

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Lee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Railroad House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Carthage Street at Hawkins Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Sanford

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Lee	CODE 105
-------------------------	------------	----------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The Railroad House Historical Association

STREET AND NUMBER:
Carthage Street at Hawkins Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Sanford	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
--------------------------	--------------------------	------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Lee County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Sanford	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
--------------------------	--------------------------	------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
---------------	--------	-------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Lee

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Railroad House, set in a grassy plot flanked by railroads in the midst of downtown Sanford, is a picturesque Gothic-style cottage of the type made popular in the mid-nineteenth century by the style books of A. J. Downing and others. The board-and-batten building consists of a one-and-one-half-story main block with a gable roof running parallel to the street, and, to the rear, a one-story wing perpendicular to the main block. A single central interior chimney rises in the main block. It has a recessed lancet panel on each face and a crenellated cap. An exterior end chimney with similar cap but no panels occurs at the rear of the wing.

The main (north) facade is three bays wide. The central entrance porch is covered with a gable roof supported by chamfered pillars with elongated oval panels and molded caps. The wide overhang of the eaves is emphasized by what Downing called "rafter-brackets" (the extended rafters typical of the cottage style). The cornice is accented by vertical chamfered pendants with rounded ends, one of which occurs in front of each rafter-bracket. (This cornice treatment is carried around the whole of the main block and wing as well.) The gable of the porch is finished with board-and-batten. The apex of the gable is ornamented by a chamfered triangular brace bisected by a dominant vertical member with an elongated oval panel. This member rises above the gable to form a pinnacle flanked by an additional pair of triangular braces.

Beneath the porch is a simple double door, each leaf of which is quite narrow and has two vertical panels outlined with molding. The entrance is set in a plain frame. Similar frames surround the rather tall, narrow front windows, which contain four-over-four sash. At the second level there are two wall dormers containing the same sash. The gable roof of each is ornamented by the same cornice and bracketed pinnacle that occurs on the porch.

The sides of the house are marked at each level by a central double window, both of which contain four-over-four sash. These windows have molded frames. The apex of each side gable repeats the bracketed pinnacle. The rear of the main block has on each side a single window at the first level only, containing six-over-six sash. The rear wing covers the central part of the rear facade. The wing was extended ten feet to the rear during the recent moving and renovation of the building. On the east side are two windows and on the west, two windows flanked by doors in the outer bays.

The interior of the Railroad House is finished in simple fashion, with rather wide beaded baseboards and plaster walls. Each door has four flat panels with one side plain and the other accented by molding outlining each panel. The original floors are intact throughout most of the house. The mantels are all in place and are of typical mid-nineteenth century design, with a square opening flanked by pilasters that support a plain frieze whose lower edge forms an ogee-arch. Above is a simple shelf with rounded corners.

The main block of the Railroad House has three rooms. There is a small entrance hall in the northeast corner. A door to the west provides

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Lee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

access to the large room that occupies the western half of the main block and another door at the rear of the hall leads to another room occupying the remainder of the eastern half of the main block. Both rooms lead into the rear wing, which is a single room with a replacement brick floor. These first-floor rooms serve as offices but have had very few changes. The plain, rather compact stair that rises on the east wall of the hall in two flights to the second floor has square posts and balusters and a heavy molded handrail. The second floor has a transverse front hall that extends across the width of the house, with a small space partitioned off at the west end for a bathroom. There are two rooms to the rear, now used for displays by the Railroad House Historical Association, including memorabilia of the history of Sanford and of railroading in the area.

To the rear of the Railroad House is a steam engine on a short stretch of track and south of it, the circa 1900 Sanford Railroad Depot, a bracketed brick structure typical of its period.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1872 the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad extended their line from Raleigh to Sanford, where it intersected the Western Railroad. At that time Sanford was no more than a small village, but the company established a depot there. It is said that since no suitable quarters were available for the depot agent, W. T. Tucker, the company found it necessary to build a house for him. In October, 1872, the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad purchased the property for the building which was constructed soon thereafter.

The railroad brought growth to Sanford, which has been described as a town "born of, and because of, the coming of the Railroad." In 1874 when the town of Sanford was chartered, Tucker was appointed its first mayor. He later served as paymaster for Seaboard Air Line Railroad (the successor of Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad). Tucker's wife, Inder Virginia Squire, operated a school for young ladies in the house at one time.

In 1916 the railroad sold city lots number 12, 13 and 14, along with the Railroad House, to Gus Womble of Sanford. Womble's widow, Mary Alice Womble, deeded the property to her daughter, Ellen W. Knipple in 1958, her will being proved in 1962. Mrs. Knipple and her husband, Edward L., leased the property to Humble Oil and Refining Company in 1962. The house, which was to be torn down to make way for a service station, was donated to the Railroad House Historical Association (organized by local citizens interested in saving the structure). The association moved the house in October, 1962, to its present location just across the street from the original site and made necessary repairs and expansion.

The land, which is bounded by railroad tracks on each side and owned by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad, was leased to the city of Sanford at no cost. The city in turn sublet the land to the Railroad House Association at no charge for the establishment of a historical museum. The association provides the use of the first floor to the Sanford Chamber of Commerce, again at no cost. The chamber of commerce pays for utilities, and the Railroad House Historical Association takes care of major repairs and maintenance.

The Railroad House, a picturesque Victorian structure, has considerable local historical significance as the oldest structure built in Sanford to serve the railroad that was long the town's chief raison d'etre. Its preservation as a local landmark has been accomplished through unusually ingenious cooperation among the historical association, town government, chamber of commerce, and the railroad company.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lee County Records, Lee County Courthouse, Sanford, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Lee County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Moore County Records, Moore County Courthouse, Carthage, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Moore County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 "The Railroad House," Finer Carolina News, pamphlet published by Carolina Power and Light Company, January, 1967.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35	28	50
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79	10	39
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 2 May 1972

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 Director, State Department of Archives and History
 Date 2 May 1972

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

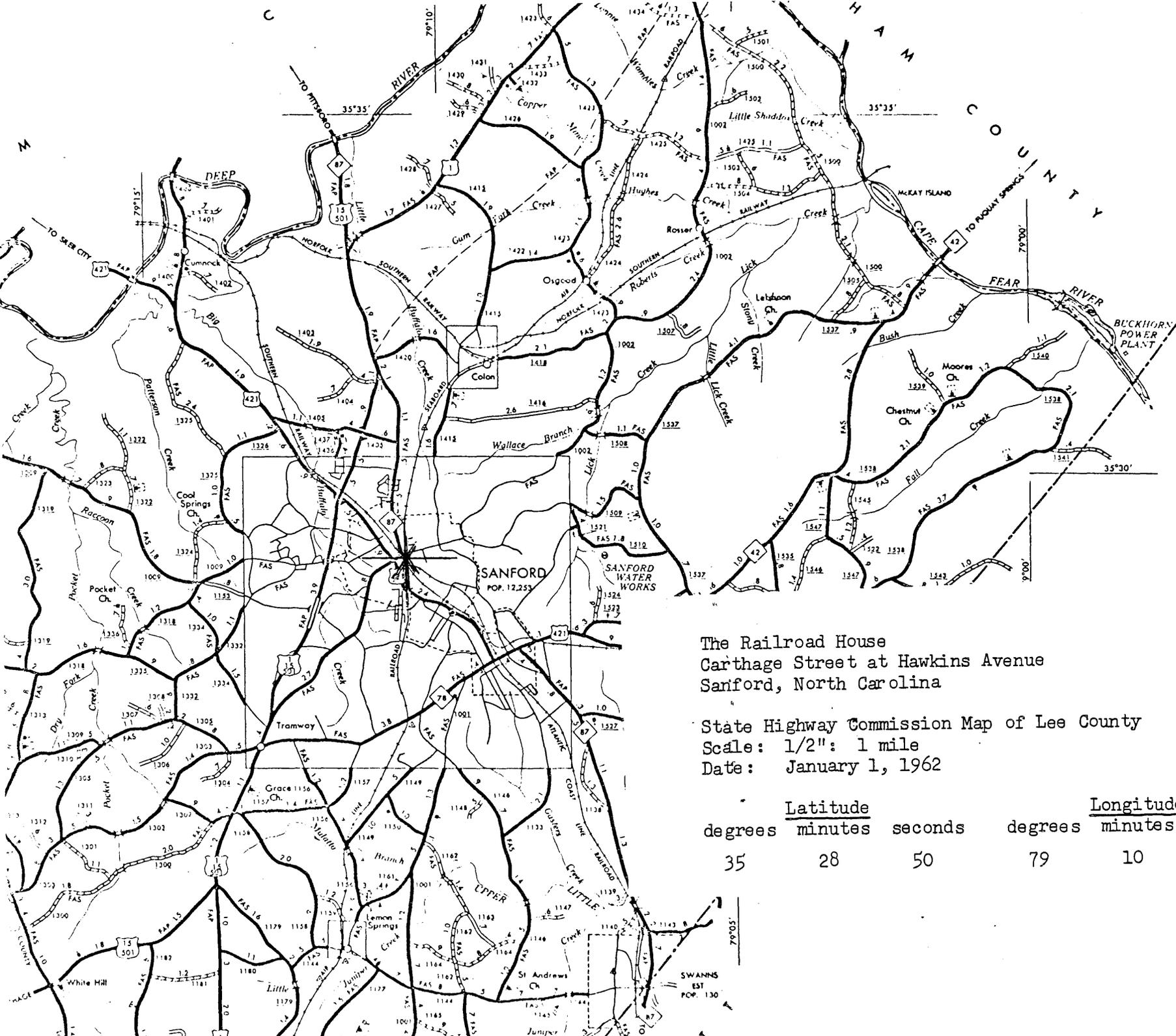
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

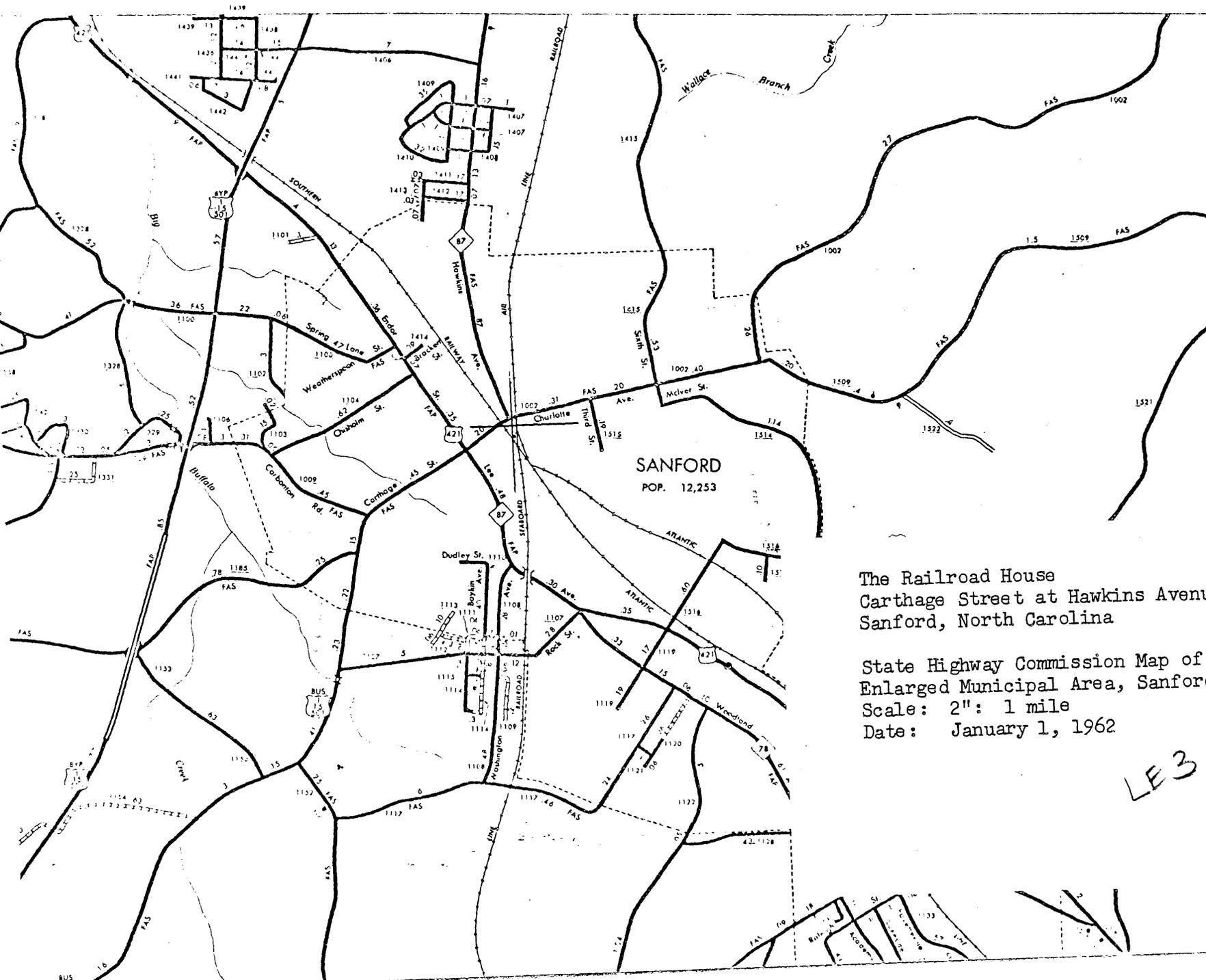


The Railroad House
 Carthage Street at Hawkins Avenue
 Sanford, North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map of Lee County
 Scale: 1/2" : 1 mile
 Date: January 1, 1962

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	28	50	79	10	39





SANFORD
POP. 12,253

The Railroad House
Carthage Street at Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map of Lee County:
Enlarged Municipal Area, Sanford
Scale: 2" : 1 mile
Date: January 1, 1962

LE3



