

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Summerfield Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4105-4210 Oak Ridge Road and 7702-7804 Summerfield Road not for publication N/A

city or town Summerfield vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27358

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crowe SHPO 3/24/05
Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>33</u>	<u>19</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>35</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
GOVERNMENT/city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival
- Queen Anne
- Romanesque
- Bungalow/Craftsman
- Colonial Revival
- Other: Minimal Traditional
- Other: Period Cottage

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- roof ASPHALT
- walls WOOD/weatherboard
- other stone, concrete, metal, log

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE
- ARCHITECTURE
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1836?8-1955
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1888
- 1952
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

- N/A

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A
- _____
- _____

Architect/Builder

- Unknown
- _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 26

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>598020</u>	<u>4007340</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>598660</u>	<u>4007120</u>
2	<u>17</u>	<u>598360</u>	<u>4007480</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>598420</u>	<u>4007040</u>

See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Lucas Miller and Nancy H. Campbell

organization N/A date September 3, 2004

street & number	Nora Lucas Miller 102 Gray Mares Lane	Nancy H. Campbell 123 E. Longview Ave.
city or town, state, zip code	Cary, NC 27511	Columbus, OH 43202
telephone	919-303-5860	614-447-8047

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Multiple owners - please see attached list of owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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Summerfield Historic District, Guilford County, NC

SECTION 7: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located at the intersection of Oak Ridge Road (NC 150) and Summerfield Road (SR 2117), the town of Summerfield is located in northwestern Guilford County, eleven miles north of downtown Greensboro. Approximately twenty-six acres, the district is comprised mostly of residences and a few commercial buildings along the two roads, with the main concentration of buildings lying west and south of the crossroads. The terrain is relatively flat, cleared land, interspersed with groups of mature trees, including many pecan trees.

First used as trading paths by Native Americans, the north-south Summerfield Road and east-west Oak Ridge Road evolved slowly, changing from foot path to dirt road to plank road to paved country lane. The countryside has changed from hunting ground to farmland to the eclectic mix of suburban development that now exists around the quiet little town.

In *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern describe Summerfield as:

The crossroads village contains unusually elaborate 19th- and early 20th-c. buildings. Two brick stores at the intersection, built for two cousins by local contractor George J. Smith in the 1870s, boast unusually elaborate corbelled decoration: the Henry Clay Brittain Store [Resource No. 4] on the northwest and the Noah Webster Brittain (sic) [Ogburn] Store [Resource No. 10] on the southeast. On the southwest corner stands the substantial 2-story double-pile Greek Revival style Alexander Strong Martin House [Resource No. 9] (ca. 1840), one of the largest brick houses of its era in the county. Nearby stands the Henry Clay Brittain House [Resource No. 1] (ca. 1908: NE corner NC 150 and SR 2118), a full-blown Queen Anne style house highlighting the merchant's interest in current trends.¹

Other commercial properties include the deteriorated frame Harris-Winfree Store [Resource No. 11] (ca. 1911) next door to the Ogburn Store. To the south and across the street is the concrete-block Cape Cod-style house used originally as the Summerfield Drugstore [Resource No. 13] (ca. 1947). It is now used as a rental house.

The variety of residential resources within the district includes the already-mentioned brick, Greek Revival Alexander Strong Martin House [Resource No. 9] built at the

¹ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 347.

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crossroads sometime before 1838. Twenty-two years later the frame, Greek Revival Charles Willson House [Resource No. 2] was built to the west and across Oak Ridge Road. A wave of activity occurred at the turn of the twentieth century, thirty years after the two stores were built. The frame, I-house Ogburn House appeared at the southern end of the district. It was followed by a frame Queen Anne-style cottage and two frame Colonial Revival residences. Later additions to the district included a brick Period Cottage and post-World War II bungalow and ranch-style houses.

Inventory List

The following inventory begins at the western edge of the historic district on Oak Ridge Road at the intersection with Brisbane Road, then east on the north side of the road, followed by the south side of Oak Ridge Road, then in address order south on Summerfield Road. Contributing resources add to the historic character of the district because of their presence during the period of significance and their integrity, that is, the retention of their original or historic features. Non-contributing resources do not add to the historic character of the district because they were either not present during the period of significance or because they have been altered and no longer convey their historic appearance. The buildings are named, in most cases, for their original owners.

Three are named for early occupants: Martin House, Ogburn Store, and Harris-Winfree Store. The two that have been heavily altered are named for the original owner and the recent remodeler: Ladd-Decker House and the Martin-Voight House.

<u>Resource Number</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	C	Building	1903	4105 Oak Ridge Road

Henry Clay Brittain House. This two and one half -story, frame, Queen Anne-style house has almost every detail of the style: a corner polygonal tower, a balcony and porte-cochere, two-over-two windows, some with multi-colored lights, fancy-cut shingles as well as clapboard siding, bay windows, carved brackets, turned balustrades and finials and a wide wraparound porch. The truncated hip roof with lower gables has black asphalt shingles with bands of red shingles. It is the largest house in the district.

Now the offices of a forestry supplier, changes have been made to the exterior (handicap access) and interior (widening of stairways and opening of second floor rooms for conference rooms) to meet county building code requirements. Interior chimneys have been removed.

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1a C Outbuilding c. 1910

Garage. A one-story, square, frame, single-bay, board-and-batten, pyramidal-roofed garage is located about fifty feet behind the left side of the house.

2 C Building c. 1858 4109 Oak Ridge Road

Charles H. Willson House. This two-story, three-bay, single-pile, frame Greek Revival-style house was built by farmers. The full-entablature central entry is recessed thirty inches with a double-leaf door flanked by a double set of sidelights. The side-gabled, asphalt-shingled roof has cornice returns. Physical evidence in the attic shows the center gable was added later. The first floor windows are six-over-nine and second floor are six-over-six, with a paired center window. Originally, two chimneys stood on the rear of the house; the one on the right has been removed. Early photographs show the house with a full-width front porch but that has been removed and a stone stoop added. Two successive one-story ells have been added to the rear of the house, the first one was rebuilt in 1963 and another added in 1990.

The center hall plan is unusual in that the hall is the same width as each of the side rooms. There is a tight-winder stair in the left rear corner of the hall.

A century ago, this was a 150-acre farm but today it is four acres. The house sits back from the road and is located halfway up a knoll. Stones from a detached kitchen foundation and chimney have been reused for a patio and walled garden.

2a N Outbuilding c. 1965

Storage/Carport. The current owner used the windows and siding from the first ell of the house to construct this one-story, frame, board-and-batten, side-gable storage building with carport.

2b N Outbuilding c. 1972

Playhouse. One-story, frame, rectangular child's playhouse with a small front porch, door, and shuttered window.

2c N Outbuilding c. 1980

Manufacturing building. One-story, rectangular, metal-roofed and metal-sided building on the property.

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Summerfield Historic District, Guilford County, NC.

3 N Building 1945, 1965 4115 Oak Ridge Road

Andrew and Mae Ayers House. Originally a one-story, side-gabled concrete-block house, it was veneered with wire-cut brick in 1965 and a frame addition was added to the rear.

3a C Outbuilding 1945

Storage shed. One-story, front-gabled concrete-block building in original condition with a 5-V metal roof and exposed rafters.

4 C Building c. 1870 4117 Oak Ridge Road

Brittain Store. (Summerfield Town Hall) The two-story, three-bay, brick commercial building is notable for its outstanding brickwork, which includes window surrounds, quoins, a frieze of blind arches and corbelling. The six-over-six windows have segmental arches with stone sills and keystones. George J. Smith, a Summerfield merchant and carpenter, built this store for Henry Clay Brittain.

The building was restored in the late 1990s and dedicated in December 2000 as the Summerfield Town Hall. Changes to the exterior include a new metal stairway on the west wall for fire safety. The north end of the property was blacktopped for parking.

5 C Building 1950 7804 Summerfield Road

Fred and Madge Baynes House. This one and a half story, cross-gabled, brick veneer, L-plan Minimal Traditional house has a full basement and an interior chimney. Windows are eight-over-eight on the first floor and four-over-four in the attic rooms. Brickwork around the windows is rows of header brick turned vertically at both the sill and lintel. The guttering system is built into the cornice at the roofline.

As the manager of the Brittain Store, Mr. Fred Baynes and his family had been living in the second floor of the store. He had this house built to stay near the store and accommodate a growing family. Positioned to take advantage of the lay of the land and trees; the house is nestled into the lot.

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6 C Building 1928 4110 Oak Ridge Road

Cyrus Scarlett House. This one-story, frame, hip-roofed bungalow has an engaged front porch with four tapered square posts on stone piers. Windows are eight-over-one. There is a small front-gabled dormer in the attic and a gabled bay on the east wall. The house was clad in vinyl siding in the mid-1990s.

Inside, most of the original details remain. French doors open between the living room and dining room and the doors to the bedrooms are one-panel. The fireplace has corbelled brickwork on the mantel.

6a C Outbuilding 1927

Garage/storage. One-story, frame building with exposed rafter tails and a metal roof with an open car bay.

7 N Building 1947 4112 Oak Ridge Road

Theeman G. and Nettie Williams House. This one-story, three-bay, front-gabled rectangular-massed house was built in 1947 on a concrete block foundation. A small hip-roofed porch covers the front door. An aluminum awning covers the back door that leads to a wooden deck. The house has replacement windows and has been covered with vinyl siding.

7a C Outbuilding 1947

Well House. This small, frame structure has a metal roof.

7b N Outbuilding 1990s

Storage. One story, frame prefabricated storage building.

7c C Outbuilding 1947

Storage. One story, frame building with exposed rafter tails, 2 over 2 windows on the south end and covered in synthetic siding.

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8	N	Building	1936	4114 Oak Ridge Road
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A. J. Ayers House. This one-story, cross-gabled frame house with brick foundation is now covered with vinyl siding. An addition is on the side elevation of the house.

8a	C	Outbuilding	1930s	
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Storage. A one-story frame shed with a metal roof sits on a concrete-block foundation.

9	C	Building	c. 1835	4118 Oak Ridge Road
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Alexander Strong Martin House. This two-story, five-bay, double-pile, side-gable Greek Revival-style house is built of American bond (1:3) brick with corbelling on both exterior end chimneys and at the cornice. A pressed-metal roof covers the main section of the house. Both the front and rear of the house have a full-width, asphalt-shingled, hipped-roofed porch. Craftsman details prevail on the front porch with slender Tuscan columns on brick piers and the siding in the central gable that exhibits an Oriental influence. The rear porch has Queen Anne-style details almost identical to those on the Henry Clay Brittain House, with turned posts, carved brackets and shingle siding in the center gable. Windows are six-over-six.

The west side of the house has two additions, a frame one-story kitchen wing to the south and a small concrete-block bathroom in front of it. The kitchen appears to have been detached originally with a frame, metal-sided hyphen built at a later date. The kitchen section is on a stacked stone foundation and the hyphen section has a brick foundation. Molding details on the inside of the kitchen match the details in the rest of the house.

A late nineteenth-century, glazed, double-leaf, central front door opens to the center hall, and a single-leaf six-panel door on the left opens to a room that was an office. The eighteen-inch-thick brick interior walls are plastered. The stairway rises on the left side of the hall and has simple, square, slightly tapered newel posts with straight balusters. The eight corner fireplaces have plain mantels with a mirror added onto the one in the office. The doors are two-, six- and eight-paneled. Each door and window molding is the same: a curved center section edged with a single narrow bead on each side, and square corner block having a bull's eye center.

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10 C Building 1870s 7722-24 Summerfield Road

Ogburn-Gordon Store. This two-story, brick commercial building was built by George J. Smith who also built the Brittain Store. Three bays wide, the store has no windows or doors on either side. The recessed segmental arched windows are six-over-six double hung sash. Corbelled brickwork creates a decorative facade. The front entrance multi-paned display windows are angled and direct the customer to the double-leaf full glass paneled door.

10a C Outbuilding c. 1920s

Blacksmith Shop. This one-story, gable-front, frame building on a stone foundation is framed with vertical six-inch-wide flush boards and has a metal roof. Metal chimneys for flue-cured tobacco barns were built here.

11 C Building 1911 7720 Summerfield Road

Harris-Winfree Store. This one-story, front-gabled frame building is long and one-bay wide, built on dry laid stones, covered with weatherboards and has a pressed metal roof. The original parapet front was removed. Inside, the walls are covered with the original horizontal flush board sheathing. An eight-foot square skylight is located in the center of the building. The building is currently in a deteriorated state.

12 N Building 1980s 7718 Summerfield Road

Ladd-Decker House. Heavily remodeled and modernized in the 1980s, this house appears to have nothing left of the original form. The current resident, Robert Decker, said that the house had a foundation similar to the Harris-Winfree store's foundation. The house is now a one-story, multi-gabled residence with weatherboards, stone-veneered chimney and foundation, one-over-one windows arranged in groupings and a metal roof with rain gutter. An attached garage projects in front the house.

13 C Building 1947 7717 Summerfield Road

Summerfield Drugstore. This one and a half story, three-bay, double pile, concrete block Cape Cod-style building has three gable-front, six-over-six double-sash dormer windows on the front of the fiberglass-shingled roof. There are two large single-paned "picture" windows, one on each side of the small concrete stoop entrance with an

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aluminum awning covering.

The first owners, Guy and Dura Mae Ayers also lived in the building. To convert the building to rental housing the shelving for stock and the tables for diners that sat at the front windows were removed. The original plain metal kitchen cabinets and porcelain sink are still in use. A shed dormer is in the rear middle bay of the second story of the house.

13a C Structure 1947

Well House. This small, rectangular, concrete-block structure with a single sloped metal roof serves several of the owners' rental buildings with water.

14 N Building 1957 7715 Summerfield Road

Martin-Voight House. Built as a one-story, frame, front-gabled bungalow, the current owner, a stonemason by trade, has altered it with a veneer of cobblestones and a prominent herringbone-pattern front brick chimney, drastically changing its original appearance.

14 N Outbuilding c. 1980

Garage. A large frame, gambrel-roofed garage sits along the south side of the property.

15 C Building 1907 7716 Summerfield Road

Dr. Hugh Willis House. This two-story, three-bay, side-gabled I-house with a central chimney has a two-story rear ell. Alterations include vinyl siding and replacement one-over-one double-sash windows. Original elements include the standing-seam metal roof and hipped front porch with four Queen Anne-style turned posts.

15a C Building c. 1900

Detached Kitchen. Small, one-story, front-gabled log building covered in board-and-batten siding. There is a brick chimney on the left side. The shed-roofed front porch has a trap door that leads to a root cellar under the building. At the back of this building there is a small shed-roofed addition that also has board-and-batten siding.

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15b N Outbuilding c. 1980

Storage shed. This recent prefabricated building, approximately ten by thirty feet has plywood siding and an asphalt-shingled roof.

16 C Building 1919 7713 Summerfield Road

R. V. and Lee Harris House. This two-story, frame, Colonial Revival-style house with Queen Anne-style massing has a wide wraparound porch, porte-cochere, and a two-story bay window. The pyramidal roof has lower gables and is covered with asphalt shingles. Built on a brick basement, the house has two interior brick chimneys. Most windows are one-over-one double hung sash, one window has diamond shaped leaded glass and two are stained glass. The house is covered with aluminum siding.

Interior details include dark stained pine woodwork, pocket doors between the hall and front parlor, closets, and built-in shelving. The house has two sets of stairs; one to the right of the front door and a second set leading from the kitchen to the second floor or to the basement. Corners in the hallways upstairs are curved.

16a N Outbuilding c. 1970

Storage. A one-story, detached frame storage building sits to the rear of the house.

17 N Building c. 1960 7714 Summerfield Road

Ayers-Beeson House. This one-story, side-gabled, concrete-block house with covered front entrance stoop is covered in vinyl siding and the side entrance is enclosed.

17a C Outbuilding c. 1930

Storage. The one-story, frame, front-gable, storage building has vertical board siding, 5-V metal roof, exposed rafters, and open side shed.

18 C Building 1935 7711 Summerfield Road

Charles M. & Julia Ayers House. This one and a half story, brick, cross-gabled, asphalt-roofed Period Cottage is built on a basement foundation. An uncovered

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concrete stoop leads to a slightly projecting front-gabled entry. The windows are six-over-six, double hung. A recessed, one-story, frame addition was built on the south end in 1953, and a kitchen was added on the rear in 1998.

18a C Outbuilding 1935

Storage. A one and a half story, side-gabled, frame, metal-roofed building with rear and side open sheds has the original German siding.

18b N Outbuilding 1972

Playhouse. A one-story, frame, rectangular child's playhouse has a small front porch, door, and shuttered window.

19 C Building 1908 7712 Summerfield Road

Fred F. and Lillie Medearis Baynes House. This two-story, frame, L-plan Colonial Revival-style house has a brick basement foundation and interior chimneys. Windows are paired, with four-over-four sash at the front of the house and a variety on the back including one-over-one, four-over-four and six-over-six. The one-story front porch is supported by Tuscan columns. The owner plans to reconstruct the roof balustrade shown in 1952 pictures. It was constructed of a heavy balustrade connected with a handrail and turned posts. The main entry and the second-floor porch doors are the same with identical sidelights. Sometime between 1937 and 1951, the front right portion of the first floor front porch was enclosed to provide space for a doctors' office. The house is covered with synthetic siding.

The center hall has a staircase rising on the left side and newel posts turned with Tuscan details. The plastered walls have beadboard wainscoting. The ceiling is covered with bead board. The mantel in the living room is tripartite, and the mantel in the family room has a narrow shelf supported by Tuscan columns.

19a C Outbuilding c. 1940

Garage. The two-story, gable-front frame building sits to the left and rear of the house.

20 N Building 1958 7709 Summerfield Road

W. H. and Doris Long House. This side-gabled, brick ranch-style house has enclosed

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the attached carport.

20a N Structure 1998

Pool. A large, rectangular, in-ground swimming pool structure is surrounded by a wood fence.

20b N Outbuilding c. 1990

Storage. This one-story, frame, gable-front, asphalt-shingle roofed storage building houses the pool equipment.

20c N Outbuilding c. 1990

Playhouse. This one-story, frame, rectangular child's playhouse has a small front porch, door, and shuttered window.

21 N Building 1980 7710 Summerfield Road

House. A one and a half story, frame Cape Cod-style house was built on the lot of an older house that was destroyed by lightning in the 1960s.

21a C Outbuilding 1900s

Smoke House. This low, rectangular, front-gable, V-notched log building sits on a stacked-stone foundation and has a 5-V metal roof.

21b N Outbuilding 1980

Storage. This frame, one-story building provides storage space.

21c C Outbuilding c. 1930

Storage/dog run. This frame, one story, gable-front building with a metal roof has a chain-link dog run attached to the south side.

22 C Building 1911 7707 Summerfield Road

John F. and Mamie Medearis House. The frame, weatherboard, one and a half story,

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Queen Anne-style house has a wraparound front porch supported by Tuscan columns. A pyramidal, asphalt-shingle roof has four lower gables, two on the front and one on each side. The gables all have decorative shingles and a small, single-pane window. Hipped dormers with two windows are centered on the front and back roof. The windows are one-over-one. A sunroom, added in the 1990s, is located on the back of the house and has masonite siding.

The center hall plan includes three interior chimneys, pocket doors across the middle of the hall, and a staircase that rises from the back of the hall. The walls are plastered, and the rooms have twelve-foot ceilings.

22a N Outbuilding c. 1970

Workshop/Carport. A one-story, frame workshop with attached carport sits southwest of the house.

23 C Building 1947 7706 Summerfield Road

C.H. and Audrey W. Tucker House. This one-story, front-gabled, frame bungalow has a front porch with tapered posts on brick piers. Two additions have been made to the house. The two-bedroom plan was expanded in 1954 by enclosing a side porch to become a kitchen and expanding the former kitchen to the rear to make a family room. Recent changes include vinyl siding and replacement one-over-one windows.

A stacked stone wall across the front of the property is thought by the current owner to have been built by the WPA or CCC.

23a N Outbuilding c. 1970s

Carport/storage. The property includes a detached, metal-post, frame carport for two cars and enclosed storage.

23b C Outbuilding 1947

Storage. There is a small, frame, gable-front storage building with metal roof, exposed rafters, and side shed addition.

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24 C Building 1896 7702 Summerfield Road

Noah Webster Ogburn House. This triple-A, I-house with a one-story rear ell that seems to be original to the house is built on a brick foundation with brick single-shoulder chimneys. The frame house is now covered with vinyl siding and has vinyl shutters at each of the two-over-two windows as well as on either side of the front door. A brick front stoop replaced what was once was a hipped front porch with a center gable, according to a documentary photo. The rear ell has a covered porch along the south side that has been enclosed on the east end. The roofing material is a pressed metal shingle.

The house is a center-hall plan with the dining room and kitchen in the ell. The center hall has a dog-leg staircase with a massive turned newel post. There is a stone wall across the front of this property with grapevine mortar that is also thought to have been built by either the WPA or CCC, according to Audrey Tucker, the next-door neighbor.

24a C Outbuilding 1930

Storage. A frame, one-story building has a metal-front gable roof with exposed rafters. There are two doors in the gable end and open shed extension on the west side.

24b C Outbuilding c. 1950s

Pump House. This one-story brick building with a sloped concrete roof that houses the well and pump.

24c C Outbuilding c. 1900

Barn. This frame, one and a half story animal and equipment barn is in deteriorated condition.

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SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Summerfield Historic District fulfills Criterion A for listing in the National Register because of its significance as the commercial center of a Guilford County farming community in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The area, known in colonial times as Bruce's Crossroads, has been a commercial and residential center for the surrounding farming community for nearly 250 years. Summerfield is a village that was built by the merchants who served the surrounding farming community. Its historic core was built at the crossroads of Summerfield Road and Oak Ridge Road by the shopkeepers, doctors, and pharmacists who served the farmers and residents of the surrounding area.

The historic district fulfills Criterion C for architectural significance because it contains a mix of locally significant commercial and residential buildings constructed in a variety of architectural styles, including the Alexander Strong Martin House, a Greek Revival house and one of the oldest buildings in Guilford County; the Brittain Store, an outstanding example of a corbelled brick Italianate style commercial building; the Charles H. Willson House, a pre-Civil War I-house farmhouse; and the Brittain House, one of the few remaining Queen Anne-style mansions in Guilford County.

Situated along the crossroads of Summerfield Road (SR2117) and Oak Ridge Road (N.C. Route 150), the district is made up of fifty-five Resources, nearly sixty percent of which contribute to its historic character.

The designated period of significance for the Summerfield Historic District covers the period from c. 1835, the approximate construction date for the Alexander Strong Martin House to 1955, the fifty-year cut-off date for Criteria A and C. Significant dates in the town's history include 1888, when the Cape Fear and Yadkin Railroad built its track from Sanford to Mount Airy, and 1952, when Route 220 was changed from Summerfield Road to a new road about 500 feet east.

Historical Background and Commerce Context

The Summerfield Historic District, located in a relatively flat area amid rolling farmlands, includes a mix of commercial and residential buildings constructed on two intersecting roads. The two roads were used in the colonial period and had developed from Native American footpaths. Other than George J. Smith, a Summerfield resident and landowner, who masterfully built the brick stores, there are no known architects, designers, planners, or builders in Summerfield. The houses and commercial buildings

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were built one at a time over more than a century. The cohesiveness of the district comes from its size and scale. Most of the houses are set back from the road, there are many old trees, and the neighboring farmland is still visible behind most of the buildings.

The Town of Summerfield is located in Bruce Township, in the northwestern part of Guilford County, eleven miles north of the county seat of Greensboro. In the last twenty years, Summerfield's population has grown rapidly as many acres of farmland have been developed into subdivisions of new houses. In 1980, the first year that the U.S. Census counted Summerfield's residents separately, the population was 1,680. In 2002, the population was estimated to be 7,180,¹ an increase of 327 percent in twenty-two years. The increasing population has changed the character of Summerfield from a sparsely populated but close-knit community of farmers and shopkeepers to an active suburban community with more and more neighborhoods, shopping centers, and roads.

In the late 1700s, the Summerfield Historic District area was known as Bruce's Crossroads. The east-west road, which was earlier an Indian trail, led from Danville, Virginia, to the Moravian settlements in Forsyth County. The north-south route was a colonial road called the Dan River Road or the Old Baggage Road. It ran from Virginia to the Quaker communities on New Garden Road and on to Guilford Courthouse. The crossroads was named after Revolutionary War patriot Charles Bruce (c. 1740-1832). Bruce, the Scotch-Irish settler who owned large tracts of land in the area, served in many public offices, including the North Carolina Fifth Congress in Halifax in 1776, and as a Guilford County representative in the Senate of the Assembly of 1783 and 1784.²

In the early 1800s, the area continued to be known as Bruce's Crossroads. A map entitled "The First Actual Survey of the State of North Carolina" (1808) includes a location called "Bruce." A map entitled "Southern Provinces of the United States" (1817) has a dot for "Bruces."

In 1812, an evangelist named John Summerfield began holding church meetings in the Bruce's Crossroads area. According to historian Blackwell P. Robinson: "The community grew slowly until 1812 when a visiting evangelist, the Reverend John Summerfield, came and established a church. No doubt becoming enamored with the community, Summerfield decided to remain and the Crossroads was named in his honor instead of its leading citizen, Charles Bruce."³

¹ Web site of the North Carolina State Demographics Unit.

² Katherine Hoskins, "Sketch of Charles Bruce of Guilford," Greensboro Patriot, June 1, 1922.

³ Blackwell P. Robinson and Alexander R. Stoesen, *The History of Guilford County, North Carolina, U.S.A. to 1980, A.D., a project of the Guilford County Bicentennial Commission*, (n.p.), p. 134.

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In 1838, Alexander Strong Martin purchased a large tract of land from Valentine Allen, who had bought it from a son of Charles Bruce in 1835. In the 1830s, an imposing two-story brick house was built at the corner of the crossroads. The original owner of this house is unknown. When Alexander Strong Martin, the "natural" son of North Carolina patriot and governor, Alexander Martin, purchased the parcel of 448 acres from Valentine Allen in 1838 for \$2000, the house may have already been built. The large tract of land (872 acres) that Valentine Allen and his brother James Allen bought in 1835 for \$2,500, was later divided. James Allen sold his share (435 acres) to Valentine Allen for \$500. Valentine then owned the whole parcel. He sold 448 acres of it to Alexander Strong Martin in 1838 for \$2000, suggesting that that section of the original tract included the substantial house in the advantageous crossroads location.

Traditionally, the house has been called the Alexander Strong Martin House because of the connection to Alexander Martin, the first Guilford County resident elected governor of North Carolina, who served six non-consecutive terms between 1782 and 1792. Alexander Martin (1738-1807), who had an active and mostly illustrious career as a patriot, merchant, lawyer, soldier, legislator in the North Carolina Assembly and the U.S. Senate, never married. The *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography* states that "Although [Alexander] Martin never married he had a natural son, Alexander Strong Martin, whom he always acknowledged during his lifetime as well as publicly stating the relationship in his will."⁴

While Governor Martin may have acknowledged his son during his lifetime, the young man was apparently not afforded the same privilege of education that his father had been given. The governor held both bachelor's and master's degrees from Princeton.⁵ In the 1860 Census, the son said he was unable to read or write. Known in his younger years as Alexander Martin Strong, the son was apparently born in 1786, which coincides with some of the less public years of his father's career. After serving three terms as governor of North Carolina, Alexander Martin settled in the new Guilford County town of Martinville.

Alexander Strong Martin owned the tract of land until 1849 when he sold it to Herral Smith. He continued to live in the Summerfield area. In the 1860 census, he was listed as a 74-year-old farmer whose household included his wife Ann, age 58, and children Mary, age 24, Oren, age 23, Frances, age 22, and a person named Mary Shaw, age 18.⁶

⁴ *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, p. 224.

⁵ *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, p. 223.

⁶ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Guilford County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

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In the late 1850s, a farmer named Charles H. Willson built a two-story frame house for himself and his bride, Nancy Roach, who came from the town of Wentworth in Rockingham County. They were married on August 24, 1859. In the 1860 census they are listed together, with his age as twenty-seven and occupation as Clerk; her age was listed as nineteen. The value of their real estate was listed as \$2,300.⁷ After nearly sixty years of marriage, Mr. Willson died in 1918, just a few days before his eighty-sixth birthday.⁸ Mrs. Willson died in 1935, at the age of ninety-five. Their daughter, Clara Willson, lived in the house until her death in 1962. Since 1859, the house has had only three owners. Linda Southard, the current owner, bought it in 1963. A century ago when the Willsons owned it, this was the farmhouse of a 150-acre farm.⁹ Today it sits on a four-acre lot, back from the road and several hundred feet from each neighbor, still conveying a sense of the open space it once had.

After the Civil War, the crossroads at Summerfield became a commercial center with general stores, a school, and other enterprises that served the surrounding farming community. The *North Carolina Business Directory* showed the population of Guilford County in 1870 as 21,736. Of these people, less than one-fourth lived in Greensboro (including Gilmer and Morehead Townships). The rest, some 16,824 persons, lived in rural townships.

In 1870, there were four churches in Summerfield, four "manufactories," one physician, and nine farmers with Summerfield postal addresses. Summerfield, however, had no hotels, no lawyers, and no merchants. In the 1870s, two brick commercial buildings were constructed on corners opposite the Martin House. The Brittain Building and the Ogburn-Gordon Store, both built by George J. Smith, became anchors in the new economic development.¹⁰

The Ogburn Store is named for Noah Webster Ogburn, but he was not the first owner. According to Gladys Scarlette, it was originally George J. Smith's store. In her history of Summerfield, Ms. Scarlette included a photo of the building under construction and this caption:

G. J. Smith store during construction. Date of construction not known but the young boy, Walter Smith, on the scaffolding was born in 1867 and Margaret Metz estimated his age to be about 10, so the store was probably completed about 1877. P. Wall and Patrick H. Highfill operated a

⁷ 1860 Guilford County Census, p. 380.

⁸ Certificate of Death, Charles H. Wilson (sic), dated Aug. 30, 1918.

⁹ Affidavit by Clara Willson, Dec. 1950.

¹⁰ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003, p. 347.

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store there as Wall & Highfill. Their stock was sold in May 1892. N. W. Ogburn bought it about 1893 and probably operated it until he sold it about the time of the first World War. F. F. Baynes operated a store in this building sometime later; he also owned the building.¹¹

In 1884, the *Greensboro City Directory's* Summerfield section numbered the population at "about 150." It listed three general merchandise shops in Summerfield, along with two mills, two carpenters, two blacksmiths, two physicians, and a wagonmaker.¹² The directory named H. C. Brittain, William Highfill, and George J. Smith as shopkeepers for general merchandise, Dr. B. Y. Harris and Dr. Hugh Willis as physicians, and listed seven schoolteachers and thirty-six farmers.¹³

In 1888, the Cape Fear and Yadkin Railroad was built from Sanford to Mount Airy, with a station in Summerfield. This provided a northwest extension of the North Carolina Railroad, which ran from Charlotte to Greensboro to Raleigh. Although its depot was located one-half mile south of the crossroads, and generated a new settlement around it, the railway supplied the businesses at the crossroads and they continued to thrive and grow.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Webster Ogburn built a triple-A I-house at 7702 Summerfield Road in 1896[Resource No. 24]. It was a classic I-house with a center hall and rooms on each side. The rear extension included a dining room and kitchen and a south-facing covered porch. Their daughter, Elizabeth Ogburn, owned the house from 1940 until her death in 1999 at age ninety-three. She was a career woman who graduated in 1926 from North Carolina College for Women (now the University of North Carolina, Greensboro).¹⁴ She worked at Jefferson-Standard Insurance Company (now Jefferson-Pilot Corporation) as manager of the Policy Loan Department.

The grandest house in Summerfield is the Queen Anne-style mansion that Henry Clay Brittain, a merchant with a general store at the crossroads, built between 1898 and 1903. [Resource No. 1] In H. McKeldon Smith's 1979 survey of architectural Resources in Guilford County, he wrote:

As in most places in the nation, the Queen Anne style predominated in the dwellings of the most prosperous people, for the most part those who

¹¹ Scarlette, *Pictorial History*, p. 60.

¹² 1884 *Greensboro City Directory*, in Gladys Scarlette, *A Pictorial History* (Greensboro, N.C., Younts Printing Co., 1995), p. 13.

¹³ 1884 *Greensboro City Directory*, in Scarlette, *Pictorial History*, p. 13.

¹⁴ E-mail dated August 16, 2004 to Nancy Campbell from Betty H. Carter, University Archivist, Jackson Library, University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

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were involved in industry, commerce, and other non-agricultural related enterprises.... Nearby in Summerfield is the Brittain House (NW-86), a significant though less imposing house built by the proprietor of the Brittain Store (NW-87). While not representative of the typical house, this group of impressive domestic buildings is testament to Guilford County's rapidly increasing wealth, architectural capabilities, and, in terms of design, interest in adopting recent architectural trends.¹⁵

Mr. Brittain set up a sawmill on his property in 1898 and began milling the lumber for his home, resulting in this large, elaborate house. Its progress was mentioned several times in the Greensboro newspaper. There was a weekly column called "Summerfield Items" in the *Greensboro Patriot* that covered news about visitors, activities, and new buildings in this rural community near Greensboro. In 1902 and 1903, the new Brittain house was mentioned several times. In October 1902, the newspaper reported that "Mr. H. C. Brittain is erecting an elegant home on Oak Avenue [Oak Ridge Road]. When completed it will add much to the appearance of the town."¹⁶ In January 1903, the news was that "Work on Mr. H. C. Brittain's [sic] new house will be discontinued until spring."¹⁷ The house was mentioned again in September, with the news that "Mr. H. C. Brittain's new home is nearing completion. He hopes to be installed therein by the last of September."¹⁸ By November, the Brittain's had moved. The newspaper reported "Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brittain have moved into their new home in the central part of town."¹⁹

Mr. and Mrs. Brittain called the house "Gray Gables" and this name was used in newspaper accounts. For example, a report in 1904 said, "Miss Stella Craven, of Climax, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. H. C. Brittain, this week at Gray Gables."²⁰

In the twentieth century, the crossroads became Routes 220 and 150, important two-lane thoroughfares from Roanoke and Martinsville in Virginia, to Greensboro and Asheboro in North Carolina, and south to South Carolina. C. M. Miller's "Map of Guilford County" (1908) indicates that the road from Greensboro to what is now Summerfield Road in the historic district was paved with macadam. That was the end of the "good roads," however. Route 150 and Summerfield Road north of the crossroads remained unpaved. The *North Carolina Yearbook of 1902* listed four merchants in Summerfield: H. C. Brittain, N. W. Ogburn, J. F. Summers, and Charles H. Willson.²¹ The houses

¹⁵ Smith, p. 23-24.

¹⁶ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Oct. 15, 1902, p. 7.

¹⁷ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Jan. 28, 1903, p. 6.

¹⁸ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Sept. 2, 1903, p. 7.

¹⁹ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Nov. 18, 1903, p. 7.

²⁰ *The Greensboro Patriot*, July 20, 1904, p. 7.

²¹ *North Carolina Year Book 1902*, p. 259-260.

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built by Brittain, Ogburn, and Willson are in the historic district.

Dr. Hugh Willis established a medical practice in Summerfield in the late 1800s²² and married Sallie Harris, a daughter of Reverend Cicero and Mrs. Harris, owners of the Martin House. On Oct. 31, 1907, Dr. Willis purchased a property at 7716 Summerfield Road from his brother-in-law, R. V. Harris, which included a new house. The purchase price was \$850. A newspaper item in 1907 said that "Mr. Fred Baynes has recently bought Dr. Willis' residence, and Dr. Willis has bought the new house built by R. V. Harris near the post office."²³

On March 10, 1908, John and Mamie Medearis sold the lot at 7712 Summerfield Road to Fred F. and Lillie Baynes for \$150. Mrs. Baynes was Mr. Medearis's sister. Mr. and Mrs. Baynes built a handsome two-story frame Colonial Revival-style house, which was mentioned in the newspaper. A news item from Summerfield announced that "Mr. F. F. Baynes' new home is nearing completion."²⁴

Daily life in Summerfield in the early twentieth century was verbally described by five prominent and long-time residents to a history student in 1984. In a paper called "Growing up in Summerfield: 1900-1935, an Oral History," Margaret Metz, Charles Marion Ayers, Elizabeth Ogburn, Katherine (Kate) Hoskins, and Carrie Bell Doggett, described experiences from their early years.²⁵ With the exception of Mrs. Doggett, who lived on a farm a mile or so east of the crossroads, they all have connections to houses in the historic district. Mrs. Metz, whose grandfather George J. Smith built the Brittain and Ogburn Stores, grew up in and later owned the John F. and Mamie Medearis House. Mr. Ayers came to Summerfield in 1918 when his father, A. J. Ayers, bought a farm that included the Martin House. Mr. C. M. Ayers was the owner or builder of several houses in the historic district. Miss Ogburn grew up in and later owned the Noah Webster Ogburn House. Miss Hoskins, who was known as the "historian of Summerfield," lived most of her life in a house south of the historic district, but in 1932 she became the owner of the Dr. Willis House.

Mrs. Metz's father, John F. Medearis, a Summerfield merchant, married Mamie Smith, the daughter of George J. Smith, the builder of the Brittain Building and the Ogburn Store, around 1900. Mr. Medearis was also from a Summerfield family. His father had

²² 1884 *Greensboro City Directory*, p. 217.

²³ *The Greensboro Patriot*, November 20, 1907, p. 7. On May 18, 1918, Sue Willis and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Willis, presumably the heirs of Dr. Willis, sold the property to Walter A. Short for 1,400 dollars. Mr. Short did not own it for long; he sold it on June 13, 1918, to J. A. Hoskins for 1,600 dollars.

²⁴ *The Greensboro Patriot*, July 1, 1908, p. 5.

²⁵ Jamie Credle, "Growing Up in Summerfield: 1900-1935, an oral history," History Internship paper submitted to Dr. W. A. Link, Spring 1984, University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

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been appointed postmaster in 1897.²⁶ Margaret Medearis Metz (1902-1998), is the person whose memories and diagrams of the buildings of Summerfield in her early twentieth-century youth are recorded in Gladys Scarlette's local history, *Summerfield, North Carolina, A Pictorial History*.

Margaret Medearis Metz and her parents lived in her maternal grandparents' home on the east side of Summerfield Road, on the lot where the new house at 7710 Summerfield Road stands.²⁷ Mrs. Metz recalled: "I lived as a child – the first eight years of my life [1902-1911] – in a house that had been my grandfather's. He died suddenly without leaving a will and everything was sold. My father [merchant John F. Medearis] bought the whole bit – house, land, and everything. The first eight years of my life I lived there. My father was not a farmer. There was a farm connected with it, but he hired people to take care of than. He didn't like to farm."²⁸

Mr. and Mrs. Medearis built their one and a half story frame house in 1911 at 7707 Summerfield Road. [Resource No. 22] While the tax record shows that the house was built in 1912, newspaper reports indicate that it was completed in 1911. Items in the Summerfield news column of the *Greensboro Patriot* included these reports: "The new house of Mr. John Medearis is progressing rapidly. It will be completed in the near future and will be a very pretty home."²⁹ Three months later, an update was printed: "Mr. John Medearis's house is about completed. It will be about the prettiest house in the village."³⁰

For Elizabeth Ogburn, life in Summerfield around 1915 was busy, simple, and safe. Born in 1905, she sometimes tended her father's store single-handedly, and remembered that:

During the summer after I got old enough to count and figure a little bit, I would stay in Daddy's store, that brick store up there. Daddy would work at the farm. Mother would keep house. Staying in that store was right good experience for me. I met all sorts of people. Of course, a lot of them were

²⁶ Scarlette, *Pictorial History*, p. 52.

²⁷ Before their house at 7707 Summerfield Road was built, the Medearis family lived across the road with Mrs. Medearis's family. That house, which was struck by lightning in 1968, was said to have been built around a log cabin. Mrs. Metz recounted that when the house burned, "it was totally destroyed except the original log part." The new house at 7710 Summerfield Road was built on the lot where the Smith home (which later belonged to the Gambles) had stood. The log building on that property may be from the era when the Smiths owned it. Scarlette, *Pictorial History*, p. 4.

²⁸ Credle, p. 6.

²⁹ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Feb. 23, 1911, p. 4

³⁰ *The Greensboro Patriot*, May 11, 1911.

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tenant farmers. They would come in with eggs, sometimes with chickens, to buy what they needed. There was everything in that store – nails, kerosene, piece goods, patent medicines.... You just learned to find them, to get what they wanted and to price them, give them change if they paid cash. One old fellow, every afternoon when he got through with his work, he would go by the family's chicken roost and get two eggs and come over and want a Virginia Cheroot.³¹

Charles Marion Ayers, whose father, A. J. Ayers, bought the Martin House and adjoining land in 1919, gave this account of his family's arrival in Summerfield, in "Growing Up in Summerfield":

There was a big family of us and my father was running a hotel [in Stuart, Virginia] and decided that that was not the place to raise his family. So he got on his horse and came south. He stopped in Summerfield.... We followed just a few weeks later – after he purchased the farm.... The farm was in the southern section of Summerfield, known as the Roberson place. And then we purchased – my father purchased the farm here that was next to Bruce's Crossroads on which the Ayers House now stands, and made his living farming.³²

The Ayers family worked the farm from the 1920s to the 1950s. Mr. Ayers remembered farm life as:

Back in the early 1900's you didn't have tractors and farm equipment that you have now. You had plows and harrows pulled by mules and horses. Usually it would take almost a day to plow an acre where you could take a tractor and plow it in an hour. The fertilizer that you used was not as good as it is now, but it was less expensive.³³

We other boys were put out on the farm. We raised tobacco, raised corn, raised wheat, and we had to cut wood to cure the tobacco with. When the tobacco was harvested we had to stay at the tobacco barn and feed wood into the flues to cure it. I have known times when we didn't take off our work clothes for a week at a time because we had two or three barns of tobacco being cured.

³¹ Credle, p. 18-19.

³² Credle, p. 7.

³³ Credle, p. 15.

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I would say a typical day in our lives – we would get up about seven o'clock. My daddy would get up earlier. We would either go to plow or to hoe corn, or go to cut tops, or whatever came along that line. Usually on Saturday evenings we didn't have to work. We could either go fishing or if it was in the summertime we played baseball.... In the wintertime we spent all of our leisure hours hunting – rabbit hunting.

My mother along with the girls, we had four girls in the family, they all did the housework; did the cooking for six boys and my father. They did all kinds of housework; cooking, cleaning, painting the rooms, wall-papering, sewing, whatever came along – canning.³⁴

In 1919, Robert V. Harris and his wife, Lee, built a large residence at 7713 Summerfield Road [Resource No. 16] and moved there from the Martin House. News updates in the Greensboro newspaper tracked the new home's progress. On May 12, a report that "Mr. R. V. Harris is preparing to put up a handsome dwelling on Main Street [Summerfield Road]" appeared. On July 31, the news from Summerfield reported that "Mr. R. V. Harris' house is progressing rapidly. The work is moving steadily. He will have the best and most elegant home in the village."³⁵ The house's elegant features included a parlor, a sitting room, a dining room, a large front hall, several stained-glass windows, including one at the top of the staircase and one at the bottom. There are huge one-over-one-paned bay windows on both the first and second floors. There were large pine pocket doors between the hall and the front parlor, and a stairway from the kitchen to the second floor. It was also a practical house. For a number of years, the Summerfield telephone exchange was located in a small room next to the dining room.

In the prosperous 1920s, Guilford County's population grew by sixty percent, from 79,272 in 1920 to 133,010 in 1930.³⁶ In Summerfield, electricity was installed in 1925 as the North Carolina Public Services Company extended its lines north to the communities of Summerfield and Stokesdale and southeast to Pleasant Garden.³⁷

Two banks opened in Summerfield in 1920. Farmers Bank opened in May 1920, but six months later it failed and was closed in November 1920.³⁸ The Bank of Summerfield was chartered in 1919 and opened in 1920. It operated through the decade but also failed and closed June 30, 1929.³⁹

³⁴ Credle, p. 14.

³⁵ *The Greensboro Patriot*, May 12, 1919, p. __, and July 31, 1919, p. 5.

³⁶ North Carolina Basic County Data, 1946, Guilford County Section.

³⁷ *The Greensboro Patriot*, Feb. 23, 1925, p. 1

³⁸ Interview with Gladys Scarlette, June 2, 2003.

³⁹ Letter dated June 19, 2001 to Gladys Scarlette from Ray Grace, Director, Bank

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Katherine Hoskins's father had invested in the Bank of Summerfield. After the bank closed in 1929, he was among those who paid the creditors in full. By 1932, however, at the height of the Depression, Mr. Hoskins, who had purchased the Dr. Willis House in 1918, defaulted on his home loan. The property was offered at a public auction "held at noon at the East Door of Guilford County Courthouse in Greensboro." The highest bidder was Katherine Hoskins, who paid \$800 for the property (Book 720, Page 336). In "Growing up in Summerfield," Miss Hoskins answered the question, "What was your father's occupation?" by saying, "Papa [Joseph A. Hoskins], who was born in 1854 – in that day in [sic] time it was an agricultural section and majority of people, if they had an extra dollar they bought some extra land, and then if they were in contact with the business world – perhaps, as my father did – some of his friends were businessmen in Greensboro and High Point – he invested in bank stock. When the banks failed in this great crash that meant there was double indemnity on bank stock, and so it took everything he had to pay the indemnity on the bank stock."⁴⁰

In the 1920s and '30s, Cyrus Scarlette worked at the Summerfield Motor Company, as did his sons, Lee, "Boots," Bill, and Herbert. He moved into his modern bungalow home at 4110 Oak Ridge Road in 1928. [Resource No. 6]

Charles Marion Ayers and his wife Julia Parrish Ayers built the house at 7711 Summerfield Road when they were married in 1935.[Resource No. 18] The new Mrs. Ayers and her mother, Annie Ward Parrish, had come to Summerfield in 1929 as schoolteachers. Mrs. Parrish lived with her daughter and son-in-law in this three-bedroom house, and was eventually joined by three granddaughters.

The years 1935 to 1954 were busy years for the commercial center at the Summerfield crossroads. Bill Gordon, owner of two of the commercial buildings there, remembers his father's general store on the corner. Mr. Gordon was a youngster when his father, R. C. Gordon, rented the building from Fred F. Baynes and opened a hardware store in 1935. His father's store sold a wide variety of hardware and feed goods for the surrounding farming and tobacco-raising community. Behind the store, there was a blacksmith shop, where farm implements were repaired, and a sheet-metal shop, where flues were made for the process of heat-curing tobacco.

In the 1940s, Mr. Gordon remembers, a large number of businesses operated at the crossroads. Inventory for these businesses was supplied through the train depot, one-half mile south. Groceries and clothing were sold next door in the Harris-Winfree

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building. Groceries were also sold in the Brittain Store building. There was an Esso gasoline station and the Summerfield Motor Company on the northeast corner of the crossroads (where the parking lot is now located). There was a fabric shop and a beauty shop, each operating in a room of the Martin House. From 1937 to 1951, Dr. Fryar practiced medicine in the house at 7712 Summerfield Road. From 1951 to 1958, Dr. Futrell housed his medical practice there. In 1947, Guy and Dura Mae Ayers opened the Summerfield Drug Store, which served ice cream and dispensed prescriptions from the doctor across the street.⁴¹ Saturday evenings were a popular time to shop, Mr. Gordon recalls. People drove in from farms and from Greensboro, to buy supplies, to gather around the pot-bellied stove, and to socialize.⁴²

In 1945 Andrew and Mae Ayers, a son and daughter-in-law of A. J. Ayers, who owned the Martin House, built the side-gabled ranch house at 4115 Oak Ridge Road. [Resource No. 3] It is one of several houses in the district that were built originally of concrete blocks. It was later expanded and sided with brick.

When C. H. & Audrey W. Tucker were married in 1946, they wanted to live in Summerfield because it was located between her family's home in Stokesdale, his family's home in Eden, and their jobs in Greensboro. The bride's father knew Elizabeth Ogburn, owner of several acres in Summerfield, and persuaded her to sell a lot on the edge of her property to the young couple. They selected a bungalow house plan and a builder, and construction began in 1946. They moved into their house at 7706 Summerfield Road in May 1947. [Resource No. 23] Mrs. Tucker recalled that wood was very scarce after World War II. She said that to obtain enough wood to build the house, lumber had to be ordered from several lumberyards, including one as far away as Martinsville, Virginia. The woodwork in the house is handsome but plain. Because of the scarcity of wood, the fireplace mantel was not installed until the early 1950s. It was originally intended to be a starter home, but Mrs. Tucker still lives there. The late Mr. Tucker liked the house and the neighborhood so much that he never wanted to move.⁴³

In 1952, Route 220, the north-south road from Roanoke, Virginia, to Greensboro, was re-routed just 500 feet east of the crossroads.⁴⁴ While this change streamlined the trip for travelers, it, along with the post-war development of shopping centers, meant that people bypassed the Summerfield crossroads business center. Gradually those commercial enterprises dwindled.

⁴¹ Scarlette, Pictorial History, p. 74.

⁴² Interview with Bill Gordon, Feb. 8, 2003.

⁴³ Interview with Audrey Tucker, Feb. 8, 2003.

⁴⁴ E-mail to Nancy Campbell from Ted Baker, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Road Inventory-GIS, September 13, 2004.

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In 1984, Charles Marion Ayers summed up the changes as: "...Up until about 1945, Highway 220 came through [Summerfield]. The businesses – the area was a thriving little corner, but when 220 bypassed the business district, the stores began to close up one by one. Now we have none in operation."⁴⁵

Today the east-west road of the Summerfield crossroads is U.S. Route 150 and is also known as Oak Ridge Road. (Oak Ridge is five miles southwest of Summerfield.) As Oak Ridge Road continues east from Route 220 (500 feet east of the crossroads), it is called Scalesville Road. Route 150 branches to the south, running concurrently with Route 220 for two miles before turning east again. Summerfield Road is now Secondary Road (SR) 2117; it joins Route 220 one mile south of the crossroads. From being a commercial center in a farming community, Summerfield is finding new life as an active suburban community. As farmlands are subdivided and developed, comfortable new neighborhoods are popping up. The town, which incorporated in 1996 to prevent annexation by Greensboro, holds an annual Founders Day celebration to remember its past.

Architecture Context

The buildings at the Summerfield crossroads were a commercial center for the surrounding farming community and a residential center for the merchants and doctors who serve the rural residents. They were built in four distinct time periods and the buildings are a microcosm of American architectural styles from the 1830s through the mid-twentieth century.

In 1979, H. McKeldon Smith wrote in his survey of architectural Resources in Guilford County:

If Julian is the most intact and prosperous of the small rural communities, Summerfield (NW-86-91) contains the finest buildings. Lack of quantity is easily compensated by the high quality of the Brittain (NW-87) and Ogburn (NW-90) Stores. These two-story structures, constructed and presumably designed by carpenter/builder George J. Smith in the 1870s, feature notable corbelled detail and ornamental brickwork unmatched in quality by any surviving commercial buildings of the period anywhere in the county. Aside from their intrinsic architectural qualities, they illustrate the economic progress made a decade after the War and the interest in contemporary decorative trends, but at the same time are related to earlier building in scale, mass, and materials. Their juxtaposition with the

⁴⁵ Credle, p. 58.

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Alexander Strong Martin House (NW-89), a handsome Greek Revival style brick structure, makes this continuity easily perceptible.⁴⁶

The Alexander Strong Martin and the Charles H. Willson houses, the earliest dwellings in the historic district, were built before 1860 and reflect the Greek Revival style, which had been widely used from 1825 to 1860.[Resource Nos. 9 and 2] Both have elements of the style, including side-gabled roofs, cornices, and doorways with sidelights.

The Willson House is an example of the I-house type, which became very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is unusual in three aspects.

- The wide center hall (13'3" by 14'1") constitutes a third room both downstairs and upstairs, making the original house a six-room abode rather than the typical four-room I-house.
- The two chimneys are on the rear of the original house, rather than on the end walls, where they were more commonly placed.
- The façade of the house has an unusual recessed entrance. The double doors and two sets of sidelights are set back about thirty inches from the front wall of the house. Within the entrance the walls are sheathed with flush boards, typical of the Greek Revival style and earlier houses. In 1978, the current owner removed a shed porch (which had been an addition or replacement of the original porch) and built a Greek Revival cornice above the recessed entrance.

The front gable on the Willson House is an addition, although it is typical for a "triple-A I-house." The triple-A was not introduced in Guilford County until after the Civil War, when the Baltimore Association of Friends came to help with the reconstruction of the South, and built a model farm house as an educational center in southern Guilford County. An examination of the attic reveals the cut rafters and roof sheathing that was used to build the new gable. This may have been done around 1900, when the Queen Anne-style Brittain House next door and the Ogburn House, a classic triple-A I-house, were built.

The second period of building in Summerfield took place after the Civil War (1861 to 1865), beginning the 1870s. Two brick commercial buildings were erected at the crossroads. The town's first commercial buildings were built in the Italianate style, using sloped roofs, segmented-arched windows, and corbelled friezes. The Brittain Store [Resource No. 4 and the Ogburn-Gordon Store [Resource No. 10] were built in the 1870s on opposite corners of the crossroads by the same builder, George J. Smith, a

⁴⁶ H. McKelden Smith, *Architectural Resources, an Inventory of Historic Architecture, High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County*. (Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1979), p. 33.

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local merchant, farmer, and brickmason. These two-story, three-bay commercial buildings were typical of urban business architecture, though they stood alone on their corners rather than shoulder to shoulder, as was typical of these buildings in cities.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the merchants who operated stores at the crossroads were building large houses near their shops. The third construction period started in 1900 and lasted until the Great Depression hit Summerfield around 1930. In 1900, the owners of the Brittain and Ogburn-Gordon Stores began building their houses on the opposite sides of the community, on the western and southern edges of the historic district. The first one to be lived in was Mr. and Mrs. Ogburn's plain but spacious I-House. [Resource No. 24] A widely popular house type in rural areas, the Ogburns' center-hall home with two rooms upstairs and two downstairs, all four with fireplaces on the outside walls included a rear ell with two more rooms and a side porch.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Brittain spent several years building their Queen Anne-style mansion on Oak Ridge Road. [Resource No. 1] The elaborate style was popular nationwide in the late nineteenth century, but only a few examples remain in Guilford County.

In 1907, another I-House was built, closer to the crossroads. R. V. Harris, a local merchant who lived in the Martin House, built a three-bay I-House for his sister and her husband, Dr. Hugh Willis. [Resource No. 15] The house was a convenient doctor's office for people who were coming to shop at the stores on the corners.

In 1908, another merchant, Fred F. Baynes and his first wife Lillie, moved into their Colonial Revival-style upright-and-wing-type house. [Resource No. 19] In 1911, John and Mamie Medearis built their one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne Cottage with its wide center hall and large ventilating dormers. [Resource No. 22] Also, in 1911, a frame commercial building was erected next to the Ogburn-Gordon Store. It was a parapet-fronted building with an innovative and practical feature inside – an eight-foot-square skylight that brightened the store's long interior. [Resource No. 11]

In 1919 R. V. Harris sold the Martin House to A. J. Ayers and built a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival house behind it. [Resource No. 16] The new residence had a wraparound porch and a porte-cochere, and elaborate woodwork and front and back staircases inside.

The bungalow house type, which was popular nationwide in the 1920s, was used for only two houses in the historic district. Cyrus Scarlette, who operated a car-repair business on the northeast corner of the crossroads, built his house in this style in 1928. [Resource No. 6.]

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The fourth construction period in Summerfield began as the Great Depression waned in the mid-1930s. Two new houses were built, both by sons of A. J. Ayers. A son named A. J. Ayers built a simple frame house next to his father's house in 1936. [Resource No. 8] In 1935, his brother and sister-in-law, Julia and Charles Marion Ayers, built a one-and-one-half-story brick period cottage on Summerfield Road. [Resource No. 18]

After the Second World War, a new business appeared. The Summerfield Drug Store was housed in a Cape Cod-type structure built of concrete blocks. [Resource No. 13] Concrete block construction was used in two other area residences, the Andrew and Mae Ayers House (which now has brick veneer) and the Ayers-Beeson House (which now has vinyl siding). Post-war houses include the Theeman and Nettie Williams House [Resource No. 7], the C. H. and Audrey Tucker House, the Martin-Voight now-altered bungalow, and the brick Minimal Traditional residence that Fred F. Baynes and his second wife Madge built in 1950 [Resource No. 5] north of the crossroads. They ran a store in the Brittain Building and had previously lived upstairs above the shop. Their son and daughter-in-law currently own the house.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Interview with Hugh Baynes, Feb. 15, 2003.

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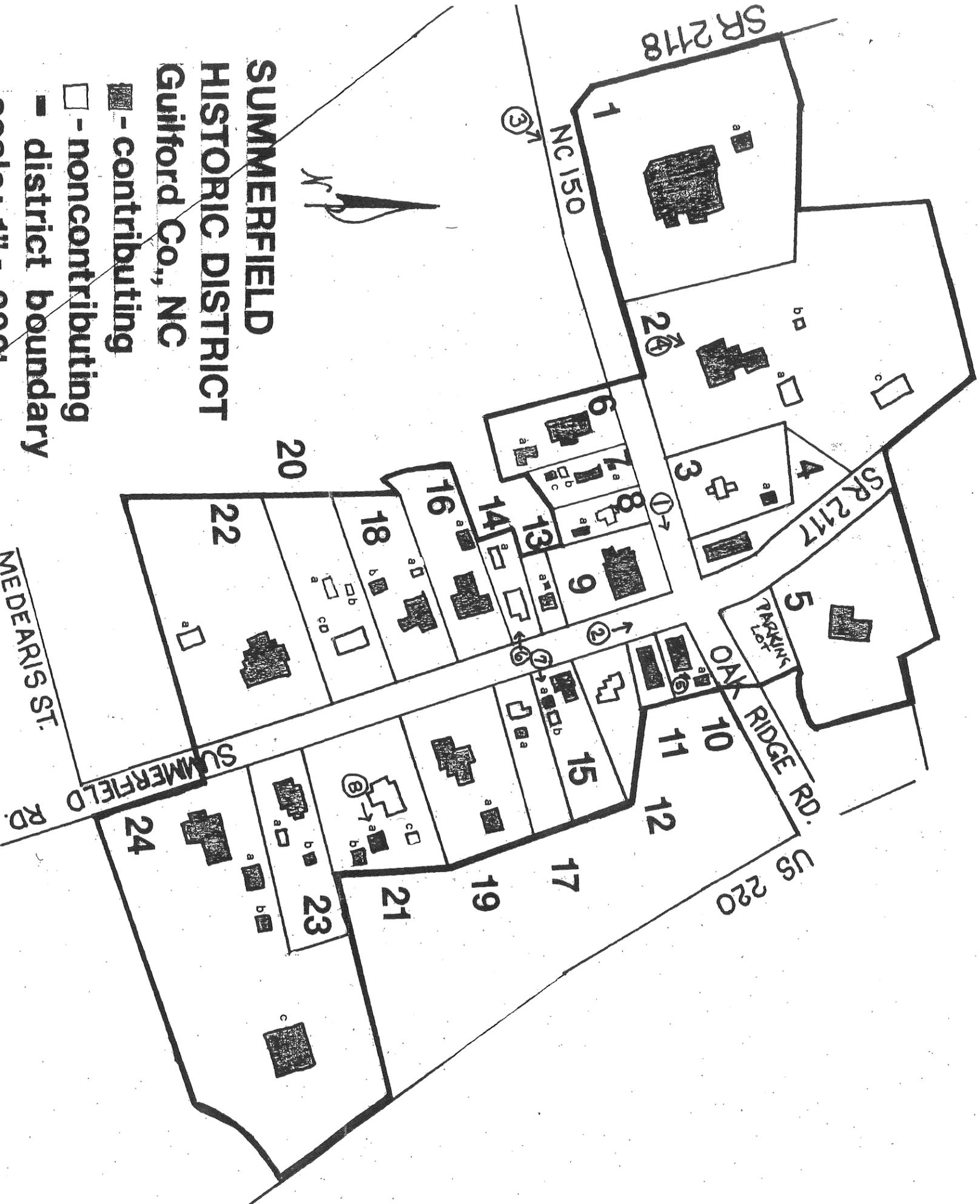
SECTION 10: VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Summerfield Historic District includes the commercial buildings and residences located on the north side of Oak Ridge Road between Brisbane Road and Summerfield Road (Block 917, Lots 26, 27, 28, and 01). It includes the four residences on the south side of Oak Ridge Road that are nearest to Summerfield Road (Block 917, Lots 30, 56, 29, and 04). It also includes six residences on the west side of Summerfield Road south of Oak Ridge Road (Block 917, Lot 23 and Block 906, Lots 22, 21, 20, 59, and 19), and seven residences and two commercial buildings on the east side of Summerfield Road south of Oak Ridge Road (Block 906, Lots 25, 24, 29, 05, 40, 39, 31, 56, and 38). On the east side of Summerfield Road north of Oak Ridge Road, the district also includes a parking lot and one residence (Block 906, Lot 26 and Block 916, Lot 14).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Summerfield Historic District extends from the commercial buildings at the intersection of Oak Ridge Road and Summerfield Road to include the historic residences of the merchants and doctors who operated businesses at the crossroads and in the Summerfield area. New construction and open land are adjacent to the historic district's boundaries.





**SUMMERFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT**
Guilford Co., NC

- - contributing
- - noncontributing
- district boundary

scale: 1" = 200'

ⓐ → PHOTO # AND DIRECTION

RAILROAD R/W

MEDEARIS ST.

SUMMERFIELD RD.

US 220

OAK RIDGE RD.

SR 2177

SR 2118

NC 150

PARKING