

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name (former) Baptist Parsonage
other names/site number Archbell House

2. Location

street & number 211 South McLewean Street N/A not for publication
city, town Kinston N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Lenoir code 107 zip code 28501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic & Architectural Resources
of Kinston, N. C.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Fin 9-12-89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION: offices

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal: tin

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The (former) Baptist Parsonage (locally known as the Archbell House) stands close to the street on the west side of McLewean Street in an area of Kinston, North Carolina, which is located just east of Queen Street, the city's main commercial thoroughfare. At the time of the house's construction, this area was Kinston's most fashionable residential section. Commerce has spread eastward from Queen Street, and the Greek Revival frame house, which is shaded in the front by a large deciduous tree, now faces the buildings and parking lots of Kinston's municipal government. North of the house are the gardens of Harmony Hall (listed in the National Register in 1971 under its common name, Peebles House).

Probably built in the late 1850s, the (former) Baptist Parsonage is a two-story, double-pile, center-hall-plan frame dwelling topped by a standing seam tin hipped roof and sheathed with weatherboard siding. The simply-finished Greek Revival house rests on brick piers with brick infill and has paired stuccoed interior chimneys flanking the roof ridge. Exterior finish includes post-and-lintel surrounds, plain cornerboards with simple capitals, and a boxed cornice above a wide board frieze.

Centered on the symmetrical, three-bay facade is a one-story porch with classical columns bracketing the raised four-panel front door. Sanborn maps indicate that this porch approximates the size of the original porch. The latter was replaced between 1901 and 1908 by Henry and Lillie Archbell with a nearly full-facade porch. The columns on the present porch were modeled on the half columns which survived at each end of the early 20th century porch, whose columns were replaced in the 1920s or 1930s with tapered posts on brick piers.

During the 1940s, when the house was converted to three rental units, two doorways were added on either side of the central entrance; these were removed when the porch was replaced. Also recently removed were a one-story rear kitchen and several early and mid 20th century rear additions, which were in deteriorated condition and were not suited to the plans of the Lenoir County Historical Association to use the

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building eventually as a museum. The rear elevation now has a central entrance on the first floor and three windows on the second. The rear section of the first floor, south elevation has a tripartite window arrangement with small, nearly square windows flanking a standard window. This treatment likely dates from the early 20th century. All standard-size windows have new six-over-six sash, which replace the two-over-two sash installed in the late 19th or early 20th century. They also have new panelled wooden blinds.

The interior of the house is as simply finished as is the exterior. Walls are plastered, although some plaster has been taken down and replaced with sheetrock. The original Greek Revival post-and-lintel mantels survive throughout the house; that in the southeast room has an arched opening and a narrow molding around an arched panel on the frieze. All original and restored openings have simple post-and-lintel surrounds except for one on the second floor which has a molded surround with a bulls' eye corner block; this surround appears to date from the late 19th century. There are modern replacement raised four-panel doors throughout the house. The original slender square-section stair balusters and chamfered newel post with molded cap survive in the second-floor hall. On the first floor, a Victorian low paneled apron with turned newel and balusters at the foot of the stairs has been removed, as have the balusters on the open string staircase. At present, the balusters have not been replaced. An unusual late 19th/early 20th century narrow screen frieze of bowed sticks which spanned the front hall has also been eliminated.

The Lenoir County Historical Association has undertaken the restoration/rehabilitation of the (former) Baptist Parsonage. Work on the first floor has been completed, and it is now used as offices by the Lenoir County Board of Education. The rehabilitation necessitated the removal of a doorway and partition between the front and rear rooms on the south side of the first floor, the reduction to original size of an enlarged opening from the hall to the northeast second floor room, and the installation of a bathroom in the southeast corner of the northwest first floor room. Work on the second floor is incomplete.

9. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1858

Significant Dates
ca. 1858

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

The house erected in the late 1850s as the parsonage for the Kinston Baptist Church is significant in the history of the town as one of a small number of relatively intact antebellum Greek Revival-style buildings surviving in the city. It was constructed during the city's pre-Civil War boom era, when its population nearly tripled, growing from 455 in 1850 to 1,333 in 1860. During this decade, many new mercantile establishments were opened, the town's first industries went into operation, several churches were organized, and many buildings were erected. Few buildings dating from this period are known to survive in Kinston, and this house is one of that small number. It is also a substantially intact though relatively plain example of a popular architectural mode of the period, the Greek Revival style, retaining its basic form, materials, and many details. The house was later associated with prominent merchant Henry Archbell and his wife Lillie V. W. Archbell, who in the early 20th century published Carolina and the Southern Cross. This was the official magazine of the United Daughters of the Confederacy which gained statewide recognition for its articles about North Carolina life during the Civil War. The associated historic context for the house is Kinston's Pre-Civil War Boom, 1850-1860; it is a member of the property type Antebellum Buildings.

Historical Background

Although a precise construction date for the (former) Baptist Parsonage has not been determined, it seems likely that the house was built shortly after the construction of the Kinston Baptist Church, which was dedicated in January 1858 ["Dedication"]. The church originally stood on the northwest corner of Bright and McLewean streets, and the parsonage was built at the rear (north end) of the church lot. The two-story frame residence, whose first floor has been converted to offices for the local school system, is a relatively simple example of

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mid-19th century Greek Revival residential construction.

Dr. J. D. Hufham, the first pastor of the Kinston Baptist Church, was probably the initial occupant of the house [Johnson and Holloman, p. 152]. The dwelling continued in use as the Baptist parsonage until December 1890 when grocer J. F. Stroud purchased the house from the church trustees for one thousand dollars [deed book 20, p. 311]. This sale occurred shortly before the church building was moved to a new location on the corner of Gordon and McLewean streets three blocks north of the original site [Johnson and Holloman, p. 152]. (The first church lot subsequently was subdivided and redeveloped). The Strouds sold the former parsonage to Lillie Archbell in June 1895 for fifty dollars more than their purchase price [deed book 18, p. 538].

Lillie Vause Whitehurst (later Archbell) had come to Kinston as a child of eight when her family fled the Union occupation of New Bern in 1862; they took refuge in the Kinston home of her aunt, Harriet Peebles [Heritage, p. 31]. Mrs. Peebles lived in the house now known as Harmony Hall (National Register, 1971) which is adjacent to the (former) Baptist Parsonage. Lillie Whitehurst was educated in Raleigh and returned to Kinston to teach in the free school. She married Henry Archbell in 1884, but continued to teach, operating a private school in their home. She was also active in the Kinston Baptist Church where she organized both the choir and the Sunbeams, a children's group ["Representative Houses," p. 103; and Heritage, p. 31].

Henry Archbell was a native of Beaufort County who moved to Lenoir County in 1875, first operating as a retail grocer. Five years later, in 1880, he opened a candy factory on a small scale. By 1885, he was said to occupy ". . . the largest premises on the main street" (Queen Street), selling candy, baked goods, tobacco products, ice cream, meals and sodas ["Representative Houses," p. 103]. In later years he was district representative for the National Biscuit Company ["Funeral Service"].

Lillie Archbell retained vivid childhood memories of the Civil War, and she felt compelled to compile her reminiscences with those of others so they would not be lost but would supplement other written accounts of the war. Dedicating it to ". . . our busy people who always have time to make history but never have time for research . . .," Mrs. Archbell became the editor, publisher, printer and solicitor of subscriptions for the seventeen issues of Carolina and the Southern Cross which were published between November 1912 and August 1914 [Heritage, p. 29]. In the first issue, she stated her desire to sprinkle personal experiences,

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reminiscences, and anecdotes with truthful accounts of all battles, home life in the state, and biographies of state war leaders. It was the official magazine of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, of which Mrs. Archbell was a member, and, although not intended as a scholarly work, it gained recognition across the state for its record of life in North Carolina during the Civil War [Heritage, p. 31].

During their occupancy of the former Baptist Parsonage, the Archbells made a number of alterations to the house. Among these changes was the replacement of the original entrance-bay porch with one which was nearly full-facade; it seems likely that the supports for this new porch were classical columns. The house originally had a detached rear kitchen which was linked to the house by a narrow porch; the Archbells joined the kitchen to the house and made other small additions to the rear [Sanborn maps]. They may also have been responsible for replacing the original windows with two-over-two sash and for a few interior alterations, as well. Since the recent rehabilitation of the house, little survives as evidence of the alterations made by the Archbells and later owners.

The Archbells moved from Kinston to West Virginia in the early 1920s to live with their daughter, Mrs. Fred Dyer [Heritage, p. 31; and "Funeral Service"]. It is unclear who occupied the house after this move. Henry Archbell died at his daughter's home in August 1927, and his body was returned to Kinston for a funeral service at First Baptist Church and burial at Maplewood Cemetery. His pallbearers included many of Kinston's most prominent businessmen, among them J. A. McDaniel, J. M. Quinn, C. Oettinger and W. D. LaRoque ["Funeral Service"]. Mrs. Archbell survived her husband by nearly twenty years, dying in Bristol, Virginia, at the age of 92. She also was interred at Maplewood Cemetery after services at First Baptist Church ["Mrs. Lillie Archbell"].

About six months after her husband's death, Mrs. Archbell executed a deed of trust on the property to Wayne National Bank of Goldsboro; at a foreclosure sale in 1933, the house was purchased by Marion Oettinger [deed book 99, p. 199; and deed book 118, p. 314]. At some point during the 1920s or 1930s, the classical porch columns added by the Archbells were replaced with the tapered posts on brick piers typical of the period. Frank Noble acquired the house in 1939; during his ownership, Noble converted the house to three units, adding two doors to the first floor facade and more wings on the rear. The Lenoir County Historical Association acquired the house in 1979 and has undertaken efforts to return the house to its presumed original appearance. This group removed the kitchen and other, later, rear wings, which were in

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deteriorated condition. They also replaced the early 20th century porch with an entrance-bay portico supported by classical columns, put six-over-six sash in most windows and restored the interior's first floor, which is now used as offices by the Lenoir County Board of Education. Work on the second floor is incomplete [Stroud interview].

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Dedication of the Baptist Church." Kinston, N. C. American Advocate, 28 January 1858, p. 2.
- "Funeral Service for Mr. Archbell This Afternoon, 5." Kinston Daily Free Press, 11 August 1927, p. 1.
- "Mrs. Lillie Archabell [sic] Dies at Bristol, Va.; Rites Wednesday." Kinston Daily Free Press, 19 November 1946, p. 1.
- "Representative Houses and Prominent Men of Kinston, N. C." Historical and Descriptive Review of the State of North Carolina. Charleston, S. C.: Empire Publishing Company, 1885.
- Stroud, Reginald. Lenoir County Historical Association and Lenoir County Board of Education, Kinston, North Carolina. Allison Black interview, 14 March 1989.
- For general works, see Major Bibliographical References for Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, N. C.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

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Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .193

UTM References

A 18 265280 3904480
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is lot 10 on Lenoir County Tax Map 54, in the city of Kinston, North Carolina.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

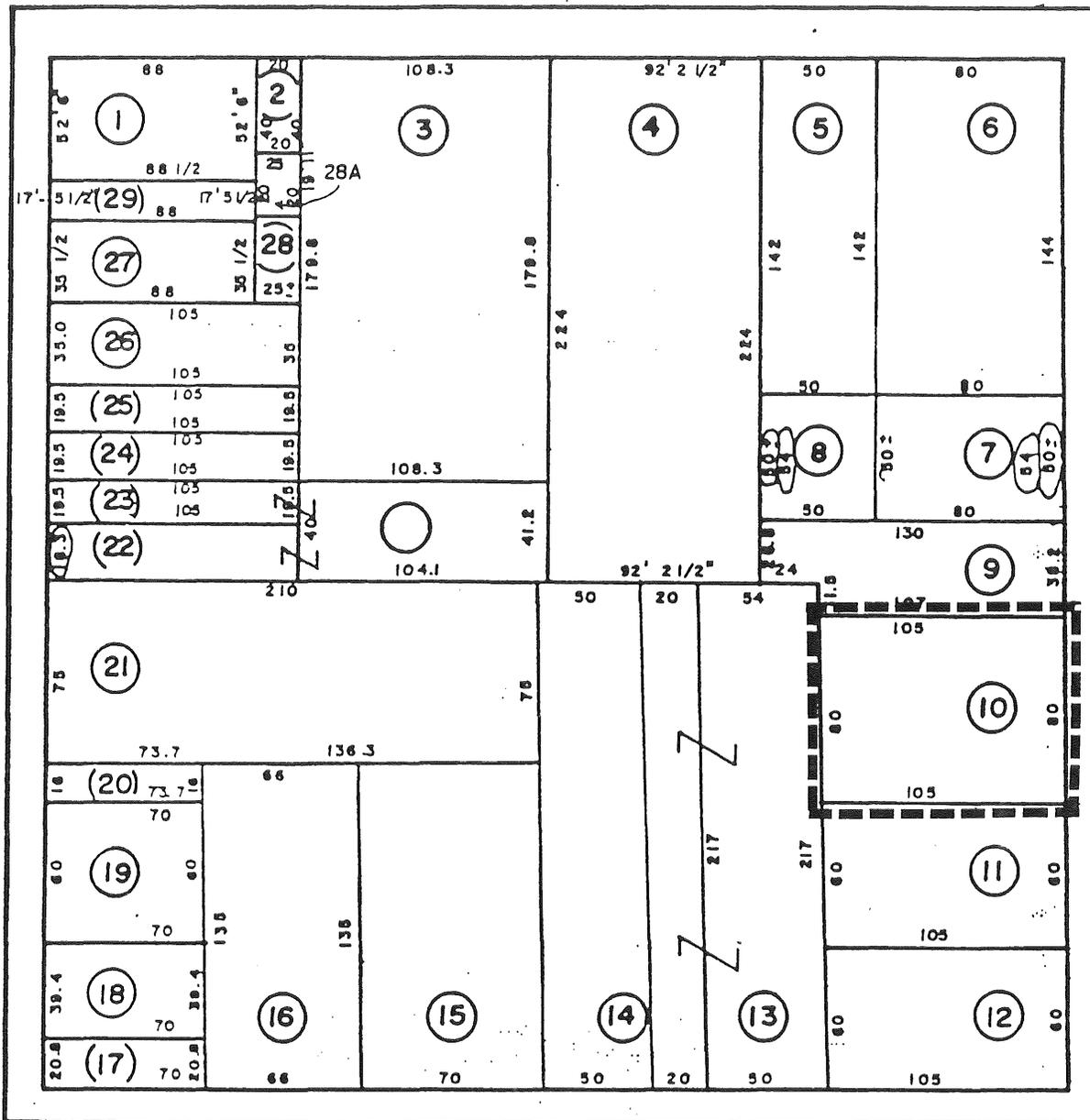
The building was erected on the rear portion of the lot associated with the Kinston Baptist Church, which was later moved; the church portion of the lot was redeveloped. The lot on which the building stands was sold by the church in 1890, but is the parcel historically associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allison H. Black, Architectural Historian
 organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants date June 1, 1989
 street & number 620 Wills Forest St. telephone 919 828-4616
 city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

E. KING ST.



S. QUEEN ST.

S. MCLEWEAN ST.

E. BRIGHT ST.

(former) Baptist Parsonage

211 S. McLevean St.

Kinston, N. C.

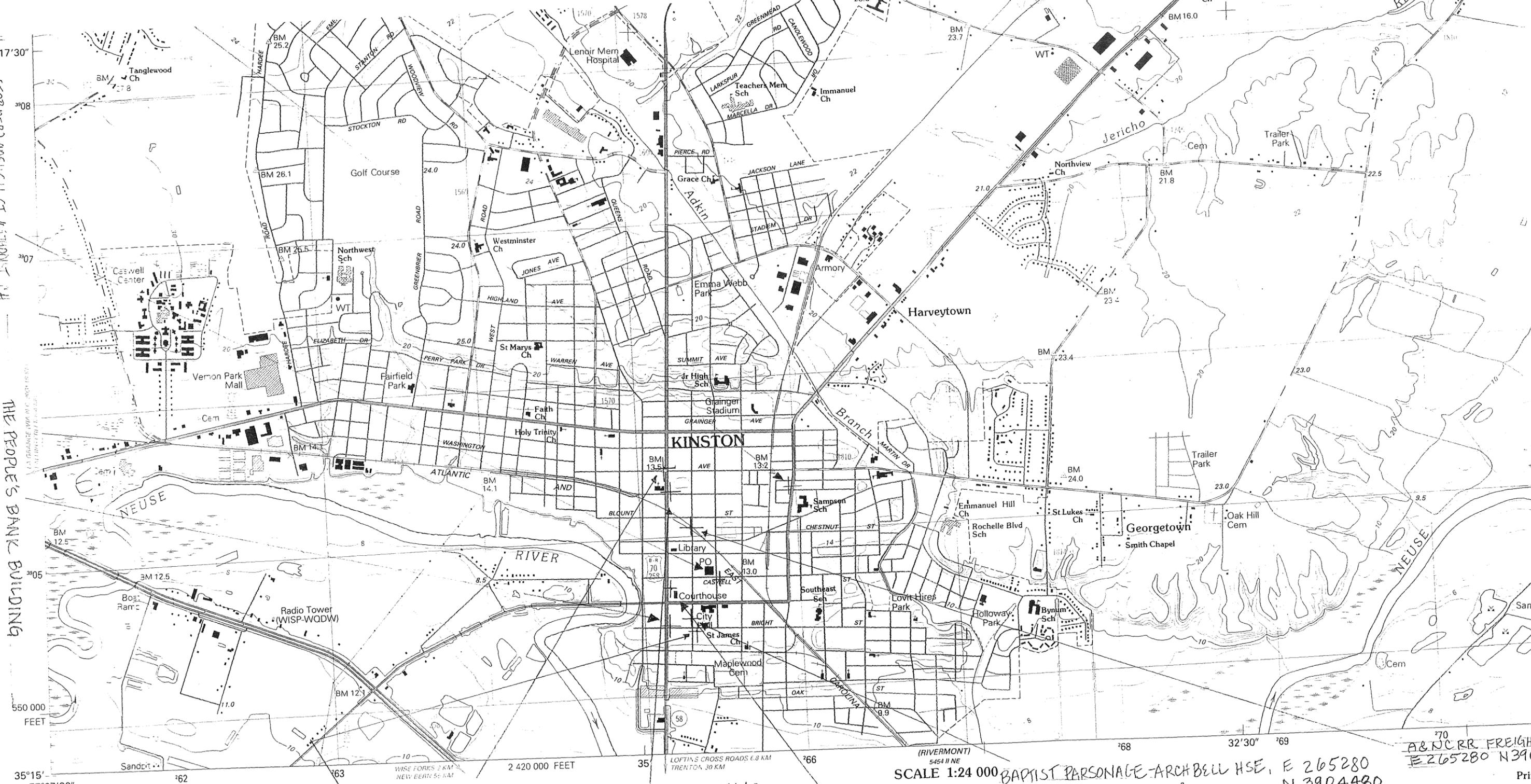
Lenoir County Tax Map 5, lot #10.



(FORMER) CASWELL ST METHODIST CH.
E 265470 N 3904720

THE PEOPLE'S BANK BUILDING
E 265150 N 3904430

DEEP RUN
5454 II NW



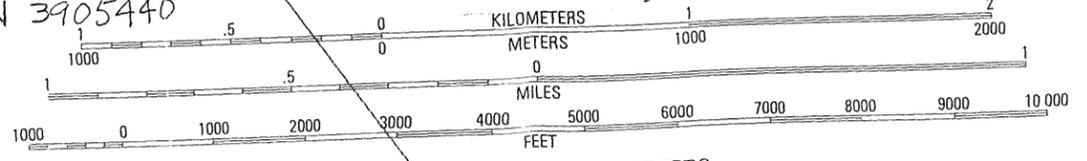
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and North Carolina Geodetic Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1983
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate system (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 12 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

B.W. CANADY HSE. E 265160 N 3905440

HOTEL KINSTON E 265190 N 3905290

BLALOCK HOUSE
E 265310 N 3904400

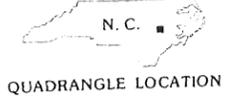
UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
7 1/2' 133 MILS 1°29' 26 MILS



CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

(FORMER) KINSTON FIRE STATION/CITY HALL
E 265160 N 3904670



QUADRANGLE LOCATION
CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS

A&NC RR FREIGHT
E 265280 N 3905280

BAPTIST PARSONAGE-ARCH BELL HSE. E 265280 N 3904480

Primary hard s
Secondary hard s

