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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

- The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses stand in the Columbian Heights area of Winston-Salem, a part of the city which has seen great changes since the first home was built there by Dr. Simon Green Atkins in 1893. The community owes its existence, in part, to nearby Winston-Salem State University, founded by Atkins in 1892 as the Slater Industrial Academy. Atkins encouraged the development of Columbian Heights as an area where middle-class blacks could own their own homes, escaping the crowded conditions of the traditionally black section of the city. In addition, Atkins saw the development of Columbian Heights as an aid to the school, because the attraction of home ownership would make easier the task of recruiting qualified teachers for Slater. Among those who were connected with Slater Academy and who built homes in the Columbian Heights area were two men who were associates of Atkins and who helped assure the success of the Academy in its early years. J. S. Hill, who built his large home on Idabell Avenue (now Stadium Drive), was the chief fundraiser for the school and later a successful local banker. J. W. Paisley, a faculty member who was recruited by Atkins and who went on to serve in a lengthy career with the city school system, also built his home on Idabell Avenue on a site very near Hill's house. Because of the significance of the careers of these individuals to the development of public education in Winston-Salem, the city school system named a high school for each of them.
- The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses are typical of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century construction found in the Columbian Heights neighborhood. Substantial but generally unornamented, they nevertheless reflect the taste of their builders and the vernacular adaptation of stylistic motifs which were common in the period. The Atkins and Hill Houses, although built at almost the same time, vary greatly in the degree of stylistic interpretation and ornamentation. The Atkins House is a simple, center gable frame house, of which there were thousands built in the late-nineteenth century. Atkins was a prominent individual in the black community in Winston-Salem, but he was not a wealthy man, and the ample but plain house which he built reflects his position. In contrast to the Atkins House, the J. S. Hill House was built by a man who was considered wealthy in the context of the black community. When compared to the other homes in the Columbian Heights neighborhood, the Hill House is a large and substantial 'vernacular adaptation of Victorian style in keeping with Hill's standing as one of the wealthiest black businessmen in Winston-Salem. The Paisley House was built sometime after the other two, and is one of the pivotal homes of the Columbian Heights neighborhood occupying a lot across from the entrance of Winston-Salem State University. Exhibiting a series of clipped gables, which was a bold turn-of-the-century characteristic, the Paisley House is one of the most architecturally significant structures in Columbian Heights. The group of three houses reflects the varied tastes, financial positions, and time periods which shaped the character of the area of the city in which they were built, and are significant reminders of their original owners' roles in the development of the community.

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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	HEATER
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SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1893, ca. 1910-1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses are significant physical reminders of three individuals who were responsible for the development and success of the Slater Industrial Academy and the Columbian Heights neighborhood in Winston-Salem. Dr. Simon Green Atkins was the founder of the school which was to become Winston-Salem State University, and through his efforts, the Columbian Heights neighborhood was developed as an area where middle-class blacks, in particular faculty members at the Academy, could own their own homes and enjoy a higher standard of living than was possible in the traditionally black areas of the city. J. S. Hill and J. W. Paisley also built their homes in the Columbian Heights area and were closely connected with the nearby school. Hill was the chief fundraiser for the Slater Academy for eight years during its early years and is credited with its early physical development. He later became one of the most successful black businessmen in Winston-Salem as founder of Forsyth Savings and Trust Company. Paisley was a distinguished member of the faculty at Slater, and went on to enjoy a long and successful career in the public schools of the city. The careers of Atkins, Hill, and Paisley were honored by the naming of three public high schools in the city for them.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses are associated with the development of the Slater Industrial Academy, a leading institution of higher education for blacks later known as Winston-Salem University, and the Columbian Heights neighborhood, an area in which middle-class black families could enjoy the right of home ownership and which helped to attract a qualified faculty to the nearby school.
- B. The Atkins House is associated with Dr. Simon Green Atkins who founded the Slater Industrial Academy, later Winston-Salem State University, and who encouraged the development of the Columbian Heights community, an early effort to upgrade the standard of living for middle-class blacks. J. S. Hill, who built the Hill House in the Columbian Heights area, was a fundraiser in the northern states for Slater Academy and was later a successful local businessman. J. W. Paisley was an outstanding faculty member at Slater for several years and continued his educational career in the public schools of Winston-Salem.

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE , ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses represent the development of one of the most significant institutions of higher education for black people in North Carolina, the Slater Industrial Academy, and of one of the first efforts to establish a planned neighborhood for blacks, the Columbian Heights area of Winston-Salem. The Slater Industrial Academy was founded by Dr. Simon Green Atkins in 1892; shortly thereafter, Dr. Atkins realized the necessity to have a residential community associated geographically with the school so that qualified teachers could be attracted to the faculty. With the establishment of the Columbian Heights neighborhood in 1893, Dr. Atkins paved the way for other individuals associated with the school to own their own homes and enjoy a higher standard of living than had been possible before. Shortly after Dr. Atkins moved out, the Atkins House on Cromartie Street was moved to another part of its original lot in the Columbian Heights neighborhood. It was turned to face Atkins Street. The house stands today as the only direct evidence of Atkins's role in the development of that community.

In order for the school established by Dr. Atkins to succeed, it was necessary to hire professional teachers and to enlist the help of black businessmen to raise funds for the struggling institution. These needs were met, for the school which began in a small church has evolved into Winston-Salem State University occupying a large, modern campus surrounding the original site. The two individuals who were most representative of the educational and financial success of the Slater Industrial Academy were John W. Paisley and J. S. Hill. Although he only taught at Slater for three to five years, Paisley was typical of the educators who were responsible for the academic success which assured the school's existence. He went on to teach in the public schools of the city for the rest of his career, after leaving Slater Because of the lack of local financial resources available to the fledgling institution, the Trustees of Slater were forced to seek funding elsewhere. Although he never taught at the school, J. S. Hill, through his eight year fund-raising campaign in the northern states, was primarily responsible for the early physical development of the Slater Industrial Academy. Hill went on to become a successful banker as founder of the Forsyth Savings and Trust Company in 1907. Paisley and Hill supported the efforts of Dr. Atkins to establish a neighborhood for prominent blacks and built substantial homes in Columbian Heights.

Like Atkins, Hill and Paisley were directly responsible for the success of the Slater Industrial Academy, and also chose to build their homes in the nearby Columbian Heights neighborhood. Because of the close ties between the school and the neighborhood in which those individuals lived for many years, the Atkins, Hill, and Paisley Houses are strong reminders of the efforts of their builders to raise the educational standards of their people and to provide a quality of life in which they could be proud of themselves, their jobs, and their homes.

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The former homes of S. G. Atkins, J. S. Hill, and J. W. Paisley in the Columbian Heights section of Winston-Salem stand as reminders of the development of the black community in Winston-Salem through the establishment of the Columbian Heights neighborhood and the nearby Slater Industrial Academy, which evolved into Winston-Salem State University. Only a handful of the original Columbian Heights homes remain, but the Atkins, Hill, and Paisley houses testify to the aspirations of those individuals who sought to improve the educational and living standards of other members of their race.

Dr. Simon Green Atkins pioneered the development of both the Slater Industrial Academy and the Columbian Heights neighborhood in the early 1890s. Atkins was born in Chatham County on June 11, 1863, and having been influenced by field teachers from St. Augustine's College, he left for Raleigh in 1880 and was graduated from that institution in 1884. After six years of teaching at Livingstone College in Salisbury, Atkins moved to Winston-Salem to serve as principal of the Depot Street Grade School. In 1892 in a frame church standing on a hillside east of the town, he opened a school that became known as Slater Industrial Academy. The facilities were expanded the next year and a faculty was formed. Atkins realized that the success of his school depended upon the recruitment of teachers with professional training, who would be unvilling to live in the poor, congested section of town assigned to blacks. He conceived the idea of a black community around the school where the residents would own their own homes. The second section of the school where the residents would own their own homes.

The Inside Land and Development Company had begun preparations for landscaping the partially wooded hillside into residential lots. Apparently the developers were persuaded by the logic of a black community, for two lots were sold to Simon G. Atkins on March 20, 1893. Others followed, especially those associated with Slater Industrial Academy, and soon a neighborhood emerged. According to tradition, Atkins refused to allow the developers to name the entire section for him; instead he suggested the name Columbian Heights which honored the Columbian Exposition recently visited by Atkins and also described the topography of the area. 5

The district was laid out in blocks with the blocks subdivided into lots. ⁶
Atkins's first purchase was lots 9 and 10 in block 5 bounded on the east by
Atkins Street, by the railroad on the north, and by Cromartie Street on the
south. Regular lots in the subdivision measured 50' x 159.8'. Atkins's
home, built shortly after purchase of the lots, was listed in the city directories
as 317 Cromartie Street and was located on lot 10 at the intersection of Cromartie
and Atkins streets. Atkins lived there from the mid 1890s until 1915. In the
latter year his official residence was Wallace Street and remained so until 1933
when it was listed as College Campus. ⁹ The first home remained in the Atkins

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

family and sometime between 1917 and 1925 it was moved to the back of the lot and turned to face Atkins Street. On February 20, 1963, the Atkins Company, formed by members of the Atkins family, sold a northern strip (approximately 50' x 100') of lots 9 and 10 in block 5 to Irma Lee Banks. The strip included the old Atkins House, 346 Atkins Street, which had for some years been used as an apartment building. Il Mrs. Banks is the present owner.

Dr. Simon G. Atkins was by far the most prominent resident of Columbian Heights. In addition to inspiring development of the neighborhood, he was active in establishment and development of the Columbian Heights High School; he was instrumental in the founding of Slater School Hospital (ca. 1900), the first for blacks in Winston-Salem; a devoted member of the A.M.E. Zion Church, he served as the secretary of education for twenty years; and he was a charter member of the North Carolina Negro Teachers Association at age eighteen. He was elected president of the organization in 1926. His greatest achievement, however, was the founding of Slater Industrial Academy which, under his leadership, became a widely recognized institution known as Winston-Salem Teachers College. Atkins was president and the driving force behind the school from 1892 until shortly before his death on June 28, 1934. 13

Much of Atkin's success, however, must be attributed to some very capable colleagues, among whom was James S. Hill. Hill was born on May 29, 1865, in Jonesville, South Carolina. After being graduated from Biddle University (now Johnson C. Smith) in 1889, he enjoyed a brief teaching career before moving to Winston-Salem in the early 1890s. Hill possessed natural talents as a fund raiser and was selected by the Board of Trustees at Slater Industrial Academy to tour the northern states in a fund drive for the school. Immediate success turned into an eight year campaign for Hill whose efforts were largely responsible for the early expansion of facilities at Slater. 15

On August 2, 1892, J. S. Hill purchased lot 5 in block 12 from the Inside Land and Development Company. He acquired his lot seven months before Atkins, but local tradition maintains that Atkins built the first house in Columbian Heights. The records do not clarify the matter but Hill's home appears to have also been constructed in the 1890s. The earliest city directory listed his address only as Columbian Heights and not until 1910 did the address 318 Idabell Avenue appear. Although the street name changed several times, as did the house number, there is no doubt that 318 Idabell Avenue was the same site as the present 914 Stadium Drive. The house at that address was the home of James S. Hill from its construction until his death in 1923. His widow, Sarah, lived there for a year after his death. After she left, the house was sold and passed through several owners before its purchase by Gertrude J. Barkley on May 8, 1963. In 1978, the house was acquired by the City of Winston-Salem.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

Hill's ability to manage money led him into the banking business. In 1907 he founded Forsyth Savings and Trust Company which proved to be a very successful venture. As a bank president he invested his profits, and when he died he left a comfortable fortune for his family. Over the years he had acquired twenty-eight lots scattered throughout Winston-Salem with at least eight houses as well as a thirty acre farm northeast of the city. He had invested in stocks for a gold mine out west, the Wireless Telephone Company, the New Rochelle Cooperative Business League in New York, and had bought one-third interest in the Rex Theatre on East Fourth Street in Winston-Salem. In all, his property exceeded a valuation of \$50,000, which made him a fairly wealthy man in 1923. 23

While Atkins and Hill were instrumental in the founding and growth of Slater Industrial Academy, the actual teaching was left to others including John W. Paisley. Less is known about Paisley than about Atkins or Hill, but he was born in Winston-Salem and attended Shaw University. Apparently Atkins recruited Paisley, for he joined the faculty at Slater Industrial Academy sometime between 1908 and 1910. In 1913 Paisley left Slater to become principal of the Oak Street Grade School where he remained for twelve years. He resigned in 1926 to become principal of the newly erected Kimberly Park School where he completed his career in education.

Paisley moved into the Columbian Heights section in 1910 after purchasing lots 9 and 10 in block 12 from J. C. and Callie S. Williamson. ²⁶ Early city directories list Paisley only as a resident of Columbian Heights and by 1911 as living on Idabell Avenue. The first house number appears in 1915 when his address is 930 Idabell Avenue. ²⁷ His home was only a few houses east of J. S. Hill and there is no doubt that 930 Idabell Avenue was the same site as 934 Stadium Drive. ²⁸ Precisely when the house was constructed is difficult to determine. The purchase price of \$950 for two lots in 1910 did not suggest the presence of a structure; however, a house obviously was there by 1915. The Sanborn Map for Winston-Salem (1917 with 1925 additions) shows a structure with the same architectural features as the present house, which indicates that Paisley constructed the house about 1910-1911. ²⁹

A portion of the Paisley lots were taken to widen and turn E. Bank Street (old Idabell Avenue) into what is now known as Stadium Drive in 1925.30 It is possible that the house was moved farther back into the lot at that time, but the records indicate that the house remained intact. I John W. Paisley lived in the house until his death in the late forties or early fifties. Mamie Paisley, his widow, lived there for a time after his death and retained ownership of the property. On October 19, 1976, she sold lots 9 and 10 in block 12 to the current owners, Robert and Mabel Brown. 32

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 6

The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley houses no longer appear as they once did; neither does the Columbian Heights neighborhood. Time, progress, and neglect have taken their toll. Ironically, the greatest threat to the surviving homes comes from the same source that nourished their birth. Columbian Heights was conceived as a type of college community with strong ties to Slater Industrial Academy. The Atkins, Hill, and Paisley houses remain as testimony to the success of the venture. Slater grew, prospered, and became Winston-Salem State University. Columbian Heights simply grew older. New, more modern neighborhoods developed and attracted the younger generation of professional blacks. The university growth and urban development began to eat away at Columbian Heights until its very existence is now endangered. ³³

FOOTNOTES

Biographical information appears in an article clipped from the <u>Winston-Salem Journal</u> and placed in the clipping file of the Forsyth County Public Library. The article is undated but the content strongly suggests that it was based on an interview with Dr. Atkins in the early 1930s. This article hereinafter cited as <u>Journal</u>, undated. A second article appeared in the <u>Journal</u>, May 4, 1935.

²Letter from Simona Atkins Allen, granddaughter of Simon Green Atkins, to Orville W. Powell, City Manager of Winston-Salem, July 11, 1975, hereinafter cited as Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975; <u>Journal</u>, undated; and William S. Powell, <u>Higher Education in North Carolina</u> (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1964), p. 52, hereinafter cited as Powell, <u>Higher Education</u>.

 3 Journal, undated, May 4, 1935; and Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975.

Forsyth County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Hall of Justice, Winston-Salem, Deed Book 43, p. 564, hereinafter cited as Forsyth County Deed Book. See also <u>Journal</u>, undated; and "Bird's Eye View of the Twin Cities, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1891," Map Collection, State Archives, Raleigh.

⁵Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975. See also Journal, May 4, 1935.

⁶See map of subdivision in Forsyth County Deed Book 39, p. 401.

⁷Forsyth County Deed Book 43, p. 564.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

⁸Sanborn Map of Winston-Salem, vol. 1, pp. 34-35. Original dated 1917 with additions to 1925. State Archives. See "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, Dr. Simon Green Atkins House, James S. Hill House, J. W. Paisley House, "prepared by Jean Marie Craddock (April, 1977), Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Ms. Craddock's information was taken from an interview with Dr. Francis Atkins, son of Simon Green Atkins, in March, 1977, hereinafter cited as Craddock research. See also Winston-Salem City and Suburban Directory, 1910, p. 74. There are no city directories for the years 1890-1907, and the 1908 directory lists his residence only as Columbian Heights.

9 The Winston-Salem City Directory, 1911, p. 324; The Winston-Salem, N.C. City Directory, 1912, p. 346; 1913, p. 424; The Winston-Salem, N.C. City and Suburban Directory, 1915, p. 473; 1916, p. 348; 1919, p. 446; 1921, p. 498; 1922, p. 508 1924, p. 119; 1925, p. 121; Millers Winston-Salem City Directory, 1928, p. 124; 1929, p. 123; 1930, p. 123; 1931, p. 122; and Hill's Winston-Salem City Directory, 1933, p. 71. North Carolina Historical Collection, Chapel Hill, hereinafter collectively cited as City Directory with appropriate year and page.

 10 Craddock gives the date as ca. 1920. Craddock research. See also Sanborn Map of Winston-Salem.

11 Forsyth County Deed Book 858, p. 281. The date of conversion to an apartment building has been given as 1951. Craddock research.

12 Journal, undated; May 4, 1935; April 4, 1977; Adelaide L. Fries, Forsyth, A County on the March (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1949), pp. 103-104; Fambrough Brownlee, Winston-Salem, A Pictorial History (Norfolk: Donning Company, 1977), p. 139, 141, hereinafter cited as Brownlee, Winston-Salem; and S. G. Atkins, President's Address, S. G. Atkins, North Carolina Negro Teachers Association, Goldsboro, November 23, 1927 (printed by the Association), North Carolina Collection, Chapel Hill.

13 <u>Journal</u>, May 4, 1935; April 4, 1977; Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975; Powell, Higher Education, p. 52.

14 Service of Dedication (1966). Collection of biographical sketches in C. G. O'Kelly Library, Winston-Salem State University, hereinafter cited as Service of Dedication.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

¹⁵ Service of Dedication; and Journal, undated.

¹⁶ Forsyth County Deed Book 42, p. 84.

¹⁷ Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975; Journal, May 4, 1935; and Craddock research.

¹⁸City Directory, 1908, p. 420; 1910, p. 206.

¹⁹ Comparison of City Directory, 1908, p. 420; 1910, p. 206; 1911, p. 363; 1912, p. 388; 1913, p. 469; 1915, p. 522; 1916, p. 392; 1918, p. 436; 1919,p. 572; 1921, p. 569; 1922, p. 588 with subdivision plat in Forsyth County Deed Book 39, p. 401 and the Sanborn Map of Winston-Salem, 1917 (with additions through 1925), 2 volumes, State Archives, Raleigh.

City Directory, 1924, p. 374. Sarah Hill does not appear in the directory for 1925 or any thereafter.

Forsyth County Deed Book 862, p. 249.

Service of Dedication; and City Directory, 1908, p. 420. See also Forsyth County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Hall of Justice, Winston-Salem, Will Book 8, p. 469, hereinafter cited as Forsyth County Will Book.

Forsyth County Will Book 8, p. 469; and Forsyth County Records, Estates Papers, State Archives, Raleigh, J. S. Hill (1923).

²⁴Information supplied by Lucy Bradshaw, Librarian, C. G. O'Kelly Library, Winston-Salem State University, hereinafter cited as Bradshaw research.

²⁵Bradshaw research; and <u>City Directory</u>, <u>1910</u>, p. 299; <u>1911</u>, p. 389; <u>1912</u>, p. 417; <u>1915</u>, p. 555; <u>1916</u>, p. 420; <u>1918</u>, p. 472; <u>1919</u>, p. 558; <u>1921</u>, p. 618; <u>1922</u>, p. 641; <u>1924</u>, p. 557; <u>1925</u>, p. 587; <u>and 1926</u>, p. 586.

Forsyth County Deed Book 97, p. 345; and <u>City Directory</u>, 1910, p. 299. See also Forsyth County Deed Book 135, p. 190.

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²⁷City Directory, 1910, p. 299; 1911, p. 389; and 1915, p. 555.

²⁸ See explanation in footnote 19 with directory listings in footnote 25.

Compare Sanborn Map of Winston-Salem with photograph and description of house (1976) in Survey and Planning Branch, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

 $^{^{30}}$ See subdivision plat in Forsyth County Deed Book 39, p. 401; Sanborn Map of Winston-Salem; and deed from H. Montague, Trustee to J. W. and Mamie Paisley in Deed Book 242, p. 4.

³¹ See footnote 29 above.

³² Forsyth County Deed Book 1190, p. 372.

^{33 &}lt;u>Journal</u>, August 12, 1976; January 12, April 1, 1977; and Allen to Powell, July 11, 1975.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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PAGE 2

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10 GEOGRAPHICAI	DATA	(Se	ee individual entries)
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PRO	PERTY 3 CITY 1005		,
UTM REFERENCES Winston	n-Salem East Quadrangl	le Scale 1:24	1000
ZONE EASTING C	NORTHING		STING NORTHING
			nomination are the lots upon ot is less than one acre. See
LIST ALL STATES AN	ND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTII	ES OVERLAPPING S	STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11 FORM PREPARE	D BY		
	ons prepared by David	W. Parham, su	rvey specialist
	ce prepared by Jerry		
ORGANIZATION Survey and			DATE
North Carolina Division of Archives and History			April 25, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	<u> </u>		TELEPHONE
109 East J	ones Street		919-733-6545
CITY OR TOWN			STATE
Raleigh			North Carolina
12 STATE HISTORI	C PRESERVATION	OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION
THE EVA	ALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T	HIS PROPERTY WIT	THIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL	STATE	<u>xxx</u>	LOCAL XXXX
-	or inclusion in the National Reby the National Park Service.	<i>7</i> \	rvation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I at it has been evaluated according to the
TITLE State Historic	Preservation Officer	` ()	DATE May 10, 1979
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TH	IS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN	THE NATIONAL RI	EGISTER
			DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCH ATTEST:	IEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRE	SERVATION	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	REGISTER		
		**********************	The Committee of the Co



