

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Edgecombe
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Tarboro Town Common

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Between Wilson St., Albemarle Ave., Park Ave., and St. Patrick St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Tarboro

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Edgecombe CODE: 065

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Tarboro

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Tarboro STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Edgecombe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. James and Main Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Tarboro STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Edgecombe
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

10. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edgecombe County Records, Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds).

Edgecombe County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds).

Lichtenstein, Gaston. When Tarboro Was Incorporated. (Richmond, Virginia: Capitol Printing Company, 1910).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"

O
R

35° 53' 53" 77° 32' 09"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John G. Zehmer, Asst. Adm. Research & Restoration; John B. Wells, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina Department of Archives and History DATE: September 8, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: H.G. [Signature]

Title: Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

Date: September 8, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tarboro Town Common is roughly triangular in shape being bounded on the north by Park Avenue, on the east by St. Patrick Street, on the south by Wilson Street, and the western end tangent to Albemarle Avenue. The area is subdivided into four unequal portions by three north-south streets: Trade Street, Main Street, and St. Andrew's Street. The common consists of a series of relatively flat lawns featuring a varied collection of mostly deciduous trees, predominately oaks and elms, some of great age. These have grown up over the years in no overall planting scheme, but today form an exciting series of vistas and alternating areas of light and shade. Located on the common is a nineteenth-century cotton press moved to its present location from Norfleet Plantation in Edgecombe County. There are several memorials including a Confederate monument erected in 1904, featuring the typical high pedestal surmounted with a statue of a rifle-bearing Confederate soldier. Other monuments on the common include a stone obelisk dedicated to the memory of Colonel Louis D. Wilson, a mid-eighteenth century local political figure; a large stone with metal marker cast from the Battleship Maine, which pays tribute to the Spanish-American dead. The most interesting monument is an unusual cast iron fountain consisting of a central two-tier element surrounded by an octagonal basin with four Corinthian colonnettes supporting spherical light globes placed at alternate corners of the octagon. This fountain is a memorial to Henry Wyatt of the Edgecombe Guards, C.S.A., purported locally to have been the first Confederate soldier killed in the Civil War.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tarboro Town Common was originally a part of the one-hundred-and-fifty-acre plantation of Joseph Howell, on the north bank of the Tar River in Edgecombe County. On September 24, 1760, Reverend Mr. James Moir, Lawrence Toole, Captain Aquila Sugg, Elisha Battle, and Benjamin Hart, purchased the property for £ 2,000 "being part of the Plantation. . . laid out for the use of building and erecting a Town thereon and the above Reverend James Moir et al are appointed Commissioners." All the property was to be laid out in lots except "fifty Acres for Commons for the use of the said Town. . . ." The same year the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act for the establishment of the town specifically mentioning "a part thereof for a common." According to an early map the commons surrounded Tarboro on three sides: the north, south, and west. All but the northern common were eventually whittled away in the face of Tarboro's expansion leaving the present area, containing nine acres. Even this small plot has suffered encroachments. In 1813 the State General Assembly passed an act "for erecting an academy in the Town of Tarborough" which authorized the commissioners to sell two acres of land "belonging to the Town Commons." In 1838 one acre "situated in the Grove of said commons" just north of Wilson Street was sold to the Trustees of the Tarboro Academy for "the purposes of a location of an Academy." In later years a public graded school was also erected on the northern common. During the War Between the States it served as a training ground and temporary barracks for the Edgecombe Guards.

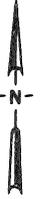
Since the turn of the century, the remaining Tarboro Town Common has been utilized as a site for several memorials and a fountain, and continues as a park for the citizens of the city of Tarboro.

In the eighteenth century there were a number of planned towns in North Carolina. Many of them featured undeveloped spaces designated as markets or courthouse squares. Tarboro, with three ^{acres} ~~acres~~ specifically designated as "Town Commons," was most unusual. As such, the remaining common is a unique survival of early urban planning in the South.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Tarboro Town Common
 Between Wilson St., St. Patrick St.,
 Albemarle Ave., and Park Ave.
 Tarboro



Map of the Town of Tarboro
 Town of Tarboro
 Scale: 1"/400'
 May 16, 1968

Latitude

Longitude

degrees minutes seconds degrees minutes seconds
 35 53 53 77 32 09

