

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Robinson, A., Building

other names/site number Howard-Robinson Building / Pyramid Barber Shop

### 2. Location

street & number 707-709 Patterson Avenue  N/A not for publication

city or town Winston-Salem  N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27101

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 5/19/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Robinson, A., Building  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, North Carolina  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____
1	
_____	_____
	buildings
_____	_____
	sites
_____	_____
	structures
_____	_____
	objects
1	
_____	_____
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Historic and Architectural African-American  
Resources on Northeastern Winston-Salem, 1900-1948

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ -0- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/mortuary

COMMERCE/specialty store

COMMERCE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

foundation brick

walls brick

roof gravel/built-up

other wood

Narrative Description

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

Robinson, A., Building  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, North Carolina  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1940-1948

**Significant Dates**

1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Robinson, Aladine, owner and designer

Greenwood, J.W., contractor

Gray, Lawrence, brickmason

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Robinson, A., Building  
Name of Property

Forsyth County, North Carolina  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	7
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5	6	8	3	0	0
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3	9	9	5	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Langdon Edmunds Oppermann, Preservation and Planning

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date September 1997

street & number 1500 Overbrook Avenue telephone 910/721-1949

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name George C. and Mary W. Booie

street & number 2441 Dellabrook Road telephone 910/722-0267

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27105

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Forsyth County, NC

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**Narrative Description**

Located on the east side of Patterson Avenue (formerly Depot Street) between East Seventh and East Seven-and-one-half streets in the Depot Street neighborhood, the A. Robinson Building was built in 1940-1941 in a booming mixed-use neighborhood. A commercial structure, it has no setback, but is located at the sidewalk line with its front entrances at grade level with no plantings. To the north is an asphalt parking lot serving the businesses operating in the building, and to the south is a grass and gravel parking lot where the neighboring Hall Building once stood. Behind the building is a garage and a portion of the Hall Building, now associated with the Robinson Building. Its closest neighbors are, at the rear, the W.C. Brown Apartment Building at 311-317 East Seventh Street, and caddy-corner across Patterson Avenue, Goler Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. At the time of the Robinson Building's construction in the early 1940s, the Depot Street neighborhood was flourishing and other new buildings in the area were also going up on Patterson Avenue and adjacent streets. For several decades the neighborhood continued to thrive. This is in contrast to the current, underused condition of the neighborhood.

**Exterior**

The Robinson Building is a two-story brick commercial building; it faces west with an eye-catching facade of dark red brick accented with yellow brick in a symmetrical composition. Its parapeted front gives the building an imposing appearance and a balanced design. Fenestration on the first floor is divided into two groups of three bays, each with an entrance door flanked by casement windows. The northern group was built as the main entrance to the Howard-Robinson Funeral Home. Ornamenting the door surround are fluted classical pilasters and a decorative molded frieze; these frame the double-leaf panelled and half-glazed doors. Suspended above the doorway is a flat awning with scalloped metal fringe. Flanking the doorway are twenty-light metal casement windows with integral transoms. Soldier-course lintels and rowlock-course sills of yellow brick accent the windows. Although the building appears symmetrical, the southern doorway is not as wide, being a single door built as the entrance to a barber shop. Details of the doorway, awning, and flanking windows are identical to the northern grouping. The second floor is four bays wide, each with a metal sixteen-light casement window with yellow brick lintels and sills similar to those of the first floor. A yellow brick panel serves as a vertical divider at this level. Two corbelled brick water tables give horizontal accent to the building above first and second levels. Above the second floor level, the false front is visually divided into five rectangular panels framed by soldier courses of brick. In the center panel a granite slab reading "A. Robinson 1941" is framed by yellow brick. Imposing full-height "pilasters" of yellow brick at the front corners of the building give visual uplift to the overall composition. At the summit of each is a cast stone pyramid. A cast stone cap accents

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the parapet roofline and completes the outer frame of the facade. The flat roof behind is not visible from the ground. A large plastic sign for Pyramid Barber School covers part of the second level elevation, but does not obscure the original granite "A. Robinson" sign.

The sides of the Robinson Building are also of interest. Although built at a time when many brick buildings were actually brick veneer over frame construction, this building is of brick construction, and of a different brick from those of the front. The north and south side facades are of hand-made bricks made by George Black who was a well-known and celebrated local brickmaker.<sup>1</sup> They are a softer, warmer color than the machine-made bricks of the front, and laid up in seven-to-one common bond, but with the usual header row being "Flemish" with alternating headers and stretchers. In design, the side facades are irregular. Of interest on the north side is simple door beneath what is called in Winston-Salem a "Moravian bonnet," a rounded hood with beaded board ceiling, supported by decorative sawn false knee braces. East of this doorway are four bays of metal casement windows similar to those of the front, but with patterned "privacy glass" panes, simple red brick sills, and unornamented lintels. On the second floor are five bays of six-over-six wooden windows, some paired. One has been infilled with painted wood. The parapet steps down to the rear, capped with glazed terra cotta tiles. The south side is also built of George Black bricks; however, it was built when the neighboring Hall Building was still standing three feet away, so the mortar joints were not finished. On the first floor are six-over-six windows and a doorway leading to the basement. On the second floor are four double-hung windows of various sizes. A metal fire escape leads to an unadorned second-floor door.

Behind and adjoining the building is a one-story annex built at two different periods. Facing north is a 1940 broad gable-front brick garage in five-to-one common bond with open front, concrete floor, and metal roof. A small pent roof of corrugated metal has been added to the front. Eight large hinged wooden sliding doors have been removed from their tracks and are stored within. This garage was built as a part of the Robinson Building and was used for casket storage and as access down concrete steps and ramp to the embalming room beneath the Robinson Building. Attached to the garage to the south is an earlier gable-roofed brick structure which was a part of the 1913 Hall Building. The wall between these two portions has been removed, leaving a beaded-board section of the upper gable, and a pipe support that has been added for stability. On the south wall towards Seventh Street, the basement entrance to the Hall Building was closed in 1940, leaving a bricked-up rectangular opening that could be mistaken for a former fireplace. Above is a window opening with no sash. When the Hall Building was demolished in 1980, this one-story portion was retained. Thus, it predates the Robinson Building by several decades and is a remnant of the Howard-Robinson Company's former location. Both of these rear sections are in poor condition with large openings

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<sup>1</sup> Black made the bricks for architect-designed houses in white neighborhoods, for banks, for the Baptist Hospital, and for many of Old Salem's reconstructions. His house and the remains of his brickyard are on Dellabrook Road.

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A. Robinson Building  
Forsyth County, NC

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in the roof, while the Robinson Building itself is in good condition. The upper back of the Robinson Building has been stuccoed. Two six-over-six windows are on the first floor (which is above the garage due to the slope of the land); the upper windows are boarded up. Immediately behind the building is the northwest rear corner of the W.C. Brown Apartment Building at 311-317 East Seventh Street mentioned earlier.

**Interior**

The double front doors on the west and the Moravian bonnet side door on the north lead to a reception and office area. From there, glazed double doors open onto what was built as the chapel, occupying much of the north and central areas of the first level. A stained glass interior window has been removed and is stored off-premises. The chapel has not been subdivided, and today is used for a barber's hair styling operation. Beside and south of the former chapel is a hall leading to a small room, a half bath, and a back office. Original stairs lead to the second floor. Upstairs, the former showroom is now a classroom for lectures. A full bath is across the hall, as well as four rooms. Few changes have been made to the building. The stained glass window has been removed, but the privacy glass remains in the outside windows of the chapel, and the floor plan is unchanged. When built, interior plaster was applied directly to the structural masonry walls and presents a constant moisture problem. Four rooms are in the basement of the Robinson Building, with entrances on the south side and at the back, opening to a concrete ramp and stair up to the garage.

The Robinson Building was also designed for Wilbur Garrett's barber shop. The southern front door opened into the former and current barber shop. A bathroom is at the back, and a back door leads to the interior hallway.

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Forsyth County, NC**Summary Paragraph**

The A. Robinson Building was erected in 1940-1941 as the Howard-Robinson Funeral Home, an African-American business that continued at that location until it moved in the 1980s. The building also originally housed a barber shop and continues that use today. The Robinson building and the funeral home that built it tell the story of the ever-more-prosperous African-American community that developed in the Depot Street area in the late nineteenth century. The building was the third location of a commercial business established in 1897 in the Depot Street neighborhood. By 1917 the twenty-year-old firm moved to a stylish, two-story brick commercial building where it remained for over twenty years. With his continued success, the owner, Aladine Robinson, then designed this new building specifically for his firm, which continues in business today one hundred years after its founding. The Robinson Building uses simple materials and ornamentation techniques to create an eye-catching composition. The designer of the building, who is said to have been Mr. Robinson, clearly had a sense of design and was successful in his use of yellow brick on the red brick facade to create an appearance of both vertical and horizontal symmetry, as well as height and importance. The Robinson Building is a rare survivor of the numerous African-American commercial buildings that once sustained Winston-Salem's black neighborhoods, and one of only three or four showing sophistication in its execution and design. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A in the context of African-American heritage and commercial development. This historic context is more fully discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural African-American Resources of Northeastern Winston-Salem, 1900 to 1948," in Section I, Part II, "The Realization of the African-American Community in Northeast Winston-Salem, 1900-1948." The building also meets National Register criterion C as a little-changed representative of the brick commercial building type, and, as such, meets the Registration Requirements outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form in Section F: Associated Property Types, under Property Type II, Brick Commercial Buildings.

**Historical Background**

The A. Robinson Building was built in 1940-1941 to house the Howard-Robinson Funeral Home. Forerunners of this firm, however, had been in business in the Depot Street neighborhood since 1897. According to a family member, the first location was in a "little building somewhere on Patterson Avenue," but the location is not known.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Interview with George C. Booie.

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Kerr Howard, always known as "K. Howard," was originally from Salisbury. After moving to Winston-Salem he taught school in the Salem Hill neighborhood and joined with a friend named Mr. Fitch to operate the Howard and Fitch Furniture Store.<sup>3</sup> Their business included the manufacture of caskets, a common component of the furniture business at the turn of the century. As the success of the furniture industry in nearby Thomasville, Hickory, and High Point drew business away from Winston-Salem, many furniture businesses here, both black and white, made the natural shift to funeral homes.<sup>4</sup> Howard and Fitch likewise dissolved their partnership and each went separately into the funeral business. Fitch ran the Fitch Undertaking Company at the corner of East Seventh and Chestnut streets from at least 1915 to 1926.<sup>5</sup> K. Howard started out on his own and formed a kind of partnership with William L. Blackburn, a longtime resident who operated a grocery store on Depot Street and helped Howard promote his business. William S. Scales, a bail bondsman and entrepreneur, soon joined the firm as a financial partner, and by 1917 the business was known as Howard, Blackburn & Scales.<sup>6</sup>

Changes were underway. In 1917 the business moved into the Seventh Street frontage of the Hall Building which had been constructed on the northeast corner of Depot and East Seventh streets four years earlier.<sup>7</sup> Scales left the business at that time but allowed the firm to keep his name for a while in order to avoid disruption, at the same time protecting himself from responsibility for any indebtedness. He sold his equity in the business to his cousin Aladine Robinson, who mortgaged his house in order to buy Scales's share for \$2,000. Robinson had come to Winston-Salem from near Madison, North Carolina, and worked as a house painter in Winston-Salem. He was interested in design and had trained at a trade school in Ohio, and was involved in decorating as well as painting.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Pete Cralidis.

<sup>5</sup> City directories.

<sup>6</sup> Interviews with Laura Hooper, George Booie, and Clark Brown; also city directories. Will Scales owned the Lafayette Theater, the Lincoln Theater on Church Street, a pool room, a restaurant, a funeral business, and invested in real estate.

<sup>7</sup> The Hall Building was built by Dr. Humphrey H. Hall, who came to Winston ca. 1887 as the city's first African-American physician and became prominent in his field. He lived one block west on E. 7th Street.

<sup>8</sup> Interview with George Booie.

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The 1920 city directory shows the firm of Howard, Blackburn & Scales, undertakers, at number 303 East Seventh Street in the Hall Building.<sup>9</sup> A front office faced south onto Seventh Street, with a small chapel behind to the north. Funerals at that time were typically held in churches rather than funeral home chapels, so chapel funerals were neither frequent nor large. The business also occupied the full length of the Hall Building's basement, including the casket showroom beneath Hooper's Grocery Store, a "layout" room, the morgue or embalming room, a casket storage area beneath what later became Dr. Leroy Hall's office, and a pool table for employees.<sup>10</sup> Layout rooms were at that time a typical part of funeral home operation. Embalmed and dressed bodies were laid on a table in this room, not in the morgue, and partially covered with a cloth of some kind. The family then came there and into the showroom to select a casket.

Funeral homes provided more services than their name implies. For many decades, it was the funeral homes that operated ambulance services throughout North Carolina. This was true also in Winston-Salem, in both the white and black community. A funeral home of any note had not only hearses, but also ambulances, first horse-drawn and later horseless. The Businesses of any note therefore kept a small night staff for deaths and for life emergencies, and provided emergency training to its employees and sleeping quarters at the funeral homes. This practice continued until the county took over the ambulance service in 1969.<sup>11</sup> Personnel in funeral homes in the black community often served as notary publics and helped answer questions about birth certificates and vital records.<sup>12</sup>

Aladine Robinson was an enterprising individual and came from a family of entrepreneurs. Upon K. Howard's death in 1928, Robinson bought his share of the business from Howard's niece and nephew and became sole owner.<sup>13</sup> In 1940 he began construction of a new funeral home on

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<sup>9</sup> The name may already have changed to Howard, Scales & Robinson by then, despite the directory listing.

<sup>10</sup> Interviews with Laura Hooper and George Boogie. An early embalmer who worked for the firm before it moved to the Hall Building was Eugene Murrell. A later embalmer was Percy Rivera, who came to Winston-Salem from Durham and joined the firm around 1920 as a young man (his first job) and "grew up in the business." He became a licensed undertaker and manager of the business while working with Aladine Robinson, who earlier had been manager himself while in partnership with K. Howard.

<sup>11</sup> Interviews with Clark Brown, Laura Hooper, Pete Cralidis. By 1969, ambulances had become sophisticated and expensive, costing \$45,000 each, and both black and white funeral homes were losing money on their ambulance services.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Laura Hooper. She and her brother, Thomas Hooper, Jr., grew up around their father's grocery store and the adjacent funeral home; Thomas later became a funeral director and established Hooper's Funeral Home.

<sup>13</sup> Howard never married.

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property he owned next door to the Hall Building on Patterson Avenue.<sup>14</sup> He had operated an upscale tea room in a small frame house on the lot for a few years, but demolished that house to build the new funeral home.<sup>15</sup> Robinson's training in design was put to good use, as he is said to have designed the building. It is a masonry structure, not a brick-veneered frame building, and is built of George Black's handmade bricks with machine-made bricks on the front facade. Lawrence Gray was brickmason, and the contractor was J. W. Greenwood, a carpenter. Gray was one of the older, more experienced brickmasons in Winston-Salem. Robinson designed the major space in the building for his funeral business, which retained the name Howard-Robinson even though Howard had died some years earlier. The smaller front entrance was designed for a friend, Wilbur Garrett, who opened Garrett's Barber Shop there.

Aladine Robinson put as much attention to decorating the interior of this new building as he had to its exterior design. All public rooms were on the first and second floors. The double doors entered into a reception area and front office; the side door from the parking lot entered into this area as well. Through glazed double doors was the chapel with a pulpit and backlit stained-glass window depicting Christ, and pipe organ with motor. Robinson had brought the window with him from the small chapel in the Hall Building. A hallway south of the chapel led to a viewing room where an open casket could be placed, a half-bath, and a back office behind the chapel. On the second floor was a showroom to the left, a full bath across the hall to the right, a bedroom with two beds for the help (generally two men worked at night), and a pleasant sitting room with a sofa bed where a late-arriving out-of-town family member might spend the night before a funeral. There was also a front office and a "garment room" where burial garments and children's caskets were kept. The Robinson Building was also designed for Wilbur Garrett's barber shop. The southern front door opened into his shop with four barber chairs, a lavatory, six captain's chairs and a wind-up phonograph. A bathroom was at the back, and a back door led to the interior hallway of the funeral home.

The work rooms were in the basement of the Robinson Building. These included a storage room for cemetery equipment (lowering equipment, tools, fake grass, tents), and a finished room. The morgue or preparation room was at the back of the basement and opened to a concrete ramp and stair up to the garage where caskets were stored in boxes.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> County records show Robinson acquired the property in 1928.

<sup>15</sup> Interview with George Booie.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with George Booie. Robinson built the garage as a part of his new building; it adjoined the back ell of the Hall Building, and the steps to the Hall Building's basement were blocked up. When the Hall Building was demolished in 1980, a one-story portion connected to the garage was retained and remains today south of the garage.

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A. Robinson Building  
Forsyth County, NC

In its earliest days the Robinson Building served an unanticipated need. When a small congregation began St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in 1940, they first met at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hosea V. Price, a local lawyer.<sup>17</sup> They then worshiped at the chapel of Aladine Robinson's new funeral home and held its first Mass there in November, 1940. Their new church building was dedicated in September, 1941.

Robinson began yet another enterprise in the 1950s. The Howard-Robinson Mutual Burial Association was established and operated in the Robinson Building. For a small premium, clients could purchase death benefits insuring payment of minimum burial costs. After Robinson's death and the death of his widow, "Birdie," the property was left in 1981 to Aladine's cousin George C. Booie, who with his wife still owns the building today.<sup>18</sup> He and his wife Mary W. Booie continued to operate the Howard-Robinson funeral business there until the mid-1980s, when they merged with the Johnson Home of Memory and moved to its Waughtown Street office. The firm, now in its fourth location, has yet another name: the Johnson-Howard-Robinson Home of Memory.

Since then the Robinson Building has served as the home of the Pyramid Barbering Institute, run by Ghuneem Furqan. Furqan started the Pyramid School in 1978 at the corner of Akron Drive and Ogburn Avenue before moving it to the Robinson Building. He is continuing an original use of the building where Wilbur Garrett ran his barber shop. A wonderful coincidence connects Mr. Furqan to Mr. Robinson: Robinson was a thirty-third degree Mason, and in 1940 he included the cast stone pyramids in his design of the building, crowning its upper corners, as symbolic of his masonic beliefs. Furqan had given the Muslim-influenced Pyramid name to his barbering school ten years before moving to the building with the pyramids.

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<sup>17</sup> St. Benedict Church interviews, church history, and SSAH 1996 calendar. Price came to Winston-Salem from South Carolina in the late 1920s. He had an active practice in both civil and criminal law, was one of the county's top trial lawyers and argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. The church was named for St. Benedict, a Franciscan Friar known as the "Black Saint" and the "Holy Negro," and operated by the Franciscans. The property for a church, parish hall, and rectory was bought in April, 1940, from the estate of Bishop Kyles of the AME Zion Church. At the start, the congregation numbered only about 12 or 13 who were easily able to use Aladine Robinson's new building; after eight years it had grown to over 100 members.

<sup>18</sup> Birdie Robinson was an active member and leader of Lloyd Presbyterian Church on Chestnut Street.

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A. Robinson Building  
Forsyth County, NC

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Forsyth County deeds, deed index, will index, plats, tax listing records, and old and current tax maps.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company, "Winston-Salem, North Carolina," (New York: Sanborn-Perris Co., 1895-1927.)

Winston-Salem City Directories, 1895-1952.

Society for the Study of Afro-American History in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, 1996 calendar featuring early black lawyers.

Unpublished history of St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church.

**Interviews**

Mrs. Boone, St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church.

George C. Booie, cousin of Aladine Robinson and current owner of the Robinson Building.

Clark Brown, owner of Clark Brown Funeral Home, located in the Depot Street neighborhood since 1930.

Pete Cralidis, Vogler Funeral Home.

Father George, priest at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel (it was formerly associated with St. Benedict the Moor).

Father Larry Hunt, priest, St. Benedict The Moor Catholic Church.

Laura Hooper, daughter of Thomas Hooper who ran Hooper's Grocery store in the Hall Building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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A. Robinson Building  
Forsyth County, NC

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### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination is parcel #208/114 on Forsyth County Tax Map 630858.

#### Boundary Justification

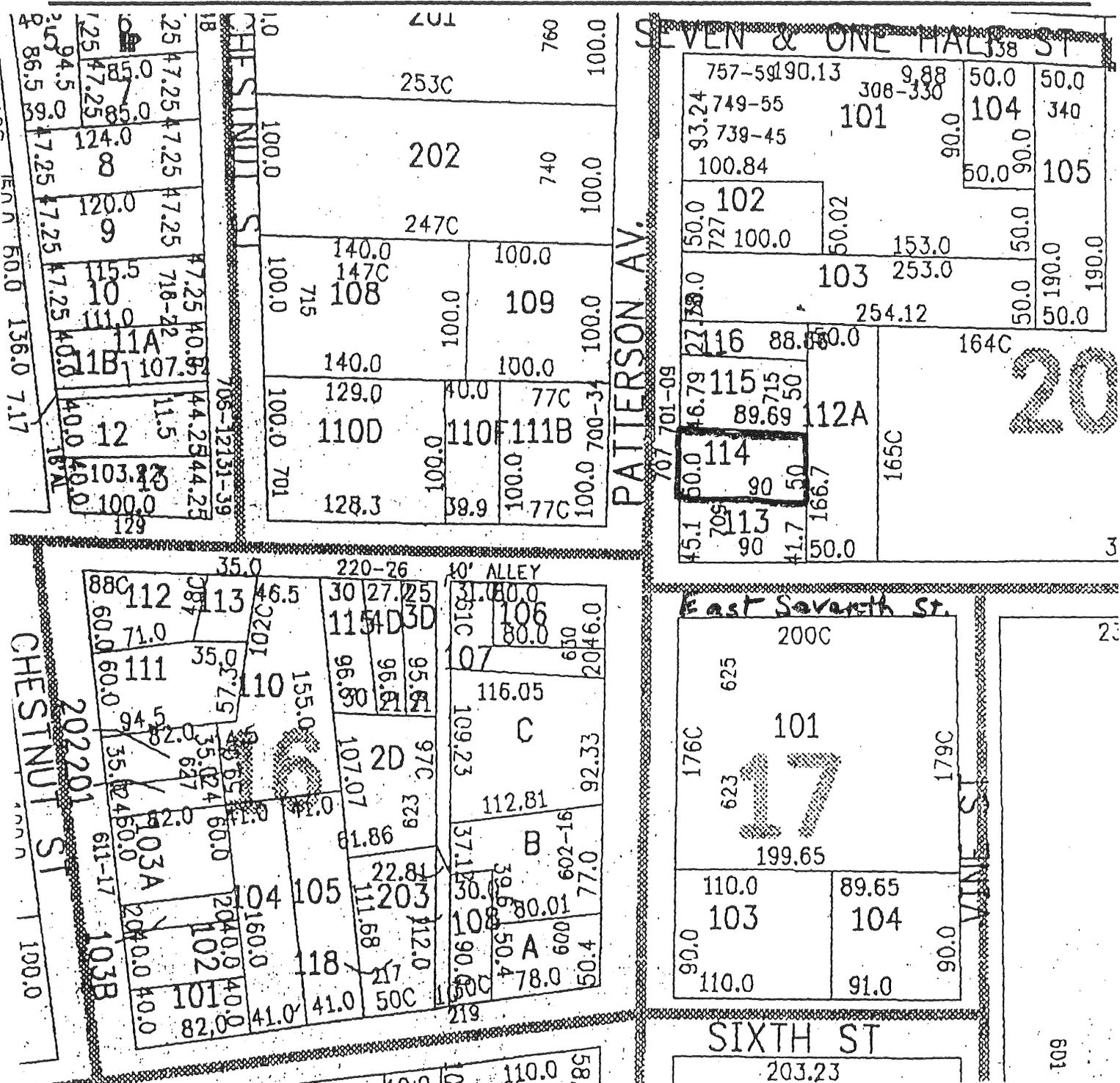
The boundaries enclosing this property comprise the acreage owned in 1940 as the site of the building when construction began and which continues to serve as the site and setting of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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A. Robinson Building  
Forsyth County, NC



A. Robinson Building  
 Forsyth County Tax Map 630858, Block 208, Lot 114.  
 Scale 1" = 400'





PYRAMID  
BARBER SCHOOL

