

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 First Presbyterian Church, Smith Memorial Building, and First Presbyterian Church Cemetery

and/or common Greensboro Historical Museum (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 130 Summit Avenue not for publication

city, town Greensboro vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Greensboro (Museum); First Presbyterian Church (Cemetery)

street & number Drawer W-2, Governmental Plaza; 617 North Elm Street

city, town Greensboro vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 201 South Eugene Street

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Ruth Little-Stokes, *An Inventory of Historic Architecture,*

title Greensboro, N. C. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch, N. C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Greensboro Historical Museum is a Richardsonian Romanesque structure built in three stages. The three parts of the building are:

1. The former First Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1892, which now houses office and exhibit areas.
2. The former Smith Memorial Building of the First Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1903, which now houses exhibit and storage areas.
3. The 1938 addition which connects the two. This houses the Museum entrance, archives and offices. Since this portion does not meet the National Register's 50-year rule, it is considered non-contributing.

The Greensboro Historical Museum is located in the northeastern central business district. Other buildings in the immediate vicinity are twentieth century structures, most dating after 1930. However, two 18th century log houses and a 19th century blacksmith shop have been moved from locations in Guilford County to the park area at the rear of the Museum. They have been restored and are used as exhibits by the Museum. However, they do not constitute part of the nomination.

The exterior style of the building has remained largely undisturbed. The 1892 section features a cross-gabled roof with barge boards terminating in a ball and flower motif. The eastern facade (the rear of the structure) has various irregular windows with brick lintels and sills, with the exception of three small windows in the upper part of the gable with a granite belt across the gable at the lintel and sill levels. Three of the irregular windows were added in 1938, and two arched windows were replaced by six rectangular ones at that time. All sections of the building are laid in common bond red brick (except where noted).

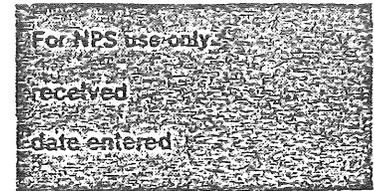
The southern elevation of the 1892 building has a gabled roof which repeats the ball and flower motif. A small door and window lead to a rear workshop and six other windows open to office areas. Behind this gable, which was added in 1938, is a second facade. To the left of the gable is the tower, a common Richardsonian feature. The upper tower was removed in 1954 due to safety considerations. A belt of contrasting granite begins at the base of the tower and runs horizontally around the rest of the 1892 section. Above this is located a double-hung 10/10 window with segmented granite lintel and sill. Above that in a vertical arrangement are three small arched windows with granite sills and segmented lintels imitating a flat arch. A granite belt runs around the tower at the springline of the upper window arch. The tower is capped with a slightly hipped copper roof.

At the base of the tower a small turret wraps around the western facade. It contains five small windows with granite lintels and sills. At the base of the turret is an arched entryway flanked by off-set buttresses. It is reached by six granite steps. At one time this doorway was deeply recessed in the Romanesque fashion and was a major entrance into the church, but it is now flush with the exterior wall and is sealed. The circular headed two-piece wood door is eight-paneled. All other exterior doors, although of wood, are rectangular in shape. A second granite belt at the window sill level begins to the left of the entrance and continues around the building.

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The southern roof line is quite irregular and is capped by a cupola. Four dormers with shakes under each eave face south, three of which at one time provided light into the sanctuary. Although they were shafted in 1938 to reach the dropped ceiling inside the museum, they have been painted over from the interior.

The western facade of the 1892 section is dominated by a three-sided bay arrangement. Each side features three horizontal granite belts and a circular headed window with granite arch. Below each window, a smaller window with the granite sill at the ground level opening under the main floor level has been closed.

The northern section of the 1892 structure features a shed roof. Four dormers similar to those on the southern facade which were once used as sky lights are again painted over at the interior roof level. One of these dormers was added in 1938 after the main entrance was reworked. Two granite belts surround this section, and the western protrusion features a molded granite lintel. Four windows on the northern facade have segmented granite lintels (the lintels are 1938 replacements for the decaying originals).

Other minor changes completed in 1938 include the removal of two vent stacks and a dormer. Also, the slate shingles were replaced where necessary.

This completes the description of the 1892 section.

The 1903 section is similar in overall design but contains variable details. The western facade incorporates what was originally the chief entrance for this building and is now used as the secondary entrance by the Greensboro Historical Museum. This entrance faces southwest and features a circular headed door with a granite arch. A landing of regular slate tile leading to this door is reached by six granite steps. Although the door was originally recessed, it is now flush with the exterior wall. The long axis of the rectangular landing butts a wall which has three windows with granite sills and lintels. The entry at the right of the landing is part of the 1938 addition (see below).

A large circular headed window with a granite arch, repeating the door motif, faces west, below which is the original building corner stone (1902). Three granite belt courses encompass the building, one of which is at the springline of the granite arches. Below are two basement level windows with granite lintels and sills which are now partially below ground level. Several dormers were removed from this face in 1938.

The 1903 building features two sections. The western section, which begins at the entry, is comprised of four octagonal sides. The first side holds the entry; the second, the large arched window; the third a similar smaller window; and the fourth simply three granite belts. The corbeled eave is repeated in the western facade of the 1938 addition (see below). This bay was enlarged in 1938 to its present form. The octagonal roof was raised to accommodate an interior staircase and new wood cornices with concealed gutters were added.

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The 1903 building also features a tower. The western elevation of the tower structure has three circular headed windows with granite arches, typical granite belts and basement windows. The northern wall is similar with two arched and one basement windows. This tower was cut in height and capped in 1938 when the building was joined to the 1892 structure.

The eastern section of the 1903 structure is semi-circular, having 11 bays. A typical bay is flanked by brick buttresses with two granite offsets but no granite belt. The wall is three stories in height plus a basement level. Typical arrangement includes a five-stepped brick molding at the top under which four windows are arranged in vertical order. The uppermost is a bulls-eye window with four brick bands surrounding it. Below, a double window with a single granite lintel rests on a granite belt. A segmented arch window follows with circular and double-arched framing within the window itself. Two granite belts define the interior main floor level. A basement window with granite lintel is partially below ground level. This wall once featured a recessed side entrance (to the basement level) but it was removed in 1938 (although the doorway is still in place). A dormer and cupola were also removed from this area. The skylight was replaced with new framing and roofing.

The eastern elevation (rear of the building) has a brick chimney on the south face of which are two needle insets. There are no granite belts on this section of the building but the windows feature granite trim.

The southern elevation of the 1903 structure has only a granite belt at the window lintels. Two upper windows of three vertical sections each open into storage areas. Three windows on the main floor are belted horizontally with granite lintels and sills. A doorway is used as the back entrance of the Museum.

This ends the description of the 1903 section.

The 1938 addition connects the two sections described above. It maintains the stylistic integrity of the other aspects of the building.

The eastern elevation (rear) of the 1938 addition has a generally flat roof of irregular lines with a granite cornice. The fourteen original windows have been reduced in number to eleven, two having been reduced in size and three windows bricked up. All windows have brick lintels and sills.

The remaining face of this section of the building is the western facade and the main entrance to the Museum. The feature of the main entrance is cast stone, imitating granite. The addition incorporated aspects of the 1892 church building entrance, which was removed. The arched entry is slightly recessed, with two pilasters on each side with cushion capitals, one plain and one embellished. A large double-hung window (8/12) is on each side of the door and

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above are windowed dormers with molded barge boards. The door is reached by six granite steps which lead to a slate landing. The side buttresses of the landing are of common brick capped in cast stone. They support the Bellemeade lions, architectural elements taken from a local historic residence before it was razed.

To the left of the entryway is a cross gabled roof with molded barge boards ending in the ball and flower motif. The granite belts from the 1892 section continues through this part of the building. A large palladian window arrangement rests on the granite belt. At this point the building ties in with the secondary landing as described in the 1903 section. A wooden door reached from the landing by five granite steps has been sealed.

This completes the description of the 1938 exterior.

The original building interior of the 1892 section was arranged with a typical cross-shaped sanctuary. The 1903 section was comprised of a large semi-circular hall with radiating small classrooms and a two-story balcony. The interior of the building is not considered significant but is included here for clarity.

The interior of the building was extensively renovated in 1938 to accommodate its use as a library and cultural center for the City of Greensboro. In the 1892 section the ceiling was dropped and brick piers were installed to replace wooden columns. A small office area was added on the southern side. Two three-inch concrete slabs were installed in the sanctuary area to accommodate library stacks; these are still present but not visible. An ornamental cornice was installed in the sanctuary area and a new skylight was added. The interior stairs in the tower stack remain but were sealed in 1954 at the second floor level. Various walls were added to facilitate use, and these have been altered as needed (see plates).

The 1903 interior also received renovations in 1938. A large circular stairway was constructed at the entrance to provide access to second and third floor areas. The main body of the building was altered from a one-story Assembly hall with a two-story balcony to two full stories. A balcony was added to the second floor in 1949. The general shape and arrangement of several of the original Sunday School rooms was retained, although some walls were reconstructed. The central skylight was painted over from the interior and the tower stairs were sealed at the second floor level. Several walls were removed in the basement area of the 1903 section.

Other interior renovations and alterations have been made as needed. Most interior woodwork (moldings, door jambs, etc.) dates from the 1938 work and is of the colonial type.

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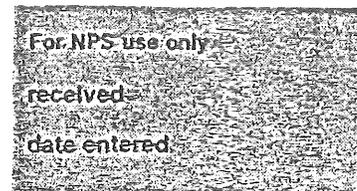
Many interior doors are of solid wood and/or wood panels. Movable exhibit furniture lines several interior walls. Also in many settings period architectural details have been artificially inserted to enhance an exhibit (these instances are obvious and cannot be confused with the original woodwork). Although several windows have been closed from the inside, many remain open and help to light the building interior. A glass windbreak was installed in 1983 just inside the main entrance.

To the immediate rear of the building is the First Presbyterian Church cemetery. The markers are generally intact and legible. The cemetery is surrounded by a brick wall and is accessed directly from the Museum or the Museum parking lot.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. archaeological 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 only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological 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.

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BUILDING DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREENSBORO HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
(Formerly the Richardson Civic Center, 1938-1964; First Presbyterian Church, 1892-1928)

(Plates are taken from the appropriate Sanborn Maps, by the Sanborn Map Company, New York, for the years listed. Maps are held in the Archives, Greensboro Historical Museum.)

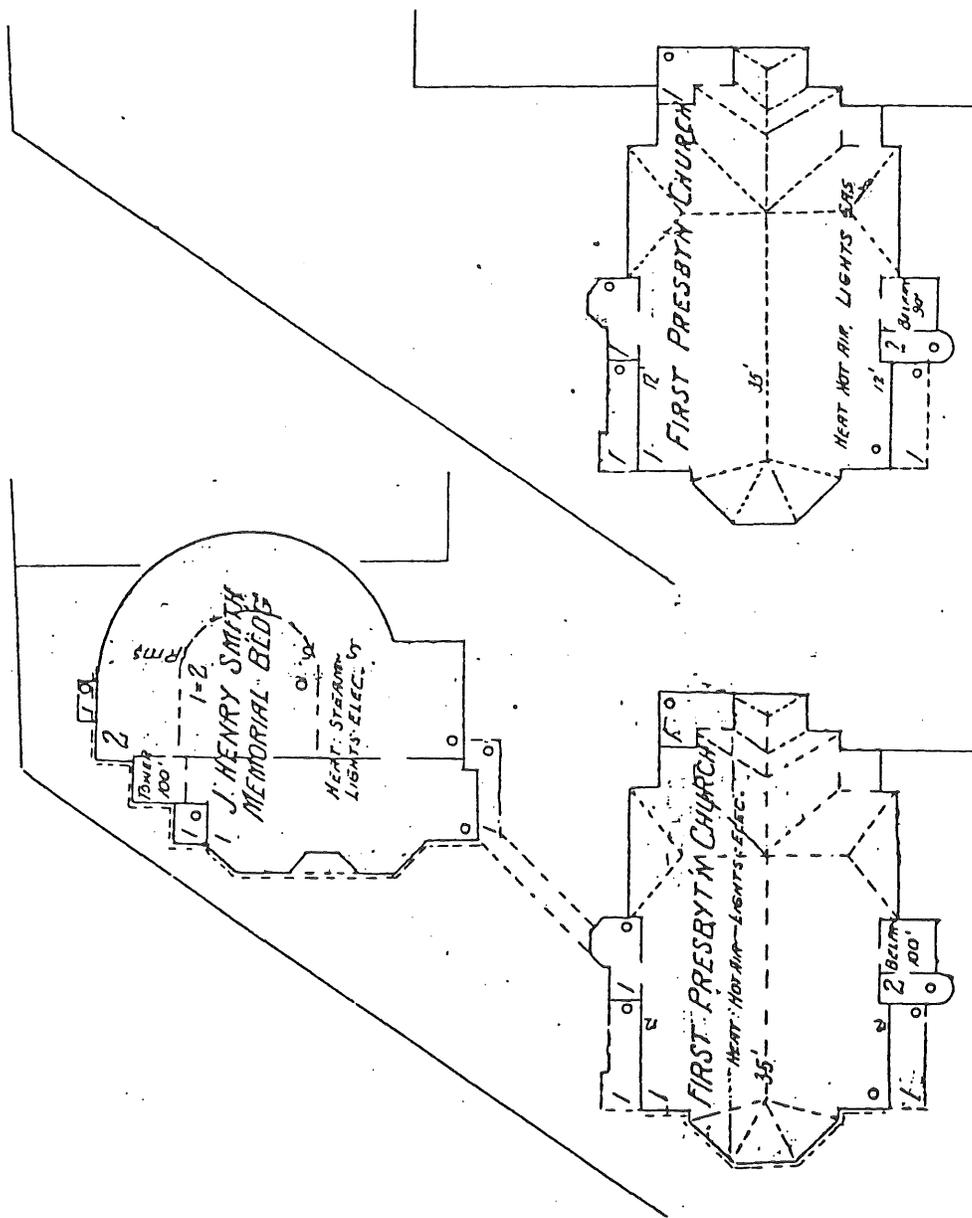


PLATE 1

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
102 Summit Ave.  
Greensboro, N. C.

1903 (before the addition  
of the Smith Memorial Building)

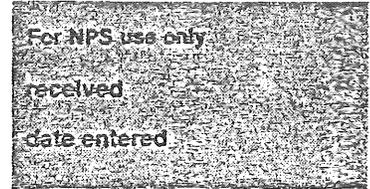
PLATE 2

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
102 Summit Ave.  
Greensboro, N. C.

1907 (after addition of  
Smith Memorial Building)

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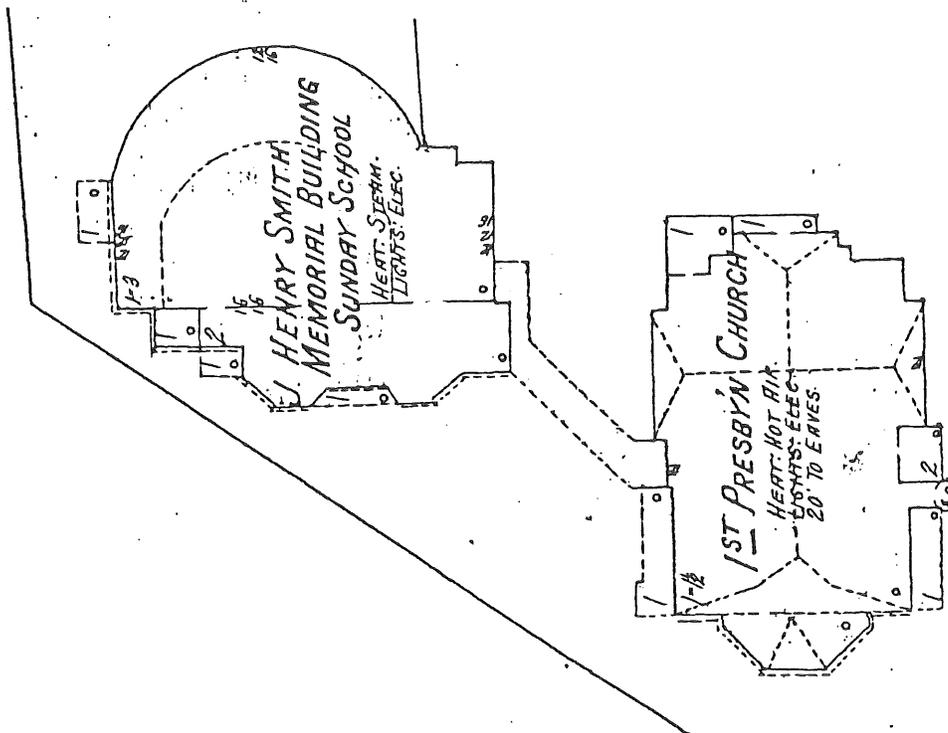


PLATE 3

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
"Church between Davie and  
Lindsay" (streets)  
Greensboro, N. C.

1913

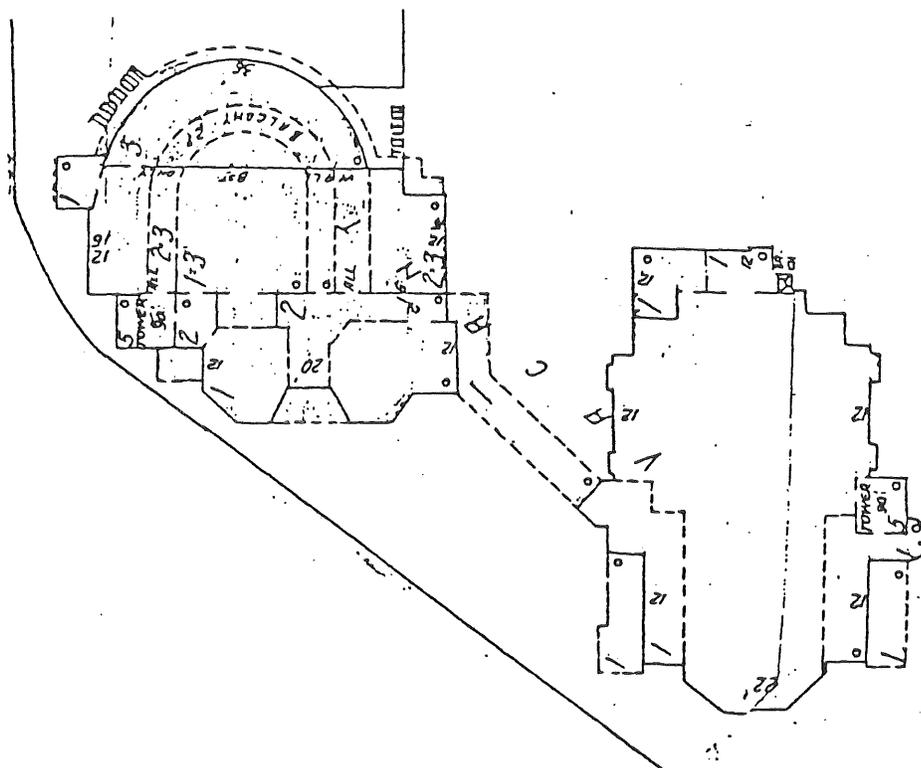


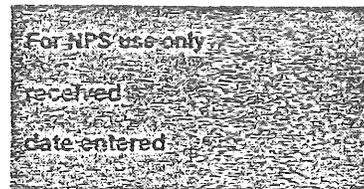
PLATE 4

(former) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (now vacant)  
Church Street  
Greensboro, N. C.

1929 (building was vacated  
by the Presbyterians the  
year before)

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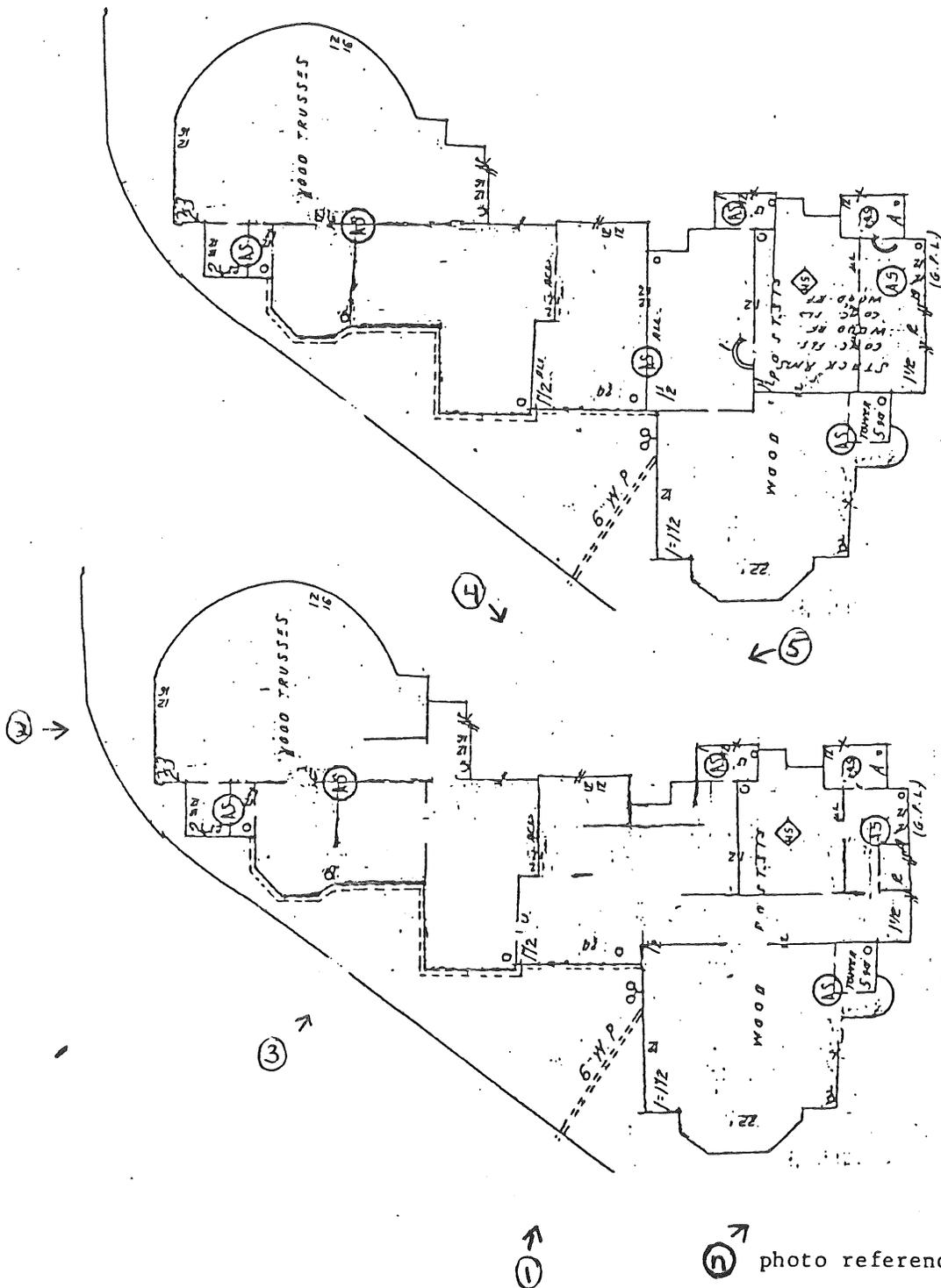


PLATE 5

RICHARDSON CIVIC CENTER  
220 Church Street  
Greensboro, N. C.

1957

PLATE 6

GREENSBORO HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
130 Summit Ave.  
Greensboro, N. C.

1984

photo references

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>				
<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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
	Period of significance		(association with significant persons)		

<b>Specific dates</b>	1812-1928	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	1892-B:Porter & Godwin, Goldsboro, N.C.
	construction: 1812-1926 (cemetery); 1892;		A: L. B. Valk & Son, Brooklyn, N.Y.
<b>Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)</b>			1903: B: W.C. Bain, Greensboro
	1903, First Pres. Church; 1938 renovations, addition)		A: C. C. Hook, Charlotte, N.C.
			1938: B: Charles W. Angle, Greensboro
			A: William C. Holleyman, Greensbor

The Greensboro Historical Museum is significant to the architectural, social and historical development of Greensboro in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of only three remaining examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque style still intact in Greensboro, it provides sharp architectural contrast to neighboring late 20th century downtown structures. It is a visual reminder of the rapid expansion of Greensboro from a small town to a large center of transportation and commerce. The cemetery behind the building serves as the principal surviving remnant of early Greensboro settlement and is the only cemetery directly associated with the early development of Greensboro which has not been relocated (see inclusion of exempted properties below).

**Criteria Assessment:**

A. The Greensboro Historical Museum, the former First Presbyterian Church and Smith Memorial Building, is representative of the twenty years of rapid development seen in Greensboro from 1890 to 1910. This expansion transformed Greensboro from a provincial southern hamlet into a cosmopolitan center of trade, transportation and commerce. That a New York city architect was commissioned to design the church testifies to the ambition and optimism of the congregation and the town, reaching out in search of more modern ideas. The cemetery to the rear of the complex has been the resting place of prominent Greensboro settlers since 1812, predating the construction of the first church on the site, and thus is one of few physical remnants of the earliest history of Greensboro and the only surviving part of the church whose members played a significant role in that history.

B. The Greensboro Historical Museum is associated with several prominent citizens, including the Rev. Jacob Henry Smith and his son Egbert, both moral leader in the community. Persons associated with the actual building construction include: C. C. Hook, noted North Carolina architect from Charlotte, W. C. Bain, Greensboro contractor who also constructed residences and building throughout piedmont North Carolina; William C. Holleyman, Jr., Greensboro architect; and Mrs. Lunsford Richardson, wife of the founder of Vicks Chemical Company.

C. The Greensboro Historical Museum is representative of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, one of only three remaining examples in Greensboro. It incorporates such hallmark features as towers, round arches, and contrasting red brick and granite. The picturesque forms of the original church building and bold geometry of the semicircular Smith Memorial, in combination with the artistic quality of the early cemetery with its various stone monuments and markers and iron fences, make the museum a handsome visual asset of modern Greensboro.

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The First Presbyterian Church was the first church organized in or adjacent to the town of Greensboro. Founded in 1824, both whites and slaves attended services. In 1832, the first church building was erected at the present day intersection of Summit Avenue and Lindsay Street. The second sanctuary, erected in 1846, was used as a Confederate hospital after the Battle of Bentonville. The building under consideration was the third sanctuary and was erected on the original site.

A Building Committee to explore the possibility of erecting the current structure was organized in 1889. A resolution was adopted to build a sanctuary not to exceed \$15,000 in cost. A Finance Committee and Building Committee were appointed, including J. H. Dillard, Local Jurist; J. W. Scott, prominent merchant and president of J. W. Scott & Co., a wholesale dry goods firm; Dr. John E. Logan, Civil War surgeon; and politician A. M. Scales. The structure was to be erected on the same site with services suspended to an alternate location in the interim. Although bids were accepted for nearly six months, all bids exceeded the budget, averaging \$18,000 to \$20,000; therefore, a new resolution was adopted in June, 1890, authorizing a structure not to exceed \$23,000 in cost. The architect, L. B. Valk & Son, was based in Brooklyn, New York. The contractor for the structure was Porter and Godwin of Goldsboro.

The first meeting in the new church building occurred on July 17, 1892. Excluding the organ, total construction costs were \$23,056.39. This debt was liquidated by subscription and also by selling the seats, light fixtures, etc. of the second church building.

The church building was constructed in stages, each representing complimentary phases of Romanesque architecture. The 1902 section was designed by C. C. Hook, prominent North Carolina architect. It is one of three Romanesque buildings remaining in Greensboro, including the West Market Street Methodist Church and the Foust Building on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (the Foust Building is already listed on the National Register). Only five public buildings remaining in Greensboro, in addition to the building under consideration, predate 1900: West Market Street Church; the c. 1900 Southern Railway Passenger Station; portions of Buffalo Presbyterian Church; and portions of Greensboro College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The First Presbyterian Church building seems to represent an early phase of Romanesque, including delicate proportions and irregular building shape. This irregular shape has been maintained through the various construction phases and incorporates such Romanesque features as a corbel table, stone trim, and the banding of windows. The building is in good repair and is subject to a regular maintenance schedule.

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The idea of a Sunday School Building was discussed as early as December, 1900. By May, 1901, the church announced plans to erect a building not to exceed \$15,000 in cost. Within three months, Hook and Sawyer of Charlotte, North Carolina, had been named architects of the project. In January, 1902, the Rev. Egbert Smith informed the Presbyterian Session that "the architects" had nearly completed plans for the building. A Building Committee and Finance Committee were appointed.<sup>4</sup> W. C. Bain of Greensboro accepted the contract and excavation began April 21, 1902. Although the initial contract price was approximately \$20,000, final construction costs were \$30,300.<sup>5</sup>

Charles Christian Hook (1870-1938), best known of the partnership of Hook and Sawyer, was Charlotte's first resident architect. Born in West Virginia, Hook graduated from Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, and came to Charlotte in 1891 to teach mechanical drawing. Within a year he had established a private architectural practice. Many of his early commissions were in Dilworth, Charlotte's first streetcar suburb, and he often worked in the colonial revival style. He later designed plans for such prominent residences as the Villalonga-Alexander House, the Walter Brem House, and the James B. Duke Mansion ("Lynnwood"). Hook also designed the Charlotte City Hall.<sup>6</sup>

William C. Bain was born in Guilford County in 1839. Between 1878 and 1891 he worked as a contractor in Durham and Graham. He came to Greensboro in 1891 and established an office on South Elm Street. Bain constructed both commercial and residential buildings throughout the Piedmont. His projects included: The L. Banks Holt house and an unspecified cotton mill (Graham); the James H. Holt house (Burlington); the J. S. Carr House (Durham); the Carolina Hotel and the Harvard Hotel (Pinehurst); and the R. B. Rainey house (Raleigh). Bain's Greensboro projects included the 1900 City Hall, the Methodist Protestant Publishing House, the Dixie Fire Insurance Company Building, and Spencer Dormitory at the State Normal College (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro).<sup>7</sup>

The church building was constructed during the pastorate of the Rev. J. Henry Smith. Smith served the church from 1859 to 1897, during which the congregation meets the demands of the Civil War and the ever growing pressures and responsibilities of an expanding town. After Smith's death in 1897, he was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Egbert Smith, who served until 1905. Under his leadership, the Sunday School Building was completed in 1903 and was named the J. Henry Smith Memorial Building.

During this time, Greensboro was changing from a small town to a center of business and commercial activity. In 1891, an annexation had increased the town size from 1 square mile to 4 square miles. In 1890 Greensboro's population was 3,317; by 1910 it had increased nearly five fold. Many business and political leaders associated with this change were members of First Presbyterian Church. In the 1880's, "the dominant organizational affiliation at this time [of city alderman] was religious, and alderman who were also elders in the prestigious First Presbyterian Church were particularly prominent."<sup>8</sup> Not only were the members of the church active in

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the affairs of Greensboro, but the church itself proved sensitive the needs of the expanding town. Missionary churches were established in 1904 and 1905 on the eastern and western outskirts of Greensboro.

In 1929 the Presbyterians built a fourth church in the Fisher Park area of Greensboro. The 1892/1903 structure became vacant and for several years was subject to neglect and vandalism. In 1937, Mrs. Lunsford Richardson, daughter of the Rev. J. Henry Smith, and her three daughters purchased the structure and surrounding lot for \$100,000. Their aim was to present the structure to the city for public use. William C. Holleyman, Jr., local architect, submitted plans for the renovation, as did Harry Barton. Holleyman's plan was accepted, and the Greensboro City Council unanimsly accepted the gift with the planned renovations in November, 1937.<sup>9</sup> The structure was named the Richardson Civic Center.

Holleyman also designed such structures as the facade of Shiffman's Jewelers on South Elm Street, the Science Building at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the J. Spencer Love, Herman Cone, and Howard Holderness houses, all in Greensboro.<sup>10</sup>

Charles W. Angle, local contractor, was awarded the construction bid with the price of renovation estimated at \$125,000. The renovations were also funded by Mrs. Richardson and her daughters. It was expressly stated that the 1938 addition and other renovations would match the architectural style present and would use any available original material from the renovation. Although the 1938 work is non-contributing, the quality of design and workmanship enhances the overall structure. Originally construction was estimated to be completed in six months, but full occupancy was not achieved until after April, 1939. The major tenants of the building were the Greensboro Public Library, the Greensboro Historical Museum, and the Greensboro Art Center, with additional spaces occupied by the American Red Cross, the Community Chest, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts. A large assembly hall was used for a variety of public meetings.<sup>11</sup>

In 1949 the Historical Museum requested that the city install a balcony on the second floor of the 1903 section to increase available exhibit space. This was accomplished at a cost of approximately \$12,000. In 1953 the museum requested use of the ground floor of the 1903 section. Although this displaced several community organizations it was approved. At that point only the Greensboro Public Library and the Greensboro Historical Museum occupied the complex.<sup>12</sup>

In 1964 the public library moved to larger quarters elsewhere in the city. The Historical Museum was granted full use of the complex and has remained the sole tenant since that time.

The Greensboro Historical Museum, founded in 1924, is the second oldest local historical museum in North Carolina (New Hanover County Museum was founded in 1898). The museum began accepting items in 1925. Many of the earlier collections were associated directly with residents of Greensboro/Guilford County and/or were of military character. Items relating to local history

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remained a primary collecting focus of the museum and military collections focus of the museum and military collections have remained an area of special interest. Other collections include many items relating to Dolley Payne Madison (wife of President James Madison) who was born in Guilford County, and material dealing with William Sidney Porter, or O. Henry, short story writer who was also born in the County.

The historical museum was originally housed in the basement room of the Carnegie Public Library. It later moved to the abandoned Cypress Street school building, and in 1939 established occupancy in the Richardson Civic Center. It has remained in that location.

The First Presbyterian Church cemetery is located directly behind and adjacent to the church building. It is a principal surviving remnant of the early settlement of Greensboro and is the only surviving cemetery directly related with the early town which has not been relocated. It contains over 300 graves, dating from 1812, 12 years before First Presbyterian Church was founded, to 1926. Some of the prominent local citizens interred there are: John McClintock Logan (1797-1853), a first generation American who was Greensboro's first tax collector and public officer, assisted in taking the town's first census (1829), served six terms as county commissioner, clerk of county court from 1837 to 1853, and was a prominent local militia leader; William D. Paisley (1770-1857), minister and by 1820 benefactor at both the male and female academies in Greensboro; John McClintock Dick (1790-1861), lawyer, state senator, and judge of the state superior court (1835-1861); his son Robert Paine Dick (1823-1898), U.S. District Attorney (1853-1861), local delegate to the 1861 secession convention, 1864 state senator, member of the 1865 peace commission, and U.S. district judge for the western district of North Carolina (1872-1898); John Adams Gilmer (1805-1868), Confederate senator; Ralph Gorrell (1803-1875), North Carolina legislator, local lawyer, a director of the North Carolina Railroad, and grandson of the man who sold the land on which Greensboro was founded; and Robert Moderwell Sloan (1812-1905), mayor of Greensboro from 1870 to 1873. The family of William Sydney Porter, the short story writer known as "O. Henry," is buried in the cemetery. Perhaps the most well-known remains are those of John Motley Morehead, governor of North Carolina (1841-1845), president of the North Carolina Railroad (1850-1855), commissioner to the 1861 National Peace Conference, and Confederate congressman. Grave markers in the cemetery note one revolutionary war soldier, two from the War of 1812, six local militiamen (1820s-1830s), and 22 Confederate soldiers.

The strong ties of the persons and families interred in the cemetery with the history of Greensboro as well as the artistic value of the various style of monuments and their disposition, justifies the waiver of the normal restrictions on inclusion of cemeteries on the National Register.

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NOTES

<sup>1</sup>History of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina 1824-1945, John W. Simpson (Greensboro:n.p., 1947), p. 98-112, hereinafter cited as Simpson, First Presbyterian Church.

<sup>2</sup>Manufacturer's Record, (Baltimore), Vol. 16 (1889) p. 30; Vol. 17 (1890) p. 46.

<sup>3</sup>Session Minutes, 1892, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro.

<sup>4</sup>Simpson, First Presbyterian Church, p. 136-137.

<sup>5</sup>"Directory of the First Presbyterian Church", Sept., 1916, p. 13.

<sup>6</sup>Information provided by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, Charlotte, N. C.

<sup>7</sup>Progressive Greensboro (Greensboro:Joseph J. Stone & Co., 1903), p. 68; City of Greensboro, North Carolina (Central Publishing Company, Richmond, Va., 1917), p. 56.

<sup>8</sup>"Old Notables and Newcomers: The Economic and Political Elite of Greensboro, North Carolina, 1880-1920," Samuel M. Kipp, III, in Journal of Southern History, Vol. X, LIII, #3, August 1977, p. 383.

<sup>9</sup>Greensboro Daily News, November 13, 1937.

<sup>10</sup>Interview with John Croft, Asheboro, North Carolina. Croft was a draftsman with Holleyman and did exterior design work on the building under consideration.

<sup>11</sup>Greensboro Daily News, November 13, 1937; July 31, 1938.

<sup>12</sup>Greensboro Daily News, April 15, 1949; May 22, 1953.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina... (Simpson)  
Manufacturer's Record (Baltimore), 1889, 1890.  
Progressive Greensboro (Greensboro: Joseph J. Stone & Co., 1903)  
Greensboro Daily News, November 13, 1937; July 31, 1938; April 15, 1949; May 22, 1953.  
(continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Museum, 1.03 acres; cemetery, .7 acres

Quadrangle name Greensboro

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	6	0	9	1	2	0	3	9	9	2	8	0	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 Nominated property is at the intersection of Summit Avenue and Lindsay Street in Greensboro and consists of that property on which the Museum stands which was conveyed to the City of Greensboro as the Richardson Civic Center. For metes and bounds of cemetery, see exclusion paragraph in attached deed. Also see plat map. (Item 10, page 1) for boundaries.

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

state NA code county NA code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen C. Carroll, Archivist

organization Greensboro Historical Museum

date November 1, 1984

street & number 130 Summit Avenue

telephone (919) 373-2043

city or town Greensboro

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. Phipps*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 5, 1985

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

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Interviews with John J. Croft, Jr., of Asheboro, July 16,26;August 2, 1984 (Mr. Croft was with the architectural firm which did the 1938 addition/renovation)  
"Alterations and Additions to the Old First Presbyterian Church", original blueprints and specifications, by William C. Holleyman, Architect, Archives, Greensboro Historical Museum.

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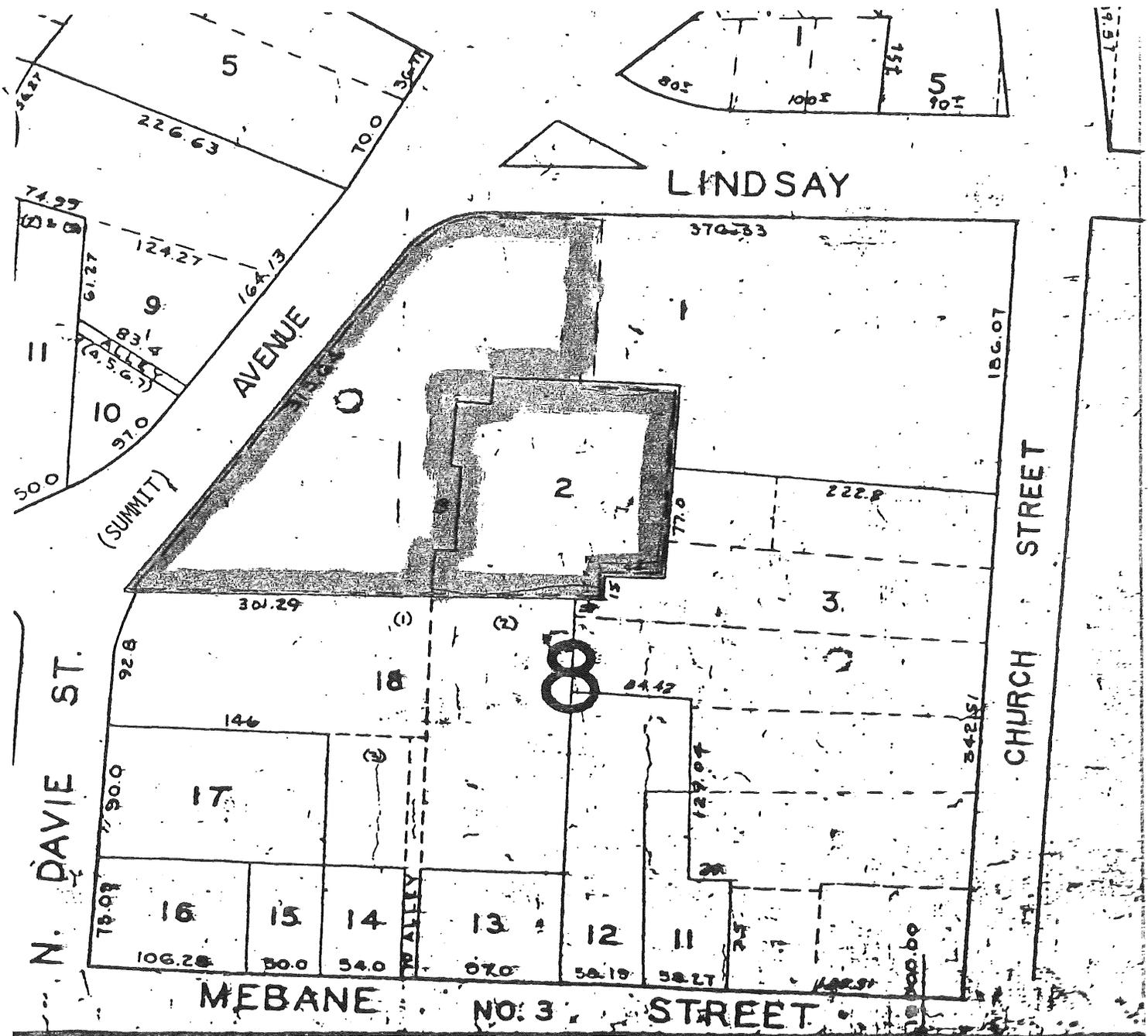
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PLAT MAP, GREENSBORO HISTORICAL MUSEUM PROPERTY

(taken from Guilford County tax map, 14-8-1, Guilford County Tax Department,  
Greensboro, North Carolina)



boundaries of nominated property

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DEED CONVEYING GREENSBORO HISTORICAL MUSEUM PROPERTY TO CITY OF GREENSBORO  
(from Guilford County Register of Deeds, Book 854, page 614, Greensboro,  
North Carolina)

NORTH CAROLINA,

GUILFORD COUNTY.

This D E E D, Made this, the \_\_\_ day of October,  
1938, by The Richardson Foundation, Incorporated, a  
North Carolina corporation, party of the first part,  
to the City of Greensboro, a municipal corporation of  
North Carolina, party of the second part,

W I T N E S S E T H,

That the said party of the first part, in consider-  
ation of Ten Dollars (\$10) to it paid by the party of  
the second part, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,  
has bargained and sold, and by these presents doth bar-  
gain, sell and convey, to the said party of the second  
part and its successors and assigns, a tract or parcel of  
land in the County of Guilford and State of North Carolina,  
in Gilmer Township, and being more particularly described  
as follows:

BEGINNING At a cross on the concrete coping at the  
southwest intersection of North Forbis and Lindsay  
Streets in the City of Greensboro, North Carolina,  
and running thence with the western margin of North  
Forbis St. south 3 deg. 15 min. west 186.07 ft. to  
an iron pipe; thence north 87 deg. 02 min. west  
222.56 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 4 deg. 40  
min. west 76.5 ft. to an iron pipe, the southeast  
corner of the cemetery lot; thence north 88 deg.  
24 min. west 62.6 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south  
1 deg. 01 min. west 15.5 ft. to an iron pipe; thence  
north 89 deg. 02 min. west 301.15 ft. to a cross in  
the sidewalk on the eastern margin of Church St.;  
thence with the eastern margin of said Church St.  
north 38 deg. 28 min. east 313.64 ft. to a cross;  
thence with the curve of the intersection of Church  
and Lindsay Sts., said curve having a radius of 40  
ft. and a tangent of 19.4 ft., a distance of 36.14  
ft. to a cross in the sidewalk on the southern mar-

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gin of Lindsay St.; thence with the southern margin of said Lindsay St. south 89 deg. 46 min. east 376.33 ft. to the beginning.

and including the following described land which is used as a cemetery:

**BEGINNING** At an iron pipe, which is the southeast corner of the following described cemetery and which is the end of the third call of the above described tract, and running thence north 88 deg. 24 min. west 62.6 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 1 deg. 01 min. west 15.5 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 89 deg. 02 min. west 97.8 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 1 deg. 53 min. east 41.03 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 89 deg. 51 min. east 13.2 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 1 deg. 18 min. east 57.8 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 89 deg. 13 min. west 8.45 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 2 deg. 45 min. east 46.65 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 89 deg. 15 min. east 22.25 ft. to an iron pipe; thence north 33 deg. 12 min. east 18.05 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 83 deg. 10 min. east 126.63 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 0 deg. 33 min. west 57.15 ft. to an iron pipe; thence south 4 deg. 40 min. west 76.50 ft. to the beginning.

This conveyance is made subject to a perpetual right-of-way for ingress, egress and regress for pedestrians from Lindsay St. to the First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and from the south side of the old church building now situate on said premises to said cemetery, the location of such pedestrians' right-of-way to be left solely to the discretion of the grantee herein, its successors and assigns, and said location may be changed from time to time to meet changing conditions.

The nominated property includes both the buildings sites and cemetery as described above, and excludes the land parcel on which the parking lot and moved buildings are located (see map item 10, page 1).

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And as part of the consideration for this conveyance, and as an inducement for the execution of this deed by the party of the first part, the grantee herein covenants and agrees, for itself, its successors and assigns, that the above described premises shall be forever used solely for civic, philanthropic or governmental purposes, and in the event such premises shall by the action, consent or neglect of the grantee, its successors and assigns, cease to be used and maintained for the purposes aforesaid, or to be used for any purpose inconsistent therewith, then and in that event the title to the said lands shall revert and pass unto the grantor, its successors and assigns, and all rights of the grantee, its successors and assigns, in the lands hereinbefore described shall absolutely cease and end. It is intended that the foregoing shall be covenants running with and binding upon the lands herein conveyed.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, For the uses and purposes hereinbefore set out, the aforesaid tract or parcel of land, and all privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said party of the second part, and its successors and assigns, forever; and the said party of the first part doth covenant that it is seized of said premises in fee and has the right to convey the same in fee simple; that the same are free from incumbrances, except as hereinbefore set forth, and that it will warrant and defend the title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever.

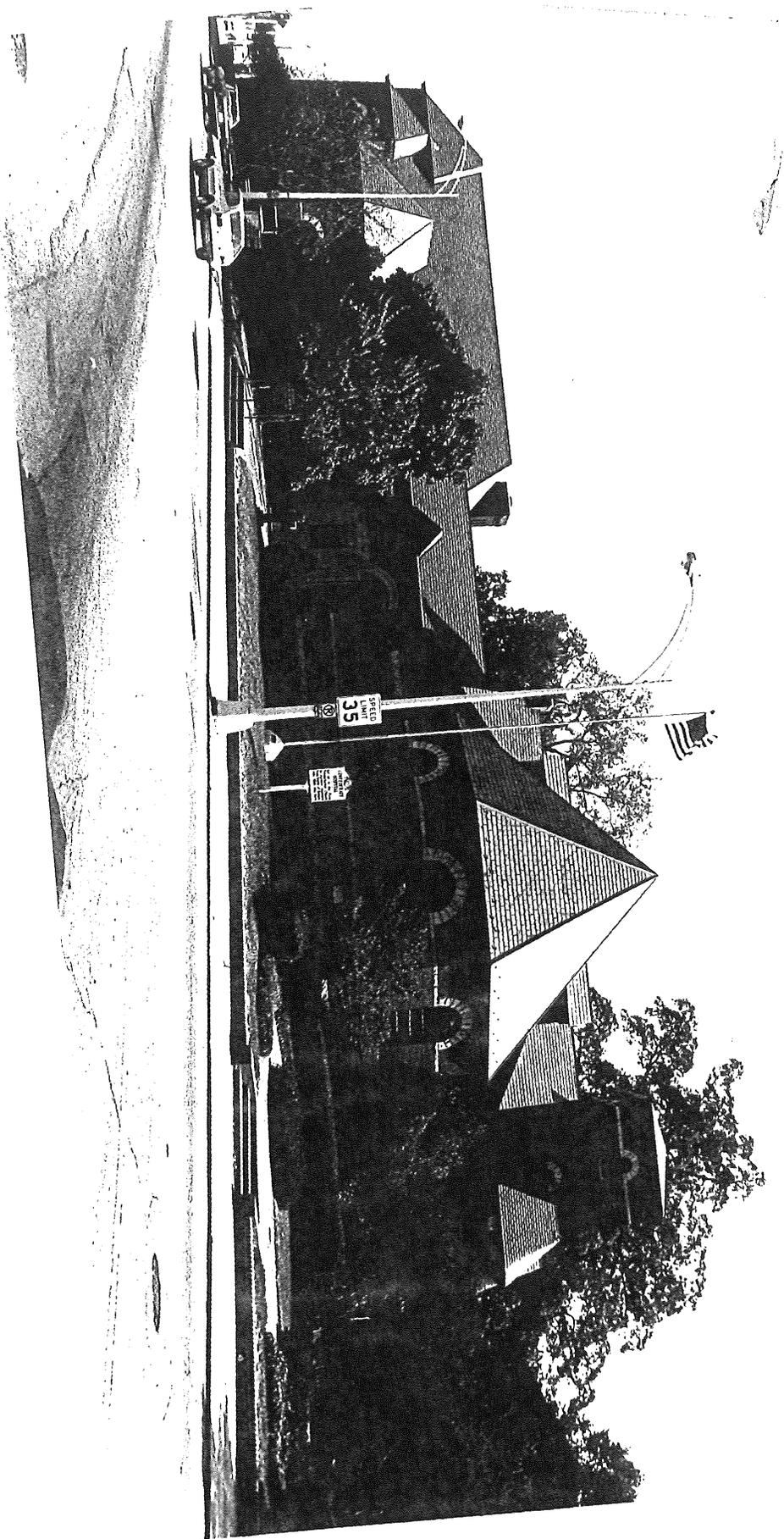
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, The said party of the first part has caused its corporate name to be subscribed hereto by its President, its common corporate seal affixed hereto, attested by its Secretary, all by order of its Board of Directors, on the day and year first above written.

THE RICHARDSON FOUNDATION, INC., (SEAL)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
President.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary.





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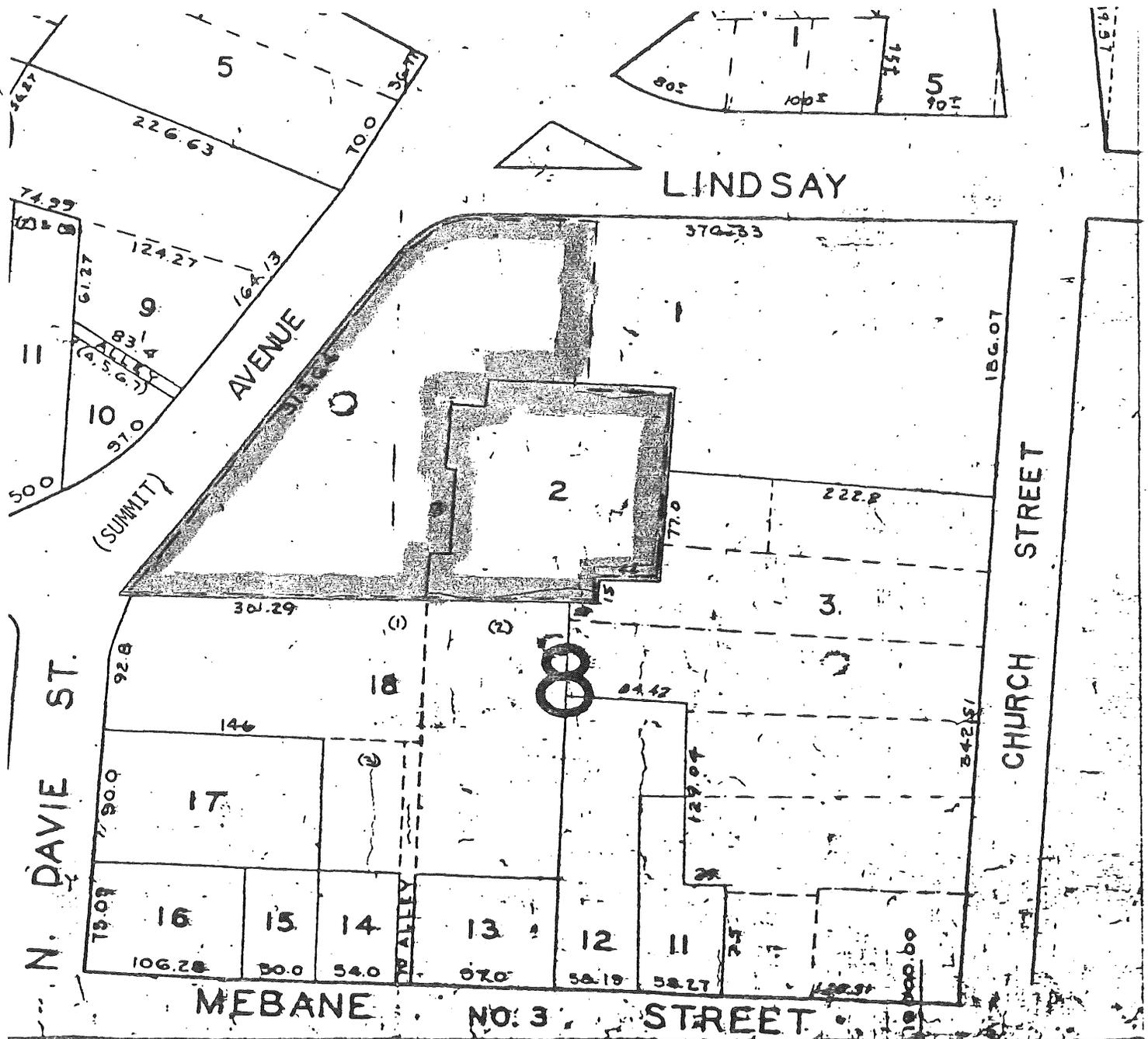
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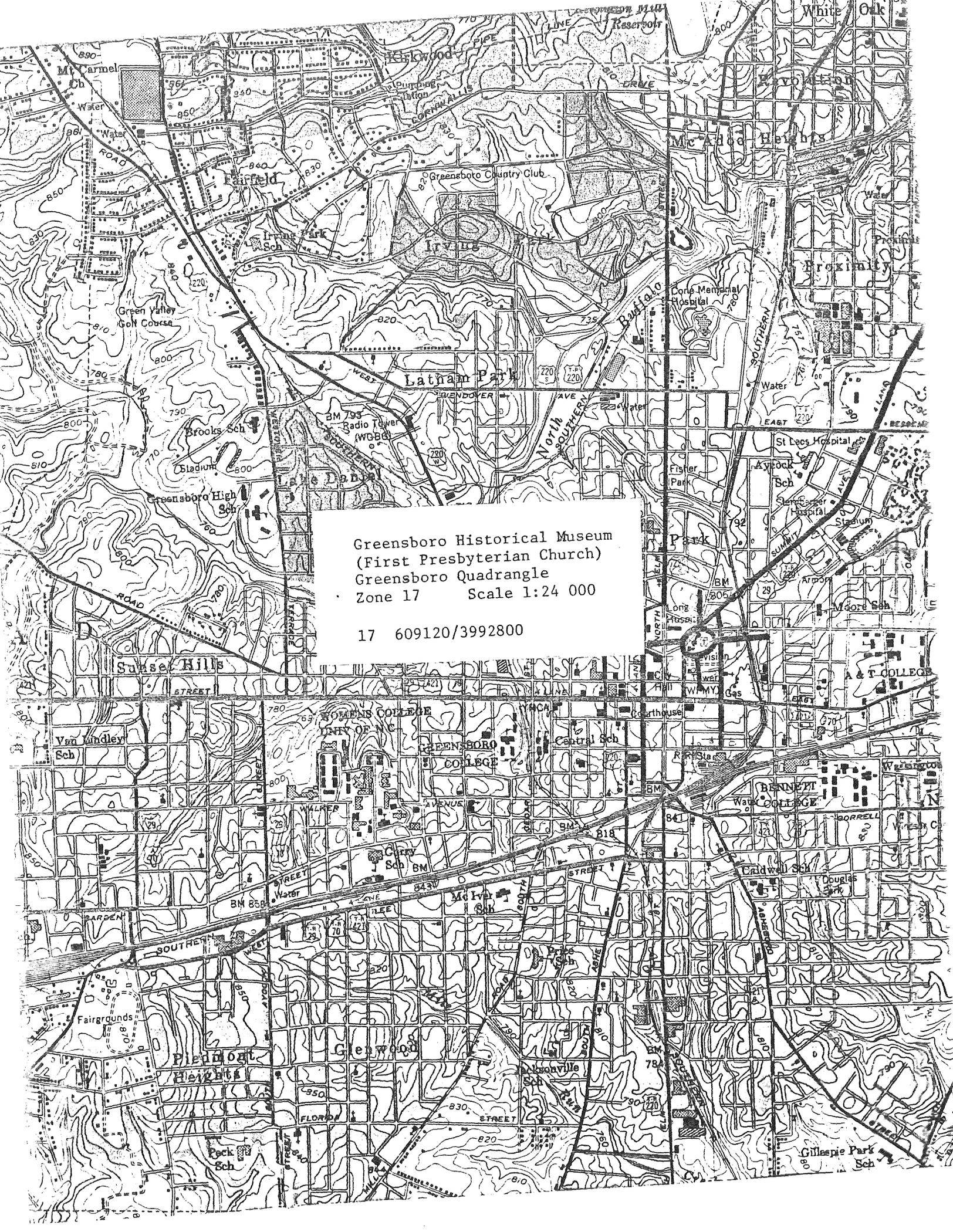
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PLAT MAP, GREENSBORO HISTORICAL MUSEUM PROPERTY

(taken from Guilford County tax map, 14-8-1, Guilford County Tax Department,  
Greensboro, North Carolina)



boundaries of nominated property



Greensboro Historical Museum  
(First Presbyterian Church)  
Greensboro Quadrangle  
Zone 17     Scale 1:24 000  
17 609120/3992800

