

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Holt-Frost House

and/or common Dr. Frost House

## 2. Location

street & number 130 Union Avenue

not for publication

city, town Burlington

vicinity of

state North Carolina

code

037

county

Alamance

code

001

## 3. Classification

**Category**

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

**Ownership**

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
  - being considered
  - N/A

**Status**

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

**Present Use**

- agriculture
  - commercial
  - educational
  - entertainment
  - government
  - industrial
  - military
- museum
  - park
  - private residence
  - religious
  - scientific
  - transportation
  - other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Faiger M. Blackwell

street & number Route 2, Box 218

city, town Elon College

vicinity of

state North Carolina 27244

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alamance County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Graham

state North Carolina

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Inventory of Burlington has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981-82  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh

state North Carolina

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Holt-Frost House is a full-blown vernacular example of the Queen Anne style. As one of the relatively few remaining examples of the style in Burlington, it stands as a good representative of the community's residential architecture from the late 1870s to the turn of the century.

Although the Holt-Frost House lot is a full acre, the cultivated yard with the house in its center, at the northwest corner of Union and Hall avenues, is approximately one-half that size. This yard is delineated along its front and east edges by a low fence of square-in-section wooden pickets in alternating heights that rises to box posts with turned finials flanking the entrance to the driveway. In addition, hedges mark the sides and part of the north boundary of the yard. An enormous hardwood stands beyond the southeast corner of the house, balanced at the opposite corner by a towering pine tree. All the shrubbery and crape myrtles are equally mature. To the rear of the house, there is a gable-roofed, board-and-batten garage and northwest of the house there is a one-story gable-roofed shop sheathed in vertical boards with shed extensions, both in the "cultivated yard."

Resting on a full brick foundation, the two-story frame house is basically L-shaped, with a cubical projection containing the stairhall at the front recess of the L and a tall one-story rear wing. The roofline--a steep, central pyramid from which three second-story gables project to the south, east and west--heightens the irregular form characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Furthermore, each of the two-story gable ends, identical in size and pitch of the roof, has its own distinct structural embellishment: The entire end of the west gable takes the form of a three-sided bay; on the front gable end, there is a three-sided window bay surmounted by a shed-roofed balcony at the second story; and in the east gable end, there is a shallow one-story gable-roofed projection, parallel to but narrower than the background elevation. Very tall corbelled and paneled brick chimney stacks accent the main, second-story roof line. An elaborate metal finial originally placed at the top of the pyramid has been lost.

The most significant element of the Holt-Frost House is its elaborate display of ornament executed in slate, glass and wood. The roof is covered in slate laid with regularly spaced bands of three rows of scalloped tiles. The upper sashes of the pairs of attic windows in each of the gables are filled with numerous small panes of multi-colored glass. The single sash marking the second story of the stairhall is similarly treated; in addition, this window is framed above and below with applied curvilinear sawn bands adorned with bosses. The rest of the windows are one-over-one or two-over-two double-hung sashes with movable wooden louvered exterior shutters.

The most striking aspect of the decoration is the abundance of sawn and turned millwork, all of it the sort that could be ordered ready-made. Each of the attic gables is sheathed with alternating bands of regular split and fish-scale shingles, continuing the motif of the slate roof. At the peak of the attic gables, intricate ornamental bracing of turned "spools" and sawn curvilinear elements is mounted to the raking boards. All around the house the cornices are molded and boxed, and in all of the gables there are raking boards with rounded ends and applied bosses placed at the base of the molding.

Originally, four of the porches, the wraparound front porch with a balcony above, the balcony on the front gable, and rear porch--were characterized by Eastlake style ornament. They were constructed with turned supports decorated with spandrels containing a cutwork star and a circle. All of the railings were molded, with closely spaced balusters. In addition, each porch was decorated with a spool frieze, arched in the second story porches. In front of the main entrance, the wraparound porch had a shallow gable filled with barge board. While the balconies on the main elevation have retained all of their ornamentation, the wraparound front porch has been altered. When it was enlarged early in this century, the spool frieze and

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the gable above the entrance were removed and the turned supports were replaced with paired wooden Tuscan columns on brick plinths. The rear porch remains intact except for a portion close to the two-story block that was removed in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century to make room for a one-story shed wing containing a study and bathroom.

The fifth porch, on the west side of the rear one-story wing, appears to have been reworked. Partially enclosed with vertical boards with screening above, this covers a handsome door with round-headed frosted glass panels that apparently was a major entrance at one time. When an area was dug out under the west two-story wing for a furnace early in this century, the staircase leading to this partial basement was positioned on the porch so that the first floor is blocked and thus unusable.

Another major addition to the Holt-Frost House occurred in the 1950s when a one-story gable-roofed addition was attached to the west side of the original front two-story wing. Many years ago, the elaborate three-color paint scheme that highlighted the rich ornamentation was abandoned in favor of white for all of the walls and applied decoration and dark green for the shutters.

The interior of the Holt-Frost House consists of spacious rooms arranged around a center passage and rear cross hall, with the stairs contained in a square hall at the front of the house. Originally, the first floor passage extended beyond the stairs through the middle of the house as a center hall between the living room and the dining room at the rear of the two-story block. Beyond the rear crosshall, which contains the door to the west porch now blocked by the stairs to the furnace room, there is a large kitchen in the rear one-story wing. A two-panel Greek Revival door leading to the pantry on the north side of the kitchen suggests that this wing pre-dates the rest of the house. Except for a bathroom built at the rear of the second-story hall, the upstairs plan, identical to the initial lower level plan, remains intact. In the 1950s, the east partition of the first-floor center hall was removed so that the stairhall leads directly to an enlarged living room. At the same time, the front parlor off the west side of the stairhall was converted to a bedroom and the small one-story wing with a bathroom and closet was added to its west elevation.

The distinctive staircase and first-floor mantelpieces accent the interior. Open from the first floor to the second, the staircase features boldly turned newel posts, slender turned balusters, a moulded handrail, and bold moulding along treads and risers. Except for the door to the pantry, the interior doors have five raised panels: two vertical panels above a horizontal panel and two more, shorter vertical panels at the bottom. On the first floor, the door and window surrounds are fluted and have corner blocks inscribed with circles. Upstairs, the surrounds are plainer, with a band of moulding at the outer edges. All of the baseboards are tall and fairly plain. Varying from room to room, all the mantel pieces are composed of heavy elements. In the dining room and front parlor, they feature bulbous turned posts with scrolled capitals supporting paneled boxes bearing the mantel shelf. Elsewhere, heavily moulded pilasters support a tall and plain entablature with crown moulding below the shelf. All of the fireplace surrounds are tiled. The mantelpiece in the living room has been replaced with a simple design of tall box posts supporting a heavy shelf.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

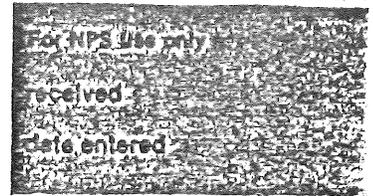
**Specific dates** c. 1860(?), c..1889 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Holt-Frost House is one of the few full-blown Queen Anne style houses remaining in Burlington. The house achieved its present appearance when it was acquired by Ella Moore Holt who, with her husband, constructed the main, two-story block of the house and apparently remodelled the rear one-story wing. Evidence suggests that this rear wing may be at least a portion of the house Mrs. Holt's father, Dr. John A. Moore, built on this site shortly after his settlement at Company Shops around 1855, and as such would be one of the city's very few surviving antebellum structures. Except for some minor alterations, the house is intact, displaying its profusion of turned and sawn embellishment that renders it the richest example of its style in the city.

### Criteria Assessment

- B. The house is associated with Dr. John Allen Moore, the first physician to settle in Burlington after it was established as the town of Company Shops.
- C. The Holt-Frost House is one of the most richly embellished and intact of the few remaining Queen Anne style dwellings in Burlington.
- D. The Holt-Frost House may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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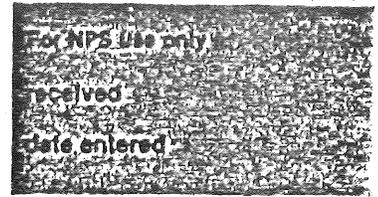
Much of the report on the early history of the Holt-Frost House is based upon conjecture. The first known occupant of a house on this site, which generally is believed to be a portion of the present house, was Dr. John Allen Moore, who moved to Company Shops around 1857.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Moore's place of residence prior to 1866 remains uncertain, although local tradition cites this property as his place of initial settlement here.<sup>2</sup> The property belonged to Thomas Sellars at least until 1860.<sup>3</sup> An 1866 map shows Dr. Moore's house at this site.<sup>4</sup> Thus, it may be deduced that sometime prior to 1866 Dr. Moore either occupied an existing house, or was permitted to build a house on land he didn't own but eventually acquired from Sellars.

Dr. John Allen Moore was the first medical practitioner to move to Company Shops after construction of the town began. According to historian Durward Stokes, when Moore arrived there were two other doctors who already were living in the area when Company Shops was planned and nine more doctors settled here during the next three decades. Several of the doctors in Company Shops relied upon commercial enterprises to supplement their medical practice incomes.<sup>5</sup> Dr. John A. Moore's dealings in real estate are confirmed by numerous deeds filed at the Alamance County Courthouse, including one for a commercial lot in the business district purchased from the North Carolina Railroad Company in 1881.<sup>6</sup>

Stokes cites a few interesting facts about Dr. Moore's civic and social activities in Company Shops. For four years, until December 27, 1864, Dr. Moore was the first Worthy Master of Industrial Lodge No. 212 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Chartered on December 7, 1860, this organization was the first fraternal society to form a chapter in Company Shops; it remained active until surrendering the charter in 1879. On October 27, 1865, Dr. Moore was appointed to the committee charged with supervising the erection of a combination church and school building, the first such structure to be erected in the town.<sup>8</sup> Dr. Moore also was one of the relatively few citizens of Company Shops who has been identified as a member of the Ku Klux Klan.<sup>9</sup>

The earliest record of a house occupied by Dr. Moore is the first survey of the town of Company Shops, executed on March 17, 1866.<sup>10</sup> On the survey map, his house is shown near the center of town on the north side of the railroad and just to the south of Thomas Sellars' house, at the present site of the Holt-Frost House. Because the Holt-Frost House is a fine local example of the Queen Anne style built around 1890, the house depicted on the map must have been either replaced by or incorporated into the present structure. The Holt-Frost House's rear one-story wing, with its two-panel Greek Revival interior door, probably is part of the earlier house. As such, this wing is one of the oldest surviving structures related to the initial development of Company Shops.

The circumstances of Dr. Moore's acquisition of this property are not known. The circa 1860 series of maps of the North Carolina Railroad Company's lands shows the house site as part of Thomas Sellars' property, at the northwestern edge of the approximately 630 acres the railroad purchased from area landowners for Company Shops.<sup>11</sup> There is no deed recorded at the Alamance County Courthouse for Sellars' conveyance of the house site to Dr. Moore. Thomas Sellars owned an enormous amount of land between Company Shops and Graham, and he was notorious for his failure to record deeds.<sup>12</sup> A business relationship between Dr. Moore and Sellars is suggested by Dr. Moore's claim to a sizeable portion of Sellars' land south of the railroad line when Sellars' estate was settled in 1867.<sup>13</sup>

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When activity at the railroad's shops and offices almost ceased, after the North Carolina Railroad Company leased its line to the Richmond and Danville Railroad in 1871, business in general declined throughout Company Shops as many of the railroad employees sought jobs elsewhere.<sup>14</sup> Dr. Moore was one of many affected directly by this turn of events and in 1877 or 1878, he filed for bankruptcy. He assigned all of his "estate property and affects" to John H. Fowler, the agent charged with settling the doctor's debts. At a public auction on February 23, 1878, Dr. Moore paid \$505.00 for his house and lot of approximately four-and-one-half acres "adjoining the lands of Thomas Sellars, the Union Church lots and others," as well as three adjacent houses and lots of about one acre total, also adjoining the Union Church lot.<sup>15</sup>

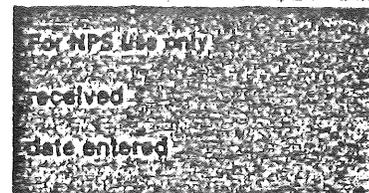
Dr. John A. Moore died intestate in August, 1882.<sup>16</sup> During the next several months, Moore's heirs petitioned the court for his property. His widow, Nancy Elizabeth Moore, filed a "Petition for Dower" in which she requested that she be granted all of Dr. Moore's real property--the four-and-one-half-acre lot containing the "dwelling house of her said late husband," the three adjoining lots each with a dwelling, another adjoining tract of approximately fifteen acres, and a two-and-one-half-acre tract "in town." One of Dr. Moore's sons, J.T.C. Moore, who was living in one of the three houses on the tract adjoining the homeplace lot, asked the Court to divide his father's property equally among himself and his brother and sister. On December 12, 1883, Dr. Moore's daughter, Ella F. Moore, was granted two-and-three-tenths-acres containing the homeplace, assessed at \$550.00, and J.T.C. Moore and Lee Moore received acreage and buildings of equal value.<sup>17</sup> On February 27, 1888, Nancy E. Moore released her dower rights to the one-and-one-tenth-acres containing the homeplace, "being the lands I dowered at the death of my late husband, Dr. John A. Moore," to her daughter Ella, now married to James G. Holt, for \$550.00.<sup>18</sup>

According to local tradition, the Holts had the present elaborate Queen Anne style Holt-Frost House built.<sup>19</sup> The house is one of the few Queen Anne style dwellings remaining in Burlington, and one of the most elaborately ornamented. Typically, such an extensive decorative program reflected a relatively high economic and social standing of the people for whom the house was built. The irregular form with multiple rooflines and an abundance of finely detailed applied decorative millwork reflected the height of good taste in Burlington during the 1880s and 1890s. Unfortunately, little is known about the Holts. Long-time residents of Burlington recall that James Holt worked for the Richmond and Danville Railroad.<sup>2</sup> No occupation is given for him in the 1909-10 Burlington City Directory (the earliest surviving city directory for Burlington), but in the 1929 directory he is listed as a farmer.<sup>2</sup> The design of the house may have originated in one of the numerous popular house pattern books of the time; the builder is not known. Although it is generally assumed that the rear one-story wing of the Holt-Frost House is at least part of the dwelling Dr. Moore and his family occupied on this site, it has not been possible to determine the complete design of the earliest dwelling nor how much of it was incorporated into the present two-story section.

In the 1910s or early 1920s, the Holts' daughter, Nina, married Dr. John S. Frost, a young dentist from Mocksville, North Carolina who recently had established a practice on South Main Street. The Frosts were living with the Holts at least by 1929 and may have lived there since their marriage. By this time, the Burlington City Directory lists James G. Holt as a farmer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Holt died in the mid-1930s; the Frosts remained in the house for more than four decades afterward.<sup>22</sup> Although Dr. Frost is not remembered for any public activities, he was well thought of in Burlington for his dentistry skills, and it is for him and his wife that the Holt-Frost House is popularly known. Mrs. Frost died in the late 1970s; Dr. Frost passed away in 1982 at the age of 96 years. In 1983, Mrs. Frost's nephew,

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who had inherited the house, sold it to Faiger Blackwell of Elon College, who is restoring it as his home and office with the assistance of a low-interest loan from the city of Burlington.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often evident only in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Notes

1

Durward T. Stokes, Company Shops: The Town Built By a Railroad (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1981), p. 89.

2

Telephone interview with Robert White of Burlington, N.C. conducted by Claudia P. Roberts, April 1983.

3

"Map of North Carolina Railroad Company Property", Book 4 (circa 1860), in Records of the North Carolina Railroad Company (RRR), North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

4

See 1866 Survey Map of Company Shops, reproduced in Stokes, p. 73; Dr. Moore's house is shown near the center of the map.

5

Stokes, p. 89.

6

Alamance County Register of Deeds (ACRD), Book 8, Page 207.

7

Stokes, p. 113.

8

Ibid., p. 93.

9

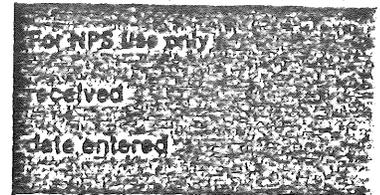
Ibid., p. 64.

10

See map in Stokes, p. 73.

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11

"Map of North Carolina Railroad Company Property", Book 4, RRR

12

Telephone interview with Durward T. Stokes of Graham, N.C. conducted by Claudia P. Roberts, April 1983.

13

ACRD, Book 3, Page 615.

14

Stokes, pp. 120-92.

15

ACRD, Book 7, p. 216.

16

All of the material on Dr. Moore's estate is found in the Alamance County Estates, 1856-1949, in the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

17

Ibid.

18

ACRD, Book 14, p. 114.

19

Telephone interview with Durward T. Stokes and Robert White.

20

Telephone interview with Robert White.

21

Burlington, Graham and Haw River, N.C., Directory, Vol. I, 1909-1910, (Burlington, N.C.: Piedmont Directory Co., Inc.); and Vol. V, 1929-1930 (Asheville, N.C.: E.H. Miller).

22

Burlington City Directory, 1909-1910, 1929-1930, and annually from 1935.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Burlington, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	6	4	0	5	6	0	3	9	9	5	9	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H 

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 84, Lot 31, Burlington Tax Maps, Map #25

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia P. Roberts

organization Consultant to the City of Burlington

date June 1, 1983

street & number 425 South Lexington Avenue

telephone 227-3603 Extension 79

city or town Burlington

state North Carolina

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. P.../s/

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 16, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

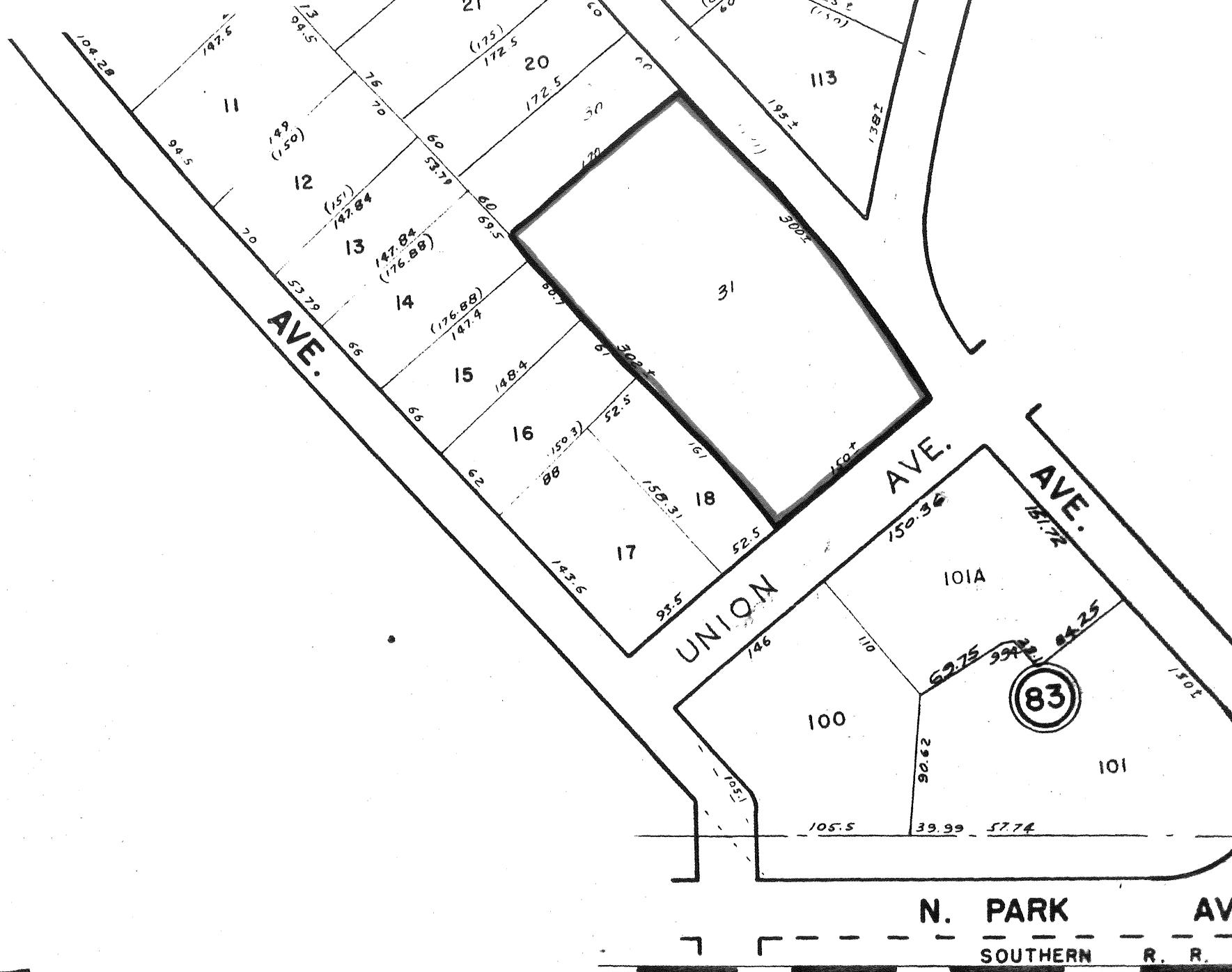
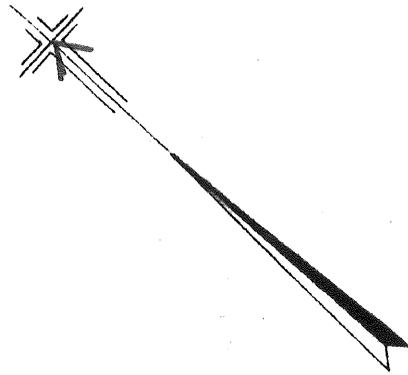
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



WHITMORE PROP.  
MOBILE HOME LOTS

PB. 3 PG 150  
21 54

REV. 10-17-75

**ALAMANCE COUNTY, N. C.**

TOWNSHIP

**BURLINGTON**

DATE

**1948**

SCALE

100'

**83 - 85**

REV. 5-7-75

Holt-Frost House

2-26-97

1-10-75

**N. PARK AV**

**AV**

**SOUTHERN R. R.**

