

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Halifax
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:

1. NAME

COMMON: Eagle Tavern
AND/OR HISTORIC: Eagle Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Halifax	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
Hon L. H. Fountain	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
COUNTY:	CODE: 012

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	TYPE OF OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ray Wilkinson, President, Halifax Restoration Association	STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER: WRAL-TV, Western Boulevard	
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh, North Carolina	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Halifax County Courthouse	COUNTY: Halifax
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Halifax	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:	

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Halifax
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

CONDITION

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eagle Tavern is a tripartite pedimented two-story frame structure covered with beaded siding. The two-story pedimented section contains a central entrance with sidelights and transom at the first level and a gallery door at the second. To each side is a wing two bays wide; originally one-story, they were most likely raised to two stories shortly after the structure was moved to the present site in the 1840s. The ends of the wings are windowless as is the rear facade of the main block, and each elevation has an exterior end chimney. Symmetrically molded cornerboards adorned with applied rosettes at the top occur on the ends of the wings but not on the main block. The low pitched gable roof has boxed eaves with a molded cornice.

The interior of the T-shaped structure features a front cross hall with a room to the rear and one to either side. A closed string stair rises along the north wall of the hall to the east partition wall where it turns and becomes enclosed. The trim of the interior varies as a result of alterations. Molded architraves and chair rails occur in all major rooms except the second-floor wing rooms, where there are plain door and window casings with cornerblocks and flat panels beneath the windows. Each room has a fireplace with a mantel. In three of the rooms the mantels have paneled friezes and molded shelves. In addition there is one heavily reeded three-part mantel with applied rosettes. Apparently later are the two plain Greek Revival mantels. Additions containing service rooms have been made to the rear of the structure, seemingly dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Colonial 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 13th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Eagle Tavern is a significant part of the history of Halifax, a town where taverns and other entertainment were combined with lively and important political activity. Local tradition records that it was here that the Marquis de Lafayette stayed during his 1825 visit to Halifax. The tripartite form of the structure relates it to others of that house-type in the area, and the unusual vernacular architectural detail is of particular interest.

From its beginnings, the town of Halifax was characterized by a social life that was, as described in 1778, "among the most polished and cultivated in the state." The town was "the mecca of the neighboring counties in Virginia and North Carolina for the more masculine frivolities--horse races and cockfights," as well as being one of the chief political centers of the state. Contributing to the character of Halifax was the presence of many taverns: "even before 1772 Halifax could boast of tavern facilities far above the average in the colony." As with the eighteenth century coffee-houses of London, these popular taverns not only provided "a good supply of the best liquors;" they also served as the meeting place and probably discussion hall for the many political leaders of the state who lived or visited in Halifax.

One of the most popular of the taverns was that later named the Eagle Tavern or Eagle Hotel. Because of the rapid turnover in ownership and the many remodelings a tavern naturally underwent, the date of construction of the present building is uncertain at this time. A T-shaped structure was recorded on the lot where it stood in C. J. Sauthier's 1769 map. William Martin is believed to have converted the dwelling into a tavern between 1770 and 1774, when a British visitor described Martin's Tavern as the best in town. Among the most significant events believed to have taken place in the Eagle Hotel (a name acquired in 1829) was the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette, who was royally entertained there and spent the night of February 27, 1825.

Michael Ferrall, an Irish businessman, purchased the hotel lots in 1838 and in 1845 moved all or part of the structure on the property to another lot several blocks southwest, its present location. Miss Nannie Gary, great-granddaughter of Ferrall, later purchased the house. In accordance with wishes expressed in her will, the house has been donated to the Halifax Restoration Association.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Halifax County Records, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Halifax County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Robinson, Blackwell P. William R. Davie. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957.
 Research by Jerry Cross, staff research specialist; architectural description by Bruce MacDougal, chief, restoration and research.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		36 19 34	77 35 19	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: March 29, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title State Historian/Administrator

Date March 29, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

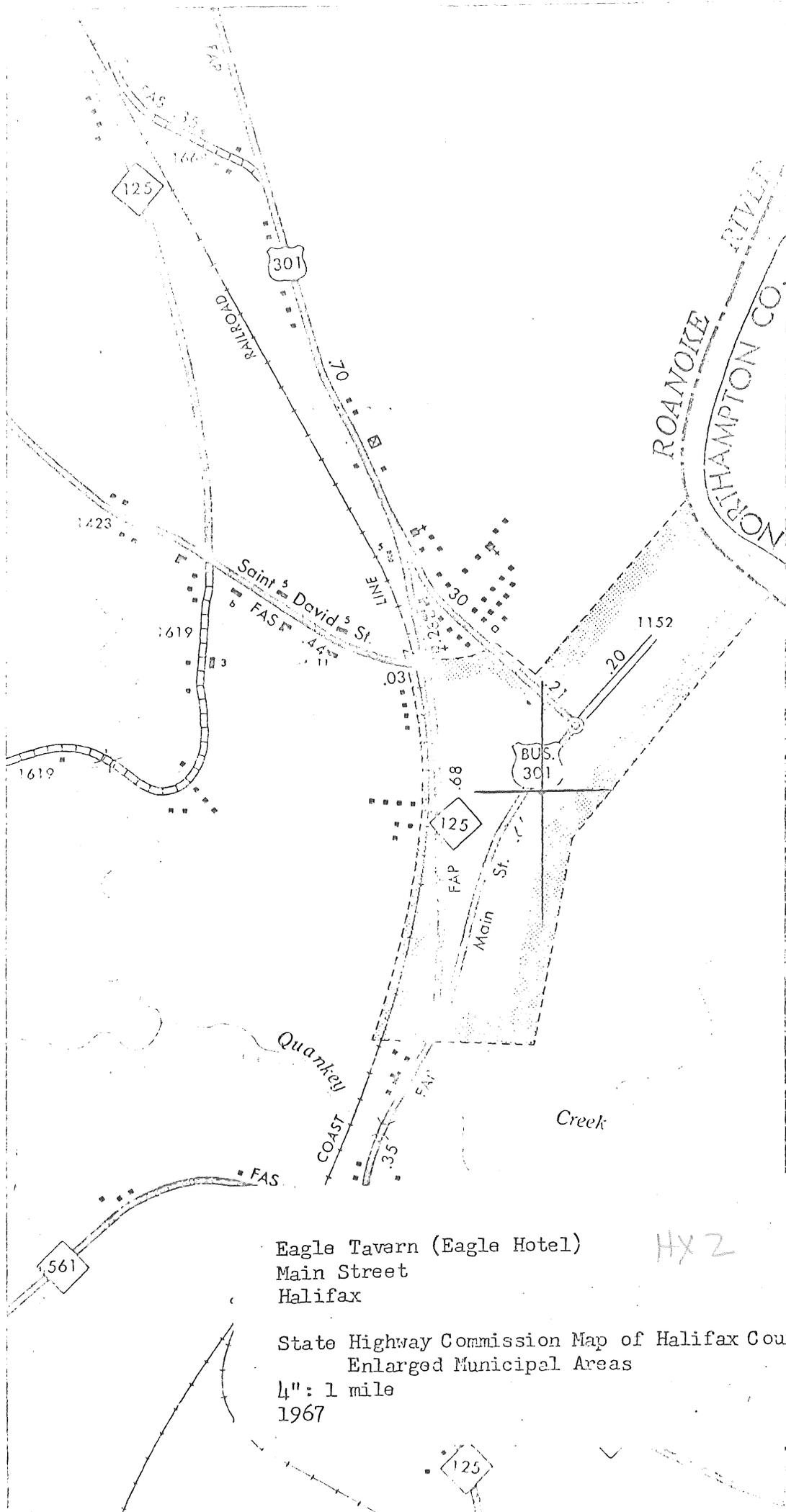
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

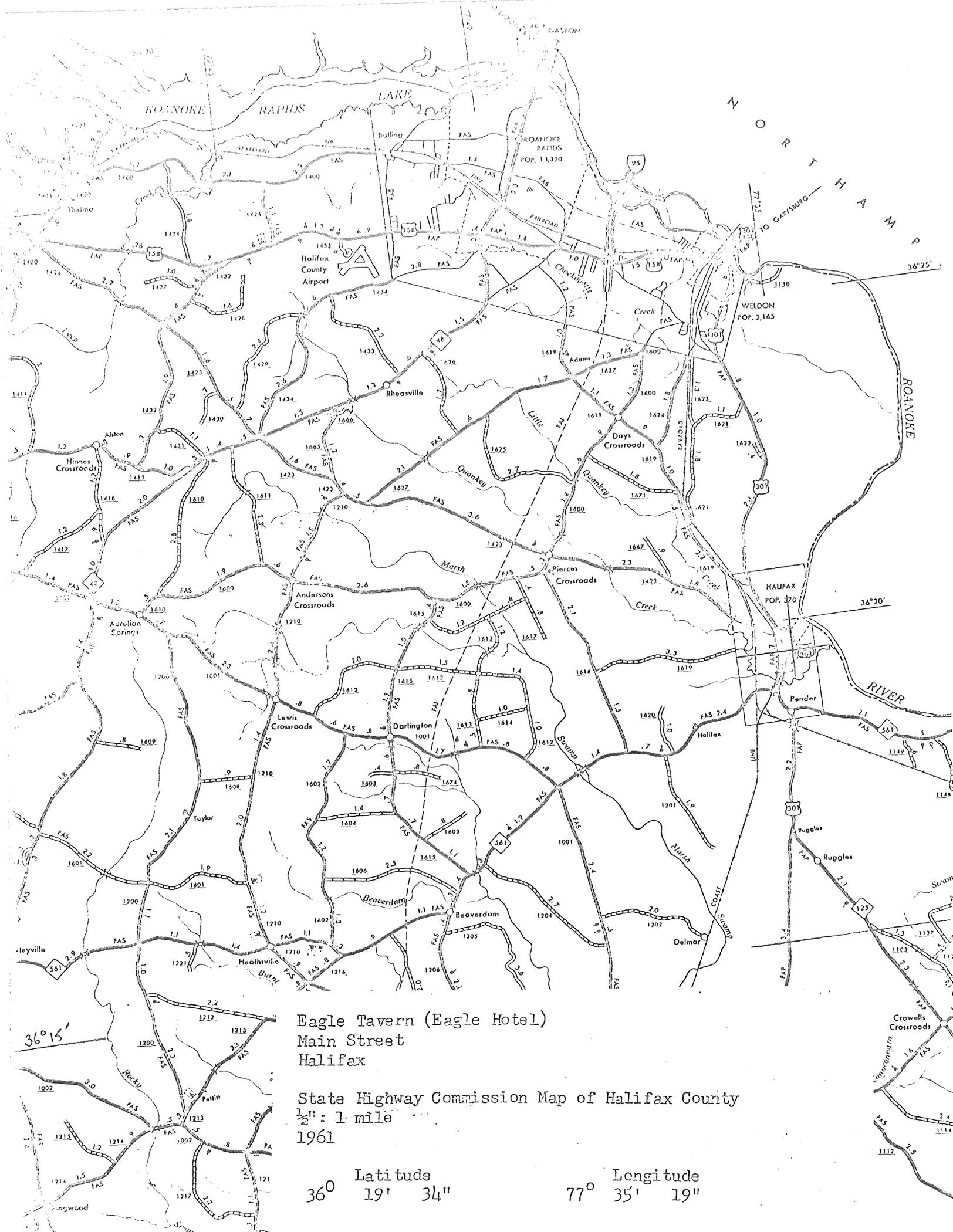


Eagle Tavern (Eagle Hotel)
 Main Street
 Halifax

HX 2

State Highway Commission Map of Halifax County:
 Enlarged Municipal Areas
 1/4" = 1 mile
 1967

125



Eagle Tavern (Eagle Hotel)
 Main Street
 Halifax

State Highway Commission Map of Halifax County
 1/2" = 1 mile
 1961

Latitude
 36° 19' 34"

Longitude
 77° 35' 19"

36° 15'

36° 20'

36° 25'

36° 20'

36° 15'

36° 10'

36° 5'

36° 0'

35° 55'

N
 O
 R
 T
 H
 A
 M
 P

77° 35' TO GAYTSBURG

ROANOKE

RIVER

Swamp

Marsh

Swamp

Swamp

Swamp

Swamp

Swamp

Swamp

Swamp

ROANOKE

RAPIDS

LAKE

ROANOKE RAPIDS
 POP. 11,320

WELDON
 POP. 2,165

HALIFAX
 POP. 376

Pender

Halifax County
 Airport

Adam

Days
 Crossroads

Piorcos
 Crossroads

Andersons
 Crossroads

Lewis
 Crossroads

Darlington
 1001

Halifax

Delmar

Ruggles

Ruggles

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Crowalls
 Crossroads

Thalme

Alston

Hinnos
 Crossroads

Aurelian
 Springs

Alston

Aurelian
 Springs

Alston



E 68
EAGLE TAVERN
Early political & social
center. Built before 1772.
4 blocks N. Washington
(1791) & Lafayette (1825)
were guests. Building
moved here about 1845.