with Colonial Revival detail, altered porch. Said built by Charlie Pulley (Q). Pennington described as first owner. C  
304 E. Park  
by 1913
458. Brown-Mobley House Colonial Revival frame house with curious double-gambrel roof form, porch with clustered colonnettes, irregular massing. Built as rectory for Rev. B. E. Brown, more recently J. Mobley house. C  
300 E. Park  
by 1913
459. Hart-Smith House Boxy 2-story frame house, simplified Colonial or Neo-Classical details--central dormer, clustered Ionic porch colonnettes and porte cochere. Well-preserved example of type. PC shows it home of L. V. Hart. Harry Smith raised roof, made additions. C  
204 E. Park  
by 1908
460. Charles E. Hussey Hs. 2-story brick house with "colonial" details, replaces earlier house. Built for Hussey. N  
200 E. Park  
mid-20th c.
461. James Pender House 2 1/2-story frame boxy house with some vestiges of Queen Anne style in massing; wraparound porch with paired pillars on bases. This is described as being built for Mrs. James Pender, and thus is one of the houses listed in the Rocky Mount publication as the work of Rocky Mount contractor and architect John C. Stout. C  
110 E. Park  
by 1908
462. Fountain House 2 1/2-story frame house with bold projecting gables, irregular massing, wraparound porch. Fountain not first owner (FPJ). C  
108 E. Park  
by 1908
463. J. Rosenbaum House 1-story Queen Anne cottage with gable decorations, high hip roof, wraparound porch with unusually heavy Corinthian columns--a later addition. House frame when built by 1908; brick veneer added and porch altered by 1931, after 1923. Rosenbaum builder-owner (FPJ). C  
106 E. Park  
by 1908

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464. C. A. Whitehead Hs. 104 W. Park by 1906	2 1/2-story frame boxy house with unusual paired 2nd level front bay windows, side entrance porch with classical detail. Built for Whitehead by Rocky Mount architect J. C. Stout (PC) by 1906.	C
465. L. Raby House 106 W. Park mid-20th c.	1 1/2-story brick "colonial" house built for Raby.	N
466. King-DeBerry House 110 W. Park early 19th, possibly 18th c.	2-story traditional frame house, possibly earlier 1-story dwelling to rear. Exterior finish appears early 19th century, including Flemish bond chimney with concave shoulders of front section, which follows side-hall plan. Property has long history, for Joseph Howell's house was on or near site in 1760; part of that might survive in this house. Redding Sugg bought the property in 1825, soon sold to Coffield King; the house was probably built for Sugg or King. Several owners since. Housed a public dining room of statewide reputation for many years.	P
467. Earl West House 200 W. Park by 1913	Simply finished 2-story vernacular house with gable roof, wraparound porch built for West.	C
468. Davis House 204 W. Park early 20th c.	2 1/2-story boxy frame house, plain finish, wraparound porch and porte cochere, simple classical detail.	C
PORTER STREET, NORTH SIDE, MOVING EAST TO WEST		
469. House 106 Porter early 20th c.	Boxy 2-story frame house, 1-story front porch.	C
470. House 108 Porter early 20th c.	Plain gable end 1-story frame house, curious massive shed bungalow porch applied across front.	C
471. R. L. Boykin House 204 Porter early 20th c.	Bungalow, frame with angular brackets, shed dormer.	C
472. House 907 Porter Alley date uncertain	Tiny 1-story frame house, corner entrance.	C?
BAKER STREET, SOUTH SIDE, MOVING WEST TO EAST		

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| 473. | House<br>205 W. Baker<br>by 1913 | 1-story dwelling, plain finish, shed dormer, wrap-around porch with decorative brackets at turned posts. | C |
| 474. | House<br>307 E. Baker<br>by 1931 | Simple, well-kept bungalow with gable end, gable porch.  | C |
| 475. | House<br>409 E. Baker<br>by 1923 | 1 1/2-story frame bungalow, shed porch, gable dormer, brackets.  | C |
| 476. | House<br>411 E. Baker<br>by 1923 | 1 1/2-story frame bungalow, shed porch, gable dormer, brackets; posts replaced with wrought iron.        | C |
| 477. | House<br>413 E. Baker<br>by 1923 | 2 1/2-story boxy frame house, simple detail; shingled walls and tin roof notable.                        | C |

BAKER STREET, NORTH SIDE, MOVING EAST TO WEST

- |      |                                       |   |   |
|------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 478. | Thomas House<br>416 E. Baker<br>1920s | Small bungalow, hip roof dormer; main hip roof shelters porch, carried on light wrought iron posts, a replacement. This group (478-480) was built by local builder Charlie Pulley in 1923 (MP) for Theo Thomas as rental units. | C |
| 479. | House<br>414 E. Baker<br>1920s        | Representative small bungalow, gable end roof, off-center gable porch, simple detail. See above.  | C |
| 480. | House<br>412 E. Baker<br>1920s        | Simple bungalow with hip roof sheltering porch, See above.  | C |
| 481. | House<br>410 E. Baker<br>1926         | Simple bungalow with gable end, off-center gable porch. This one was also built by Charlie Pulley, in 1926 (MP). See above.   | C |
| 482. | House<br>404 E. Baker<br>ca 1900?     | With 483, an unusual pair of tall frame multi-family dwellings, 2 tall stories high, gable end, double porch. History and purpose uncertain. These are generally described as having been school buildings in the late          | C |

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- 19th or early 20th century, either on this or another site, on the Common. They served for a time as teachers quarters, and are now apartments. Their history merits further study.
483. Johnson-Shugar Hs. See 482. One of unusual pair of tall frame buildings. C  
402 E. Baker  
late 19th/early 20th c.
484. House 2-story frame L-shaped house, simple finish; said built C  
310 E. Baker ca. 1906 for Johnson family.
485. House Simple 1-story dwelling, screened front porch. C  
306 E. Baker  
1920s?
486. House 1-story bungalow, notable bracket detail. C  
304 E. Baker  
1920s
487. McDaniel House Large brick bungalow, shed porch extending from main C  
204 E. Baker roof, large gable dormer, brackets. Built for McDaniel  
1920s family.
488. House Interesting, richly decorated cottage with Queen Anne C  
202 E. Baker detail, irregular massing. May have been moved around  
ca. 1900? corner about 1908 from site adjoining on St. Andrews St.
- 488 A. J. M. Smoot House 2-story frame house (on original site of #488?). C  
200 E. Baker  
ca. 1930
- (LANIER COURT)
489. W. L. Beasley House 2-story mid-20th c. brick house, "colonial" detail. N  
1 Lanier Court  
mid-20th c.
- RETURN TO BAKER STREET
490. House Small asbestos-shingled ranch house. N  
202 W. Baker  
mid-20th c.

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| 491. House<br>204 W. Baker<br>mid-20th c.                    | Small asbestos-shingled ranch house.   | N       |
| 492. Pender-Lanier House<br>1002 Main St.(set back)<br>1832? | 2-story boxy frame house with shallow hip roof, entrance with sidelights, double pile plan and simple Greek Revival detail typical of Tarboro's antebellum era. A polygonal cupola with windows and blinds distinguishes the house. This, like the Norfleet house nearby, was one of the suburban estates at the north end of Tarboro established soon before the Civil War. It had an uninterrupted view of Main Street and a vast lot until the 20th century. The property once stretched from Main Street to Hendricks Creek. Solomon Pender, for whom the house is believed to have been built in 1832, is buried near the creek. The house appears possibly to be somewhat later than the 1832 date given locally, but is clearly antebellum. Outbuildings, including a kitchen and smokehouse, are notable. After years of neglect it was carefully renovated by the present owners.   | P       |
| 493. Norfleet<br>Norfleet Court<br>(1100 Main St.)<br>1858   | The Tarboro <u>Southerner</u> of September 11, 1858, quoted an article from a Wilson newspaper mentioning the new mansions being built in Tarboro, including "the one which Mr. Robert Norfleet is putting up," which was "something of a novelty in its construction. . . .its plan . . . was drawn by Mr. Norfleet himself. The building is a very large one story dwelling, raised some 7 or 8 feet from the ground, with 70 feet front, and when completed, it will be one of the finest and best arranged private residences in the state." The place remained in the Norfleet family for over a century. An early photograph shows the low 1858 house with eclectic somewhat Gothic Cottage type detail. In the early 20th century it was raised to two stories and given a Neo-Classical Revival portico, and in the mid-20th century it was again altered, reducing it to one story again; though it does not closely resemble the 1858 aspect. The interior includes much original fabric, and the rich molded and painted plaster ceiling treatment is attributed to Tarboro's Bavarian-born fresco painter Edward Zoeller. This, like #492, was one of the handsome estates north of town and still possesses something | P       |

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of its spacious setting though the street in front extending to Main Street has been lined with houses in the 20th c. An advertisement placed by William Percival in the March 12, 1859, Southerner, gave Robert Norfleet as a reference. Whether Percival was at all involved in the design of the house is unknown.

494. E. L. Hart House  
106 Norfleet Court  
mid-20th c.      Norfleet Court, formerly the drive leading to #493, was not developed until after 1931. This 2-story house has Neo-Colonial detail of mid-20th century vintage.      N

495. F. P. Jenkins House  
102 Norfleet Court  
1937      Large scale, elaborately finished, handsomely landscaped mid-20th century brick Neo-Colonial house with wings.      N

BRIDGERS STREET

496. Marrow House  
203 Bridgers      Modest frame ranch house built for J. C. Marrow (FPJ).      N

497. H. H. Taylor, Jr., Hs.  
205 Bridgers  
after 1931      Frame ranch house.      N

498. House  
302 Bridgers  
after 1931      1-story brick dwelling, Neo-Colonial detail.      N

PHILIPS STREET, SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST

499. Mrs. Frances Long Hs.  
119 W. Philips  
1923-1931      1-story frame bungalow, L-shaped with bracketed gable to street. Typical modest scale dwelling of Tarboro's 1920s growth era.      C

500. Moses House  
115 W. Philips  
1923-1931      L-shaped 1-story, frame cottage, jerkinhead roof and bungalow type detail. Typical of Tarboro's 1920s growth era. Said built by Charlie Pulley for Moses family in 1927 (MP).      C

501. Robert McCrary Hs.  
111 W. Philips  
1923-1931      Slightly unusual house, brick with eyelid dormer, whose arched outline echoes the arched pediment of the small entry porch. Triple windows, side screened porch. Well detailed small house. Matching garage of brick.      C

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|------|--|--|---|
| 502. | J. R. Porter House<br>109 W. Philips<br>after 1931     | 2-story brick and frame gable roof house with wing.<br>Built for Porter. | N |
| 503. | Mrs. H. H. Philips Hs.<br>107 W. Philips<br>after 1931 | 1-story ranch type house.  | N |

PHILIPS STREET, NORTH SIDE GOING EAST TO WEST

- |      |  |   |   |
|------|--|---|---|
| 504. | Bridgers House<br>110 E. Philips<br>by 1923?                   | 1-story house of generally bungalow character if not form; it may be earlier than bungalow elements suggest: John L. Bridgers is said to have lived here before 1870 (HCB).   | C |
| 505. | House<br>104 E. Philips<br>by 1913                             | 2-story frame house with simplified Queen Anne type massing, plain Neo-Classical Revival detail, paired brackets on roof of house and porch and porte cochere. Earliest map of area, 1913, shows house. Somewhat altered in detail.   | C |
| 506. | Hyman-Philips House<br>106 W. Philips<br>1840-1846             | Important antebellum house, with double pile plan and shallow hip roof characteristic of Tarboro in this period. The Doric porch columns and most of the detail are of Greek Revival character, but the double windows and bracket cornice reflect Italianate motifs. The house may be slightly later than the 1840-1846 date given locally. It is said to have been built for Henry Hyman; his daughter Martha Sabra married Frederick Philips and they acquired it in 1860; it remained in the family for a century. Like others, it was the center of a large suburban estate north of town, but in the 20th century the area was built up, leaving, however, a broad and spacious lawn. The house faces toward Main Street. | P |
| 507. | A. Lloyd Owens, Jr.,<br>House<br>108 W. Philips<br>mid-20th c. | 1-story brick ranch house.  | N |
| 508. | A. D. Mizell Hs.<br>110 W. Philips<br>1923-1931                | 1-story house with steep gables of picturesque mode, evidently built between 1923 and 1931. Stuccoed.   | C |



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509.	Tom Bass House 112 W. Phillips 1923-1931	Simply detailed 2-story brick veneer house, side bay entrance. Said built for Bass family by Charlie Pulley in 1927 (MP).	C
510.	Roy Madra House 116 W. Phillips 1923-1931	Long, low bungalow with broad roof and vigorous, geometric brackets, low dormer centrally placed, extensive porch.	C
511.	Allen Alderman Hs. 118 W. Phillips mid-20th c.	Tiny ranch house, frame.	N
BATTLE AVENUE, SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST			
512.	House 207 W. Battle by 1923	Simple bungalow, altered by wrought iron porch posts and aluminum siding.	C
513.	House 205 W. Battle by 1923	Small bungalow with notable peaked roof extending to cover porch.	C
514.	Mrs. B. M. Bass House 201 W. Battle by 1931	Vigorous 1 1/2-story frame late Colonial Revival house, gambrel roof with full dormers, triple windows, side extensions.	C
515.	Mrs. Nelson F. Howard House 115 W. Battle after 1931	Though not on the SM of 1931, the house, strongly resembling #514, must have been built soon after. Graceful gambrel roof, simplified colonial detail.	N/
516.	E. B. Foweler Hs. 105 E. Battle after 1931	Small frame ranch house.	N
517.	W. V. Leggett House 303-309 E. Battle mid-20th c.	1-story multi-family dwelling, ranch house scale. Built for Leggett as rental property.	N
BATTLE AVENUE, NORTH SIDE, GOING EAST TO WEST			
518.	House 404 E. Battle after 1931	Frame ranch type house.	N

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519.	C. J. Weeks, Jr., Hs. 302 Battle after 1931	1-story brick house with picture window, built for C. J. Weeks, Jr. N
520.	Mrs. Clifton Weeks Hs. 300 E. Battle late 19th c.	Located in an area not mapped (SM) until 1923, this house probably dates from about 1895. High hip roof and small gables of Queen Anne massing, wraparound porch with Neo-Classical posts. Very well kept. Notable example of type. C
521.	J. Porter McNair Hs. 216 E. Battle late 19th c.	Similar to #520, with additional Victorian decorative gable ornaments, decorative chimney, tin roof; projecting bay. Notable example of type. C
522.	Sledge House 208 E. Battle late 19th c.	Simple dwelling, detail similar to #520 and #521, not mapped until 1923. Full porch with turned balustrade, central facade gable. C
523.	Mrs. Ruth Gray Hs. 110 E. Battle mid-20th c.	Brick ranch house. N
524.	Mary L. McDowell Hs. 106 W. Battle after 1931?	L-shaped frame house, simple detail, apparently built 1931; a larger house stood nearer to corner and faced Main Street before that date. N
525.	House 108 W. Battle	1 1/2-story Colonial Revival frame house with gambrel roof, bold detail, pedimented dormers. C
526.	Dr. J. P. Bass Hs. 202 W. Battle after 1931	1 1/2-story frame house, colonial detail built for Dr. Bass. N
527.	Mrs. Joe P. Bunn Hs. 206 W. Battle by 1923	Small frame gable end house, bungalow elements, jerkin-head gable, of type found in great numbers as modest 1920s housing in Tarboro and much of the state. This one was labeled "C" in 1923 (SM) evidently suggesting it was new at that time. C
528.	House 208 W. Battle by 1923	Labeled "B" on SM of 1923, it was evidently new at that time. Unusually vigorous bungalow, distinguished by massive brick piers, roofline brackets of unusually bold Oriental cutout form. One of best examples of C

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- bungalow type in Tarboro. Said to be work of Tarboro builder Charlie Pulley (MP).
529. David Harris House  
210 W. Battle  
by 1923  
Labeled "A" in 1923, and thus probably new. Simple gable roof frame house, inset corner porch, simple rafter brackets. Builder David Harris said to have lived here, perhaps built it.
530. J. G. Daill House  
212 W. Battle  
after 1931  
Small ranch type house, arched door and windows on front. N
- JOHNSTON STREET, SOUTH SIDE, GOING WEST TO EAST
531. Lloyd-Jones-  
Lichtenstein-Weddell  
House  
120 Philips  
Small early house which formerly stood at 211 E. Church Street and possibly somewhere on St. Andrews before that. It is a late 18th or early 19th century dwelling of traditional form, with a side bay entrance, steep gable roof, and dormers. Since being moved to spare it from destruction when the telephone company developed its lot as a parking lot, the little house has been extensively renovated and an effort made to restore its early appearance. The house has had many owners and apparently belonged in the early 19th century to Joseph R. Lloyd and was later owned by Dr. J. W. Jones, who moved it to Church Street after 1882, then to Hannah Lichtenstein, and later the Weddell and Edmondson families. It was often a rental house. C
532. House  
205 Johnston  
mid-20th c.  
L-shaped brick ranch type house, colonial detail. N
533. Graham House  
303 Johnston  
after 1931  
1934  
Boxy 2-story frame dwelling, mid-20th century infill of block developed earlier. Described as being the first house built after the depths of the Depression in 1934 (MP). N
534. House  
311 Johnston  
after 1931  
1 1/2-story frame house with large front central chimney N
535. Mrs. J. M. Smoot Hs.  
309 Johnston  
after 1931  
1 1/2-story frame house with dormers, colonial detail. N

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JOHNSTON STREET, NORTH SIDE, GOING EAST TO WEST

536. C. B. Martin Middle School  
Johnston  
1920s-1970s  
The oldest and most prominent element of the school complex is a handsome 1920s brick school building with a combination of standard school treatment-- triple windows, horizontal emphasis, etc.,--and Gothic decorative motifs, such as the richly treated entrance with oriel window, and crenellated roofline. Other components of the complex date from subsequent decades of the 20th century. There are plans to demolish the oldest, central portion. P
537. Simmons-Fountain Hs.  
210 Johnston  
by 1931  
Well-detailed late Georgian Revival House, two stories, brick, gable roof, pedimented entrance. Related garage. Built for W. L. Simmons. C
538. Alex Constantine Hs.  
104 Johnston  
after 1931  
Simple, typical gable end dwelling with bungalow detail appears to date from 1920s but is not seen at this place on SM of 1931. C

WALNUT STREET, NORTH SIDE

539. House  
212 E. Walnut  
after 1931  
2-story brick house, wall dormers, colonial detail, fine lawn. N

TRADE STREET, WEST SIDE, GOING NORTH TO SOUTH

540. Moss Elsie Cobb Hs.  
912 Trade  
1913-1923  
Boxy, simple detailed house with rafter brackets, shed dormer. Perhaps new in 1923, is labeled "C" on SM. C
541. House  
910 Trade  
1913-1923  
Labeled "B" on SM in 1923, and thus perhaps new in that year. 1-story frame hip roof house, simple detail. C
542. House  
908 Trade  
by 1913  
1 1/2-story frame house with late Queen Anne detail, ca. 1900? Notable pedimented gables and dormer. C
543. House  
906 Trade  
1913-1923  
1-story frame house with central gable, turned porch posts, balustrade. Appears of type dating before 1913.

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| 544. Porter-Hyman Hs.<br>904 Trade<br>ca. 1854               | Boxy 2-story frame house with hip roof, plain Greek Revival detail, bracket cornice typical of antebellum work in Tarboro. Extensive contemporary and later structures attached to rear. T-shaped original 2-story arrangement, 1-story addition. Interior plan most unusual with T-shaped hallway, unusually well-preserved interiors, unusual rear stair placement. Locally said to have "many of the earmarks of a Lipscombe built house." Built for J. J. Porter on land bought in 1854 from J. J. B. Pender. The sale price of \$8,000 for 26 1/4 acres may indicate the house was already there then. Long surrounded by its own expansive grounds, overlooking distant Main Street, thus one of several north Tarboro suburban estates. | P       |
| 545. Harvey James, Jr.,<br>House<br>900 Trade St.<br>by 1913 | In an area not mapped until 1913, but probably dating from a decade or more earlier. Unusually complete and well-preserved Queen Anne cottage with rich combination of materials--shingled, weatherboard, "half-timbered," and sawn, turned, and other wooden ornament. Irregular and dramatic massing typical of style. Tin roof. Probably ca. 1900 (see #547 below).   | P/      |
| 546. Mrs. Lester Page Hs.<br>506 Trade<br>1913-1923 (1917)   | In 1923 it was marked "A" on SM; typical bungalow with multiple hip roof dormers, porch with paired Doric type posts. Said built by a Mrs. Wagner in 1917 for present owner-resident.  | C       |
| 547. House<br>504 Trade<br>1896-1901                         | Since SMs of 1890-1908 cover only the central area of town, where few dwellings of that era now survive, this house's construction date is unusual in its specificity and thus a key in dating other similar dwellings. It is an excellent example of a Queen Anne cottage with varied shingled, turned, and other decoration, richly treated wraparound porch, gable with Queen Anne window, and charming dormer with bargeboard. Similar to and probably contemporary with #545.   | P/      |
| 548. O. C. Farrar House<br>500 Trade<br>1870s                | Important and well-preserved late 19th century house; its large scale and rich eclectic wooden detail reflect prominence of Farrar, leading industrialist and businessman in postwar period. L-shaped 2-story house of ornate  | P       |

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- Italianate character with floral patterned slate roof, bold Italianate arched windows, heavy modillion cornice, handsome porch treatment--all intact. Interior equally fine. Endangered and pivotal in location. Closely related in detail and form to the Pipher House (#100) on North Main Street and somewhat to contemporary houses in Goldsboro (Weil Houses), Raleigh (Merrimon House) and others. Builder/architect unknown. Remains in family to present.
549. Harris Supermarket  
Trade  
mid-20th c.      Sprawling new supermarket, parking lot.      I
550. Carolina Telephone  
Warehouse  
Trade  
mid-20th c.      Metal, new warehouse.      I
551. Carolina Telephone  
Building  
Trade  
apparently by 1931      Brick 1-story large building, two blocks; corner one there by 1931, adjoining one later.      C, I
552. Gulf Station  
Trade  
mid-20th c.      Post-1931 service station.      N
553. House  
204/206 Trade  
ca. 1901      Modest gable roof late vernacular frame house, geometric lattice porch posts across facade; center chimney. To be demolished in 1979. Labeled "shanty"--1 of several so identified on 1901 SM. Not there earlier. Bad condition.      C
554. Warehouses  
Trade  
date unknown,  
probably early 20th c.      It is difficult to determine these structures first appearance on SM of early 20th century. Pair of functional, metal-covered plain storage buildings. To be demolished 1979. W. B. Howell Peanut Buyer Storage recently.      C
- TRADE STREET, EAST SIDE, GOING SOUTH TO NORTH
555. House  
307 Trade  
by 1882      Seen on Gray's map of 1882, though not labeled with name. One of few surviving houses in this section of town, which changed from residential to commercial/      C

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- Industrial in the early 20th century. 2-story frame gable roof house with jerkinhead or clipped gables, central steep gable with gable ornament. Slightly peaked window frames typical of post-Civil War work in Tarboro. Still has plantings around it to create something of an oasis in streetscape despite somewhat neglected appearance.
556. Cotton's Restaurant & Grill  
Trade  
mid-20th c. Small new brick structure with shingled mansard type roof, set back far from street. N
- 556-A. Building  
Trade  
mid-20th c. Small cinder block addition to 556. N
557. House  
405 Trade  
1923-1931 1-story bungalow with unusually complex roof forms, porch treatment, with jerkinhead dormer atop porch. C
558. House  
503 Trade  
1913-1923 Bungalow with hip roof, hip dormer, porte cochere and porch under main roof. On 1923 SM labeled "B" and thus presumably new at that date. C
559. House  
(Community Development Office)  
509 Trade  
1913-1923 Handsome, typical bungalow with deep gable roof sheltering front porch, low shed dormer, typical stick brackets. Carefully renovated for adaptive use as town office. C
560. Miss Elizabeth Porter  
House  
by 1913  
(ca. 1900) Earliest SM of street shows house here in 1913. Unpretentious, typical, well-preserved L-shaped version of Queen Anne cottage with turned porch posts and balustrade, Queen Anne window in gable. Probably built 1895-1905. C
561. Worsley-Howard House  
903 Trade  
by 1913 Simple gable roof house of vaguely Queen Anne form and probably ca. 1900 date, with porch and hip roof dormer suggestive of slightly later addition to house. Built for Worsley family. Now Rawls Howard House. C
562. House  
905 Trade  
mid-20th c. Small frame ranch house. N

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| 563. | Town of Tarboro<br>Warehouse<br>____ Hendricks St. | Part of a city-owned complex, on a block owned by the city since at least 1931. Simple brick warehouse building, apparently built after 1931. | N |
|------|--|---|---|

HENDRICKS STREET, WEST SIDE

- |      |  |   |   |
|------|--|---|---|
| 564. | Electric Development<br>Building<br>____ Hendricks<br>by 1923? | Uncertain date; plain brick industrial type building, 1-story. Part of Electric Plant seen on this site in 1931 and 1923. The use of 1:5 common bond brickwork suggests that it may indeed be the 1923 (or earlier) building and thus important to the civic progress of the period. An early municipal power plant.                | C |
| 565. | Farm supplies, Inc.<br>____ Hendricks<br>mid-20th c.           | New brick warehouse type structure, 1-story.  | N |
| 566. | Structure<br>____ Hendricks<br>mid-20th c.                     | Small A-frame structure, new.   | N |
| 567. | Tobacco Drive In<br>____ Hendricks<br>mid-20th c.              | Small concrete block building, 1-story  | N |
| 568. | Victory Warehouse #2<br>____ Hendricks<br>by 1923              | 1-story shallow gable roof warehouse with extending shed roofs on side. Important as part of industrial-agricultural complex developed in early 20th c. along Hendricks Creek. SM of 1923 (first to show this area) shows it as Farmers Tobacco Warehouse with "hitching sheds under." In 1931 it was Edgcombe Bonded Warehouse #3. | C |

HENDRICKS STREET, EAST SIDE GOING SOUTH TO NORTH

- |      |  |  |   |
|------|--|--|---|
| 569. | City Taxi<br>____ Hendricks<br>mid-20th c. | Tiny 1-story concrete block structure. | N |
|------|--|--|---|

DANCY STREET, EAST SIDE

- |      |                                    |   |   |
|------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 570. | House<br>1305 Dancy<br>mid-20th c. | Plain 1-story ca. 1950 house, frame, small. | N |
|------|------------------------------------|---|---|



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|--|---|---------|
| 571. House<br>1303 Dancy<br>after 1931                                   | The short street was opened up for development between 1923 and 1931, but this house was apparently built soon after 1931. Gable end frame house with gable porch, appears to date from 1920s or 1930s.   | N       |
| 572. George Moore House<br>13__ Main                                     | Set on a drive set back from Main Street in yard of #573.   |         |
| 573. Dunn-Dancy-Johnston<br>House<br>1308 Main<br>mid-19th c.            | Antebellum house, probably built for Dunn family, locally said ca. 1832. This was one of the antebellum suburban residences north of town. Boxy form shows era, but house much altered. Eaves bracketed, some detail survives. GNM shows J. S. Dancy there 1882. Henry Johnston said to have married a Dancy daughter; Johnston home many years.  | (       |
| 574. House<br>1306 Main<br>after 1931                                    | Simple frame 1 1/2-story house, after 1931.   | N       |
| 575. Cotton Press complex<br>Albemarle Avenue on<br>Common<br>antebellum | Impressive Cotton Press formerly on Norfleet Plantation, moved to Common for preservation then to this site for restoration in 1970s. Huge structure features massive wooden screw mechanism and outlying shed roof shelter. Nearby is small traditional outbuilding moved to site from Philips place.  | P       |
| 576. Milk Plant<br>310 W. Wilson<br>1923-1931                            | Simple, functional brick building. The Tarboro Milk Plant established in the 1920s, was the pride of the town and an unusual municipal operation in the nation. The pasteurization was heralded as promising a dramatic reduction in infant mortality and the incidence of tuberculosis. This plant expressed the intense interest in health, sanitation, and general improvement in Tarboro in this period, and the expansion of municipal services. |         |

# SIGNIFICANCE

RIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
10-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
0-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
0-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
0-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
0-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
0-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

CIFIC DATES 1760's-Present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tarboro Historic District is significant as a moderate sized river side community established in 1760 that has flourished for over two centuries as a regional trade and governmental center. The role of such communities in North Carolina is vital, for the state has always (until the last half-century) been almost exclusively composed of agricultural communities relating to small county seat towns. The town exhibits many important aspects of the life, scale, ideas, and components of such small and moderate sized communities, here preserved in an ensemble of variety and unity. The town retains its early grid plan stretching back from the Tar River that gave it its economic life as well as the Common to the north of the grid--one of the few survivals of its kind recalling this aspect of eighteenth century town planning. Tarboro contains as well a rich collection of commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings from the last hundred years of its development, together with dwellings and churches from ca. 1800 to the present. With minor exceptions of a few recent structures, Tarboro's architectural character maintains the modest scale and important early urban and suburban density of its past, creating a townscape of unusual consistency and high quality. After a period in the mid-twentieth century of considerable demolition of landmarks, the town has recently witnessed a progressive and exemplary combination of planning and preservation activity.

### Criteria Assessment

A. Associated with the key economic role of small inland river towns in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century development of the state; with the dominance of the cotton crop in the antebellum period and the growth of the state's smaller towns in that period; with the development of local textile and agriculture-related industries in the postwar era; and with the continued municipal expansion in the twentieth century when North Carolina first witnessed consequential urbanization.

B. Associated with the active lives of several local and statewide leaders active in the fields of politics, business, industry, education, and religion: see within.

C. Exhibits excellent examples of eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century architectural styles and traditions, including traditional and vernacular dwellings of the earlier periods; villas and a handsome church from the antebellum era; and many notable dwellings (mansions and bungalows alike), warehouses, commercial buildings, public structures, and related buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These occur in a streetscape system that maintains much of its early and significant scale, density, and materials, in a community that includes commercial, industrial, and residential areas in much of their historically intimate relationship.

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### PRE-REVOLUTIONARY

Located on the Tar River in central Edgecombe County is the town of Tarboro. In 1732, according to tradition, county residents settled the community. But the town was not incorporated until 1760 when Joseph Howell (see #466), who owned a ferry on Tar River and considerable land, deeded 150 acres of his land to five town commissioners. They instructed Howell to begin work laying out the town and to supervise the construction of buildings there. The village was to be divided into lots and an area set aside for the town common, fifty acres surrounding the town. In November the Colonial Assembly designated the settlement as Tarborough, and four years later it commissioned Howell and four other men to oversee the building of the Edgecombe County courthouse and jail to be located in the new county seat.<sup>1</sup>

"In all urban settlements," writes one historian of colonial North Carolina, "the single most important function was trade. The kind, amount, and direction of trade varied from place to place, but it was the one function common to all of the urban settlements and often the dominant factor in their growth (and decline)." Trade indeed was the key factor in the founding of Tarboro and the decline of trade often resulted in a drop in the town's growth and prosperity.<sup>2</sup>

Although little is known about Tarboro as a colonial trade center, since "it was established too late to become of much importance before 1775," it was one of four "midland" towns that developed in colonial North Carolina. These "midland" towns, Halifax, Cross Creek, Campbellton, and Tarboro, were located between "the east coast and the mostly westly portion of the settled area" of the state and usually at the highest navigable point on rivers flowing to the coast. All four were founded in the third quarter of the eighteenth century and served as trade links between east and west. They existed primarily to handle internal trade, and the merchants in each town used both overland and river transportation to move goods and supplies.<sup>3</sup>

Tarboro's chief commercial activity was in exporting goods from the interior and importing goods from the east, mainly the port of Washington, for distribution. Citizens built large warehouses to handle the large export trade, and, in fact, one of the first actions taken by the town commissioners after the formation of the town was to decree that as "much of the Land upon the point betwixt (Tar) River and (Hendrick: Creek, as is requisite for Publick Ware house (,) " be laid off for that purpose. In trade with areas east of Tarboro, merchants and businessmen of the town relied upon the Tar River for the transport of their supplies. Goods brought in from the west, however, were generally transported over the roads which led into Tarboro from the west, north, and south. Tar, pork, and corn were probably the most important export items, although tobacco became an important commodity during the 1770s and 1780s.<sup>4</sup>

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But the trade center grew slowly. Not located on a main trade route to Virginia, South Carolina or the sea, and dependent on the Tar River which was not navigable year round, the town saw little growth in the fifteen years following its founding. In 1773 it was even denied a representative to the General Assembly because it did not have as many as sixty families, being only half the size of Halifax. The visitor to early Tarboro saw little more than a few hastily constructed houses on less than half-acre lots, the public warehouse, and a fifty-acre town common set aside for public use.<sup>5</sup>

REVOLUTIONARY

During the American Revolution a number of men in the area served in the American ranks. Also, Major William R. Davie, the state's commissary general, established a supply center at Tarboro probably because of the availability of storage facilities and the town's peacetime role as a commercial supply center. Later, however, he moved the depot to Halifax. A brief skirmish was fought near Tarboro between local patriots and the regiment of British cavalry colonel Banastre Tarlton, part of Lord Cornwallis' army, moving north through North Carolina.<sup>6</sup>

POST-REVOLUTIONARY

Following the Revolutionary War Tarboro showed some signs of growth and lively commercial activity. Visitors on various occasions described its late 18th century appearance. When the state legislature met there in 1787, a traveler to the area elected to stay at an ordinary outside of town because, he declared, "We. . . were not sure of obtaining a lodging in Tarboro if we went there, as we had heard that every house was crowded, the assembly being then at that place." Upon entering Tarboro he observed that

the size of the town appear'd so inadequate to the comfortable accomodation of a legislature composed of about 120 Commons or Delegates and about 60 Senators, together with the people attending the Sessions in business or going there on motives of pleasure, that you will not easily believe that it was possible to provide for them. Yet provided for they were, and they said themselves very comfortably; one old gentleman said that he had cause to be satisfied that he lived there much better than at home.

A London merchant, Robert Hunter, Jr., traveling in North Carolina in 1785, noted that a good deal of corn and tobacco was grown in the surrounding county, much of which would probably be exported through Tarboro. He also witnessed "some Negroes, with their overseer, going up (to Tarboro) with a large flat (boat), setting against the current with poles. She was loaded with sugar, rum, and molasses. They will be some days," he noted, "in getting there, but return very easily with the current. Its laborious work going up, this hot weather."<sup>8</sup> On his tour through the South in 1791

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By 1810 the river community was improving. Dr. Jeremiah Battle described the town's situation:

The streets are 72 feet wide, & cross each other at right angles; leaving squares of two acres each. These squares being divided into half acre lots, makes every lot front or face two streets. There are about 50 private houses in it, & generally from 15 to 20 stores; a church goal, Tobacco ware house, & a large court house, which in the year 1785 was used for the sitting of the State Legislature. There are several good springs adjacent to the town, but for culinary uses almost every family has a well; & some of these wells afford good water the greatest part of the year. This place affords good encouragement to all industrious persons, particularly mechanics, of almost any description. 60 or 70 mechanics have had full employ here at one time. But such of them as have migrated to this place have too soon found themselves in prosperous situations, & have betaken themselves to idleness & dissipation.

Merchants generally do well here; & there has scarcely been an instance of failure in the place. There are few well built private houses, some of which have lately been finished. The 'styles of building' is as it is in the country, generally plain & cheap. The Goal & one of the store houses is of Brick.

Adjacent to the Town is the country seat of Gen. T. Blount, where he has lately built a very good house, the best that is in the county. This is a beautiful eminence, overlooking the town. An extensive grove surrounds the houses; back of which is a tract of 20 or 30 acres of rich swamp, well ditched & drained; & is in a high state of cultivation.<sup>14</sup>

Battle did not mention a vital institution in existence by 1810; in that year Tarboro became one of six North Carolina towns to boast a branch of the State Bank. Its first president was Thomas Blount. An important early social institution was the Masonic Order. Only the town government predates in Tarboro the formation of Concord Lodge No. 58, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. The Grand Lodge of North Carolina was organized here in 1787. A monument stands in the Town Common to commemorate the founding date.

Tarboro included in the early nineteenth century a number of notable business and political figures. Merchants and planters came to the community, and some took active roles in state political and business circles. Blake Baker (# ), an early town commissioner, served as state attorney-general (1795-1803). Theophilus Parker was a merchant, planter, and banker, and is recalled as part owner during the War of 1812 of the celebrated privateer Snap Dragon. He owned a house on the

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edge of Tarboro (#425) that was not a town house, but the dwelling of his plantation, Panola, adjoining the town.<sup>15</sup>

Also prominent was Thomas Blount, a Revolutionary soldier, merchant, and politician. After the war he joined his brother, John Gray Blount, in the mercantile business and opened a branch store in Tarboro. According to a historian of the Blount family, Alice Barnwell Keith:

they carried on a local trade, both wholesale and retail in character; a coastal trade extending from Rhode Island to Georgia; and a foreign trade including the West Indies and Europe. On the side they developed a number of small industries, including sawmills, grist mills, a nailery, a tannery, fisheries, cotton gins, tar distilleries, and warehouse storage. The Blounts also were among the greatest land speculators in American history.<sup>16</sup>

Blount rendered considerable and extended political service to North Carolina. He held local offices in Edgecombe County and was a member of the North Carolina Legislature and Congress from 1788 to 1812. He is described as "an adroit politician of the old Revolutionary school."<sup>17</sup> Blount's fine house, The Grove, survives (#125).

ANTEBELLUM

Despite the trade based wealth of some merchants and entrepreneurs like Thomas Blount in the late 1700s and early 1800s, it was the later growth of the cotton economy in North Carolina, particularly in Edgecombe County, that created flush times in Tarboro and insured the town's place as an agricultural trade center. Around the time of the Revolution, North Carolina was one of the chief tobacco-producing states in British America, but when the northwest United States was opened after the war, the state could not compete with richer soils of the Ohio, Wabash, and Kentucky river basins in tobacco production. Consequently, many of the farmers of the state and Edgecombe County turned to the production of wheat, corn, and especially cotton. The invention of the cotton gin and the development of upland cotton also made the growing of that staple a more profitable venture. With the growth of the New England cotton industry and a great demand for the commodity in the European mills, especially in England, there were even greater temptations for the planters and farmers of Edgecombe, like others throughout the South, to engage in cotton production.<sup>18</sup>

During the antebellum years, 1820-1860, when the cotton economy reigned supreme throughout most of the South, Tarboro prospered by serving as an export and import center for many planters of Edgecombe County. This role and its ensuing benefits was primarily made possible by a relatively new invention--the steamboat. Prior to the introduction of steam packets, all river traffic on the Tar was downstream by keelboat, and the return up river was extremely slow and difficult. But with

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the birth of the steamboat and its rapid development in the 1820s and 1830s far less time and effort was required to ascend the river.<sup>19</sup> Not only could the cotton and other agricultural products of Edgecombe be sent downstream to the town of Washington for export elsewhere, but goods could more easily be brought back upstream for sale by Tarboro merchants to planters and farmers in the hinterland. The Edmund D. McNair was an early steamboat plying the Tar in 1835. The Tarboro landing was near the mouth of Hendricks Creek. In 1848 the citizens of Edgecombe County organized the Tar River Steamboat Company and purchased a boat to operate between Tarboro and Washington.<sup>20</sup> The river, however, was still navigable only part of the year. Although the price of cotton frequently fell to low levels, the overall economic picture in antebellum Tarboro was one of prosperity. By 1826 the Tarboro Free Press could proclaim that cotton, commanding a good price, was "brought to this place in considerable quantities" and merchants and factors profited by selling supplies to cotton growers and other farmers.<sup>21</sup> In the last decade of the antebellum period Edgecombe County was producing an average of 5,000 bales of cotton a year. In 1860 Edgecombe County led the state in cotton production with 15,000 bales.<sup>22</sup>

Tarboro and Edgecombe County planters were among the most progressive in the state. Robert R. and John L. Bridgers, brothers, operated a plantation named Strabane, where their scientific farming methods produced huge cotton crops that gained national attention. Adjoining Tarboro was Panola, the Theophilus Parker plantation purchased in the 1850s by Robert Norfleet (who lived in Tarboro) and John S. Dancy (brother of William F. Dancy). Under their leadership Panola "was generally considered the best cotton plantation of the fifties in the State. Some even considered it the best managed plantation in the entire South," claims historian Guion Griffis Johnson. It contained 600 acres of cleared land and 308 acres of uncleared land. In 1854 all but 10 acres of cleared land was being cultivated. In that year the thirty-four slaves, twenty mules, and three yoke of oxen produce almost 220 bales of cotton of 400 pounds each, 900 barrels of corn, 2,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, more than 1,000 bushels of clean oats, and 27,000 pounds of hay and oats. Like the Bridgers brothers, Dancy and Norfleet employed innovative methods of labor management, soil refurbishment, and crop production to make Panola prosperous, and efficiency was the order of the day there. Johnson has noted that

Panola slaves used the best agricultural implements which their owners could obtain. Their plows were Maryland or Patuxent plows bought in Baltimore; their carts were sturdy and constantly kept in repair. No hand was forced to "make shift" with a broken hoe. Dancy and Norfleet were among the first planters in the State to try the newly invented cotton seed sower. Thus well equipped Panola slaves were constantly busy during working hours, and every day was a work day.<sup>23</sup>

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Like the owners of Panola, many Edgecombe County planters were innovative in agricultural techniques, particularly soil refurbishment through the use of marl and compost. The Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr., has recalled the testimony of Governor Henry T. Clark regarding the Edgecombe planters' use of natural fertilizers:

The natural advantages (the county) possessed were an abundance of marl in almost all parts of the county and numerous swamps and boggy streams, from which decayed vegetable matter could be hauled for compost. The acidity of this bog-mud was corrected by the lime in the marl, and the constant application of compost to the lands produced a gradual improvement in their productiveness. The marl found in the county is not sufficiently rich in elements of plant food to make it marketable. But with slave labor it cost practically nothing.

The farm hands were employed in digging the marl when there was no other work to be done. Then, early in the year it was hauled into the fields and composted in large piles, with cotton-seed, mud from the swamps, the scrapings of the fence corners, the bodies of any domestic animals that had died on the farm and whatever else came to hand.

The best planters applied from 100 to 200 cartloads of compost per acre.<sup>24</sup>

In 1858-1859 Edmund Ruffin, the antebellum South's most famous and scientific agriculturalist, visited Edgecombe County as a part of an agricultural survey of the Tar Heel state. Cheshire remembered seeing the renowned agriculturalist and secessionist

As a small boy of nine or ten years of age, I remember seeing Mr. John S. Dancy of Tarborough, and a venerable, white-bearded old man talking to my father, as I was with him in the "Old Church" yard, where he was working on some improvements. My father has since told me that the old gentleman was Mr. Edmund Ruffin. It was in the spring of the year, and Mr. Ruffin went about the county and saw the methods in use of making and applying compost. He was not very favorably impressed, as the compost did not seem to him very rich in plant food. But the next fall he came and saw the mature crops. He found that the yield far exceeded his anticipation. He said there was more in Edgecombe methods than he had thought there was in the spring.<sup>25</sup>

Tarboro probably lost much of the trade associated with the cotton economy because it did not have a railroad traversing its borders. Many Edgecombe cotton growers as well as producers of other commodities preferred to take their cotton and other goods to Rocky Mount (where the Wilmington and Weldon had a depot) or other towns where there were connecting railroad lines. They also obtained their needed supplies at those places. A branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad did not arrive in



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Tarboro until 1861.<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless the flush times of the antebellum period brought enough trade for all the nearby towns to enjoy the profits of exporting cotton and selling supplies. Tarboro took its share, its greatest period of growth probably being the decade 1850-1860. Today a reminder of the cotton economy can be seen in the 1860 cotton press (#575) taken from the plantation of Isaac Norfleet in 1938 and placed in the town common.<sup>27</sup>

Beginning around 1835 a general improvement in economic conditions throughout the state also brought greater prosperity and growth to Tarboro. This era of economic progress began with the rise in state government of the Whig Party which launched a program with a statewide emphasis on internal improvements. During the period 1835-1860, as historian Hugh T. Lefler points out, there was an increase in the number and sizes of towns in North Carolina, many of which had been "mere villages" before 1835. By 1860 Tarboro had a population of around 1,000.<sup>28</sup>

In Edgecombe County as throughout the South, the growth of a cotton economy meant an increase in the use of slaves, and the institution of slavery became a more firmly entrenched part of the economy. By 1830 there were almost as many slaves (7,075) and free blacks (220) as there were white persons (7,630) in Edgecombe County. The black population was vital to the agricultural production, the building trades, and other aspects of the society.<sup>29</sup>

Free blacks living in antebellum Tarboro contributed greatly to the town's economy. There were 64 free blacks living in the town at the time of the 1860 census. These consisted of five carpenters, two brick masons, and the town's only "engineer." The rest of the adult free blacks were laborers, farmers, or house servants. Some whites feared that free Negroes might provide the leadership necessary for slaves to stage a successful uprising, and they tried to control the number of free blacks within the city limits.<sup>30</sup>

When Nat Turner's Rebellion occurred in Southampton County, Virginia in 1831, white citizens were apprehensive that their own slaves might revolt. Tarboro residents also became strongly embittered against abolitionist attack: The Free Press heaped bitter scorn on the abolitionists and their "incendiary publications" like William Lloyd Garrison's newly published Liberator. In response to abolitionist agitation and the news of slave unrest, Tarboro strengthened its patrol regulations and restrictions on blacks.<sup>31</sup>

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Disease was a constant threat in the community. Small pox, yellow fever, and malaria were among those epidemics most feared. The possibility of fire also struck terror in the hearts of the town dwellers in Edgecombe County. In 1820 the state legislature authorized the formation of fire engine companies in Tarboro and allowed their members to be exempt from militia duty. But it repealed the authorization five years later because the fire companies had "served as a screen for those wishing to escape military duty."<sup>32</sup>

For Tarboro the antebellum years were a period of significant intellectual and cultural development which reached its peak in the decade 1850-1860. The Southerner reported on July 16, 1859, that in 1850 the town had boasted "9 stores, 3 physicians, 6 lawyers, two tailors, 2 milliners, 1 saddler, 1 shoemaker, 1 coachmaker, 1 cabinetmaker, 1 jeweler, 6 confectionaries, and 2 ten pin alleys--3 meeting houses, 2 academies, Court House, Jail, Post Office, Printing Office, and Branch of State Bank." Teachers, craftsmen and merchants of foreign birth added a cosmopolitan note to the community.<sup>33</sup> To educate its future citizens the river community had built a private academy in 1814 and employed as its first principal, Robert Hall, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and a former teacher at Raleigh Academy. The curriculum included reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, and the use of globes for the cost of sixteen dollars per year. If Latin and Greek languages or higher mathematics were included, the cost was twenty-two dollars. A notice by the academy declared that "the price of fire wood is included," and "genteel boarding can be procured." In the 1820s Tarboro Academy had both male and female departments and the female program embraced "all those branches of education, which constitute useful, accomplished, and polite literature." It also included chemistry, astronomy, natural philosophy, rhetoric, and history. "Such as desire it," read an advertisement, "may be taught plain and ornamental Needle Work, Painting on Paper and velvet, and music." By the time of the Civil War Tarboro had two private academies.<sup>34</sup>

But in the first quarter of the century the town, like most of the region, paid little attention to public education, and in 1839 Edgecombe County voted 1,075 to 165 against a proposed statewide system of free common schools. Although the state legislature approved the program, no taxes were collected in Edgecombe for that purpose until 1853.<sup>35</sup> The 1850 census indicated that in Tarboro and all of Edgecombe County there was no public library, nor a private library containing as many as 1,000 volumes. Nevertheless in Edgecombe County by 1850 there were 43 public schools with 1 teacher and 30 pupils each. In 1860 \$1,914 in taxes was raised in the county to support public education, and there were 13 private academies and 7 private libraries with over 1,000 volumes, many of which were medical and law books.<sup>36</sup>

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Antebellum Tarboro boasted a newspaper begun there in 1826, established as the Tarborough Free Press. Editor-publisher George Howard had come as a printer from Baltimore to Halifax in 1824 and then made his way to Tarboro, where his paper and his family would have an important influence on the town to the present time. From August 24, 1830, to January, 1835, he called the paper the North Carolina Free Press, and it communicated the staunch Jacksonian/Democratic views and general conservatism of Howard. Tradition claims that in 1834 B. F. Moore, outspoken Whig, sought to have a political article published and complained, when Howard refused, that the name Free Press was a misnomer; Howard by 1835 changed the name to the Tarborough Press, and by 1852 to the Tarborough Southerner. The Southerner, still active, is a prime source of data on the town's history, and is one of the longest-running papers in the state. Howard let his son, George Howard, edit the paper as a young man; the son was to become a powerful force in the community in the middle and late years of the century. By 1860 Christopher Callen became editor and proprietor of the paper, with the Howard family essentially ending their association with the paper; George's son William regained ownership in 1861, George died in 1863, and L. D. Pender became wartime editor and publisher. A series of owners and editors operated the paper after the war.<sup>37</sup>

Despite the occasional visit of a musical or theatrical troupe, antebellum Tarboro "had few opportunities to spend its money on commercialized recreation." In 1832 the town "had only one public performance of any kind and in 1852, twenty years later, it had only five: three concerts, one circus, and the exhibition of a natural curiosity." Cock fighting, horse racing, barbecues, and gambling were popular sports and pastimes in most antebellum towns in North Carolina, and they were probably a part of Tarboro's recreational life.<sup>38</sup>

One of the chief forms of social entertainment in towns throughout North Carolina before the Civil War was the public subscription ball. Tarboro sponsored a number of these festive affairs. One such ball was held at the Howard House Hotel on George Washington's birthday in 1860, and the Southerner described the gay occasion:

What wonder that the young people should show that the memory of the past still left joyful impressions by wishing to commemorate the event with a mutual exchange of social greeting, laughing sallies and witty repartees: So when the shadows of eve, lay silent and still, many myriads of twinkling stars lighted in azure vaults, there assembled in the dancing hall of the Howard House a merry company each one seeming determined to enjoy the first "Hop of the Season." As the hand of the timepiece pointed to nine inspiring notes of the Wilson Band sent them tripping on the "light fantastic toe" and the figures of the dance often requiring the ladies to form a group in the center of the room, reminded

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one of a bouquet of flowers. . .But oh! Every pleasure has its pain and every sweet its bitter, and finally the hour of parting came; an old Virginia break down finishing the catalogues of the evening's amusements as the gray streaks of dawn came stealing over the eastern horizon.<sup>39</sup>

Although these balls were public affairs, social classes still remained sharply defined. As historian Buion Griffis Johnson has noted, "a gentleman's daughter seldom danced with a mechanic s son."<sup>40</sup>

Churches were active in the river community during the antebellum days. The congregations included the Primitive Baptist, Missionary Baptist, Saint James Methodist, and Calvary Episcopal churches. In 1830 the Primitive Baptist Congregation, formed in 1819, constructed a church on the corner of St. James Street and Albemarle Avenue. It is now the only surviving church completed before the Civil War (#359). Calvary Episcopal Church (#419) was begun before the war but not completed until 1867. Its architect was William Percival who designed the Barracks (#1), home of industrialist William S. Battle in Tarboro, and other impressive buildings in the state, including the First Baptist Church in Raleigh in 1856. Thomas Coats was the contractor for the handsome church whose yard of foreign and domestic trees planted by Dr. Joseph Blount Cheshire, a prominent Episcopal priest, makes the sylvan cemetery one of the state's loveliest spots. Many of the town's renowned past citizens are buried in the graveyard there.<sup>41</sup>

On the eve of the Civil War Tarboro displayed some of the improvements and refinements that antebellum prosperity brought to many southern trade centers. A branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad arrived in 1861, plantations were thriving, and the population was growing. A correspondent of the Salisbury Banner who visited the community in 1860 proclaimed that it was "without the slightest doubt the prettiest place in the state. "The village," he wrote, "is mostly inhabited by men of wealth, who have the ability and the desire to indulge their tastes. There is a great deal of taste displayed in the architecture of the houses and also in laying off grounds in selecting and setting out the shrubbery." A newspaper reporter from Petersburg observed that the "taste and refinement of Tarboro has often been spoken of by those who have visited it, even from Virginia's favored soil. The very great improvement which is now going on would not fail to be perceived by the most casual observer," he noted, and "if the beauties of nature have

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the power to call forth the poetic muse, this is certainly the home where those who are thus inclined, may while their life in pleasant dream away." 42

The September 17, 1859 Southerner included this report:

The Junior Editor of the Wilson Ledger recently visited our town, and in giving an account of his visit remarks: . . . Tarboro has an air of statliness about it, a quiet dignity that affords a marked contrast to our lively, noisey, bustling town. When its quiet is invaded by the shrill whistle of the locomotive, we may expect to see its stout solidity galvanized into a fever heat like our own thriving burgh. 43

As earlier, the town included a number of prosperous merchants, planters, and political leaders in the antebellum era. Francis Little Dancy (1776-1848) (#145) was born in Edgecombe County in 1776, a descendant of French Huguenots and the son of William Dancy who had migrated from Virginia. Although he "had no taste for political life," his reputation as a lawyer brought him a degree of fame, and he did serve for a time as the county attorney for Nash County. Of him, Kemp P. Battle has written:

The gentlemen of Edgecombe were, as a rule, high spirited and intelligent, prosperous in business, hospitable and generous at home, firmly grounded in the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy. Among these for over thirty years Francis L. Dancy moved, a leader among leaders, trusted by the good, a power in keeping pure and honest the citizenship of his county. 44

Louis D. Wilson, who lived at the Blount House (#125) in Tarboro, was a prominent planter and lawyer who served in the state house of commons and senate for most of the period 1814-1846. A delegate to the state Constitutional Convention of 1835, he was also a strong supporter of public education (despite opposition in Edgecombe). His considerable political influence in the county was followed after his death by great celebrity as a Mexican War military hero. Throughout the entire Mexican campaign only three North Carolinians were killed by enemy action. Wilson was one of 93 who died from "other causes," including disease. At 58 years old, he raised a company in Edgecombe County, resigned from the senate, enlisted as a private, was later chosen Captain of his company, and finally died in Mexico of yellow fever. Wilson Street, Wilson County, and a memorial in the Common honor him. 45

Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, D.D. (1814-1899) (#425), while not a business or political leader, wielded a great influence in Tarboro and the surrounding area. He came from Edenton and after practicing law briefly determined to enter the ministry. He came as Episcopal priest to serve several congregations in Bertie, Halifax, and then Tarboro in 1841 and 1842. He married the daughter of Theophilus Parker (senior warden of Calvary Church) and made his permanent home in Tarboro (#425), serving Calvary Church and Trinity in Scotland Neck. His strong interest

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in exotic plants and landscape gardening had a lasting influence in the region. Calvary Churchyard in Tarboro reflects in its collection of specimens and layout his handiwork over many years. Trinity Churchyard, Scotland Neck, as well as the lawns and gardens of residences in the region, also reflect his impact. Cheshire's son, Joseph Blount Cheshire, Jr., was born in Tarboro in 1850 and followed his father into the priesthood. In 1893 he became bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. Descendants of the Cheshire Family have remained important in the town and region to the present time.<sup>46</sup>

James West Clark (#207), a graduate of Princeton, served in Congress and subsequently became Chief Clerk of the Navy Department in President Jackson's first administration. His home, which he is thought to have built (#207), was also the childhood home of his son, Governor Henry Toole Clark.<sup>47</sup>

Henry Clark succeeded John W. Ellis as governor of North Carolina. He was born in Tarboro in 1803, son of James West and Arabella Toole Clark. A successful farmer, he was elected to the State Senate and took over as chief executive when Ellis died. He served the state well during the crucial early stages of the Civil War but did not seek re-election after his initial term. His historical marker on Main Street states that "he prepared the state for war."<sup>48</sup>

William S. Battle (1823-1915), son of James Smith Battle, a wealthy planter, large slave owner, and owner of the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills, had inherited the family mills and moved to Tarboro in the late 1850s, erecting a large villa there in 1858 (#1). Edgecombe County chose him and Judge George Howard to serve as delegates to the Secession Convention of 1861.<sup>49</sup>

William F. Dancy (#144), son of Francis Dancy, was active in local politics, serving in the State House of Commons from 1846 to 1849. According to Kemp P. Battle, he was "a Democrat after the school of Jefferson and Macon," and the "socialistic tendencies of government had no charm for him." He opposed granting an extension of time to the Raleigh and Gaston and Wilmington and Raleigh (later Wilmington and Weldon) Railroads when their obligations to the state came due, and he proposed "to sell the former road outright under the mortgage." A strict constructionist, he maintained that the Constitution protected slavery and had no authority to prevent its extension into the territories.<sup>50</sup>

In contrast to Dancy's conservatism was the energetic, innovative spirit of Robert R. Bridgers (1819-1888), a leader in North Carolina railroad development. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he entered law, mercantile business, and politics in Tarboro in the antebellum period. He was an organizer and president of the Tarboro Branch of the Bank of North Carolina, and he accomplished the construction of the Tarboro Branch of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad to Tarboro

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in 1861--the town's first rail link. After the war (when he served in the Confederate Congress 1862-1865), Bridgers became president of the rail line, moved to Wilmington in 1871, and led in the development of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, of which his Wilmington and Weldon line was a part. <sup>51</sup>

CIVIL WAR

The Civil War altered life in Tarboro, as throughout the South. The Confederacy used the town as a depot for government supplies and located a wayside hospital there early in the war. The community also became the site for factories making Confederate army caps and waterproof cloth. The inhabitants frequently anticipated Federal raids, particularly after Union troops moved into the New Bern area in 1862.<sup>52</sup> A Confederate ironclad was also under construction at Tarboro in that year.<sup>53</sup> A raid finally came in July, 1863, when Brigadier General Edward E. Potter led an attack from New Bern on Greenville, Tarboro, and Rocky Mount. Union troops entered Tarboro on the 20th, where they met a small number of the enemy who fired a few quick shots and "fled across the river." During the brief raid, General Potter "found an iron-clad on the stocks and two steamboats on the river. "All were burned," reported Potter, "together with some railroad cars, 100 bales of cotton, quartermaster's subsistence, and ordnance stores." Then the Union officers adjourned to the local hotel and dined. Before leaving Tarboro the Federals burned the bridge over the Tar River. <sup>54</sup>

The river community was plagued by many of the problems and hardships that the war inflicted on the homefront populace throughout the Confederacy. The wholesale issuance of virtually worthless Confederate script by the Richmond government made inflation rampant, and acquisition of life's necessities difficult. Shortages of food, clothing, and other supplies were felt by all citizens. But especially hard hit by shortages and inflation were the poor of Tarboro and Edgecombe County, most notably the families of soldiers in the Confederate Army. "When," cried the Southerner in 1863, "corn is selling at twenty dollars per barrel, bacon at one dollar and half per pound, a cord of wood for fifteen dollars and an ordinary pair of shoes for forty dollars," a private's pay of eleven dollars per month was not enough to purchase the essentials. Speculation by some merchants also made many items difficult to obtain.<sup>55</sup>

The war had a discouraging effect on the inhabitants of the Edgecombe town, and despair increased as the conflict wore on and many of the community's sons fell on distant battlefields. "Another soldier and good man gone" was a frequent notice in Tarboro. Possibly as an escape from the heart-rending effects of the war, alcoholism became a serious problem. The Southerner in 1863 referred to the war years as "these days of villainously mean liquors and villainously high prices" and endorsed the idea that "the use of spiritous liquors is more destructive to the Southern cause than Lincoln's minions." <sup>56</sup>

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At the close of the Civil War the residents of Tarboro could look upon cessation of the conflict with relief. Death and homefront deprivations had taken their toll, and the local economy had suffered greatly. The Union blockade had sorely hurt the import trade and the sale of supplies to local cotton growers who had also felt the pinch of financial drought. Uncertainty lay ahead as Tarboro citizens pondered the problems of economic recovery, political readjustment, and the difficulty of race relations resulting from the emancipation of Edgecombe County's many slaves. Reconstruction was not to be an easy time for the river town, and it would be a number of years before its people would once again know the bustle of a thriving economy.

POST-CIVIL WAR

The war had significantly changed the agricultural system of Edgecombe County. Abolition of slavery resulted in a dissolution of the plantation system. Smaller farms appeared as part of the farm tenancy and sharecropping system. The crop-lien arrangement often meant debt for many small farmers and former planters. During most of Reconstruction a scarcity of capital kept the county tied to a staple crop agriculture, and that same scarcity of ready cash kept Tarboro economically static. The Southerner in 1866 remarked that there was a "shortage of greenbacks" in Tarboro, and a traveler from New Bern in 1867 noted that the town looked "a little shaky."<sup>57</sup>

Although the sectional conflict was over, war despair left its mark on the residents of Tarboro. Alcoholism continued to be a problem, and a number of concerned citizens formed a temperance society to combat the problem. In 1866 a newspaper editor noted that "twenty-five cents for 'blue ruin' and considerable energy of some of our people, have been the cause of establishing a Temperance Society in our 'burg.' In fact," he went on, "a steady one who likes the 'critter' has one of three chances, join the sons, switch off, or burst, unless he owns a National Bank, Farming in copartnership with the Freedmen's Bureau, or in some other 'smart' business."<sup>58</sup>

In an attempt to restore an element of antebellum gaiety to the threadbare days of Reconstruction, the people held balls and a number of other social events. One popular diversion was the "medieval" jousting tournament and coronation ball. The Southerner described one such affair in 1866:

Some of our worthy and gallant young gentlemen, wishing to dispel the cloud of gloom which seems to overhang the spirits of the entire Southern people, and at the same time to get up something to entertain and enliven



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the gentler sex, and to afford themselves innocent recreation, conceived the idea of getting up a tournament and coronation ball in the regular old fashion chivalric style in which gallant Knights contended for the prize of Beauty's smile.

The tournament was held in the northeastern suburb of the town, reached by tramping "through the slush of Main street," where the knights performed various jousting feats. A ball was held in the evening and a queen crowned. Baseball and reading clubs also provided social diversion for the town's residents in the years following the Civil War. <sup>59</sup>

The community sought in the years after the war to regain stability. The good cotton crop of 1866 permitted completion of Calvary Church, and a number of new houses were built. A new Presbyterian congregation formed in 1867, led by several Tarboro women. The history of the denomination actually began in the 1750s when Presbyterian missionary, the Rev. Hugh McAden, came to the area in 1755 and wrote of stopping at Mr. Toole's on Tar River, but it was not until 1867 that services were held and a congregation organized. The first building was erected in 1874 (now moved from that site and donated to the Eastern Star Baptist Church). The present church dates from 1909 (#204). <sup>60</sup>

Perhaps the people most affected by the war were the former slaves of Tarboro and Edgecombe County. At the war's end in 1865 many of them, along with some slaves from rural areas, settled across Tar River in a community called Freedom Hill. (In 1885 the settlement was incorporated and named Princeville after a resident named Turner Prince.) <sup>61</sup>

Many of the freedmen who left the Edgecombe plantations and came to Tarboro were served by the Freedmen's Bureau as were those who remained in the countryside. In the early years of Reconstruction the Bureau also rendered valuable aid to white refugees and those white persons hit hard by the war. Nevertheless, many of the citizens of Tarboro had little use for the Bureau or the freedmen it aided. Efforts were made by some whites to keep blacks at a social distance, and because Edgecombe County was a stronghold for the Democratic Party, politically inactive<sup>62</sup> The Ku Klux Klan, whose state "director" was William Saunders, was active against blacks during Reconstruction. Saunders, a powerful force in the postwar climate of the state, was North Carolina's Secretary of State from 1879 to his death in 1891, founder of the Raleigh Observer in 1876, and the editor of the monumental Colonial Records. Though not a resident of Tarboro, he is buried in Tarboro's Calvary Episcopal Churchyard. His marker states, "For Twenty Years He Exerted More Power in North Carolina Than Any Other Man." <sup>63</sup>

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In the postwar period the black community established, often with the assistance of white congregations, black congregations of various denominations. These became important social as well as religious focal points of the black community. St Paul A. M. E. Zion Church (#319) was established in 1866; St. Luke's Episcopal Church (#296) was established in 1872, with its initial membership coming from the black communicants of Calvary Church, which assisted the new congregation. Other black congregations, such as Eastern Star Baptist, Union Baptist, and St. Paul Baptist (see separate forms) developed over the years.

As before the war, many of Tarboro's builders were blacks and thus were responsible for a substantial proportion of new buildings in the community. Many of these were former slave craftsmen, who became successful contractors after the war. (See Section 7 for details.)

Several black leaders emerged in Tarboro in this period, some of whom gained state-wide importance. Blacks were active in town county government from the onset of Congressional Reconstruction, 1867-1868, until around the turn of the century. Many received local offices in the 1890s when the Republicans merged with the Populists. By 1898 thirty-one blacks had become county magistrates in Edgecombe County. This situation ended, however, with the assumption of white supremacy in 1898. One of Tarboro's most respected black citizens during Reconstruction was Henry C. Cherry, a carpenter (#324). He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1868 and elected to the State House of Representatives in that year. Local historians J. Kelly Turner and John L. Bridgers, Jr., described Cherry as a good citizen and an excellent carpenter." Two of his daughters were married to black congressmen, George Henry White of Tarboro and Henry Plummer Cheatham of Granville County.<sup>64</sup>

A Tarboro leader who rose to considerable political prominence in the last two decades of the century was George Henry White (#324). One state historian has called him "unquestionably the most brilliant Negro in public life during the period."<sup>65</sup> Born in Bladen County in 1852, White graduated from Howard University in 1877, served as principal of the State Normal School of North Carolina, and studied law under Judge Walter Clark. He was a member of the State House of Representatives from Edgecombe County (1880), the State Senate (1884), solicitor of the second judicial district of North Carolina (1886-1894), and a delegate to the Republican National Convention (1896) and the United States Congress (1897-1901). As a member of Congress, White supported the civil and political rights of blacks. After leaving Congress in 1901, White practiced law and engaged in banking in Philadelphia where he died in 1918. He was the nation's last black congressman until 1930. (His house still stands in Tarboro)<sup>6</sup>

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Equally prominent in the late nineteenth century was John Campbell Dancy. He was born of slave parents in 1857, and his father, John C. Dancy, was a skilled carpenter who became a successful builder and contractor after the Civil War. Dancy graduated from a school in Tarboro in 1873 and trained in the printing office of the Tarboro Southerner. After attending Howard University and serving a brief period as a clerk in the Federal Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., he returned to Tarboro to teach school.

In Tarboro in 1882 Dancy directed the campaign which made his brother Franklin the mayor of the town and Dancy himself register of deeds for Edgecombe County. During the 1880s Dancy served as secretary of the North Carolina State Republican Convention and a delegate to the National Republican Convention. He became the editor of The Star of Zion in Salisbury, North Carolina, and the A. M. E. Zion Quarterly Review, which was "perhaps the most important of the magazines published by a [black] religious denomination in North Carolina." In 1889 President Benjamin Harrison appointed Dancy collector of customs at the port of Wilmington--"the most important post held by a Negro as a result of federal patronage during the period." In 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Dancy recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia, and he retained that office until 1910. Dancy's house has been destroyed but once stood in southeastern Tarboro. 67

Tarboro merchants who survived the hardships of the war became a part of the new crop-lien system brought about by post-war financial stringency, the abolition of slavery, and the dissolution of the plantation system. Under the crop-lien system, small town furnishing merchants provided goods and supplies on credit to farmers and share-croppers in return for a lien on their crops. Supplies sold on credit cost more than those sold for cash, and a high rate of interest was added. The furnishing merchants frequently took liens on farms as well as crops, and they speculated in cotton--buying the staple locally and selling it to larger dealers. 68

The best-known and most successful of Tarboro's furnishing merchants was William S. Clark (1846-1923) (#145). He was born in Martin County in 1846 and was educated at Hillsboro Academy. He came to Tarboro in 1872 and opened a business as a merchant. The family became prominent in the business community. As a result of his retail and investment activity, his business grew to be the highly successful W. S. Clark and Sons in which Clark was associated with his sons Samuel Nash Clark and Daniel Russell Clark. W. S. Clark also served as mayor from 1888 to 1890 and became the director of the Fountain Cotton Mills founded in 1900. His son William G. Clark worked with his father's retail business until around 1914 when he became a real estate developer and president of the Cotton Belt Land Company. The younger Clark was town commissioner, 1900-1904, and chairman of the county commissioners in 1914. 69

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In the 1870s Tarboro began to pursue the industrial development that was beginning to appear in much of North Carolina. Although limited in scope, as it was throughout the state and the South, this postwar industrialization played an important role in Tarboro's revitalization. In 1870 John L. Bridgers and other interested businessmen formed an organization known as the Progressive Association, which advocated programs for the establishment and growth of local industries, particularly cotton mills, to manufacture cotton goods from cotton produced locally.<sup>70</sup>

John L. Bridgers (1821-1884), brother of Robert R. Bridgers (1819-1888), was a successful farmer and lawyer who served as a commissioner to the convention held in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1861 to form the Confederate States of America. He served briefly as commandant at Fort Macon. In 1862 he worked with his brother Robert in the operation of the High Shoals Iron Company which manufactured iron products for the Confederate Government. Bridgers also served as director of the Branch Bank of the North Carolina Bank. Bridgers lived at The Grove (Blount House) most of his adult life. His son, John L. Bridgers, Jr., (1850-1932) was a prominent community leader who practiced law and at various times served as attorney for the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, as presiding judge of the county, county attorney, town attorney, and director of the First National Bank of Tarboro, and president of the Macclesfield Company of Edgecombe County. He was also co-author of a history of Edgecombe County. In this period (1875-1881) Dorsey Battle, a colorful political figure, gained wide recognition as editor of the Southerner. He was a strong proponent, a later issue of the paper noted, of "diversification of farming, home industry, clean government, and the Democratic Party."<sup>71</sup>

INDUSTRIALIZATION

Although Tarboro citizens sought industrialization in the 1870s, no significant industrial development occurred until the 1880s and 1890s when a new class of men, industrialists, began to appear in the South and Edgecombe County. These men with capital to invest realized that future wealth lay in manufacturing. In 1906 Frank Nash described the new industrial class of the previous two decades:

It is true that here and there among the middle-aged or older men of the South were to be found those could not, or would not, adapt themselves to change conditions. Among the younger men there were few, however, who did not do it efficiently. Even the school boys of the period were straining at the leash in their eagerness to go into the world and conquer themselves a name or fortune. The goal of their ambition was not college honors, but remunerative work. Boys such as these did not spring from the loins of incompetents, and well have they proven this since. The great industrial progress of the South for the past thirty years has been largely their handiwork, and with them still guiding, directing and leading it, this once improvised section is to become ere long one of the industrial

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centers of the world. Thus they have testified to the moral and intellectual stamina of the race from which they sprang.<sup>72</sup>

Nash noted that outstanding among the "leaders in the industrial rehabilitation of the South" was Frank Sheppard Royster of Tarboro.

Royster (#12, #21), born in Granville County in 1849, came to Tarboro in 1820 and joined O. C. Farrar (#548) a furnishing merchant, as a clerk. Farrar (# ), who came from New Bern to Tarboro in the 1870s, established a general store and then the regionally celebrated Hotel Farrar. He was also a founder of the Tarboro Cotton Factory and an important business leader in town. Royster soon became Farrar's confidential clerk and later his partner. In 1876 Royster, with C. C. Lanier, established a general brokerage and commission business in Tarboro. In 1882 they joined Edmund Strudwick of Hillsboro and established a cotton commission house at Norfolk, Virginia.

In his business dealings in Norfolk, Royster became convinced that the future lay in manufacturing fertilizers for the soil-depleted postwar South. In 1885 he built a small fertilizer plant on the Tar River in Tarboro which produced 250 tons its first year. He used guano but introduced potash, which would control the dread cotton rust. Tried by local farmers, potash worked, and Royster's firm boomed. In 1897 he transferred his fertilizer headquarters to Norfolk, to provide the firm access to distribution facilities. There the F. S. Royster Guano Company soon built a large plant with a yearly capacity of 75,000 tons. By the turn of the century the Royster Company included six plants located in Norfolk, Tarboro, Columbia, and Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Macon and Columbus, Georgia, an operation that was valued at three million dollars with a capacity of 200,000 tons. Royster maintained a plant and a local distribution center in Tarboro.<sup>73</sup> C. A. Johnston (# ), a young man who came from Norfolk and became associated with Royster's firm as bookkeeper, eventually became president of Royster's mercantile operation in Tarboro. He was an active business and community leader. The Royster firm continues as a major fertilizer producer nationally, prospering from constant improvement of the product.<sup>74</sup>

A strong backer of industrialization in Tarboro in the late nineteenth century was the influential community leader, George Howard, Jr. (#426). Born in Tarboro in 1829 he was the son of George Howard, Sr., founder and editor of the Tarboro Southerner (1852) which was called the Tarboro Free Press when it was begun in 1826. At age fourteen the young Howard is said to have become editor of his father's newspaper. After studying law, he was admitted to the bar in 1850 and soon was elected solicitor of the Greene County court. In 1854 and 1855, as a resident of Wilson, he served in the General Assembly, where he was, according to Henry G. Conner, "largely instrumental in securing the passage, against most active opposition, of the bill establishing the County of Wilson." He also became a recognized leader in the Democratic Party.

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In 1859 Governor Ellis appointed Howard judge of Edgecombe County Superior Court. Along with William S. Battle he served as representative to the secession convention of 1861 in Raleigh. In 1865 he was a member of the state constitutional convention and the following year of the national Conservative Party held in Philadelphia. In 1867 he served in the state senate where he introduced a bill to permit blacks to testify in courts. At the end of the term the following year he returned to Tarboro to practice law. Here he became a strong force in the development of the community.

Howard for many years was director of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company. He was the first president of the Pamlico Banking and Insurance Company and a director of the Tarboro Cotton Mills and Fountain Cotton Mills. He was a member of the Board of Town Commissioners and the board of Trustees of the Tarboro Academy. He died in 1905 and was survived by his six children.<sup>75</sup>

Men like Howard, Farrar, Bridgers, and Royster were fully aware of what local editor Frank Powell meant in 1883 when, called for efforts to improve Tarboro's post-war economy, he declared,

A purely agricultural community cannot support a large town. Property here cannot advance, unless interests other than selling goods to the farmer are developed, and the problem presents itself to those who are most interested in the growth of the town. The solution is not difficult. We want factories. We need them.

On another occasion in 1883 the editor claimed that "everything akin to manufacturing is allowed to go by default here in Tarboro. A couple of first class mills would pay here."<sup>76</sup> Frank Powell, who edited the paper from 1881 into the twentieth century, was a persistent and effective proponent of progress for Tarboro and Edgecombe County, vigorously supporting industrial development, better roads, bridges, and schools, and the installation of water, light, and sewer systems in Tarboro. He launched the paper as a daily, the Daily Southerner, in 1889.

Fulfilling the prediction, a number of cotton mills soon appeared in the town. These included the Tarboro Cotton Mills built by O. C. Farrar in 1888. (They later became the W. A. Hart Mills.) Around that time Jonathan F. Shackelford, owner of a fertilizer house in Tarboro, constructed the Shackelford Riverview Knitting Mills. Runnymede Mills was established in 1889 by George Howard, Jr., on the old Runnymede Race Track north of town, and housing was constructed for the workers. By 1890 the knitting mills had increased their profits by fifty percent. In 1899 W. E. Fountain began the construction of Fountain Cotton Mills with a capital of \$150,000. Fountain was elected mayor in 1887 and 1889. In 1890 he joined with Royster, Shackelford, Howard and others to organize the Tarboro Board of Trade to aid agriculture and develop the county's manufacturing interests. Although he was a relatively wealthy man and active in the Democratic Party, he left that organization in 1890 and became

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chairman of the Populist Party in Edgecombe County. He returned to the Democrats in 1898. These industrial ventures by Farrar, Shackelford, Fountain, and others were part of the partial transformation of Tarboro from purely a supply center for Edgecombe County farmers to a town which would also hear the hum of the mill loom far into the twentieth century.<sup>77</sup>

The wealth of these new industrial leaders, who were the forerunners of the so-called "new South," enabled them to live in a style rivaling, and occasionally surpassing, antebellum luxury. One typical example was the Second Empire house on the corner of Pitt and Main streets belonging to Jonathan F. Shackelford and his wife, the former Kate S. Redmond (#53).<sup>78</sup>

The growth of cotton mills, however, was not the only reason for Tarboro's late nineteenth and early twentieth century good fortune. Varying prices in cotton and tobacco stimulated or depressed the market and the operation of cotton and tobacco storage and sales facilities in Tarboro. In the late nineteenth century the increased demand for bright leaf tobacco particularly in cigarettes led to more income for farmers of Edgecombe and resulted in the construction of a number of tobacco warehouses in the county seat. Tobacco eventually became Edgecombe County's biggest crop. A smaller acreage could produce a more profitable yield with tobacco than cotton. This, plus the use of guano needed to grow the demanding "golden weed" made tobacco culture vastly popular in eastern North Carolina, where the number of farms had risen and acreage per farm diminished after the Civil War. Tarboro's fertilizer plants and tobacco sales houses were keys to tobacco prosperity in the area. The revival of the agricultural economy depended heavily upon tobacco.

In 1891 one observer declared that Tarboro "has provided herself with tobacco warehouses and in fact everything that is necessary to meet the demands of the time. It will end," he claimed, "in the upbuilding of a town we all will be proud of, an Eastern town with a Western boom." In 1890 R. O. Jeffreys came from Virginia and began operating a large tobacco warehouse. Two new warehouses that appeared in 1891 were the Pioneer and the Central warehouses. "Rocky Mount," noted a newspaper editor in that city, "will have to [hurry] to retain the tobacco supremacy of the Eastern Golden Leaf Belt," in light of Tarboro's recent efforts to acquire the tobacco trade.<sup>79</sup> In that same year W. E. Fountain and E. V. Murphy began selling stock to build a peanut mill in town--the peanut having become one of Edgecombe's new cash crops. Four cotton seed mills, grist mills, and other small industries added to the town's economy. The A. J. Hines Company founded around 1870 continued to manufacture the "celebrated Edgecombe Cotton Planter" as well as ploughshares and other farm implements "from the largest to the smallest."<sup>80</sup>(See separate entries.)

The 1890s also witnessed a real estate boom in the river community. In West Tarboro the land of William S. Battle's family, which had been lost due to bankruptcy brought on by the Civil War, was cut into lots and sold at auction. Some investors formed the

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West Tarboro Land and Improvement Company, one of whose purposes was to erect a cotton factory on the Battle property. "We are glad," announced the Farmer's Advocate, "to note this effort on the part of home and foreign capital to enhance the interests of Tarboro. Our town, like all Southern towns, needs more factories, workshops, and warehouses." <sup>81</sup>

The final twenty years of the nineteenth century were perhaps Tarboro's greatest growth period since its founding. "The merchants," claimed J. Kelly Turner and John L. Bridgers, Jr.,

were doing splendid business, having purchased goods to the amount of \$4,000,000 for six months ending 1891. This was unprecedented in the town's history, and indicated that trade was increasing. Men embarked in greater mercantile undertakings and increased the capital invested in existing firms. Scarcely a house could be rented, especially a business house. Capitalists were investing in real estate and buildings.

A number of public buildings were constructed during these boom years. These included a county home, enlargement of the jail, an opera house, and a city hall. The city hall was the subject of financial disagreement which left the citizens feeling that its site was "twice paid for." <sup>82</sup> (These buildings were subsequently demolished.)

With a general improvement in economic conditions in Tarboro in the last two decades of the nineteenth century there was an upsurge in intellectual and cultural life. In education the common and graded schools began to overshadow the private academies in the town. Concerts and traveling productions by traveling theater troupes were popular and most of these events were held in the town's opera house on Main Street. Another social function which began during the period was the "german" (public dance) frequently held in the local armory. Usually "the occasion was one of genuine enjoyment and for many hours the happy young people 'tripped the light fantastic.'" <sup>83</sup>

Religious evangelists also called at the river town. One of these traveling preachers, Rev. W. P. Fife, arrived in Tarboro in February, 1892, and began holding revival meetings "day and night" in the opera house. According to the Tarboro Farmer's Advocate, "Mr. Fife said that he did not think there was any place this side of hell meaner than Tarboro," and he had learned that card playing, dancing, and gambling were chief amusements indulged in here, but he intended to hit sin in whatever quarter he found it." Mr. Fife further declared that "the aristocratic people of the town would go to hell for two and one-half cents and not return if they could by paying five cents." <sup>84</sup> Despite some religious fervor of the evangelistic brand, most Tarboro church-goers continued to attend their established congregations which provided them social outlets as well as religious instruction.



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EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

The depression of 1894 inflicted some financial injury on the farmers of Edgecombe and the merchants of Tarboro and in the mid-1890s the tobacco market folded. But by the turn of the century conditions had greatly improved, and the next decade witnessed some of the town's best economic years. More tobacco, peanut, and other agriculture-oriented commercial operations were built in the early years of the new centuries, mills expanded, and the town prospered. In 1918 the Tarboro tobacco market increased from one to three warehouses; by 1930 the market sold nearly 8 million pounds of tobacco. In 1911 Tarboro had a population of about 3,000 and was earning \$50,000 to \$60,000 a month in the freight business alone, most of which was handled via railroad. In fact, by that year the railroad had virtually replaced the steamboat as a transportation system for Tarboro freight, both export and import.<sup>85</sup> In 1892 the branch of the Wilmington and Weldon which reached Tarboro had been extended to Washington and seven years later to Edenton. By 1894 the Carolina and Norfolk tied Tarboro to the Virginia port city. (Both the Wilmington and Weldon and the Carolina and Norfolk later became part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.)<sup>86</sup>

The decline of the steamboat trade to and from Washington was in large part attributable to the shallowness of Tar River and the failure to improve the navigation on the river by dredging or removing obstacles. According to a Congressional report of 1911 the steamers, drawing two to three feet of water, could operate only eight to nine months per year. Still another reason for the decline was that some steamboat lines were "purchased by railroads and discontinued" to eliminate the competition in transporting supplies. Some citizens argued that water rates to Washington were lower than those by railroad, and if navigation was improved the water route could prove a more economical way of shipping goods. But the railroad could bring supplies directly overland from northern commercial centers decreasing the need for a port like Washington. Immediately after the Civil War there had been six steamboats operating out of Tarboro, but the number had declined to two by 1911.<sup>87</sup>

The potential of the railroad was recognized by Tarboro's most enterprising entrepreneurs. One of these in the early twentieth century was Henry Clark Bridgers. He was born in 1876, the son of John L. Bridgers. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with honors in 1897 and became a part of his father's law firm. His most enterprising achievement was the building of the East Carolina Railway from Tarboro to Hookerton in order to tap the trade of the farm area and towns at Pinetops, Macclesfield, Fountain, Farmville, Maury, and Hookerton. Bridgers was his own civil engineer and constructor and built the forty-mile railroad without issuing bonds. He later became the president of seven banks at once, including the Trust Company of Tarboro. He served as attorney for the Southern Railway Company and was owner of the Bridgers Building in Tarboro, a concrete and steel building 50 by 50 feet.<sup>88</sup>



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While visiting the town in 1913 Miss Gertrude Weil of Goldsboro was impressed with its appearance. "There are," she wrote her parents, "some beautiful old homes here, with houses set back in tremendous yards, some of them full of great magnolias and other evergreen trees."<sup>92</sup>In that same year another observer described the town with its stately homes:

Along both sides of Main Street and from the Bridge to within one block of the commons are to be found most of the business and merchandising houses in Tarboro, and from there on to near the Atlantic Coast Line Depot the street is lined by beautiful residences looking into the street from beautifully kept lawns. Indeed judging from that part of town from the commons to the Depot, Tarboro might be thought a suburb of any of the large towns in the state. So numerous are the very handsome homes in this particular part of the town that to mention just a few would be unfair to the rest.<sup>93</sup>

In this period, too, banking in Tarboro grew, making possible increased industrial and residential growth. First National Bank, the Bank of Tarboro, the Pamlico Insurance and Banking Company, Edgecombe Homestead and Loan, the Farmers Banking and Trust Company--involving several business leaders--were among the firms that operated.

World War I stimulated the agricultural and mercantile economy of Edgecombe County, but the war effort left little room for the construction of new buildings in Tarboro. The town's citizens marked the war's end with jubilation. Mrs. Reba Lynch Bunting, a resident when the Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918, has recalled the event in Tarboro. According to her, she and other teenagers tied tin cans to the town fire truck and drove the truck to Rocky Mount crying all the way, "the war's ended! Thank God the war's ended." The town held a street dance that night. Mrs. Bunting remembers that at the time "there was a new dance called the shimmy." While doing the dance, she states,

all your body was still except your fanny and we were Prohibited from doing the shimmy that night. It was considered vulgar at the time. When I see what goes on in public now, I wonder, has nature fallen or progressed.

Anyway there was one song written for that dance called "Jada." We told the music men not to play it, if they did our bodies might respond and we break the law. But play it they did anyway. Everybody laughed in glee. I don't think anybody noticed what we did at that dance. I don't believe the stores closed all night! One set of clerks would stay in at a time. Then others would come out.<sup>94</sup>

1918 was also the year of a nation-wide influenza epidemic. In Tarboro, by Mrs. Bunting's testimony, Dr. L. E. Norfleet

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was the only one who had gotten the drug we now call aspirin. It had just come out. It was said around town that he was the only doctor in Tarboro who didn't lose a patient. The high temperature of the flu and no remedy to get it down is why so many died. Too, all in one family would be down with the flu at one time. I've known ten buried in Greenwood cemetery in one day.<sup>95</sup>

Although the 1920s were difficult for the farmers of Edgecombe, Tarboro's trade and manufacturing remained relatively stable. Spurred on by the war-stimulated economy some business and industry showed considerable growth. A particularly large boom occurred in the selling of real estate and housing. In Tarboro, as in the entire nation, credit was easy, and a good deal of borrowed funds went into land schemes. Many new houses were constructed during the twenties to house mill and other workers, a number of whom had left the farm for town after the war. The town grew rapidly. In 1920 the town built a municipal milk plant, the first in the state; and space and equipment were added to the county hospital in 1928.<sup>96</sup>

Disaster struck both town and county during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Nevertheless some development took place in Tarboro during the decade. In 1934 a municipal swimming pool and a new water plant were constructed with the aid of federal funds and the Works Progress Administration. In 1938 the W. R. Long Manufacturing Company, which grew to be a large producer of the state's farm machinery, was founded. It was also during the Depression that some of the more wealthy merchants of the town who had money to lend and capital to invest increased their fortunes by buying up the mortgages or taking liens on the lands of farmers who had fallen on hard times. Some merchants profited by allowing farmers to buy groceries and other essentials on credit at high rates of interest. In 1939 the population was around 7,000, and among the community's surviving industries were the Hart Cotton Mill (400 employees), Mayo Stocking and Sock Mill (200 employees), Runnymede Mill (300 employees), the Southern Cotton Oil Company, two fertilizer plants, the Tarboro Veneer Company, two tobacco warehouses, two lumber companies, and several cotton and peanut storage houses.<sup>97</sup>

RECENT DEVELOPMENT

World War II brought Tarboro, and the nation, out of the Great Depression. The area's cotton industries sped up to meet wartime demands, and farmers labored to feed the nation's army. One of the new war industries established in Tarboro was a tent-making plant.<sup>98</sup>

Following the war the people of Tarboro enjoyed a period of economic improvement. Home construction spread outward from the established areas in town, and more suburban homes and mill houses began to appear on the edges of town. A brief recession occurred in the 1950s, but the next decade was marked by further economic growth. An attempt

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was made to reject the sleepy village era and become a modern bustling town. To promote industrialization, Tarboro in 1958 established an Industrial Development Commission and employed a full-time industrial engineer. The chief crop of Edgecombe farmers remained tobacco. "In the fall," wrote one observer in the 1950s, "the town is given a boost by operation of its six tobacco auction warehouses, which ordinarily sell around 14,000,000 pounds of tobacco." 99

In the 1960s and 1970s new industries like the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company and the Black and Decker Manufacturing Company were established in Tarboro. Apartment complexes and a shopping mall have been constructed as well as many suburban homes. A number of the older buildings such as the old courthouse and the city hall were razed and new ones erected. Despite this growth and the destruction of notable old buildings, much of the downtown residential area remains unchanged since the nineteenth century. Preservation activity has been notable in the region. Many structures from that era stand along Main Street and its connecting side streets. They surround the beautifully shaded town common, which has been part of Tarboro since 1760, and overlook long-travelled thoroughfares.



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tion, and on the east by the rear (east) property line of the east side of St. David Street and, southward, by the center line of Panola Street, and still farther south, by a line including half a block of St. James Street eastward, then south to the river. This is seen on the enclosed map labeled "Housing and Community Development Impact Area Map," and relabeled "National Register District, Tarboro, North Carolina," and outlined thereupon by a heavy black line.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 330

No UTM's on USGS Map  
See USGS Map - Latitude & Longitude

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

A	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
E	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
G	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

B	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
F	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
H	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Tarboro National Register District boundaries reflect the following features: it is bounded on the south by the Tar River, on the west by the Hendricks Creek and Albemarle Avenue, on the north by an irregular line reflecting the local historic district designa-  
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

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STREET & NUMBER 109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh,

STATE North Carolina 27611

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

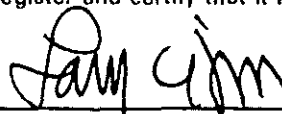
NATIONAL X

STATE XX

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Larry E. Tise, Director, Archives & History DATE August 31, 1979

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

