

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 Kinston Baptist/White Rock Presbyterian Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 516 Thompson Street N/A not for publication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	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</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.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

9-12-89
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)
RELIGION: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION: religious structure

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.

Standing on the northwest corner of Thompson and Tiffany* streets in northeast Kinston, North Carolina, the handsome building erected in 1857-58 for the Kinston Baptist Church and since 1901 the home of White Rock Presbyterian Church is a substantially intact frame temple-form Greek Revival house of worship. The church stands on its third site in the center of a traditionally black, turn-of-the-century residential neighborhood facing the narrow tree-lined Thompson Street with a shallow setback. Carefully pruned shrubbery lines the foundation of the east elevation. The church tract is a 40-by-100 foot lot. Between the building and busy Tiffany Street on the east is a narrow open space created by the changes to Dennis and Tiffany streets; in this area is a brick sign announcing the church name. To the west on a separate parcel of land is a traditional two-story frame dwelling which serves as the Sunday School and Fellowship Hall.

The church plan and exterior details are a strong reflection of the Greek Revival style so popular in the mid 19th century. The rectangular weatherboarded building has simple, classical proportions. Its facade features a bold distyle in antis portico with enclosed end bays. Between the end bays is a pair of large fluted square-section columns with molded capitals. Two-sided unfluted pilasters at the building's corners exhibit the same capitals.

The three-bay deep building rests on brick piers with infill and is topped by a standing-seam-tin, pedimented front gable roof. A wide frieze board with molded central banding encircles the church, which is marked on the side elevations by round-arched windows in mitered surrounds with molded backbands. Documentary photographs indicate that the windows originally were full length; the lower sections have been weatherboarded. The original windows were destroyed during a 1956 fire.

*This was originally the corner of Thompson and Dennis streets; since 1961, Tiffany Street has been extended to encompass Dennis Street and rerouted to connect with the Greenville Highway (N. C. 11). City and county tax maps do not reflect this change.

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Replacement windows have half-round transoms above double-hung sash with large central panes surrounded by small panes.

A semi-hexagonal, hip-roofed chancel bay extends from the north (rear) elevation. On its side elevations are windows whose surrounds are identical to those on the main side elevations, suggesting that the chancel is original to the building. A small, shed-roofed, concrete block utility structure with a brick chimney is attached to the rear of the chancel bay.

Rising from the roof ridge at the south (entrance) end of the building is a square tower from which originally rose a conical steeple. The base is weatherboarded, while the taller main stage has louvers between square-section columns matching those on the portico. A plain frieze board tops the columns below a nearly flat roof whose overhang features trios of simple brackets on each elevation.

The recessed main facade features a pair of narrow six-panel doors flanking a panel of beaded tongue-and-groove siding in a chevron pattern below flush board sheathing and above a beaded vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot. Today, the enclosed end bays hold rest rooms.

The dignified interior of the church reflects both its original finish and late 19th century alterations. Walls are plastered above a wide beaded flush-board wainscot and simple beaded chair rail. The ceiling of beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing is coved above all four walls; replacement Gothic Revival lanterns are suspended from chevron-patterned panels centered along the length of the recessed flat portion of the ceiling. The ceiling likely dates from the early 1890s alterations while the lanterns were added after 1968. Double aisles separate three ranks of original box pews with flat paneled end pieces. Wide horizontal beaded flush boards divide the central pews into two sections. The side pews are attached to the wainscotting. Doors and windows have simple mitered surrounds with beveled backbands.

A segmental-arched opening with square-section pilasters frames the semi-hexagonal chancel at the north end of the building. This area serves as the choir loft and is fronted by an apron of vertical tongue-and-groove on a high molded baseboard. A low platform extends into the sanctuary from the chancel, marked by a semi-circular altar rail with turned balusters and wide molded hand rail. Three high-backed wooden chairs and a pulpit furnish the platform, in front of which is an altar table.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Development

Period of Significance

1858-ca. 1891

Significant Dates

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 temple-form frame Greek Revival church building located on the northwest corner of Thompson and Tiffany streets is significant in the history of Kinston, North Carolina as the earliest surviving religious edifice in the city, as one of a small number of antebellum buildings in Kinston, and as a largely intact and handsome example of the popular mid-19th century architectural style. The church was built in 1857-58 for the Kinston Baptist Church and moved to its present (third) location in 1901 after its purchase by a black Presbyterian congregation (White Rock Church) which it has served since that time. Its construction occurred during an important ten-year period in Kinston's early history. Although the town had first been established in 1762 and incorporated in 1826, it had remained little more than a sleepy courthouse village until the 1850s. A variety of factors, including the arrival of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in 1858, engendered a population boom, the establishment of numerous commercial enterprises, and the development of Kinston's earliest industries. Also during this period, several churches were organized, including a Missionary Baptist congregation and a Methodist Episcopal church. Of the many buildings erected during this time, only a small number survive in relatively intact condition. The Kinston Baptist/White Rock Presbyterian Church, with its in antis portico and remaining two stages of an original steeple, is among the best surviving examples of Greek Revival architecture in Kinston. The associated historic context for the building is Kinston's Pre-Civil War Boom, 1850-1860, and it is an example of the property type of Antebellum Buildings.

Historical Background

The origins of the Kinston Baptist Church date to the establishment of a Baptist congregation which built a chapel at Southwest Creek in 1770. A group of the congregation members moved to Harriet's Chapel,

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two miles east of Kinston, in 1844. Apparently, Baptists in the growing town of Kinston worshipped at Harriet's Chapel, but in 1857, a group of prominent early merchants (S. E. Loftin, Pinckney Hardee, Jesse Jackson and James Wooten) decided to build a Baptist church in Kinston [Heritage, p. 96]. They purchased lot 92 of the original town plan and had a frame church in the Greek Revival style constructed on the northwest corner of Bright and McLewean streets, facing Bright Street [Johnson and Holloman, back fly sheet; and Sanborn maps, 1885].

The new church building was dedicated on Sunday, 23 January 1858, with Rev. John L. Prichard presenting the dedicatory sermon. Also in attendance were Rev. J. S. Walthall, the pastor of the New Bern Baptist Church who conducted services on the previous Saturday, as well as Baptists from around the state. An article in the 28 January 1858 issue of the American Advocate described the building and attendance at the service in the following terms:

The new, neat and elegant Church was crowded to overflowing, most of the seats being occupied by the ladies. It is well and tastily arranged, with a view to comfort and convenience. It is a work that does credit to those who have been prominent in getting it up ["Dedication"].

In the late 1880s, Kinston began a northward expansion, particularly on the part of its white citizenry. By 1891, members of the First Baptist Church had decided that a more central location for the church building was desirable, and it was moved to the northeast corner of Gordon and McLewean streets [Heritage, p. 96]. It seems likely that the late Victorian features of the building, principally the semi-octagonal chancel, date from the time of this move.

By the turn of the 20th century, the congregation had outgrown the Greek Revival building, and plans were made to erect a brick structure on the same site. White Rock Presbyterian Church, a black congregation formed in 1899, purchased the building and moved it to its present location, a lot at the intersection of Thompson and Dennis streets. William and Alice Fields sold this lot in East Kinston for one hundred dollars to church trustees S. H. Vick, M. D. Cameron and John Sampson [deed book 26, p. 308]. Until that time the congregation had held services at the Good Samaritan Hall on North Independence Street [Hearn, pp. 1-2].

The congregation's membership has remained constant at fifty to

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seventy-five active members and currently consists of the extended families of the original members who have traditionally lived and worked in the turn-of-the-century black neighborhood of northeast Kinston. Over the years, they have made a number of alterations to the building since its move to Thompson Street. In 1956, a fire shattered the original stained glass windows, but caused little other damage. In addition to replacing the window glass, the congregation has added a lectern, altar furniture and cabinets, and replaced the original light fixtures with lanterns presented as memorial gifts [Dreyer interview]. But the building remains largely intact, a vivid reminder of mid-19th century Kinston.

The significance of the Kinston Baptist/White Rock Presbyterian church derives from its architectural importance as one of a very small number of relatively intact Greek Revival buildings in the city and from its function as a representative of the formative period in which it was built. Although it has been moved twice during its history, the church has been on its present site since 1901. In addition, its present location in a predominantly residential neighborhood recalls its two earlier sites, which also were largely residential in character. The first two locations were only a short distance from each other in areas just east of Queen Street, Kinston's major commercial thoroughfare. These areas were developed in the mid and late 19th century, but many of their early houses have given way to commercial and governmental development. The church's current neighborhood was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and many houses survive, so that its physical context closely correlates to the original.

The Kinston Baptist/White Rock Presbyterian Church bears definite physical similarities to the Church of Christ, Scientist (formerly the First Presbyterian Church, National Register, 1979) which was built two years earlier (1856) in Goldsboro, North Carolina, a town located just 27 miles northwest of Kinston. The exterior of the Goldsboro church is stuccoed, but it also exhibits simple, classical proportions and a facade with a distyle in antis portico, here having Tuscan columns. Similarly, it has a pedimented front gable roof, a plain boxed cornice, and four pilasters accenting the facade. It is possible that the unknown builder of the Kinston church was familiar with the earlier Goldsboro church, whose builder has also not been identified. Both seem to reflect the influence in the area of architectural pattern books which popularized the Greek Revival style in the United States [Hammond, pp. 7-1 and 7-2]. In his history of the development and spread of the Greek Revival style in this country, Talbot Hamlin noted that this church form and type of facade were used so frequently ". . . that it

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became almost a standard church facade . . . " [Hamlin, p. 151]. The type is common in New England and Virginia, but relatively rare in North Carolina [Hammond, pp. 7-1 and 7-2].

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 0.09

UTM References

A

1	8
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2	6	5	9	5	0
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3	9	0	5	2	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is lot 14 on Lenoir County Tax Map 130 in the city of Kinston, North Carolina.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property being nominated consists of the building and the parcel of land with which it has been historically associated since 1901, when it was moved to this location after the White Rock Presbyterian congregation purchased it from the Baptist congregation which was building a new structure.

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 Street telephone 919 828-4616
 city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Dedication of the Baptist Church." Kinston, N. C. American Advocate, 28 January 1858, p. 2.

Dreyer, Martha. Interview with Mrs. Drucilla H. Hearn and other members of White Rock Presbyterian Church, 9 April 1985.

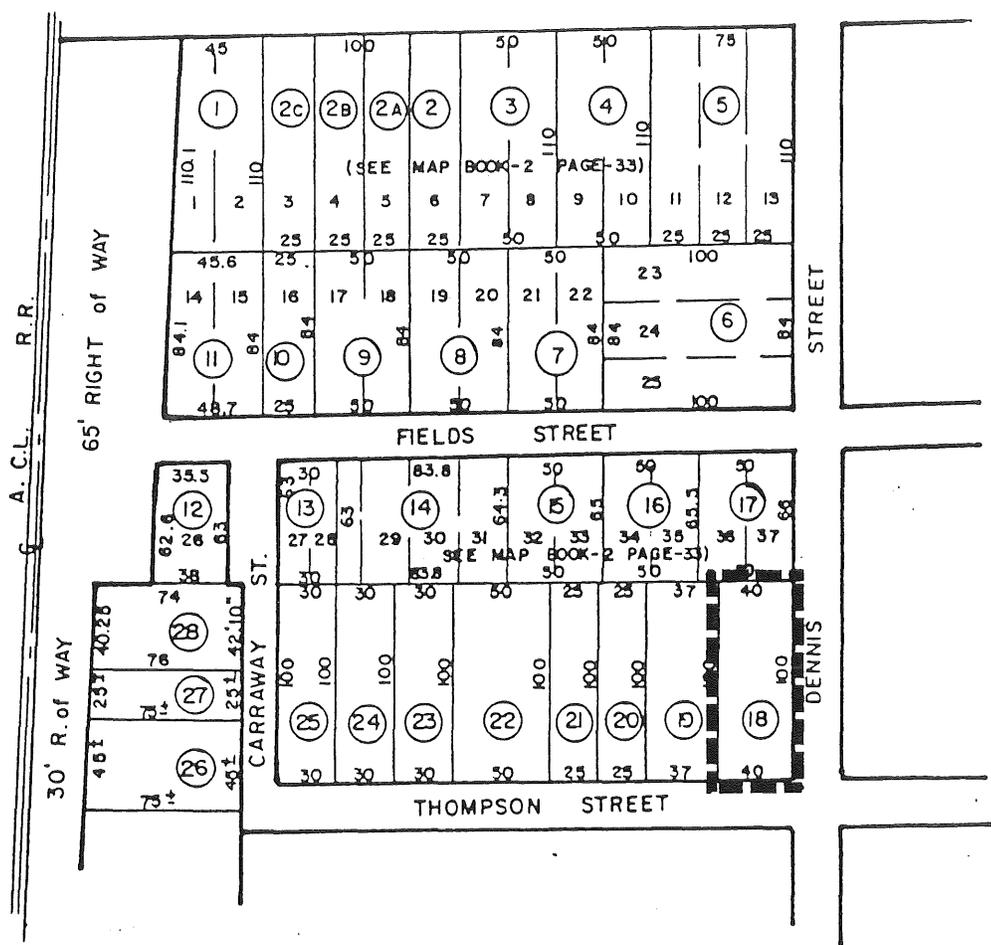
Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1944.

Hammond, Barbara. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Church of Christ, Scientist, Goldsboro, Wayne County, North Carolina, 1979.

Hearn, Drucilla H. "White Rock Presbyterian Church, 1858-1985." Unpublished pamphlet in Survey File.

For general bibliography, see Major Bibliographical References for Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina.

N



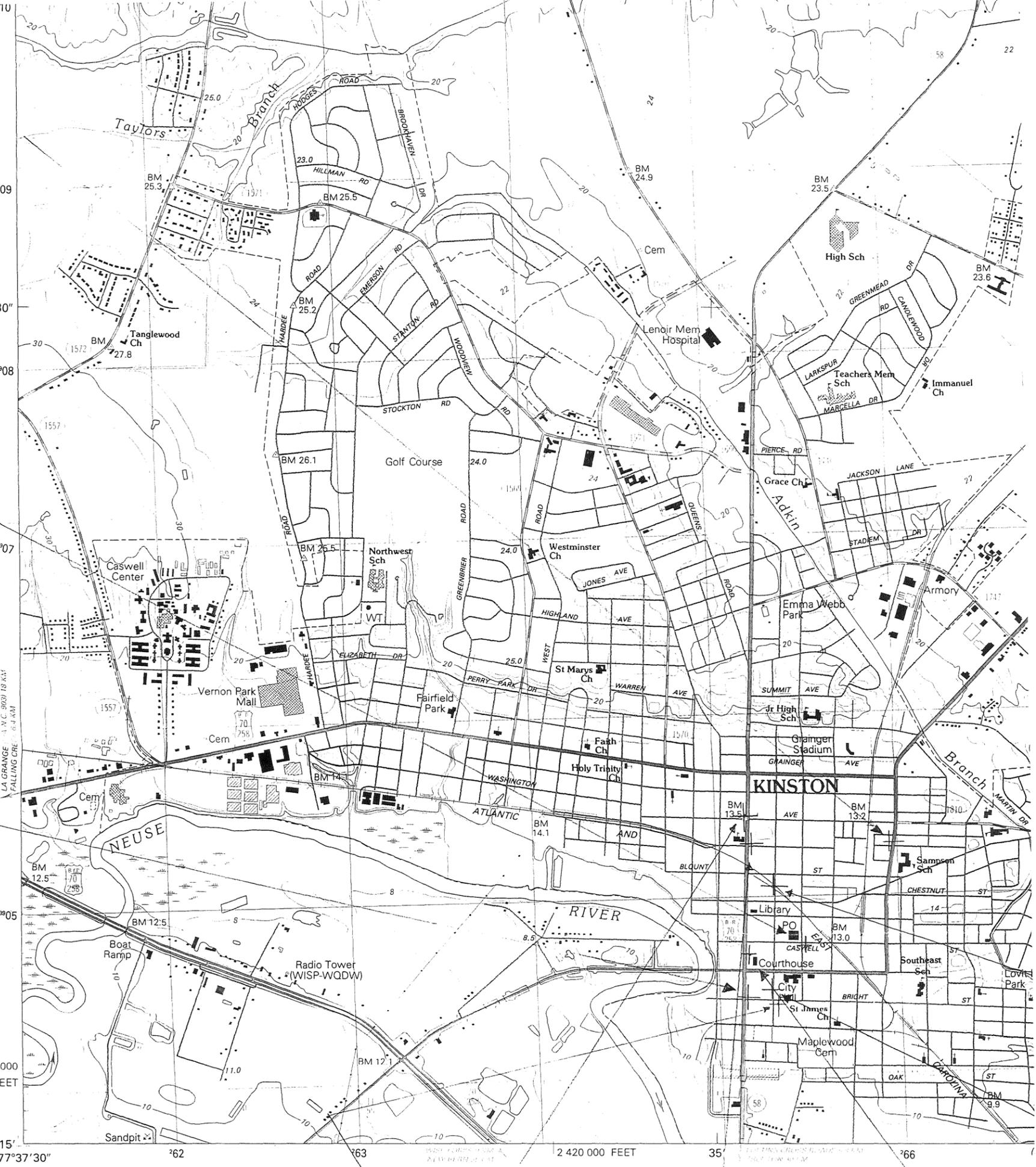
SCALE: 1"=100'

Kinston Baptist/White Rock Presbyterian Church
 516 Thompson Street
 Kinston, N. C.
 Lenoir County Tax Map #130

KINSTON BAPTIST / WHITE ROCK PRES. CH.
E 265950 N 3905270

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

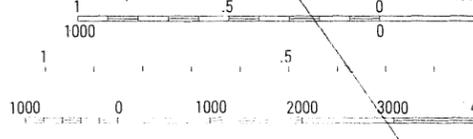
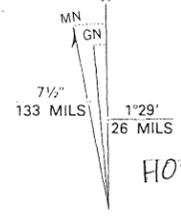
THE PEOPLE'S BANK BUILDING
E 265150 N 3904430



(DEEP RUN)
Scale 1:100,000

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN IN FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS
(FORMER) KINSTON FIRE STATION
E 265160 N 3904400

