

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Forney, Edward J., House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 1402 Spring Garden Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Greensboro

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC

county Guilford

code 081

zip code 27412

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Greensboro, North Carolina, 1880-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Pair, Jr.  
Signature of certifying official

2-28-92  
Date

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

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

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Colonial Revival

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco

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walls weatherboard

---

shingle

---

roof tin

---

other wood

---

---

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The ca. 1892 Edward J. Forney House stands on Spring Garden Street less than a mile west of downtown Greensboro and a short walk from the center of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. One of the best surviving examples of the Queen Anne style in the city, the two-and-a-half-story, weatherboarded, frame dwelling, distinguished by a large polygonal tower, is also a good representative of the Colonial Revival style up-dating of many Greensboro dwellings in the early twentieth century.

The house's front facade, shielded from the busy city and campus traffic of Spring Garden Street by large magnolias and oak trees, is six bays wide. Three of the bays are set in the polygonal corner tower at the west of the facade. Recessed behind the front porch are two central bays, a twelve-over-one window and an entry with an Eastlake front door, the two lower panels and upper window of which are enframed by half-spindles. The sixth bay, at the east side of the facade, projects forward, its door opening on a stairway to the second floor. This stair, originally climbing from the inside front hall, was turned and extended forward after the Forneys' 1946 sale of the house and its subsequent conversion into apartments. The house's second floor is partially hidden at the front facade by the main gable-end roof which continues in a sweep over the engaged porch, pierced by the large, two-story corner tower and a hip-roofed attic dormer. The brick of the foundation is hidden by a smooth coat of stucco.

A Colonial Revival style finish was given to the front porch in the early twentieth century. A photograph in the University archives taken from the southwest not long after construction pictures the house on a treeless lot with a typical Victorian porch. The turned posts, brackets, and diagonal stick balusters of the porch (also visible in an archives' photograph of the Forneys' young son, Otis, sitting on the front steps) have been replaced by four Doric columns on stuccoed brick piers and by horizontal stick balusters. The half-timbered gable over the steps was retained during the modernization.

The west side facade of the house is dominated by the front corner tower and a two-story, three-sided, projecting bay. The corner tower has an original band of inset panels between the second-story windows and the roof eaves. The bay, not pictured in the early photograph of the house, had been added by 1925, the first year the house and its neighborhood appear on the Sanborn fire insurance maps. A colored-glass window at the first story of the bay was removed in

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1991, its place now covered over by plywood. The house originally had one-over-one, Queen Anne style windows, the upper sash of which had a border of small, colored-glass lights. These upper sash windows were replaced throughout the house, probably in the early twentieth century, by more up-to-date twelve-pane, clear-glass windows. At the peak of the west facade is a pedimented gable filled with shingles.

The gable end of the east side facade also is shingled at the attic level. Where its roof sweeps over the porch, it retains an original window, the upper sash of which is bordered by colored glass. A two-story, rectangular bay at its center is probably not original. It may have been added at the same time as the west bay, although it is not pictured on the 1925 Sanborn map. Like the west bay, a sheet of plywood has taken the place of a colored glass, first-story window which was removed in 1991. At the north end of the facade is a below-grade basement entry reached by iron steps.

It is not known when the two-story rear ell was built. The early photograph of the house pictures the edge of a one-story ell, but the 1925 Sanborn shows no ell. The present ell either replaced the original one-story ell entirely or had a second story added to it, quite possibly before 1925. In its weatherboarded gable is a window, the panes of which are gone, which originally had a colored-glass border. The porch notched into the northeast corner of the rear facade and the bathrooms above appear to post-date the main block of the ell. A wooden stair climbing in a single run across the back to the second-story apartment is a modern addition.

The main gable-end roof of the house and the roofs of the corner tower and the front dormer are covered with original, decorative, metal shingles. Metal corbels at the ends of the roofs were preceded or originally supplemented by finials pictured in the early photograph of the house. The interior corbeled brick chimney stack pictured in that photograph retains its original bricks and finish, although it has been repointed.

Following its sale by the Forneys, the house was divided into three apartments, one at the first story and two upstairs. The stair was sealed off in the first-story hall and run out to the porch; some fire boxes were closed in, as was an upstairs doorway to separate the apartments; and kitchen facilities and bathrooms were added. The decorative finish, stylish but not particularly ornate, was largely untouched, however. Most plaster walls and hardwood floors are

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intact. Molded post-and-lintel surrounds featuring cornerblocks and baseblocks adorned with foliate insets are still in place at the first story and the front rooms of the second story. In the ell rooms of the second story the cornerblocks are incised with bull's-eye motifs, suggesting that the first story of the ell is original, the second story a subsequent but early addition. Also in place are crown moldings, many four-paneled doors and, at the first-story living room, a fluted post-and-lintel mantel with applied swags and baskets of flowers at its lintel and capitals. The stairs, altered at the first story, are intact at the second story, which retains a square newel post with the same incised foliate adornment of the window and door surrounds. In its run to the attic, the stairs retain their stick balusters, molded stair rails and, at the landing, turned newels.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Education  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
ca. 1892 to 1941  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
ca. 1892  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Forney, Edward Jacob  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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The ca. 1892 Edward J. Forney House dates from the beginning of the State Normal and Industrial School for white girls, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. With the campus' National Register-listed Julius I. Foust Building, it is the oldest surviving building associated with the college. It is also the earliest known surviving residence of a member of the college's faculty. E.J. Forney was among the college's original faculty members. As the founder of the Commercial Department, which he led for forty-eight years, he was a pioneer in women's business education in North Carolina. His efforts opened up for thousands of women secretarial, clerical, and other positions previously limited to men. The house which he built and lived in for more than fifty years is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Greensboro. Its Queen Anne style features include a polygonal corner tower, stepped-back wall planes clad in weatherboards and shingles, a varied roofline, and decorative floriated cornerblocks and newel posts inside. The house also represents the Colonial Revival style up-dating of dwellings common in the city in the early twentieth century, apparent at its porch columns and multi-paned windows. Although divided into three apartments, the house retains its exterior and most its interior fabric intact.

The period of significance of the Forney House extends from its ca. 1892 construction to the onset of World War II. It is covered in the related multiple property documentation form by the first of Greensboro's historic contexts, Development of the Gate City, 1880-1899, particularly the fifth subsection, which reviews the development of public schools and colleges in the city. Its architectural context is discussed at Property Type 1, single-family dwellings, especially at the explications of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles.

Historical Background

Edward J. Forney came to Greensboro in 1892 as one of the original faculty members of the State Normal and Industrial School for white girls (Bowles 1967:34-35). In October of that year he bought a lot at the northeast corner of Spring Garden and Water (now Jefferson) streets from Denny Griffin for \$300 and presumably shortly thereafter had his Queen Anne style residence built (Guilford County Deed Book 39, Page 437). Development was just beginning in the neighborhood and Forney's house was perhaps the first built on Spring Garden Street and the surrounding streets south of the budding college. To the east of

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Forney's property W.D. McAdoo had platted the Highlands Subdivision, which covered more than four square blocks, in July, 1891, concurrent with the chartering of the school (Guilford County Plat Book 2, Page 4). Denny Griffin had acquired the lot Forney purchased as part of a surrounding thirty-two acre tract in 1883 (Guilford County Deed Book 65, Page 233). A plat map filed in 1897 by Griffin's estate shows the property divided into about twenty-four lots with only the property of "Prof. Forney" at Jefferson and Spring Garden specifically indicated as occupied (Guilford County Plat Book 2, Page 6).

The State Normal and Industrial School for white girls opened October 5, 1892, on a ten-acre campus a few blocks east of Forney's house. Its 176 students were served by two brick buildings: Main, now the Julius I. Foust Building, and Brick, a dormitory adjacent to the east side of Main. The Foust Building is listed on the National Register; Brick burned in 1904 (Fripp 1982:63; Brown 1980). In addition to Main and Brick, two other buildings are known to have been built as a result of the opening of the new school--Pres. Charles D. McIver's house, built in 1892 just southeast of Main on Spring Garden Street, and Forney's house (Fripp 1982:62; Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. 1896; Sanborn Map Company 1902). McIver's house no longer stands and Forney's house remains the oldest known surviving dwelling of a faculty member. As one of few buildings originally associated with the school, Forney's house was a focal point of the early institution. (The character of the house and its importance to at least one of the school's original students is discussed further below.)

Forney had been born November 10, 1860, near the Catawba-Lincoln County line in North Carolina's western Piedmont. He was educated for a few years at Catawba College in Newton, but it was his self-taught abilities with shorthand, of which he was one of the first practitioners in the state, that started his career. In 1892 he came to the women's college as secretary to its first president, Charles D. McIver. In addition to his secretarial duties, which he soon passed on to another, he taught shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, and telegraphy; was head of the Commercial Department; and was the school treasurer (Alumnae News, February, 1937:6-9; The Carolinian, March 5, 1948; Greensboro Daily News, January 30, 1948; Bowles 1967:34-35).

Forney was to be a pioneer in women's business education in North Carolina. When he began his efforts, secretarial and clerical positions were generally held by men rather than women. A view of the times, and of Forney's successful educational efforts, was given by

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one of his first students, Mrs. Fodie Buie Kenyon, whom he trained to replace him as Pres. McIver's secretary:

He came at a time when the women of the state needed training of the type he gave. Up to then no lady went out alone; no lady worked in an office; no lady went alone into a courtroom, or to a doctor's meeting. I shall never forget the day he sent me to the court in Greensboro--green, untried, right out of the classroom. I can still remember the stares and the wonderment of that group that a woman could write in shorthand what they had said--and read it back (Alumnae News, May 1948:7).

Forney's Commercial Department--he and the Department were synonymous--was to train approximately 4,000 women between 1892 and his retirement in 1940 (Alumnae News, May 1948:7). A good-hearted if sharp-tongued perfectionist, easily recognizable by his "long, slim greyhound" appearance and well-tailored clothes, Forney had a reputation for producing knowledgeable, skilled graduates whom he placed in jobs throughout North Carolina and beyond (Alumnae News, February, 1937:6-9). His tenure saw the institution transformed from a normal school to a university.

Forney not only ran the Commercial Department and served as college treasurer. In the early twentieth century he was also chairman of the Morehead Township board of education and the Greensboro city auditor. He was further employed installing accounting systems in plants and stores throughout the city (The Carolinian, March 5, 1948). Forney considered his greatest piece of work helping set up North Carolina's accounting system (Alumnae News, May, 1948:8). Not until 1940, at the age of eighty, did he retire, retaining the title of treasurer emeritus (Greensboro Daily News, January 30, 1948). He and his wife, Annie, sold their house in November, 1946, to P.W. Bullock and moved in with their daughter in Greensboro for the last few months of their lives (Guilford County Deed Book 1149, Page 61). In 1954 Myrtle E. Bullock sold the house to Lucy M. Ferris (Guilford County Deed Book 1552, Page 38). Either the Bullock or the Ferris family divided it into three apartments. In 1988 the house was acquired by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which has continued its leasing as apartments.

Forney died on January 29, 1948, the college's last surviving charter member; his wife died less than twenty-four hours later (Greensboro Daily News, January 30, 1948). Following his death

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"hundreds of tributes . . . poured into the college," attesting to the strength of his personality and the success of his educational efforts (Alumnae News, May, 1948:8). One of these tributes, written by Fodie Buie Kenyon, expresses the warmth many felt for Forney and the inextricable connection of the house and the man:

Mr. and Mrs. Forney had a home, a real home. I was lonely and homesick; they took me into their hearts and I was always welcome, any time I wanted to go to them. I loved to go; I loved them; I loved the little friendly children. The happiest memories of my stay at the college are the ones which reach back to the Forneys and their home, and their loving and kindly hospitality. They were my friends from the beginning of my stay in the college; you had to be inside that home, as I was, to really and truly know them (Fodie Buie Kenyon, April 3, 1948).

A gracious dwelling yet, the Forney House continues to physically embody the school's earliest years and memorialize a man central to the development of the university, the heart of which is still a short walk distant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 0.7

UTM References

A 

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

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Edward J. Forney House are those of Greensboro Tax Map 87, Block 2, Parcel 19.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass all of the land historically associated with the Edward J. Forney House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown date 9-15-91

organization Greensboro Preservation Society telephone 919-272-5003

street & number 447 West Washington Street city or town Greensboro state NC zip code 27402

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Alumnae News. May, 1948. Article by Frances Gibson Satterfield entitled "E.J. Forney, 1860-1948" in the North Carolina College for Women alumnae magazine. Located at Special Collections, the Jackson Library, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

\_\_\_\_\_. February, 1937. Article entitled "E.J. Forney" in the North Carolina College for Women alumnae magazine. Located at Special Collections, the Jackson Library, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Beers, F.W. 1879. "Map of the City of Greensboro, Guilford Co., North Carolina." New York. Located at Greensboro Planning Department, Greensboro Municipal Building.

Bowles, Elisabeth Ann. 1967. A Good Beginning: The First Four Decades of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Brewer, R.W. 1913. "Map of the City of Greensboro, North Carolina." Greensboro: M.M. Pruden. Located at Guilford County Register of Deeds, Greensboro.

Brown, Charlotte V. 1980. "Julius I. Foust Building - National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form." Located at North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh.

Carolinian. March 5, 1948. Obituary of the North Carolina College for Women newspaper, located in the Commercial Department-Edward Jacob Forney Papers, Special Collections, the Jackson Library, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Fripp, Gayle Hicks. 1982. Greensboro, A Chosen Center. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications. Located at the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell-Jones Room.

Greensboro Daily News, January 30, 1948. Obituary in the Commercial Department-Edward Jacob Forney Papers, Special Collections, the Jackson Library, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Guilford County Deed Books. Located at Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

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Guilford County Plat Books. Located at Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Kenyon, Fodie Buie. April 8, 1948. Letter to Mrs. Jester in the Commercial Department-Edward Jacob Forney Papers, Special Collections, the Jackson Library, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

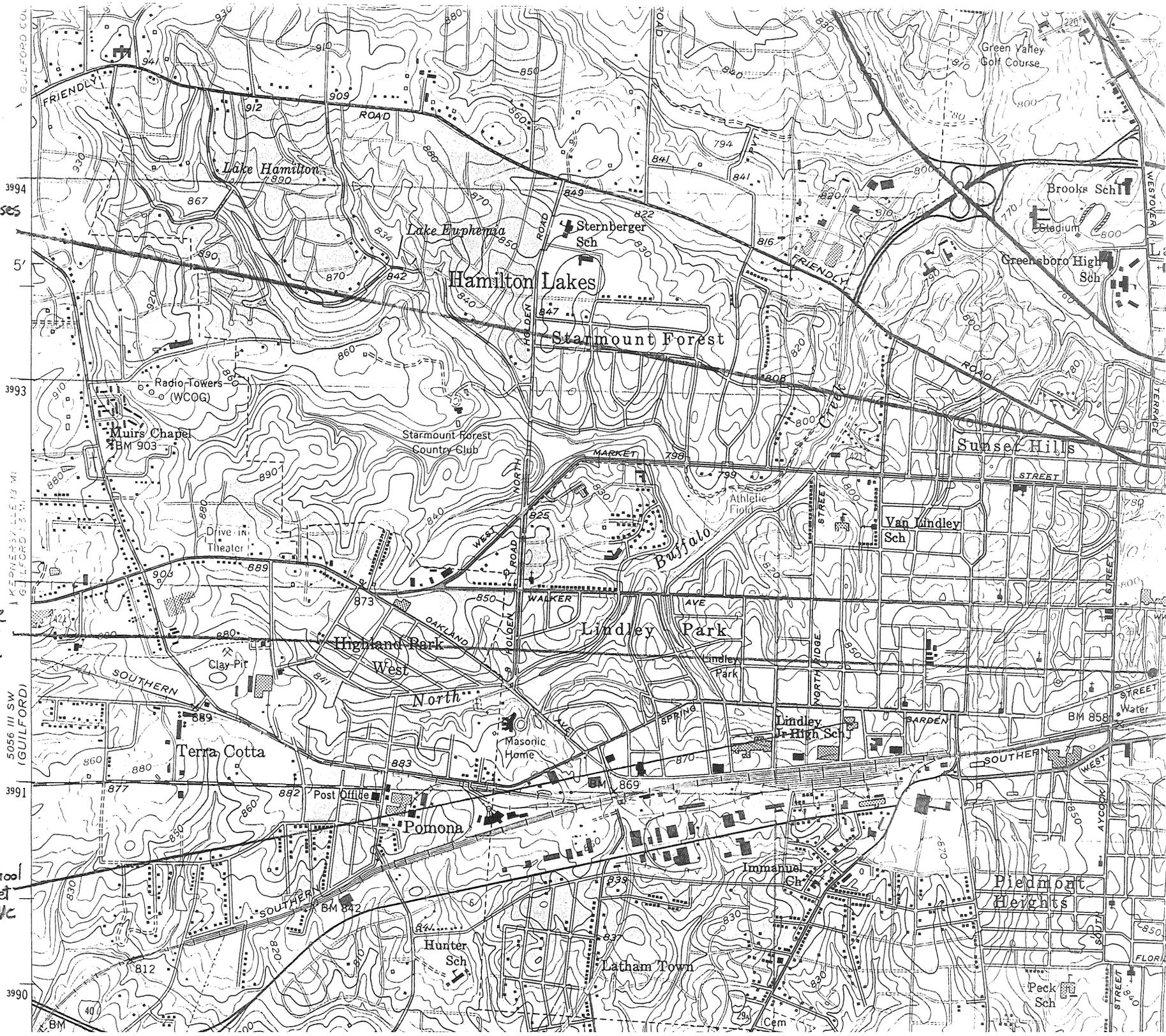
Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. 1885, 1888, 1891, and 1896. "Greensboro, North Carolina." Located at Greensboro Planning Department, Greensboro Municipal Building.

Sanborn Map Company. 1902, 1913, 1919, and 1925. "Greensboro, North Carolina." Located at Greensboro Planning Department, Greensboro Municipal Building.

Lyndon Street Townhouses  
195-201 Lyndon Street  
Greensboro, Guilford Co, NC  
Easting Northing  
609380 3992320

Edward J. Forney House  
402 Spring Garden Street  
Greensboro, Guilford Co, NC  
Easting Northing  
606870 3991660

GREENSBORO Quad  
ZONE 17 1:24000  
(Former) Pomona High School  
2201 Spring Garden Street  
Greensboro, Guilford Co, NC  
Easting Northing  
605360 3991360



3994  
5'  
3993  
5056 III SW (GUILFORD)  
3991  
3990

