

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 an 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 Williamston Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Franklin, Harrell, Williams, South Haughton,  
North Railroad, Roberson, and White streets  not for publication  
city or town Williamston  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Martin code 117 zip code 27892

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jessie Crow SHPO 8/17/01  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling, DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling, DOMESTIC/secondary structure, RELIGION/religious facility, EDUCATION/school, GOVERNMENT/courthouse, GOVERNMENT/government office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling, DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling, DOMESTIC/secondary structure, RELIGION/religious facility, EDUCATION/school, GOVERNMENT/school, GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK, walls WEATHERBOARD, BRICK, roof TIN, other

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1800 to 1950

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1800

1812

1833-1834

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Benton, Charles C.

Benton, Frank W.

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Survey and Planning Branch

Williamston Historic District  
Name of Property

Martin County, North Carolina  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 145 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	313960	3970240
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	314160	3970360

3	18	314760	3969840
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	18	314840	3969700

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 Thomas R. Butchko

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 3, 2001

street & number 200 Cross Keys Road, #56 telephone 410-435-0435

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21210-1555

#### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Williamston - The Honorable Tommy E. Roberson, Mayor

street & number PO Box 506 telephone 252-792-5142

city or town Williamston state NC zip code 27892-0506

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

SOCIAL/civic  
RELIGION/church-related residence  
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related  
FUNERARY/cemetery

### Current Functions

EDUCATION/library  
RELIGION/church-related residence  
FUNERARY/cemetery

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

Federal  
Late Gothic Revival  
Queen Anne  
Tudor Revival  
Italianate  
Spanish Colonial Revival

### Materials

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	WOOD SHINGLE
	VINYL
	ASBESTOS
	ALUMINUM
roof	SLATE
	ASPHALT

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### Narrative Description

The Williamston Historic District encompasses the historic residential neighborhoods of Williamston, a city of 6,570 persons that is the largest municipality and county seat of Martin County (25,078 people) (North Carolina Employment Security Commission 1995). Located in the northern coastal plain, the county has a strong agrarian heritage that is manifested not only by extensive cultivated fields and productive forests but by thriving little towns of merchants, professionals, and owners of farm-related businesses. Settled in the 1730s but not incorporated until 1779, Williamston is located on the western bank of the Roanoke River which, though important in the city's development, has little physical presence in the city since it is located 0.8 miles from the center of town and one-half mile from the eastern boundary of the Williamston Historic District.

The city is laid out in an irregular grid plan that increasingly varies as one moves away from the historic core bounded by Main, Watts, Church and Haughton streets. Streets are oriented along northeast-to-southwest and northwest-to-southeast axes. The district is bordered immediately on the north and southwest by post-1950s residential neighborhoods; on the west, northwest, south, and east by neighborhoods that lack architectural integrity and cohesiveness; and on the south and southeast by strip commercial development along US 13-17, the county's primary north-south highways connecting southern and eastern North Carolina to the Virginia port cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth eighty miles northeast of Williamston. The district abuts three sides of the much-smaller Williamston Commercial Historic District (forty-three properties) that was listed in the National Register in 1995.

The Williamston Historic District is composed of all or parts of forty-two irregularly-geometric blocks with Main Street being the major northeast-to southwest street and Smithwick and Haughton streets being the primary northwest-to-southeast streets. Main and Smithwick streets are the division between East/West and North/South addresses, respectively. The district's topography is largely level, with the only variation being at its northeastern extremity (entries 79-80 and 106-107). There, at what is known locally as the "river hill," the altitude descends approximately twenty feet over about 200 feet horizontally, creating a dramatic topographic change that is all the more remarkable because of the flat nature of the rest of the district. The district retains a fairly extensive tree cover, especially along residential streets such as Academy, Simmons, and West Church that are not heavily traveled. There is a lesser existence of mature trees along streets such as North Haughton and East and West Main Streets because they are heavily traveled thoroughfares, the former being the main north-south truck route through town. The district contains sixteen vacant lots and four parking lots, which together comprise six percent of the 331 numbered resources. Ten of the vacant lots (sixty-seven percent) have never been built on, and include such large lots as entries 219, 236, 254, and 258 that add important open space to the district. Of the four parking lots, only two, entries 87 and 111-a, are large paved lots, and they are situated beside or behind the current and

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historic county courthouses and related governmental buildings on East Church Street (entries 86, 88, 111, 112, 113, and 224). Vacant and parking lots are not included as "primary" resources and are designated on the map with "VL" or "PL" added to the site number.

The district is overwhelmingly residential in character, with 295 of its 312 primary resources (ninety-four percent) being dwellings, and 572 of the total 609 resources (ninety-four percent) being dwellings and their associated ancillary buildings and structures. These dwellings are predominantly of frame construction, being exclusively so prior to the 1915 construction of the Garner-Edmondson House (entry 226). The next brick residence, the ca. 1932 Perlle Brown House (entry 48), was not built for another seventeen years, beginning a period of increasing popularity for brick houses with several notable brick residences being erected during the late 1930s and the 1940s. After World War II, brick-veneer construction became especially popular for Colonial Revival and ranch houses, with those erected after 1950 being noncontributing due to their age. While almost all houses built during the nineteenth century are two stories in height, a notable exception being 310 East Main Street (entry 83), one- and one-and-a-half-story houses become increasingly common during the twentieth century as the Craftsman bungalow, such as the ca. 1918 Critcher-Corey House (entry 136), and Colonial Revival cottage, such as the 1935-1936 Mortimer J. Norton House (entry 294), became popular for middle-tier home builders.

The Williamston Historic District retains a high level of architectural integrity, with 247 of the 312 primary resources (seventy-nine percent) and 396 of the 609 total resources (sixty-five percent) being contributing. Even more significant, 236 of the 291 primary domestic resources (eighty-one percent) are contributing, and a majority of dwellings deemed noncontributing (36 of 55, or sixty-five percent) are so because they were built after 1950, the end of the period of significance. Of 16 non-domestic primary resources, 11 (sixty-three percent) are contributing. A remarkably low six percent (19 of 312) of the total primary resources are noncontributing due to alterations of such extent as to compromise the original form and character. It is not unusual for a resource, domestic or not, to have had some modification. The application of replacement siding (asbestos shingles, aluminum, or vinyl) as seen on the ca. 1917 Albert T. Perry House (entry 53), or the replacement of porch posts or windows, as seen on the ca. 1916 Godwin-Gurganus House (entry 121), or the construction of additional rooms, as seen on the highly significant 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House (entry 257), is usually not sufficient to render a resource noncontributing unless multiple alterations are undertaken. This is, unfortunately, best illustrated by the ca. 1886 Mobley-Meadows House (entry 94), the town's only house that exhibited Gothic Revival elements, all of which were removed during renovations in 1999. Likewise, even though the frame ca. 1890 Godwin-Godard House (entry 290) has elaborate Victorian porch embellishments, an application of brick veneer after 1973 so radically alters the appearance as to deem noncontributing status.

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### DOMESTIC RESOURCES

#### **Traditional Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Dwellings**

Given the large number of dwellings (291) in the Williamston Historic District, houses that follow traditional forms are not as numerous as might be expected in the small seat of a rural county in northeastern North Carolina. This is primarily due to the fact that much of the district was developed in the 1910s and 1920s as forms of the Colonial Revival and Craftsman Bungalow were becoming popular. The district's traditional houses fall into three broad categories.

The first are houses that follow the side-hall plan as developed in eastern North Carolina during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The side-hall-plan, which achieved popularity in northeastern counties for more ambitious houses during the second half of the eighteenth century, is seen in the original cores of the ca. 1800 Williams-Knight House (entry 114) and the 1833-1834 Asa Biggs House (NR 1979)(entry 55), both of which were enlarged during the 1840s or 1850s to center-hall-plan residences. The 1853-1854 Duggan-Godard House (entry #142) is the district's only antebellum house to retain its original double-pile, side-hall-plan. The side-hall-plan continued as a choice for middle-tier dwellings until the early twentieth century, as illustrated by the ca. 1900 Peele-Swain House (entry 275), which has a Victorian finish, and the ca. 1890 (former) Baptist Parsonage (entry 25), which was enlarged by 1910 into an asymmetrical form and updated with a Colonial Revival porch.

The center-hall-plan house, affording greater room specialization and privacy, was popular in Martin County throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The district's finest antebellum house, the 1847-1848 Cushing Biggs Hassell House (entry 73), is a fully-developed example of the genre rendered in stylish Greek Revival fashion. In its most traditional form, the center-hall-plan, single-pile house is illustrated by the Mizelle House (entry 321), a ca. 1899 one-story house that was given an upper, not-full-height "jump" story about 1915. The house in its most typical two-story, center-hall-plan form--the so-called "I-house"--was exceptionally popular in Martin County between 1880 and 1930. It is represented in the Williamston Historic District by the ca. 1882 Worthington-Sitterson-Manning House (entry 22) and the 1913-1921 Hugh M. Burras House (entry 91). Each has the usual three-bay facade and had a three-bay porch, the former being given a Colonial Revival portico ca. 1929. The Burras house not only retains its hip-roofed porch, but displays a false central roof gable, another common I-house element. The center-hall-plan was also utilized for large, two-story, double-pile-plan houses during the early twentieth century. Both examples, the 1907 James Daniel Leggett House (entry 250) and the 1911 Burrous A. Critcher, Sr. House (entry 229), were built with tall hipped roofs and expansive Colonial Revival porches.

The third traditional, vernacular house type in the district is a one-story, center-hall-plan, double-pile house covered by a tall hipped roof. Its most basic example is the 1925 Stalls-Lee House (entry 125), which has a wrap-around porch carried by unusually-retardataire turned Victorian

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posts. This same form had been chosen several years earlier by builder Albert T. Perry for his personal residence (entry 53), with the roof being given added emphasis with a large, central, hipped-roof dormer. Three similar houses were erected on adjacent lots during the 1910s for members of the Critcher and Biggs families (entries 220, 221, 222), each with an especially prominent central dormer and wrap-around porches. Perhaps the finest of the genre is the 1922 Page-Peel House (entry 116), an entirely wood-shingled example that, like the latter two of the Critcher and Biggs houses, illustrates the form's easy acceptance of Craftsman elements.

### **Stylish Nineteenth and Early-Mid Twentieth-Century Dwellings**

There are only seven dwellings in the Williamston Historic District that predate the Civil War. The oldest, the Williams-Waters House (entry 85), was built ca. 1800 and illustrates retardataire Georgian character in a crossetted, two-part surround that enframes a large, six-raised-panel door. Like most Martin County houses built during the early nineteenth century, the house was enlarged and modified during the subsequent Federal and Greek Revival periods, the later focusing on a projecting front wing with polygonal bay window finished with Italianate eave brackets. The 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House (entry 257) is the county's only example of both the tripartite form and the transverse-hall plan. It consists of a central, two-story, gable-front block flanked by one-story wings, with central portico and cornices embellished by sophisticated transitional Federal-Georgian moldings and dentils.

Both the 1810 Williams-Knight House (entry 114) and the 1833-1834 Asa Biggs House (entry 55)(NR 1979) have Federal style, side-hall-plan cores that were enlarged during the 1840s and 1850s into center-hall-plan residences. The former has original chimneys (one with "1810" datebrick), large, six-over-six sash Greek Revival windows, and a full-width, two-story, Colonial Revival portico that was added in 1947 to bring the house into post-war fashion. The Biggs House, a notable example of the vernacular Federal style house, was enlarged at least four times before 1921 but still retains an asymmetrical five-bay facade with enlarged Greek Revival windows on the lower facade, small nine-over-nine sash Federal windows above, and exterior end chimneys. It also has a Colonial Revival porch, added between 1913 and 1921.

The Greek Revival style found its finest development in Williamston between 1848 and 1854 with the construction of two, impressive two-story, double-pile houses. The center-hall-plan Cushing Biggs Hassell House (entry 73) is a superlative illustration of the style, executed in 1847-1848 by master builder Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County. The house is embellished with academic Greek Revival ornament, including a fully-articulated Doric entablature, bull's-eye window surrounds, and Jones's trademark reel molding in the outer corner of the paneled pilasters that frame the house. The pedimented, one-story portico was added in 1930 utilizing elements from the house's original porches. The smaller, side-hall-plan, 1853-1854 Duggan-Godard House (entry 142), while more austere in its finish, has monumental pilasters embellished with sunburst capitals and

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molded window surrounds with cornerblocks. Its original one-bay portico faces what appears to be the side of the house, the larger, Colonial Revival porch along Marshall Avenue having been built in the 1930s after Marshall Avenue was opened. The last antebellum house is the ca. 1860 Hassell-Muse House (entry 77), which originally was a single-pile house on West Main Street before being moved ca. 1914 and enlarged into Colonial Revival fashion about 1940.

Williamston houses during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century were built in the Italianate, Victorian, and Queen Anne styles. The ca. 1890 Harrell-Moore House (entry 21), a large L-plan house with paneled and bracketed cornices and peaked window hoods, is the finest of a limited number of Italianate and Victorian dwellings. The house at 310 East Main Street (entry 83), is a diminutive one-story example with large windows surmounted by similar peaked windows. The ca. 1900 Peele-Swain House (entry 275), is a side-hall-plan house with Victorian porch decorations of sawn brackets supporting a spindlework frieze accented with pendant drops. The town's Queen Anne houses date from the style's later years when the style's traditional asymmetrical composition was increasingly rendered with elements of the emerging Colonial Revival style. Even such large, ambitious, early examples as the 1903 Hassell-Barnhill House (entry 298) and the 1907 Herbert Henry Cowan House (entry 105), each of which has a complex roofline accented by sawn gable ornaments, were outfitted with Colonial Revival porches, the former being added in 1914. A notable exception is the ca. 1902 Biggs-Coburn House (entry 217), on which each elevation has a projecting wood-shingled gable and the wrap-around porch is embellished with turned posts, balusters, and spindlework frieze. In 1914, Dr. Hugh B. York erected a stylish house (entry 27) on which a definitive Queen Anne tower with octagonal roof is complemented by a wrap-around porch of fluted Doric columns raised on brick pedestals. The modestly-scaled, one-story, ca. 1903 Thaddeus F. Harrison House (entry 291) is notable for retaining its wood-shingled projecting gable and its Victorian porch posts with flared imposed blocks.

As the twentieth century progressed, asymmetrical Queen Anne/Colonial Revival houses such as the side-hall-plan, ca. 1903 Lovette B. Harrison House (entry 276), on which an asymmetrical side-hall main block is wrapped by a porch of Tuscan columns, became more regularly rectangular and Colonial Revival in appearance. The rectangular block of the 1908 Critcher-Saunders House (entry 68) is surmounted by a tall, truncated hip roof and is embellished with stylish Colonial elements as arched windows with molded archivolt and keystones. In a reverse of the earlier Queen Anne/Colonial Revival pairing, this Colonial Revival block is finished with Queen Anne sash windows and a porch of turned Victorian elements. A fully-realized rectangular Colonial Revival house is illustrated by the contemporary 1907 James Daniel Leggett House (entry 250), on which a porch of stylish fluted Ionic columns with terra cotta capitals wraps the side-hall-plan main block. A later asymmetrical version of the two-story Colonial Revival residence is the hip-roofed, L-plan 1923 Robert J. Peel House (entry 272), which has prominent pedimented gables containing

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demilune louvered vents and a wrap-around porch carried by pairs of Tuscan columns raised on brick pedestals. The plans for this house were borrowed by brothers for the construction in 1921-1926 of the John M. Bowen House (entry 93) and ca. 1927 for the James D. Bowen House (entry 120), the Bowen houses being mirror images of the Peel house.

The most prominent form of the Colonial Revival in Williamston--a large, rectangular house that is two-stories tall beneath a gable roof and has a three- or five-bay symmetrical facade with a central, one-bay portico and flanking side porches--was introduced in town in 1922 with the Moore-Whitley House (entry 58). Its diminutive pedimented portico is supported by fluted Doric columns and has a curved lower edge that implies a barrel vaulted ceiling that does not occur, a distinctive feature echoed by numerous other Williamston examples. Unlike most frame examples that followed, the Moore-Whitley House has a stylish modillion cornice. At least twelve examples of this genre were erected between 1922 and ca. 1939, being especially prevalent along West Academy and West Church streets. Early examples are all frame, including the 1929 N. C. Green House (entry 41), a five-bay residence with true barrel-vaulted portico, the 1928 Titus Samuel Critcher House (entry 260) which has a splendid Tuscan portico with false-vaulted ceiling, and the ca. 1928 Hugh G. Horton House (entry 89) which has a semi-circular portico surmounted by turned roof balusters. During the mid 1930s the genre was executed in brick, with six handsome residences raised between ca. 1934 and ca. 1938, all within the West Academy-West Church streets area. The sophisticated design of architect Charles Collins Benton for the 1934 C. A. Harrison House (entry 43) illustrates the style at its most elegant, with flat-roofed portico and flanking porches topped by balustrades, cast concrete accents, and a Palladian window on the rear. Other houses feature two-story porticoes, a central pediment on the ca. 1936 Dr. J. A. Eason House (entry 46), and a full-width, flat-roofed portico on the 1937 Dr. William C. Mercer House (entry 75).

For all the stylish impressiveness of the district's two-story Colonial Revival houses erected between 1922 and ca. 1938, the most numerous Colonial Revival houses in the district are several dozen one- and one-and-a-half-story cottages erected for middle-tier home builders between 1927 and 1942. The earliest is the 1927 J. R. Leggett House (entry 171), the symmetrical design with its central pedimented Tuscan portico and tripartite window compositions being similar to "The Crescent" as advertised by Sears, Roebuck and Company. The 1928 Claude B. Clark, Sr. House (entry 40) has a gambrel roof and full-width shed dormers in the manner of the "Dutch" Colonial Revival subtype. The most prevalent form of the Colonial Revival cottage, as superbly illustrated by the 1942 Herman A. Bowen House (entry 62), consists of one-and-a-half-stories sheltered beneath a gable roof punctuated with three gable dormers. The central entrance is most usually uncovered, and when it is, as shown by the brick, 1932 Elbert S. Peel House (entry 44), it usually has a portico sheltering only the entrance. Other notable examples include two neighbors, the 1940 James C. Cooke, Jr. House (entry 47) with round-arched dormers with copper

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and blind fanlights above the door and windows, and the 1932 Perlie M. Brown House (entry 48) which has original shutters with cut-out shield motifs. Along Marshall Avenue are numerous more modestly scaled examples erected exclusively in frame during the 1930s and early 1940s. Among them is 116 Marshall Avenue (entry 143); which has two dormers and a central portico with barrel vault; the 1930s James K. Rogerson House (entry 147), a brick-constructed (not veneer) house with projecting gable-front ell that indicates a returning interest in asymmetrical designs; 103 Marshall Avenue (entry 153), a ca. 1940 one-and-a-half-story house which has a central portico carried by pillars of exaggerated taper with flanking dormers; and a charming, ca. 1940 duplex at 203/205 Marshall Avenue (entry 161), with each unit having a small portico framed by cornice returns that has a curved fascia to suggest a barrel vault. The last example is one of the few duplexes in the district.

The Bungalow/Craftsman style is second in popularity only to the Colonial Revival style in the Williamston Historic District. This style is characterized by low, horizontal profiles, juxtaposed gables with deep eaves accented by exposed rafter ends and triangular brackets, porches carried by tapered pillars raised on brick pedestals approximately three feet tall, and window compositions containing multiple, often four, vertical panes over one large lower sash. Immensely popular in North Carolina during the 1910s and 1920s, the style, because it was so suited to smaller, unpretentious dwellings, continued in popularity during the 1930s when the Great Depression resulted in less expensive building practices. Most Craftsman bungalows in the district are one story tall, with one-and-a-half-story examples contained beneath gable roofs that are usually low in profile. The only hip-roofed bungalow is the ca. 1917 Apfel-Watts House (entry 138) on which the low roof and central porch are accentuated with unusually deep eaves.

The finest Craftsman bungalow in the Williamston Historic District is the 1913-1921 Wheeler Manning, Jr. House (entry 88), a superb combination of multiple gables, flared eaves with shaped rafter ends, and wood-shingled gables. The engaged porch is carried by heavy, weatherboarded pillars that rest upon a wood-shingled balustrade wall that continues with a wood-shingled apron to extend around the house. A similar porch decoration, except entirely of weatherboards, is seen on the ca. 1915 Roger Anson Critcher, Sr. House (entry 221), a traditional one-story, hip-roofed dwelling, and the ca. 1918 Critcher-Corey House (entry 136), a one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed dwelling with large gable dormer and engaged porch. The gable-roof-with-dormer-and-engaged-porch form of the Critcher-Corey House is prevalent within the district, being utilized with a variety of finishes: with wood-shingled gables, shed dormer, and raised Tuscan columns on the 1921-1926 Pete Hall House (entry 106); with recessed second-story porch and prominent eaves brackets in the ca. 1922 Mae Smith House (entry 187), house kit which is believed to have come from Sears, Roebuck and Company; and the ca. 1926 house at 507 Warren Street (entry 185) which has an atypical asymmetrical arrangement of the porch pillars. One-story Craftsman bungalows were especially popular for rental houses, with a

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quartet of nearly identical houses erected between 1919 and 1921 (entries 80, 179, 180, 181) having shallow gable roofs broken by wide shed dormers, paired porch pillars accented by distinctive dentil-like accents, and exterior end chimneys flanked by small casement windows. Simpler still were gable-front bungalows, such as the ca. 1921 Critcher-Harrison House (entry 81) with Tuscan porch columns and elongated Craftsman windows, the pair of ca. 1940 Bowen Rental Houses (entries 329, 330) with hip-roofed porch, and the pair of 1936 Cowan Rental Houses (entries 103, 104) on which the open gable fronts are accentuated by king posts.

The Tudor Revival style is the only other domestic style to be found in the Williamston Historic District in appreciable numbers. While there are less than ten examples, with several others as hybrids with the concurrent Colonial Revival style, the examples stand out because of their departure from the rectangular Colonial Revival and Craftsman bungalow forms that dominated the first three decades of the twentieth century. The style, which was almost always erected in brick, had limited popularity during the 1930s for modestly-scaled houses in northeastern North Carolina. It is characterized by multiple steep gables, arched windows sometimes filled by diamond-shaped panes, chimneys placed prominently on the front, and the use of stucco, false half-timbers, and randomly-placed stone accents in brick examples. The 1939 Lamm-Bailey House (entry 255), eloquently combines all these elements, with the false half-timbering and the random placement of rock-faced stone being the finest in town. The 1937 James E. Griffin House (entry 196) is a more conservative example featuring gables of graduated sizes, while the ca. 1949 A. E. Browder House (entry 117) illustrates the continuation of the style past the end of World War II.

The Spanish Colonial Revival style is illustrated in the district by the 1929 Frank N. Margolis House (entry 259), a two-story, stuccoed masonry house having a symmetrical design of round-arched entrances and porch openings, clay roof tiles, metal casement windows, and uncovered terraces. Margolis, a Jewish clothier, most likely became enamored with the style while on frequent vacations to south Florida where the style enjoyed considerable popularity during the early twentieth century. The style is infrequently seen in northeastern North Carolina, with the Margolis house being the only Martin County example.

### Outbuildings

There are only two antebellum secondary buildings. The most important is the Antebellum Office (entry 209-a), a diminutive, one-room building that exhibits different Federal and Greek Revival moldings on individual elements; in fact, each of the windows has a different surround. It most likely was built in the 1830s and was moved from an unknown location to Williams Street between 1913 and 1921. The other is the tall, square-in-plan Smokehouse (entry 257-a) behind the 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House. Covered by a hipped roof with off-center door, it is typical of sturdy smokehouses erected during the early nineteenth century.

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Because the usefulness of ancillary buildings once considered vital to a town dwelling--a small stable, carriage house, smokehouse, privy, wood house, wash house, dairy, and perhaps a separate kitchen--disappeared with the introduction of modern electrical conveniences during the early and mid twentieth century, very few of these buildings remain in the Williamston Historic District. Among the few stables is a ca. 1890 building (entry 21-a) behind the ca. 1890 Harrell-Moore House. The gable-roofed structure has wooden roof shingles and was later converted into an automobile garage, as no doubt were other stables and carriage houses before being replaced with new garages. No privies remain in the district and the only other barns, wash house, or stable known to survive are behind the Roy T. Griffin and Manning-Griffin houses (entries 204 and 213, respectively). Located at opposite ends of Williams Street along the district's southeastern boundary, both houses were once the seats of working farms that extended southeastwardly outside of the district.

Garages are the most numerous secondary buildings in the Williamston Historic District, with seventy-nine contributing examples. Of the thirty-five noncontributing garages, twenty-eight (eighty-percent) are noncontributing because they are less than fifty years old. The district's contributing garages are almost exclusively frame, with notable exceptions being the 1938 garage (entry 8-a) at the Ray Goodman, Dr. House and the stuccoed 1929 Frank N. Margolis garage (entry 259-a). While some garages echo the style of the associated dwelling--such as the hip-roofed, two-car garage at the 1921-1926 Colonial Revival John M. Bowen House (entry 120-a) and the splendid Spanish Colonial Revival garage (entry 259-a) behind the 1929 Frank N. Margolis House--most follow simple, vernacular forms. The most prevalent is a shed-roofed building with a pent roof sheltering the open automobile bay. One-car garages are most numerous, with that behind 206 Marshall Avenue (entry 148-a) being especially noteworthy. Two-car examples are also found within the district. Most interesting are buildings such as entry 206-a, a two-car garage erected between adjacent Griffin Rental houses on Williams Street. These structures also incorporate separate storage rooms for the tenant of each building.

There are many fences and walls (which are counted as structures) within the Williamston Historic District, especially chain-link fences erected since the 1960s; all chain-link fences are noncontributing because of their age. Only six fences are old enough to be considered as contributing resources, the most noted being the wrought-iron Stewart Company fence (entry 220-a) in front of the Roger Samuel Critcher House. Wooden fences include the remaining twenty-four-foot-long section (entry 250-a) beside the 1907 James Daniel Leggett House and the lattice panels (entry 113-d) that flank a gazebo at the Williams-Knight House.

Because of their more permanent construction, there are many more contributing walls in the district than wooden fences. Walls are rarely more than eighteen-inches tall and are used primarily to control slopes in a front yard as it descends to the street. Such walls are most visible at the northeastern boundary of the district at the so-called "river hill," where East Main Street drops dramatically to the flood plain along the

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Roanoke River. The most visible of these walls, entry 79-b, is a two-foot-tall retaining wall of random-laid granite, being the only non-brick or concrete block wall in the district. The handsome wall is complemented on the southeast side of the street with two brick walls, entries 106-b and 107-a, that accommodate both the slope of the hill and the juncture of East Main and Harrell streets. Other brick walls are used decoratively to define and accent the front yard. Most notable among these is one about fifteen inches tall (entry 272-a) at the 1923 Robert J. Peel House. Lower walls were used more frequently to delineate front lawns and sidewalks. These elements are usually only six to ten inches tall and function primarily as decorative accents rather than as miniature retaining walls; they are referred to as "lawn curbs" in this nomination. Among the more notable examples are at the ca. 1917 Albert T. Perry House (entry 53-a), where the brick wall is stuccoed and anchored by eighteen-inch-tall piers; those at 608 West Main Street which are typical of cast concrete examples with period pylons with truncated-hipped tops; and those, entries 201-a and 202-a, at adjacent houses on Williams Street. At 401 North Haughton Street, the poured concrete lawn curbs (entry 289-a) have a simple recessed cut for the steps to a house long since destroyed.

Religious Buildings

The Williamston Historic District contains five religious resources that illustrate Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival traditions in twentieth-century church architecture. The only frame example, the 1902 First United Methodist Church (entry 50), is also the oldest church in town and the only Gothic Victorian building. It features a pair of partially-inset corner towers with crenellated tops that flank a broad front gable. A variety of lancet-arched windows, double-leaf entrances, and louvered belfry vents provide definitive Gothic character. The 1915 Memorial Baptist Church (entry 71), designed by church architect James M. McMichael of Charlotte, is a large, hip-roofed building expanded with large gables and corner towers not unlike auditorium-plan churches erected throughout the nation during the early twentieth century. The taller, two-stage, crenellated tower on the northeast serves as the main entrance, with shorter towers at the other corners sheltering secondary entrances. The building's Gothic-arched windows, stone accents, and subtle decorative brickwork are similar to those in McMichael-designed churches throughout North and South Carolina. The 1916 Church of the Advent Episcopal Church (entry 61) follows a gable-front, cruciform, Gothic Revival tradition more identified with parish churches in rural England. Handsomely rendered in gray brick, the design of Charles Collins Benton of Wilson has a gable-front facade anchored by a sturdy, three-stage tower with crenellated parapet, stone-capped buttresses, and elongated lancet louvers in the belfry. Numerous Gothic-arched windows and doors, corbeled brick dripstones, red clay roof tiles, and stone details complete the handsome edifice. Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (entry 321) is the only African-American church in the district. Originally built ca. 1915 in frame with a central belltower, the building was remodeled ca. 1940 with a

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pair of unequal towers raised in rock-faced concrete block flanking the gable-front facade. The church itself was also veneered with rock-faced concrete block, with brick surrounds at the Gothic-arched windows applied in a quoin-like manner. The result is an imaginative, vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival appeal. The 1930 First Presbyterian Church (entry 115) is the only Colonial Revival church in the district. Designed by Eric G. Flannagan of Henderson, it is handsomely raised in Flemish bond brick and dignified by a tetrastyle pedimented portico of Tuscan columns and an academic Doric entablature. Adding to the evocative colonial finish are round-arched nave windows with brick soldier course archivolt and cast concrete accents.

Governmental and Civic Buildings

The three contributing governmental and civic resources in the Williamston Historic District are located on contiguous East Main and South Watts streets properties. The centerpiece is the (former) Martin County Courthouse (entry 112)(NR 1979), an imposing, two-story, rectangular, brick building that combines a central, three-stage belltower and segmentally-arched windows into a fortress-like building that is unique among the state's historic courthouses. Important Italianate style elements include shallow brick pilasters and corbeled brick stringcourses and cornices. The adjacent County Agriculture Building (entry 113), is a one-story, hip-roofed, brick building erected in 1936-1937 with Works Progress Administration (WPA) assistance. The austere Colonial Revival building has a central pedimented portico of four Tuscan columns and reserved woodwork and brick details. To the south is another WPA project, the 1936-1937 (former) American Legion Building (entry 224), a large, gable-front, frame building with a full-width, shed-roofed porch that extends on each side with small wings. Craftsman exposed rafter ends and windows complete the building. Adjoining the old Courthouse is the large, modern Martin County Courthouse (entry 111), erected in 1982-1983, and a subtly-International County Office Building (entry 86) erected in 1965. While both buildings are noncontributing due to age, they enhance the small governmental complex that occupies most of the 200 block of East Main Street. Additionally, there are two noncontributing public libraries, built ca. 1961 and 1997 (entries 1 and 251), along North Smithwick Street in close proximity to the (former) Williamston High School complex (entry 243).

Educational Buildings

The main educational resource in the district is the (former) Williamston High School (entry 243), an impressive two-story-over-basement, brick Colonial Revival structure designed by Eric G. Flannagan of Henderson and built, along with a near twin in Robersonville, in 1929 as the most modern school buildings in Martin County. The rectangular brick building is defined by fluted Corinthian pilasters that frame a pair of projecting entrance pavilions with blond brick pilasters between the pavilions. Classical elements include a cast concrete entablature and arched and recessed stairwells in the end elevations. The adjacent ca. 1950

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Williamston Middle School (entry 243-a) resembles, though slightly smaller and more simply-detailed, as the High School. It has a slightly projecting nine-bay central section on which the entrance bay is framed by two-story pilasters with entablature. The entrance itself is topped by a handsome, urn-topped entablature that is finished with classical elements. The other educational buildings are the (former) Church Street Elementary School Annex (entry 226) and the (former) Williamston Graded School (entry 330). The former is the extant, one-story, brick wing added ca. 1930 to a larger two-story 1918 school demolished in the 1970s. It has a small central portico carried by brick pillars, and a brick parapet with cast concrete cap crowns the building. The latter is a one-story, L-plan, frame building erected ca. 1885 as the first post-Civil War public school for white children in town. Similar to other contemporary schools erected for rural districts in the county, it has a porch of Victorian posts, large windows, and subtle peaked attic vents. Until obscured with vinyl siding in 1999, the porch facade was sheathed with diagonally-laid beaded siding on the porch, a vernacular Victorian finish that achieved a measure of popularity in rural Martin County during the 1880s.

Commercial Buildings

There are only three commercial buildings within the district, the vast majority of the town's historic commercial buildings being included in the Williamston Commercial Historic District (NR 1995). Two of them are contributing, the Grocery and Radiator Repair Shop (entries 214-d and 214-e) associated with the Raymond A. Robertson House on Harrell Street. The simple frame buildings were erected between the late 1930s and 1944, with the former being the only neighborhood grocery in town that retains architectural integrity. The Commercial Building (entry 306) was also a neighborhood grocery, but it was erected in the 1950s and has been considerably altered.

Transportation Resources

The only transportation resource within the Williamston Historic District is the Railroad Bed (entry 216). Dating from 1882, the railroad bed extends for three blocks through the district (approximately 0.2. mi) from Smithwick to Harrell streets (between entries 252 and 214). Abandoned by the CSX Railroad Corporation in 1999, at which time the tracks and crossties were removed, the bed runs at a level course along rear and side property lines. The bed is laid with crushed rock and is remarkably free of trash and litter. While much of the vegetation in these adjoining properties nearest the railroad has been allowed to grow unchecked, several fences, such as entry 234-a, have been erected to screen the former railroad tracks from adjoining dwellings.

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### INVENTORY LIST

Historical information in the inventory list is based on material from the Williamston Inventory files at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History; Martin County deeds; Martin County Historical Society, Martin County Heritage (1980); Sanborn maps: 1896, 1901, 1913, 1921, 1926; and oral history. Many primary resources are included in Butchko, Martin Architectural Heritage (1999), with most having photograph and an entry with fuller description and history. Entry names refer to the original owner/occupant of the building unless otherwise noted.

### Methodology

The Williamston Historic District is laid out in its original grid pattern on northeast-to-southwest and northwest to southeast axes. The major streets extend in a northeast-to-southwest direction, and these streets are listed first, beginning with Grace Street on the northwest and ending with Williams Street on the southeast. Along each street, properties are listed from northeast to southwest, first those on the northwest side and then those on the southeast side. Then the northwest-to-southeast streets are listed, beginning with Harrell Street on the northeast and ending with Pearl Street on the southwest. Properties are listed from northwest to southeast, first those on the northeast side and then those on the southwest side. Smithwick and Main streets, respectively, serve as the division between East/West and North/South addresses on a particular street.

The primary resource on a lot is assigned a number. Secondary resources are indicated as #-a, #-b, etc. The district map accompanying the nomination includes all inventory numbers. Vacant and parking lots are further identified with "VL" or "PL."

### Status

The letter "C" indicates a contributing resource. A property determined to be noncontributing is identified by either "NC-age," indicating a property built after 1950; or "NC-alt," indicating a property that, while more than fifty years old, has been altered to the extent that it has lost its architectural integrity. Unless specified otherwise, each property continues in its original use.

### Date

Building dates are largely derived from deed research and Sanborn maps. The earliest, one-page Sanborn maps of Williamston, 1896 and 1901, delineate only the commercial area along Main Street, an area largely included within the Williamston Commercial Historic District (1995). While the 1913 maps show some adjoining residential areas, it is not until 1921 that Sanborn maps cover a substantial portion of the Williamston Historic District. These last maps in 1921 illustrate the entire district except for Grace Street on the northwest, the 400, 500, and 600 blocks on North Smithwick Street on the north, and the extreme southwest end of West Main Street. For dating purposes, a resource that appears on the earliest map

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to delineate an area is indicated as "by 1913," or however appropriate. A resource which is not shown by one map but is shown by the next edition is indicated as "1913-1921," or however appropriate. City directories for Williamston do not exist before 1999. More precise dates come from deed research or local tradition.

References to the Williamston Commercial Historic District will be abbreviated as WCHD.

SOUTHEAST SIDE EAST GRACE STREET

1. 100 **former Martin Memorial Library** ca. 1961 NC-age  
One-story brick building with simple period Colonial Revival elements and central portico; first building constructed for public library in town; superseded by new building (entry 255) in 1997; now offices.

NORTHWEST SIDE WEST GRACE STREET

2. 100 **House** ca. 1940 C  
One-and-a-half-story brick and frame Colonial Revival cottage with three gable dormers; uncovered entrance; vinyl siding on gables and dormers.

3. 104 **Richard H. Clayton, Jr. House** ca. 1946 C  
One-story brick ranch with flat-roofed porch supported by original posts; same posts support attached carport on northeast (right); Clayton (1901-1962) was local businessman; wife Mary, a noted local historian, was daughter of Thomas C. Cooke, Sr. (houses entries 82 and 266).

4. 106 **Clark-Manning House** 1937 C  
One-story Colonial Revival house on which steep front gable in gambrel roof adds Tudor Revival flair to balanced design of barrel-vaulted portico, shed dormers, side porch, and porte cochere; Herbert W. Clark was partner to brother Claude B. Clark (entry 40) in Main Street drug store (WCHD, 1995); sold in 1942 to contractor Asa James Manning, Jr. (1912-1986).

5. 108 **Thomas B. Brandon House** 1937 C  
One-story Colonial Revival style dwelling with flat-roofed portico missing its delicate roof balustrade; South Carolina-native Thomas Burriss Brandon (1892-1969) was county farm agent from 1924 to 1957.

6. 110 **House** 1960s NC-age  
One-story, gable-roofed brick ranch house; attached gable-front garage.

7. 112 **D. L. Simmons House** 1951 NC-age  
One-story brick ranch with fashionably large picture window.

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NORTHWEST SIDE WEST GRACE STREET-cont

8. 114 **Ray Goodman. Sr. House** 1938 C  
One-story Tudor Revival dwelling has false half-timbered gables, broad arches, and half-shoulder chimney; Goodman was local manager for the Virginia Power and Electric Company (VEPCO); also leader of minor league baseball, serving as president of the Class D Coastal Plain League 1939 to 1941 and 1946 to 1952, the latter period when there was no local team.
- 8-a **Garage** 1938 C  
Two-car, gable-front, brick garage at rear of lot.
9. 116-118 **Rental Duplex** ca. 1940 C  
Handsome two-story Colonial Revival frame duplex with private side porches or porte cochere.

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST GRACE STREET

10. 107 **Hugh Wyatt House** 1946 C  
One-story, gable-roofed, brick ranch built by contractor Wyatt as his residence; focus is small, neo-Colonial entrance portico.
11. 109 **Clarence W. Griffin House** 1950s NC-age  
One-story, gable-roofed, brick ranch with gable-front wing; simple neo-Colonial details; attorney Griffin was in State House 1941-1945.
- 11-a **Garage** 1950s NC-age  
One-car, gable-front, brick building.
12. 113 **Herbert T. Taylor House** ca. 1940 C  
Attractive Colonial Revival cottage with three gable dormers and porch of Tuscan pillars; aluminum siding; Taylor worked for drug company.
13. 115 **Abbitt House** ca. 1948 C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, asymmetrical Colonial Revival house with twin gable dormers; four-bay facade has large eight-over-eight sash windows, small portico, and bay window; occupation of Abbitt unknown.
- 13-a **Garage** ca. 1948 C  
One-car, gable-front, building with separate pedestrian entrance.
14. 127-129 **Rogers Rental Duplex** 1940-41 C  
Simple frame building finished in a reserved Colonial Revival manner with private side porches or porte cocheres; built for Urbin Rogers, was completed in January 1941.

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15. 102 **House** ca. 1900 C  
Traditional, one-story, frame dwelling with triple-A gable, pedimented gables; enlarged 1920s-1930s on sides and rear; two original turned posts remain, rest replaced with metal ones.
16. 106 **Mizzelle House** ca. 1953 NC-age  
Brick ranch with low hipped roof and International style metal sash casement windows set in corner; similar to nearby 1953 William Honeyblue House (entry #323). Built for a Mizzelle family.

SOUTHEAST SIDE WHITE STREET

17. 101 **House** 1970s NC-age  
One-story, gable-roofed, brick ranch; paired horizontal windows; engaged carport; asbestos shingles.
- 17-a **Storage Shed** 1980s NC-age  
Gable-roofed building; asbestos shingles.
18. 105 **House** 1930s C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-front, frame dwelling; gable-front porch (now screened); asbestos shingles; likely built as rental.
19. 107 **House** 1930s C  
Traditional one-and-a-half-story gable-front frame dwelling; shed-roofed porch (now screened); asbestos shingles; likely built as rental.
20. 109 **House** 1960s NC-age  
One-story brick ranch; gable roof.
- 20-a **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence along property line with entry #19.

NORTHWEST SIDE WEST SIMMONS STREET

21. 110 **Harrell-Moore House** ca. 1890 C  
Large two-story L-plan Italianate Victorian house with paneled and bracketed cornices and peaked window lintels with foliate sawnwork; broad porch, now partially removed, has later Colonial Revival columns; Dr. William H. Harrell (1864-1905) was local physician from 1890 until death; heirs sold house in 1939 to engineer M. S. Moore (1891-1973).
- 21-a **Outbuilding** ca. 1890 C  
Frame building retains wood shingles on gable roof; perhaps originally a stable later converted to garage.

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22. 116 **Worthington-Sitterson-Manning House** ca. 1882 C  
ca. 1929  
Traditional I-house given Colonial Revival updating about 1929, including Tuscan portico and Doric pillars on sun porch; large six-over-six sash windows; built ca. 1882 for lumberman Dennis Simmons, who sold next year to Dennis Worthington; acquired in 1891 by attorney Joseph M. Sitterson (d. 1916), former hotel proprietor (entry 90) and Clerk of Court; postmaster 1898 to 1907; wife Emily operated millinery shop during the 1880s and 1890s; she sold in 1929 to Blanche (Hodges) Manning (1877-1954), widow of Asa James Manning, Sr. (1869-1927), prominent county educator (entry 217).  
22-a **Garage** ca. 1990 NC-age  
One-car building with low gable-front roof; vertical paneling.
23. 120 **House** 1970s NC-age  
One-story brick ranch beneath low hipped roof; largely unaltered.  
23-a **Storage Building** 1970s NC-age  
Gable-roofed building sheathed with plywood; corrugated metal on roof.
24. 122 **House** 1970s NC-age  
Tudor split-level house has stuccoed upper level with false half-timbering; same finish in false gable over picture window in middle level.
25. 126 **(former) Baptist Parsonage** 1890 C  
Two-story frame L-plan house began as single-pile, side-hall-plan dwelling; enlarged by 1910 with projecting gable-front wing and Colonial Revival porch; gift of lumberman Dennis Simmons, whose wife was instrumental in 1869 founding of congregation (entry 71); remained as parsonage until 1915, when sold by congregation.
26. 128 **Apartment Building** ca. 1980 NC-age  
Two-story, gable-roofed, brick building; entrance with small portico on southwest, facing left, with three-bay gable end facing street.
27. 204 **Dr. Hugh Brantley York House** 1914 C  
Large two-story frame Queen Anne with Colonial Revival finish; three-story corner tower has octagonal roof; wrap-around porch has curved corners and fluted Doric columns raised on brick pedestals; physician Hugh Brantley York (1882-1929) served as County Coroner in 1910s; investments included York Building (WCHD).  
27-a **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Board privacy fence along property line with entry 26.  
27-b **Rental Dwelling** ca. 1915 C  
One-story frame dwelling behind kitchen ell; six-over-six sash windows; shed porch is greatly enlarged; perhaps dwelling for domestic help.

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27-c                    **Rental Dwelling**                    ca. 1930s    C  
Story-and-a-jump frame dwelling at rear of lot; wide weatherboards; small six-over-six sash windows, some replaced; one-story side wing with greatly enlarged engaged porch.

NORTHWEST SIDE WEST SIMMONS STREET-cont

28.            206            **Vernon J. Spivey House**                    1936            C  
Conservative two-story brick Colonial Revival house has a flat-roofed entrance portico of Tuscan columns with uncovered terrazzo terrace across facade; porte cochere on east and sun porch on west; Vernon J. "Bill" Spivey (1902-1972) was district supervisor of Norfolk-based Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, a fertilizer manufacturer based in Norfolk.

28-a                    **Smokehouse**                    ca. 1936    C  
Surprisingly large frame gable-roofed building for 1936; weatherboarded with two central doors, one for smokehouse and other for storage room.

28-b                    **Fence**                    ca. 1980s    NC-str  
Board privacy fence encloses rear yard.

29.            208-210 **Rental Duplex**                    ca. 1980s    NC-age  
Two-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival duplex; beaded weatherboard; carport attached at rear of each unit.

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST SIMMONS STREET

30.            101            **Duplex**                    ca. 1930s    C  
Two-story, gable-roofed frame duplex has two-bay Simmons Street facade with asymmetrical gable-front entrance with round-arched entrance; eastern unit (address of 305 North Smithwick Street) is also two-bay gable-front with similar asymmetrical entry and double/triple windows.

31.            111            **House**                    1970s            NC-age  
One-story gable-roofed brick ranch with small gable-front neo-Colonial porch; carport on right.

32.            113            **House**                    ca. 1930s    C  
Large, two-story, gable-roofed brick dwelling with severely-detailed Colonial Revival finish; small, pedimented entrance portico; six-over-six sash windows with soldier course lintels.

33.            115            **House**                    ca. 1927    C  
One-story, gable-front Craftsman bungalow; tapered porch pillars on pedestals; small four-over-one sash windows flank exterior end chimney.

33-a                    **Shed**                    ca. 1927    C  
Small, gable-front storage building.

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34. 119 **House** ca. 1927 C  
One-story gable-roofed Craftsman; engaged porch with tapered posts is accented by false gable above; triple window configuration on front; aluminum siding.
- 34-a **Garage** ca. 1930s C  
Large gable-front two-car building has shed addition on northeast (left) with third auto bay; all with original double-leaf doors; vinyl siding.
35. 121 **House** ca. 1930s C  
One-and-a-half-story brick house with projecting asymmetrical bay containing round-arched entrance; broad shed dormer has two double windows which echo quadruple window on facade.
- 35-a **Garage** ca. 1930s C  
Small, hip-roofed one-car building, no door, with side storage room.
36. 125 **House** ca. 1930s C  
Broad, one-story brick house with hipped roof and simple neo-Colonial lines; wrap-around porch and porte cochere on southwest (right, Hassell Street elevation) carried by brick piers.
- 36-a **Fence** ca. 1990s NC-str  
Board privacy fence encloses rear yard.
37. 201 **Woolard-Harrison House** ca. 1907 C  
ca. 1930  
Colonial Revival expansion of one-story house that originally faced Hassell Street to northeast; house enlarged in 1930s to have projecting gable-front wings at each end, each with fanlight above bay window; uncovered entrance has simple Doric entablature; original house built for Joseph Latham Woolard (1858-1912), ingenious maker of farm tools, tobacco flues, and wagons; house bought in 1920s and enlarged for salesman Henry Davis Harrison, a nephew of Woolard's daughter; divided into two apartments in 1980s, with northeastern unit having address of 315 Hassell Street.
- 37-a **Garage** ca. 1930 C  
Gable-roofed building with two central auto bays flanked by outer storage room; apparently shared with Garland G. Woolard House to southeast (entry 268); relationship between the Woolards unknown.
38. 205-207 **Duplex** ca. 1940 C  
One-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival duplex with brick first story and frame gambrel-roofed upper story; pair of dormers.
- 38-a **Storage Shed** ca. 1980s NC-age  
Small plywood sheathed building.
- 38-b **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Picket fence enclosed northeast side yard.

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### SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST SIMMONS STREET-cont

39. 209 **House** ca. 1970s NC-age  
One-story brick ranch with low hipped roof; engaged carports on southwest (Haughton Street) and southeast (rear).
- 39-a **Storage Building** ca. 1970s NC-age  
Small gable-roofed building with German siding, tiny shed-roofed porch.
- 39-b **Storage Building** 1990s NC-age  
Gable-front building sided with vertical paneling.
- 39-c **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Picket fence encloses rear yard.

### NORTHWEST SIDE ACADEMY STREET

40. 106 **C. B. Clarke, Sr. House** 1928 C  
Two-story Colonial Revival dwelling with false gambrel roof contrived by raking cornices applied so as to suggest gambrel profile and full-width shed dormers; weatherboard on first story, wood shingles on second; Baxter was owner of Clark's Drug Store (WCHD); contractor was brother J. A. Clark.
41. 108 **N. C. Green House** 1929 C  
Formal two-story Colonial Revival has barrel-vaulted portico of paired Tuscan pillars; modillion cornice crowns house; contractor was Julius Manning; Napoleon Cortez Green (1899-1988) was business and civic leader, founding Williamston Motor Company and N. C. Green Oil Company; served on Town Council 1929-1955 and then as mayor until 1975; also had extensive farming interests; wife, Sylvia (Upton) Green here until death in 1990.
- 41-a **Garage** 1929 C  
Two-car, gable-front building; original doors were lattice panels, one now attached to rear of neighbor's shed (entry 33-a).
42. 110 **House** 1950s NC-age  
Two-story, gable-roofed dwelling with shed-roofed porch now with replacement railings; vinyl siding.
43. 112 **C. A. Harrison House** 1934 C  
Sophisticated two-and-a-half-story brick Colonial Revival house designed by C. C. Benton; five-bay design has one-story wings, flat-roofed porch of Doric pillars, roof balustrades, leaded glass entrance, cast concrete accents, and handsome Palladian window on rear; county native Claudius Augustus "Gus" Harrison (1888-1934) began mercantile wholesale business in 1916; served as town treasurer from 1930 until death; wife Lossie (Anderson) Harrison (1893-1967), resided here until death as well.
- 43-a **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
L-shaped lattice fence at rear northwest corner screens propane tank.

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### NORTHWEST SIDE ACADEMY STREET-cont

44. 116 **Elbert S. Peel House** 1932 C  
One-and-a-half story brick Colonial Revival style dwelling; contractor was W. R. Marshall, with design patterned after house in Morehead City; profile is taller than most contemporary Colonial Revival style houses in town, with small, well-detailed entrance portico having paired Tuscan columns, denticulated cornice, and sunburst fan; trio of dormers and one-story wing on each side; rear expanded during renovations in mid 1980s; attorney Peel (1894-1976) served in State Senate in 1929-1931, later was County Attorney and District Solicitor; house erected in field behind father's house (entry 276); wife Fannie (1896-1970) was daughter of newspaper publisher W. C. Manning (entry 297) and herself editor of locals columns for many years.
- 44-a **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Board privacy fence screens rear yard from Hassell Street.
- 44-b **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Lattice fence extends along rear property line.

45. 118 **David R. Davis House** 1935 C  
enlarged 1950  
One-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling; contractor Albert T. Perry; plans supplied by Williamston Supply Company; gable-front entrance bay with cornice returns and unsheltered door framed by Tuscan pilasters and entablature; in 1950 covered porch on the northeast (right) was enclosed for den, balancing southwest wing expanded, and rear enlarged; architect was a Mr. Haskins, Raleigh; contractor was Julius Martin, Robersonville; Davis (1905-1981) opened Davis Pharmacy in 1932 (WCHD); wife was Edith Peel; house occupies garden behind the house of her father, Robert J. Peel (entry 272).
- 45-a **Garage** 1935 C  
One-car frame gable-front garage with overhead door.

### SOUTHEAST SIDE ACADEMY STREET

46. 107 **Dr. J. A. Eason House** ca. 1936 C  
Impressive two-story brick Colonial Revival features two-story pedimented portico with slender Tuscan pillars and modillion cornice; extraordinary blind entrance fanlight has fluted archivolt framing diminutive Gothic arches arranged in sunburst fashion; design supplied by Benton and Benton; physician Eason sold house in 1953.
- 46-a **Playhouse** ca. 1955 NC-age  
Small, one-room frame building with pedimented gable roof; German siding.
47. 109 **James C. Cooke, Jr. House** 1940 C  
Modestly-scaled, one-and-a-half story Colonial Revival cottage with three round-arched dormers roofed with copper, blind fanlight above central uncovered entrance, blind sunburst fanlights atop the eight-over-eight sash windows, and floral boss capitals in pilasters; Cooke (1903-1988), was an

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official with the Standard Fertilizer Company; wife, Iris Henderson (Nelson) Cooke, was a school librarian.

### SOUTHEAST SIDE ACADEMY STREET-cont

48. 111 **Perlie M. Brown House** 1932 C  
One-and-a-half story Colonial Revival with dormers and original shutters having cut-out shield motif; "Cape Cod type" design selected from Good Housekeeping, with W. R. Marshall as contractor; Brown (1877-1955) was a traveling salesman.

49. 119 **L. Bruce Wynne House** ca. 1936 C  
Two-story Colonial Revival house has portico of Doric pillars, dentiled cornice, and blind arch suggesting barrel-vaulted ceiling; house's notable entablature features Greek fret frieze, an infrequent local use of this classical ornament in 1930s; design by Benton and Benton; county-native Wynne (1902-1989) served Martin County as Clerk of the Superior Court from 1934 until 1970.

49-a **Wall** 1980s NC-str  
Wall of decoratively pierced, square concrete blocks laid five rows high

### NORTHWEST SIDE EAST CHURCH STREET

50. 120 **First United Methodist Church** 1902 C  
Frame Gothic Victorian building with numerous Gothic-arched windows; hipped-roof and facade gables anchored by partially-inset belltowers; double-leaf Gothic-arched doors; vinyl siding; two-story educational building built on rear in 1950-1951; congregation organized in 1827, and soon built small log structure at what is now 104 East Church Street; second gable-front church built ca. 1836 between old and present church.

51. 118 **Methodist Parsonage** 1940 C  
One-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival cottage with three dormers and uncovered entrance framed by simple pilasters; one-story wing on east has engaged porch with Doric pillar supporting shallow spandrel arches.

52. 110 **Vacant Lot**  
Site of traditional two-story single-pile frame house erected in 1886 as first parsonage owned by adjacent Methodist church; converted into Sunday School rooms and pastor's study in 1959; demolished 1998.

53. 104 **Albert T. Perry House** ca. 1917 C  
Traditional one-story frame dwelling covered by tall hipped roof; wrap-around porch of Victorian posts; large, now blind, central dormer; vinyl siding; Perry (1879-1956) was leading contractor during the early twentieth century; Perry and wife Maggie sold the house in 1943.



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Greek Revival elements, particularly the low hip roof behind brick parapet, cornice with fret motif, and portico with denticulated entablature and metal Doric columns; contractor was Julius Martin; Wynne (1899-1953) connected with Martin County Building and Loan Association; widow Vella (Andrews) Wynne remarried and resided here until ca. 1970.

56-a **Wall** 1970s NC-str  
Four-foot tall brick wall encloses rear yard curves inward for opening for driveway; chain-link gate.

56-b **Greenhouse** 1980s NC-age  
Small gable-roofed building covered with clear corrugated plastic panels.

NORTHWEST SIDE WEST CHURCH STREET-cont

57. 102 **James Warren Andrews House** ca. 1941 C  
Well-articulated one-and-a-half-story frame Colonial Revival house has full-width engaged porch derived from eighteenth- and nineteenth- century "coastal cottage" dwelling; distinctive elements include elliptical fanlight at entrance, simple Doric porch pillars, and pine tree motifs in shutters; contractor Julius Martin; Andrews (1874-1957) and his wife, Mary Melissa (Morton) Andrews (1883-1975), moved to town from Robersonville in 1917 when he was telegrapher on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

57-a **Fence** ca. 1995 NC-str  
Picket fence with finial-topped posts.

58. 106 **Moore-Whitley House** 1922 C  
Two-story Colonial Revival house with five bays and gable roof with modillion cornice; diminutive portico has fluted Doric columns and gable with curved lower edge suggesting a barrel vault that does not occur; enclosed sun porch on northeast and rectangular bay window on southwest; Clayton Moore was noted lawyer and jurist, moved in 1937 to Winston-Salem; purchased by merchant and industrialist Jesse Stuart Whitley (1885-1957) and his wife, Beatrice (1897-1988); he started Williamston Building Supply Co. in 1927, and had interests in sawmill, logging, basket factory, and peanut mill.

58-a **Garage** 1970s NC-age  
Long, gable-roofed two-car building with and large storage room.

58-b **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.

59. 108 **Dr. Percy Bunn Cone House** ca. 1920 C  
Craftsman foursquare with wrap-around porch of tapered pillars; two-story wing added to northeast ca. 1930; Cone had a successful dental practice; resided here with wife until till deaths.

59-a **Sidewalk** ca. 1920 C-str  
Poured cement sidewalk tapers from porch steps to street; notable example of similar walks popular in town in 1910s/1920s.

59-b **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.

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### NORTHWEST SIDE WEST CHURCH STREET-cont

60. 110 **Grover W. Hardison House** 1942 C  
Brick one-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival cottage is distinctive from other local examples in that it has full facade shed-dormer and a small projecting vestibule; wrap-around porch with late turned posts and sawbuck "X" railing; Hardison (1888-1960) was a traveling salesman; wife, Annie (Peel) Hardison (1884-1946) died shortly after house completed.
- 60-a **Garage** ca. 1942 C  
Gable-front building with open shed bay on northeast (right).
- 60-b **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.
61. 114 **Church of the Advent  
Episcopal Church** 1916 C  
Impressive brick Gothic Revival church designed by Charles C. Benton; cruciform-plan edifice focuses on substantial two-story corner tower with; masonry buttresses, double-lancet arched windows, and crenelated stone-capped parapet; gable-front facade has large, Gothic-arched window with by corbeled brick dripstone, with smaller windows in side bays; red clay roof tiles, tall brick water course, additional buttresses, arched openings, and stone details further embellish academic design; colored windows added between 1964 and 1982 after fire gutted interior in 1963; rebuilt by Benton firm using original plans; original amber-colored diamond panes remain only in sacristy in southwest transept; Paine Studios and its successor, Rohlf's Studios, supplied colored windows; church's construction was gift from Mrs. Fannie Beeler (Chase) Biggs Staton (d. 1956), wife of James Grist Staton (1874-1946), a prosperous farmer, tobacconist, and industrialist, and widow of Dennis Simmons Biggs (1873-1907), who, as the adopted son of lumber entrepreneur Dennis Simmons (1826-1902), had left Fannie with considerable wealth; congregation organized about 1844, with frame Gothic Revival structure built in 1850; first building stood to rear of present church and used from 1916 until 1956 as Parish House; replaced in 1956-1957 by two-story blond brick Gothic Revival Parish House designed by Charles C. Benton and Sons to complement 1916 church building.
- 61-a **Bench** ca. 1930s C-str  
Attractive structure of cast concrete with shaped seat and back; located near entrance for convenience of parishioners; looks like a memorial donation but no plaque indicating such.
- 61-b **Playground** 1980s NC-si  
Playground contains various equipment for day school; enclosed by unpainted picket fence; located at corner of West Academy and Hassell streets.
62. 202 **Herman A. Bowen House** 1942 C  
One-and-a-half story brick Colonial Revival cottage; trio of gable dormers have ogee arches and Doric pilasters; uncovered central entrance, six-over-six sash windows; modillion cornice spans five-bay facade; one-story wings, with screened porch on northeast (right); Bowen (1900-1976) was businessman



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SOUTHEAST SIDE EAST CHURCH STREET

68. 119 **Critcher-Saunders House** 1908 C  
mid 1930s  
Large two-story Colonial Revival; tall truncated hip roof has dormers with arched windows, molded archivolt and keystones; wrap-around porch of turned elements; Queen Anne sash; some stained glass; rear and side ells, latter mid 1930s; Roger Samuel Critcher (1856-1957) came to Williamston from native Granville County in 1898 to teach farmers about tobacco; built nearby about 1914 (entry 224); Dr. Joseph Hubbard Saunders (1882-1939) had a large general medical practice; he and wife, Nannie Hayes (Smith) Saunders (1887-1972), resided here until deaths; rehabilitated in 1990s.
- 68-a **Garage** 1990s NC-age  
Two-car gable-front building with access from North Watts Street.
- 68-b **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Neo-Colonial picket fence with balls atop posts.
69. 109 **House** ca. 1970 NC-age  
One-story brick ranch with neo-Colonial finish elements; two small dormers flank central gable-front porch; engaged carport.
- 69-a **Garage** ca. 1970 NC-age  
Broad, gable-front frame building contains single auto bay flanked by pedestrian doors; vinyl siding.
70. 101 **Parking Lot**  
Site of antebellum Masonic Lodge which was demolished in 1970s; mostly grass and used for parking by adjacent Baptist Church.

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST CHURCH STREET

71. 101 **Memorial Baptist Church** 1915 C  
Large brick Gothic Revival church designed by James M. McMichael of Charlotte; contractor known only as Mr. Bland; hip roof expanded by large gables, with tower-like pavilions at each corner; tallest at corner of Church and Smithwick streets serves as main entrance; Gothic-arched windows have colored glass; crenelated parapets and stone accents; Sunday School rooms added on rear and southwest in 1936; church built as gift by Fannie Biggs, whose sister Martha, wife of lumberman Dennis Simmons, was instrumental in erecting 1886 frame church; cost was over \$18,000; congregation organized in 1870, meeting until 1886 in former Masonic building (entry 70); 1886 church stood southwest of present church, now site of Educational Building; was remodeled into parsonage after 1915, later into Sunday School rooms and office; demolished 1957.
- 71-a **Educational Building** 1958 NC-age  
Large two-story brick building with one-story section having large windows along Church Street; flat roofs with deep eaves impart modern appearance; connected to church by covered walkway.
- 71-b **Playground** 1980s NC-si

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Chain-link fence-enclosed recreation area to rear of Educational Building contains various play equipment such as slide, swings, sandbox sheltered by gable roof, and elevated multi-use platform.

71-c **Carpport** ca. 1990 NC-str

Simple, gable-front metal for parking church vans.

71-d **Basketball Court** ca. 1995 NC-si

Small, approximately twenty-foot square pad of poured concrete with single basketball goal.

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST CHURCH STREET-cont

72. 113 **Francis Upsher Barnes House** 1915-1916 C  
Large asymmetrical Colonial Revival house, sheltered by slate-covered pyramidal roof broken by pediments; wrap-around porch of raised Tuscan columns terminates with a porte cochere on southwest; Barnes supposedly sketched plans along lines of a house in Murfreesboro; he came to town from Maryland in 1906 as manager of Marble Package Company of Delaware, which owned extensive timberland in county; timber was shipped to Pocomoke City, Maryland where it was turned into baskets and crates; Barnes shortly after house's completion, but widow, Mary Ann, son Francis M. Barnes (1896-1996), and daughter-in-law, Lucille (Allen) Barnes, all resided here until their respective deaths; sold in 1997 to adjacent Memorial Baptist Church which has converted house into Sunday School annex.

72-a **Sidewalk** 1916 C-str

Brick front walk widens considerably as it approaches house; while such walks are not unknown in town, this is among best.

72-b **Driveway** 1916 C-str

Concrete "ribbons" extend from street to garage.

72-c **Garage** 1916 C

Two-car, gable-front garage with tall gable for overhead storage; vinyl siding.

72-d **Storage Building** 1916 C

Two-room, gable-roof building with batten doors on front and sides; vinyl siding.

73. 138 **Cushing Biggs Hassell House** 1847-1848 C  
moved 1925

[note: house kept its original West Main Street house number after 1925 move, hence the break in sequence.]

Large two-story, double-pile Greek Revival house is finest antebellum residence in town; construction documented to Warren County master builder Albert Gamaliel Jones; originally built on Main Street to the rear (lots now occupied by the Watt's Theatre lot and Clark's Drug Store, in WCHD) and moved here in 1925 to prevent demolition; house covered by hipped roof and framed by paneled pilasters incorporating a robust band of reel molding that rises in each corner between the pilasters; this motif was Jones's trademark; pilaster capitals emblazoned with sunbursts and carry splendid Doric entablature; same entablature in diminutive form distinguishes

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pedimented one-bay portico; this portico was the side porch on the original northeast (now southwest, right) elevation; original front porch was three bays wide and topped by a flat roof accessed by a sidelighted second-story entrance; porch changes were undertaken in 1930; entrance and sidelights framed by Doric pilasters and surmounted by robustly-molded pediment; bull's-eye cornerblocks frame large six-over-six sash windows; a county native, Cushing Hassell Biggs (1809-1880) was one of town's leading antebellum merchants, citizens, educators, and civil servant; best known as state's leading Primitive Baptist preacher during the mid-nineteenth century; Hassell pastored nearby Skewarkey Church for thirty-six years and served as moderator of the Kehukee Association, the nation's oldest Primitive Baptist Association, from 1859 until death; house remained in family until 1930, when acquired by C. Godwin Crockett (1890-1980), co-founder in 1927 of the Standard Fertilizer Company along the Roanoke River at Williamston; Hugh Wyatt, (house entry 10) hired to renovate house, at which time porches assumed present configuration; Crockett sold in 1964 to Dr. Martel J. Dailey and wife, Olive (Trader) Dailey.

73-a	<b>Garage</b>	ca. 1930	C
Handsome hip-roofed two-car garage has original sliding doors.			
73-b	<b>Fence</b>	1970s	NC-str
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.			

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST CHURCH STREET-cont

74.	119	<b>House</b>	1970s	NC-age
One-story brick ranch with engaged carport; neo-Colonial finish includes Chippendale railing and eight-over-eight windows with paneled aprons.				
74-a		<b>Fence</b>	1980s	NC-str
Chain-link fence along southwest (right) property line with city-owned lane leading to municipal parking lot at rear (not in HD).				

75.	207	<b>Dr. William C. Mercer House</b>	1937	C
Imposing two-story brick Colonial Revival residence has two-story Tuscan pillars supporting flat-roofed portico; entrance has broken pediment with urn, pilasters with dentiled capitals, and semi-circular fanlight; Mercer (1895-1954) was a dentist, residing here with wife until deaths.				
75-a		<b>Garage</b>	ca. 1937	C
One-car garage with storage room under gable-front roof; shed along side for additional storage.				

76.	311	<b>Manning House</b>	ca. 1940	C
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, brick Colonial Revival dwelling with distinctive salt-box-type roof on rear of house; paired fluted Doric columns support entrance portico with open, vaulted ceiling and side porch enclosed with turned balusters; paired six-over-six sash windows; built for member of large Manning family.				
76-a		<b>Fence</b>	1970s	NC-str
Chain-link fence encloses rear and side yards.				

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77. 315 **Hassell-Muse House** ca. 1860 C  
moved ca. 1914  
Large two-story, double-pile, gable-roofed house was originally a traditional two-story single-pile antebellum dwelling with one-story ell at the northwest corner of Main and Haughton streets, one block outside of district; moved here about 1914 and remodeled into the Colonial Revival style; expanded to double-pile depth about 1940 by addition of rear rooms; home of Dr. Alonzo Hassell (1851-1888), a son of Cushing Biggs Hassell (entry 73), although not built for him; Hassell was county's first Superintendent of Health in 1880; maintained as Hassell House Hotel by widow, Ida, from ca. 1896 to ca. 1905; lot sold in 1914 for new construction (since demolished) and house moved here by newspaper publisher W. C. Manning, Sr., whose residence stood nearby (entry 297); relocated house first maintained as rental property but in 1940 was occupied by Manning's daughter Sarah, and husband Joel Muse (1900-1971) until deaths.
- 77-a **Storage Building** 1980s NC-age  
Gable-front building at rear.
- 77-b **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.
78. 319 **John W. Manning House** 1918 C  
Large two-story Colonial Revival residence; asymmetrical form has deep wrap-around porch carried by Tuscan columns; boxed cornices at pedimented gable; Manning (1894-1944) is said to have sketched the house's outline himself, lot given by father, newspaper publisher W. C. Manning (entry 297); younger Manning was an electrical contractor and manager of the Williamston Telephone Exchange; wife was Mary Kader "Kate" (Lilley) Manning (1897-1961); house remains in family ownership.
- 78-a **Garage Building** 1918 C  
Long, gable-roofed building containing a one-car garage and storage rooms.
- 78-b **Service Yards** 1918 C-si  
Rear of the property is enclosed by ligustrum hedges, and originally divided into gardens, drying yard, and play areas.
- 78-c **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Picket fence encloses portion of rear yard

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### NORTHWEST SIDE EAST MAIN STREET

79. 320 **Critcher-Ballard House** ca. 1910 C  
One-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling; Craftsman porch pillars; attorney B. A. Critcher, Sr. (entry 229) built as rental property; sold in 1922 to Joseph L. Ballard.
- 79-a **Garage** by 1921 C  
One-car shed-roofed garage with pent roof above automobile bay.
- 79-b **Wall** ca. 1930 C-str  
Handsome, two-foot-tall retaining wall of random-laid granite along driveway on northeast (right); provides limited mitigation of elevation decrease from center of lot to northeast; this is the locally-called "river hill," a decrease of about twenty feet vertically over 200 feet horizontally as the land on which the town is situated slopes downward to the Roanoke River, about one-quarter mile northeast of the historic district boundary.
- 79-c **Steps** ca. 1930 C-str  
Flight of seven poured concrete steps rises from street level to sidewalk at lawn level.
- 79-d **Steps** ca. 1930 C-str  
Flight of nine poured concrete steps rises from driveway and rock wall (entry 79-b) to sidewalk at lawn level.
80. 318 **County House** 1920-21 C  
One-story Craftsman bungalow similar to others in town; engaged full-width porch; built for county government as rental housing, first occupant being C. J. Rhem (1846-1925), state prison official in charge of convicts working on earthworks of Roanoke River bridge in 1920-1922.
81. 316 **Critcher-Harrison House** by 1921 C  
One-story gable-front bungalow with Tuscan porch columns, Craftsman windows; built as rental for attorney B. A. Critcher, Sr.; acquired in 1938 by James E. Harrison, Jr.
82. 312 **Thomas C. Cooke, Sr. House** ca. 1915 C  
One-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival house with clipped gable roof and Tuscan porch columns; carnival-owner Will T. Stone sold in 1917 to machinist/blacksmith Thomas Coffield Cooke, Sr. (1872-1962), who later commuted to Atlantic Coastline Railroad repair shops in Rocky Mount; he and wife reside here until deaths.
83. 310 **House** ca. 1890 C  
Distinctive one-story-with-attic, L-plan Victorian house; projecting gable-front wing has large six-over-six sash window with peaked lintel, above which is small six-over-six-sash window in attic framed by boxed cornice returns; paired four-over-four windows on small porch; replacement posts and 1990s Chippendale railing; room added onto southwest (right) in 1920s has Colonial Revival pilasters framing entrance.



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### NORTHWEST SIDE EAST MAIN STREET-cont

89. 200 **Hugh G. Horton House** ca. 1928 C  
Two-story Colonial Revival gable-roofed house with symmetrical five-bay facade; semi-circular portico and side porch having fluted Doric pillars and turned roof balustrades; denticulated boxed cornice; attorney Hugh Glenn Horton, Sr. (1897-1959), served five terms in the General Assembly between 1935 and 1953.

89-a **Garage** ca. 1928 C  
Gable-front building with central automobile bay flanked by storage area in lateral sheds; unenclosed shed-roofed shelter along southwest (right); access from Watts Street.

90. 120 **Hassell-King House** 1921-1926 NC-alt  
Large two-story Colonial Revival house with flanking one-story wings was largely destroyed by fire in June 1999, leaving only one wing once partially-recessed porch, and small central portico with sheltered facade; large Craftsman pillars; Cushing Biggs Hassell (1879-1946) built on site of hotel that operated here between 1853 until 1921; hotel supposedly built for William "Uncle Billy" Watts and later known as Planters Hotel and Kirby Hotel; sold in 1932 to tobacconist James Edwin King (1895-1953), who came to Williamston in the late 1920s.

### NORTHWEST SIDE WEST MAIN STREET

91. 406 **Hugh M. Burras House** 1913-1921 C  
Two-story I-house with pedimented gables, false central gable, and full-width porch carried by turned posts; vinyl siding; Burras (1874-1967) was an early tobacconist in town.

91-a **Garage** ca. 1980 NC-age  
Large gable-front garage with storage area; vertical siding.

91-b **Garage** 1930s NC-alt  
One-car, shed-roofed building with bifold doors; modern siding.

92. 408-416 **Townhouse Apartments** 1980s NC-age  
Five-unit, frame building with blind gable facing street; northeast (right) facade has staggered bays; vertical siding.

92-a **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Tall privacy fence along boundary with entry #91.

93. 422 **James D. Bowen House** ca. 1927 C  
Two-story Colonial Revival house with pedimented gable enclosing semi-circular window; wrap-around porch carried by Craftsman pillars on brick pedestals; porte cochere on southwest; second-story deck added onto northeast (right) ca. 1998; plans borrowed from 1923 Robert J. Peel House (entry #272) and nearly identical to nearby house erected for brother John M. Bowen (entry #120); farmer James Daniel Bowen (1877-1966), was also partner with brother in farmers supply company on Washington Street.

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partner with brother in farmers supply company on Washington Street.  
93-a **Utilities Building** ca. 1927 C  
Long, gable-roofed building has at least three sections, the middle being a one-car garage.  
93-a **Fence** 1998 NC-str  
Picket fence of unpainted, pressure-treated boards encloses entire rear yard.

NORTHWEST SIDE WEST MAIN STREET-cont

94. 502 **Mobley-Meadows House** ca. 1886 NC-alt  
One-and-a-half-story, hip-roofed dwelling was only house in town to indicate Gothic Revival elements until renovation ca. 1999 removed triangular-arched window in steep gable on each elevation; other alterations included vinyl siding, replacement windows, and metal pillars replacing ca. 1916 Tuscan columns on wrap-around porch; occupation of Nicholas Mobley (1859-1891) uncertain, perhaps a grocer and/or miller; sold in 1916 to tobacconist William Thomas Meadows (1865-1936) who came from Granville County in early 1890s; occupied by heirs until 1990s.

94-a **Garage** by 1921 C  
One-car, gable-front building; originally located at north corner of lot along Pearl Street; relocated along southwest boundary to site of former wood shed.

95. 506 **House** by 1921 C  
One-story, gable-roofed building with end chimneys; small, paired six-over-six sash windows; small front portico, with 1950s replacement metal posts added ca. 1930 along with side porch.

96. 512 **James H. Mizelle House** ca. 1897 NC-alt  
Simple one-story L-plan Victorian cottage; replacement porch; vinyl siding; Mizelle (1867-1924) was a lumberman; occupied by heirs until 1973.

97. 516 **Dennis D. Stalls House** ca. 1900 C  
Modest one-story gable-roof dwelling enlarged on the rear by shed rooms; Tuscan porch columns added in 1920s to update into Colonial Revival; tenant David D. Stalls (1876-1935) bought house in 1918; Stalls was engaged in a succession of businesses, including grocery, peanut and cotton brokerage, and coal yard.

97-a **Garage** by 1921 NC-alt  
One-car gable-front building lacking garage door; re-sided with manufactured panels.

98. 520 **House** 1970s NC-age  
One-story ranch tract house.

99. 600 **Vacant Lot**

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100. 604 **House** ca. 1935 C  
Charming gable-front Colonial Revival bungalow with projecting arched entry; Craftsman windows; picturesque "half-shoulder" chimney on southwest; asbestos shingles.
- 100-a **Rental Dwelling** ca. 1940 C  
Small gable-front bungalow with bracketed pent roof across facade; replacement windows.
101. 608 **House** ca. 1940 C  
One-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow; asymmetrical gable-front has replacement wrought-iron posts; asbestos shingles.
- 101-a **Storage Shed** 1970s NC-age  
Gable-front frame building.
- 101-b **Lawn Curbs** ca. 1940 C-str  
Distinctive cast-concrete curbs placed eighteen inches in from sidewalk; about six inches tall and eight inches wide with peaked top; twelve-foot lengths extend between pylons each about twelve inches square, with truncated-hipped tops about ten inches tall; shorter segments define entrance sidewalk.
102. 610 **House** ca. 1935 NC-alt  
One-and-a-half-story gable-front dwelling; small asymmetrical porch with turned posts; replacement windows; vinyl siding.
- 102-a **Rental Dwelling** ca. 1940 NC-alt  
One-and-a-half-story building sided with vertical paneling; probably a remodeled former garage.
- 102-b **Rental Dwelling** ca. 1940 C  
Tiny little one-story building at rear of lot; vinyl siding.
- 102-c **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Chain link fence encloses rear yard.
103. 612 **Cowan Rental House** 1936 C
104. 614 **Cowan Rental House** 1936 C  
Modest, gable-front bungalows; porch has open front gable with king post and corner pillars raised on brick pedestals; both built for Henry Herbert Cowan by contractor from Roanoke Rapids.
- 103-a **Garage** 1936 C  
Pent-roofed garage with end storage room.
- 104-a **Garage** 1936 C  
Pent-roofed garage with end storage room.
105. 620 **Henry Herbert Cowan House** 1907 C  
Large, complex Queen Anne style residence has numerous gables embellished with sawn ornaments; wrap-around porch has Colonial Revival Tuscan columns; Cowan (1877-1950) was proprietor of small saw mill in county, providing

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lumber for house's construction; he also did much of the carpenter work with the help of father-in-law, John R. Mobley (1858-1935), a surveyor, farmer, and contractor; Mobley and wife also lived here, with Cowans selling house ca. 1946; now rental apartments.

105-a **Garage** 1980s NC-age  
Gable-front two-car garage sided with plywood.

SOUTHEAST SIDE EAST MAIN STREET

106. 401 **Pete Hall House** 1921-1926 C  
Handsome one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed bungalow with deep, engaged porch carried by pairs of raised Tuscan columns; tall gable wood-shingled ends and front shed dormer; little known of Hall and wife Mary; rental property for many years.

106-a **Garage** 1921-1926 C  
Gable-front one-car garage with storage room at rear; accessed from Harrell Street.

106-a **Wall** ca. 1930 C-str  
Brick retaining wall two to four feet in height along East Main and Harrell street to accommodate lower road grade than lawns; decline is part of so-called "river hill," where the elevation on which the town is built decreases dramatically toward Roanoke River to northeast.

106-c **Steps** ca. 1930 C-str  
Impressive flight of twelve poured concrete steps rises from sidewalk to lawn; rest of graded hill covered with grass.

107. 319 **House** by 1913 NC-alt  
One-story gable-roofed house; original single-pile house enlarged and updated with asymmetrical porch (replacement metal columns) ca. 1930s; brick-veneered ca. 1973.

107-a **Wall/Steps** ca. 1930s C-str  
Brick retaining wall at northeast corner of lot provides grade change for six poured concrete steps as street descends the "river hill" going northeastward toward Roanoke River.

108. 317 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow with distinctive clipped front gable; full width porch of Craftsman pillars on pedestals; vinyl siding.

109. 311 **House** 1921-1926 C  
One-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow; gable-front porch has raised Craftsman pillars; vinyl siding.

109-a **Storage Building** 1921-1926 C  
Two-room gable-front building; shed-roofed garage shelter added onto northeast (left) in 1930s or 1940s.

110. 309 **Rupert Cowan House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story brick Colonial Revival cottage with projecting front



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by physician Josiah Burke Haywood Knight (1856-1924), whose grandson continues occupancy.

- |   |                |          |       |
|---|----------------|----------|-------|
| 114-a   | <b>Garage</b>  | ca. 1930 | C     |
| Large three-bay shed-roofed garage with storage room.   |                |          |       |
| 114-b   | <b>Shelter</b> | ca. 1930 | C     |
| Distinctive gable-roofed building enclosed only by wood-shingled apron walls; used for cooking in warm weather.             |                |          |       |
| 114-d   | <b>Gazebo</b>  | ca. 1946 | C     |
| Diminutive, six-foot-square, gable-roofed structure sided with widely-spaced lattice; inside are two simple facing benches. |                |          |       |
| 114-e   | <b>Fence</b>   | ca. 1946 | C-str |
| Two lattice panels flank gazebo (entry 114-d) to separate front and rear lawns.   |                |          |       |

SOUTHEAST SIDE EAST MAIN STREET-cont

- |   |     |                                  |          |        |
|---|-----|----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 115.  | 125 | <b>First Presbyterian Church</b> | 1930     | C      |
| Brick Flemish bond Colonial Revival church with impressive pedimented Tuscan portico; architect Eric G. Flannagan of Henderson; contractor Fred Forrest of Roanoke Rapids; academic entablature with modillion cornice, arched nave windows, brick quoins; congregation organized in 1928; in 1950s a two-story educational building appended on rear, at which time a slender three-stage center tower was added to portico.     |     |                                  |          |        |
| 115-a   |     | <b>Playground</b>                | 1970s    | NC-si  |
| Rectangular area at rear (southeast) of church enclosed by chain-link fence; contains play equipment such as swings and slide.  |     |                                  |          |        |
| 115-b   |     | <b>Lawn Curbs</b>                | 1970s    | NC-str |
| Low, one-foot-tall brick retaining wall defines boundaries of rear yard and Playground (entry 115-a).   |     |                                  |          |        |
| 116.  | 123 | <b>Page-Peel House</b>           | 1922     | C      |
| Handsome one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow is entirely wood-shingled; hipped roof interrupted on each side by hipped-roof dormer, with those on sides spanning the roof's ridge and fronted by exterior chimneys; deep engaged porch has wood-shingled tapered pillars and apron wall balustrade; police chief sold house in 1928 to farmer and tobacconist John R. Peel (1899-1945); widow remained here until 1995 death. |     |                                  |          |        |
| 116-a   |     | <b>Garage</b>                    | ca. 1922 | C      |
| Large, weatherboarded, hipped-roof building contains two automobile bays and ample storage room   |     |                                  |          |        |

SOUTHEAST SIDE WEST MAIN STREET

- |   |     |                            |          |   |
|---|-----|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 117.  | 507 | <b>A. E. Browder House</b> | ca. 1949 | C |
| One-and-a-half-story brick Tudor Revival ; steeply-pitched front gables, "picturesque" front chimney, stone-capped buttresses, randomly placed rock-faced stones; arched entrance and porch; Browder was owner of machine and welding shop. |     |                            |          |   |



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125. 623 **Stalls-Lee House** 1925 C  
One-story rectangular dwelling beneath tall hipped roof; wrap-around porch carried by turned posts; first known owner was W. L. Stalls, who lost it during Depression; state highway worker George W. Lee rented here during World War II and bought it during the war.
- 125-a **Storage Shed/Garage** 1925 C  
Gable-front storage building expanded on sides by shed-roofed automobile bays without doors.

NORTHWEST SIDE RAY STREET

126. 311 **Olivia S. Bullock House** ca. 1949 C  
One-story, gable-roofed dwelling with small, gable portico in center and simplest of Colonial Revival finish; weatherboard; enlarged with one-room addition setback on northeast (right); nothing known of Mrs. Bullock, a widow, who sold house in 1954.
- 127-a **Garage** ca. 1949 C  
Gable-roofed porch at rear of lot with one automobile bay and storage room.
127. 309 **Kater Rawls House** ca. 1949 C  
One-story house identical to entry 126 except without northeast addition; facade eaves accented with simple scalloped fascia; small porch on southwest; nothing known of Rawls, who sold house in 1960.
- 127-a **Garage** ca. 1949 C  
Two-car gable-front garage.
128. 307 **House** ca. 1949 C  
One-story gable-front dwelling with slightly-projecting front bay mimicking typical bungalow form; front eaves had wide fascias with molding architraves; wide eight-over-eight sash windows; asbestos shingles; most likely erected as rental property.
129. 305 **House** ca. 1949 C  
One-story house is identical but mirror image to entry 128.
- 129-a **Garage** ca. 1949 C  
Two-car gable-front garage nearly identical to entry 127-a.
130. 303 **Rental House** ca. 1947 C  
Simple one-story dwelling with slightly projecting asymmetrical gable; uncovered entrance; asbestos shingles.
- 130-a **Garage** ca. 1947 C  
One-car gable-front garage at rear of house.
- 130-b **Fence** ca. 1970 NC-str  
Chain-link fence defines property line with entry 129.

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131. 301 **Rental House** ca. 1947 C  
Simple one-story dwelling similar to entry 130 except with small, later porch of wrought iron posts and additional room on northeast (right); built as rental for Evan F. Moyer and sold in 1949, 1950, and 1958.
132. 221 **Philpot House** 1870s C  
Two-story double-pile dwelling beneath low hipped roof that lost a pair of exterior end chimneys since 1995; central hipped-roof porch supported by replacement wooden pillars; first known owner was carpenter John L. Philpot (1847-1916), though nothing else is known about his career; widow remained here until death in 1938.
133. 217 **House** ca. 1930 C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable house with Colonial Revival porch; two widely-spaced dormers; asbestos shingles.
134. 213 **Critcher Rental House** ca. 1925 C  
One-and-a-half-story gable-roofed Craftsman bungalow with shed and partially enclosed porch; asbestos shingles; built for brothers Burrous A. Critcher, Sr. and Roger A. Critcher, Sr. as rental property
135. 211 **Vacant Lot**  
Site of Craftsman bungalow built by 1926 and demolished ca. 1978.
136. 209 **Critcher-Corey House** ca. 1918 C  
One-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow; gable roof engages porch with unusual wrap-around porch; porch pillars and apron wall are weatherboarded; built for Burrous A. and Roger A. Critcher as rental property for tobacco auctioneers; sold in 1927 to Ford salesman Joseph Gray Corey (1899-1973).
137. 201 **House** ca. 1970 NC-age  
One-story brick ranch.

SOUTHEAST SIDE RAY STREET

138. 206 **Apfel-Watts House** ca. 1917 C  
Handsome one-story Craftsman bungalow distinguished low hipped roofs and corresponding deep eaves, multi-pane Craftsman windows, and tapered porch pillars on brick pedestals; little known about P. F. Apfel, who sold house in 1922 to James Wiggins Watts, Jr., owner and operator of Watts Theatre (WCHD, demolished 1996).
139. 204 **House** ca. 1948 C  
Modest post-war Colonial Revival house with asymmetrical front gable, broken pediment above uncovered entrance, picture window, and side wing; asbestos shingles.

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140. 100 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable Colonial Revival dwelling; off center porch, diminutive dormer, and interior but forward-facing chimney suggest Tudor Revival influence; vinyl siding.
- 140-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C  
One-car gable-roofed building with storage room; vinyl siding.
141. 102 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable Tudor Revival with central gable-front block accented with round-arched attic window and forward-facing interior chimney; screened shed-roofed porch to northeast of gable has Doric pillars.
- 141-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C  
Two-car gable-roofed building with storage room.
142. 110 **Duggan-Godard House** 1853-54 C  
Two-story, hip-roofed house is only antebellum house in town to retain original double-pile, side-hall plan; actually faces toward South Smithwick Street to the northeast; Greek Revival elements include pilasters on plinth blocks, capitals with sunburst motifs, sophisticated moldings, and deep entablature; rear ell; two-story wing added on northwest in 1915; trabeated entrance has replacement Colonial Revival porch of Tuscan columns, with similar, but screened, three-bay porch along Marshall Avenue; both date from 1930s, latter added to face newly-opened Marshall Avenue; planter Stanley Duggan (1809-1876) owned coach shop and shingle mill; house inherited by daughter Mary Emily, whose husband John Edward Cooke (1838-1906) was a painter and cabinet maker; sold in 1910 to merchant and banker Joseph George Godard (1862-1944), who enlarged and improved house ; in 1902 Godard formed private Bank of Martin County, the first bank in county (WCHD); when bank failed in 1923, Godard lost home as well; house then acquired by nephew Joseph George Godard, Jr. (1890-1954), a telephone employee who took "Jr." to honor uncle; remains in family ownership.
- 142-a **Carpport** 1970s NC-str  
Gable-roofed structure supported by metal posts.
143. 112 **House** ca. 1900 C  
Small one-story dwelling with full-width porch and enclosed end bay; perhaps a former ell on adjacent Duggan-Godard House (entry 142); German vinyl siding; replacement windows.
144. 116 **House** ca. 1940 C  
Gable-end house Colonial Revival house with dormers; central gable-front portico has barrel-vaulted ceiling; two dormers; Tuscan columns carry screened porch and porte cochere on southwest.
- 144-a **Storage Building** ca. 1940 C  
Simple gable-roofed frame building.

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145. 200 **Vacant Lot**
146. 202 **House** ca. 1930 C  
One-story gable-end Colonial Revival cottage with two diminutive dormers; Tuscan columns on porch with non-original wrought-iron roof balustrade; charming and quarter-circular louvers flank half-shoulder exterior-end chimney; rambling rear ell.
- 146-a **Garage** ca. 1930 C  
One-car garage with storage room; shed roof with pent front.
- 146-b **Garage** ca. 1930 C  
One-car garage with storage room; pent roof with pent front; smaller than 153-a.
147. 204 **James K. Rogerson House** 1930s C  
One-story brick (solid walls, not veneer) Colonial Revival cottage with projecting front ell; replacement metal porch posts.
- 147-a **Garage** 1960s NC-age  
Hip-roofed frame garage; vinyl siding.
- 147-b **Wall** 1980s NC-str  
Low wall of ornamental square concrete blocks encloses rear yard.
148. 206 **House** ca. 1940 C  
One-story hip-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling has projecting gable wings on each end framing central porch, now with replacement metal posts; vinyl siding.
- 148-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
Frame one-car garage with storage room; shed roof has pent front.
- 148-b **Fence** ca. 1960s NC-str  
Wire fence along property line with entry #152.
149. 208 **House** ca. 1940 C  
One-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow; engaged corner porch has applied raking cornice to simulate gable-front roof when, in fact, porch doesn't project at all; half-shoulder chimney on front; identical in form to trio of houses on Park Street and Leggetts Lane (entries #s 264, 265, 168).
- 149-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
One-car garage beneath shed roof with pent front.
150. 210 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow; Tuscan columns on porch; beaded vinyl siding; supposedly built for Leona Griffin Roberson.
- 150-a **Storage Building** ca. 1935 NC-alt  
Former shed-roofed garage was remodeled and enlarged in 1980s; given gable roof, vinyl siding, and doors and windows
- 150-b **Fence** ca. 1998 NC-str  
Plywood sheets compose paneled privacy fence along rear boundary.



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156. 109 **House** 1940 C  
Same house type and form as neighbor entry #155; porch has been screened; asbestos shingles.
157. 111 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story gable-front Colonial Revival with corner porch in front of projecting wing on northwest side; exterior end chimney located on porch, which is carried by slender Doric pillars with roof balustrade; aluminum siding.
- 157-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C  
One-car garage with storage room; shed roof with pent front; German siding.
- 157-b **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence along Leggetts Lane.
158. 115 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story brick gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling; uncovered central entrance; porch on northeast now glass-enclosed.
- 158-a **(former) Garage** ca. 1940 NC-alt  
One-car building has shed roof with pent front; enclosed for storage in 1980s; vinyl siding.
- 158-b **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Tall picket fence along Leggetts Lane; staggered pickets on both sides of rails provide added privacy.
159. 117 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story Colonial/Tudor Revival has two front gables balancing picturesque chimney on facade; German siding.
- 159-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C  
Gable-front one-car garage with storage room; German siding; located along Leggetts Lane with access to Marshall Avenue.
- 159-b **Garage** ca. 1935 C  
One-car gable-front garage with original wooden swinging doors; located southwest of house with access from Marshall Avenue.
160. 201 **House** ca. 1940 C  
Small one-story Colonial Revival house; central portico with barrel vaulted ceiling; aluminum siding.
- 160-a **Garage** ca. 1940 NC-alt  
Large one-car building has shed roof with pent front, but opens onto Park Street with original sliding doors in side elevation; extends backwards with storage rooms to nearly width of lot; vinyl siding on building and doors.
161. 203/205 **Duplex** ca. 1940 C  
Handsome one-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival duplex; each unit has charming small portico with curved fascia suggesting barrel vaulted

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ceiling; boxed cornice returns further accentuate gables.

161-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
One-car shed-roofed building with storage room located at rear of No 203 unit.161-b **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
One-car shed-roofed building with storage room located at rear of No 205 unit.161-c **Carport** ca. 1970 NC-str  
Metal carport located in front of garage for No. 205.161-d **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Tall vertical board privacy fence.SOUTHEAST SIDE MARSHALL AVENUE-cont162. 207 **House** ca. 1955 NC-age  
One-story brick ranch with projecting gable on front west (right) and shed-roof porch extending across rest of facade.163. 209 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival cottage; entrance has a small modern metal awning; screened sitting porch on northeast elevation has paired Tuscan pillars with diagonal wooden slats as decorative infill; vinyl siding; replacement windows.163-a **(former) Garage** ca. 1935 C  
Two-story building with apartment upstairs; vinyl siding.163-b **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.163-c **Barbecue Pit** 1970s NC-str  
Elongated brick structure for outdoor grilling; chimney rises about four feet above grade.164. 211 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival house with diminutive entrance portico carried by turned porch posts; open sitting porch on northeast elevation; vinyl siding.164-a **Garage** 1970s NC-age  
Modern one-car gable-front garage with neo-Colonial elements; vinyl siding.164-b **Shed** 1970s NC-age  
Small ready-built gable-front storage shed; vinyl siding.165. 213 **House** ca. 1935 NC-alt  
One-story gable-front bungalow; replacement brick veneer; replacement porch posts; carport added to rear.166. 215 **House** ca. 1935 C  
Attractive one-story Colonial/Tudor Revival cottage with complex, multi-gabled roof; partially recessed (and screened) corner porch supported by Tuscan columns; vinyl siding.



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NORTHEAST SIDE WARREN STREET

171. 500 **J. R. Leggett House** 1927 C  
Pleasant one-story Colonial Revival has well-proportioned portico of Tuscan columns and wood-shingled pediment; tripartite windows, entrance sidelights; similarity to "The Crescent" by Sears, Roebuck and Company is striking, but undocumented; home of J. R and Dorothy (Thrower) Leggett until mid 1990s.

172. 504 **House** 1930s C  
One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling with gable portico, entrance fanlight, and paired windows; vinyl siding.

172-a **Garage** 1930s C  
One-car building, shed roof with pent front; side storage room.

173. 508 **House** 1930s C  
One-story Colonial Revival dwelling with subtly asymmetrical roofline and four-bay facade; paired windows.

174. 512 **House** 1930s C  
One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling with flat-roofed two-bay porch; paired windows; asbestos shingles.

174-a **Garage** 1950s NC-age  
Large, two-car, gable-roofed garage with pedestrian entrance.

175. 516 **House** 1940s NC-alt  
One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival with later brick veneer; broad three-bay porch has replacement metal posts.

175-a **Garage** 1940s C  
One-car garage beneath shed roof with pent front.

176. 518 **House** 1930s C  
Broad, one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed Craftsman bungalow with small central gable; engaged porch extends to porte cochere on southwest (left); asbestos shingles; replacement windows.

SOUTHWEST SIDE WARREN STREET

177. 401 **Vacant Lot**

178. 403 **House** 1960s NC-age  
One-story gable-roofed dwelling with projecting asymmetrical front gable; small, engaged porch with replacement metal posts; replacement windows; originally site of Craftsman Bungalow similar to entries #s 179, 180, 181.

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### SOUTHWEST SIDE WARREN STREET-cont

179.	405	<b>Rental Bungalow</b>	1919-20	C
180.	407	<b>Rental Bungalow</b>	1919-20	C
181.	409	<b>Rental Bungalow</b>	1919-20	C

Identical one-story bungalows exhibit stylish Craftsman elements; engaged front porch has raised pillars with dentil-like capital accents; broad gable roof with low shed dormer and triangular eave brackets; exterior-end single-shoulder chimney flanked by small casement windows; while history of each is unclear, entry #180 was erected as rental or speculation by Carolina Farm Land Company, incorporated 1919 by newspaper publisher W. C. Manning; completed house sold in 1920 to Harrison Wholesale Company for hefty profit; changed hand four times between 1943 and 1953.

180-a	<b>Garage</b>	by 1926	C
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Two-car shared garage between entries #s 180 and 181.

180-b	<b>Fence</b>	1970s	NC-str
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Low, picket fence on boundary between entries #s 180 and 181.

181-a	<b>Wall</b>	ca. 1945	C-str
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One-foot-tall retaining wall inside of sidewalk raises front yard to level surface.

182.	411	<b>House</b>	ca. 1940	C
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One-story gable-roofed Craftsman bungalow with projecting gable-front porch partially recessed into house; Craftsman pillars; aluminum siding.

182-a	<b>Wall</b>	ca. 1945	C-str
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One-and-a-half-foot-tall retaining wall inside of sidewalk raises front yard to level surface.

182-b	<b>Garage</b>	ca. 1945	C
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One-car garage beneath shed roof with pent front.

183.	413	<b>House</b>	ca. 1980	NC-age
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Large, one-and-a-half-story brick Colonial Revival dwelling.

184.	505	<b>House</b>	1930s	C
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Symmetrical, one-and-a-half-story house enlivened with steep Tudor Revival gable; exterior front chimney has been removed.

185.	507	<b>House</b>	by 1926	C
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Tall one-and-a-half-story gable-roofed Craftsman bungalow with shed dormer having two small windows; four-bay engaged porch has atypical asymmetrical arrangement of Craftsman pillars; exterior stair added to northeast for second-story apartment.

186.	509	<b>House</b>	ca. 1940	C
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Small, one-story gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling with asymmetrical front gable; cornice returns; small stoop, six- and eight-over-one sash windows; vinyl siding.

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187. 513 **Mae Smith House** ca. 1922 C  
One-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow identical to "The Carlin" by Sears, Roebuck and Company, although not documented as such; ad describes as "quite pleasing," with second-story balcony "a much-desired feature"; has stylishness rarely seen in modestly-sized bungalows in eastern North Carolina: wood shingles sheath gables and side railings of recessed balcony; front balustrades of notched and shaped boards; raised Tuscan porch columns; wood-shingled rear shed rooms added ca. 1930; little known about Mae Smith, who bought lot in 1917; sold in 1938 to Daryl V. Clayton and wife, Mary S., who owned until 1971.

188. 515 **House** by 1926 C  
Large, one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow with large shed dormer; full-width engaged porch carried by pairs of raised Craftsman pillars; stylish eight-over-one sash windows.

NORTHEAST SIDE WILLIAMS STREET

189. 104 **William O. Griffin House #1** ca. 1923 C  
Pleasant, hip-roofed Colonial Revival house has projecting pedimented southeast wing covered with louvered vent and large keystone; raised porch pillars and multi-pane entrance sidelights are Craftsman; Griffin (1895-1975) came to town from Griffins Township after 1923 marriage; contractor probably brother and neighbor Roy T. Griffin (entry #204); in 1925 the brothers opened the Martin Supply Company, later Griffin Farm Supply Company (WCHD); Griffin resided here until 1956 when they built brick house to northeast (entry #242).

190. 106 **House** ca. 1927 C  
Two-story, double-pile, gable-roofed house with exterior end chimneys; large one-over-one sash windows on first story, Craftsman four-over-one sash windows on second; porch carried by full brick piers, with porte cochere on southwest (left); bay window on rear northeast (left); vinyl siding added in 2000.

190-a **Wall** ca. 1927 C-str  
Handsome, eighteen-inch-tall, brick wall extends across front boundary with breaks for sidewalk and drive; periodic square pylons are twenty-six-inches tall; all sections have cast concrete caps.

191. 110 **House** ca. 1940 C  
Attractive one-and-a-half-story brick dwelling with pedimented central portico carried by Tuscan columns; similar but smaller portico shelters side entrance on southwest (left); six-over-one sash windows.

191-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
One-car with storage area beneath shed roof with pent front; same roofline extended on northeast (right) in 1970s to form carport.

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192. 112 **House** ca. 1948 C  
One-story, gable-roofed house with simple front porch of metal posts; enclosed side porch on northeast (right).
- 192-a **Garage** ca. 1948 C  
Two-car garage with storage area beneath shed roof with pent front.
- 192-b **Wall** 1960s NC-str  
Two-course-tall concrete-block wall along boundary with entry #193.
193. 114 **Vacant Lot**  
Site of frame dwelling which burned ca. 1997.
- 193-a **Storage Building** ca. 1940 C  
Well-built gable-front building; door has five-horizontal panels.
194. 120 **House** ca. 1940 NC-alt  
One-story, gable-roofed building with projecting gable-front wing; porch enclosed and entire house veneered with brick ca. 1980s.
- 194-a **Playhouse** ca. 1940 C  
Charming little gable-front frame building with diminutive porch.
195. 200 **Vacant Lot**
196. 202 **James E. Griffin House** 1937 C  
One-story brick Tudor Revival cottage with defining elements: gables of graduated sizes, front chimney with stuccoed panel, and arches at engaged porch and entrance; Griffin (1902-1979), a farmer, tobacconist, and merchant, was youngest of several brothers who built on Williams Street; associated with tobacco markets in Williamston, Florida, and Kentucky; also with family businesses, Griffin Farm Supply and Griffin Motors; sold by family in 1950.
- 196-a **Garage** 1937 C  
Two-car gable-front brick garage.
197. 204 **Griffin Rental House** 1952 NC-age  
Simple brick Colonial Revival style ranch house built by neighbor James E. Griffin (entry #196) as rental property.
- 197-a **Garage** 1952 NC-age  
One-car gable-front garage enclosed for storage.
198. 208 **Griffin Rental House** 1930s C
199. 210 **Griffin Rental House** 1930s C  
Identical one-story gable-front Craftsman bungalows with tapered porch pillars, four-over-one-sash windows, and exposed rafter ends; built for brothers, business partners, and neighbors Roy T. and William O. Griffin (entries #s 189 and 204), with Roy probably the carpenter.
- 199-a **Garage** 1930s C  
Broad, one-car gable-front garage with ample storage area; bracketed pent roof over car bay.

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200. 212 **House** ca. 1950 C  
Small, one-story gable-roofed dwelling; off-center door between symmetrical windows; simple Colonial Revival entrance pilasters and entablature; asbestos shingles; metal roof and posts of porch are later; probably built as rental by Griffin family.

201. 214 **House** 1930s C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable Craftsman bungalow; gable dormer contains triple window; engaged front porch with raised Craftsman pillars; small one-room wings on each side; asbestos shingles.

201-a **Lawn Curbs** 1930s C-str  
Low, poured concrete curbs define front lawn along sidewalk.

201-b **Garage** 1950s NC-age  
Large, two-car gable-front garage with shed for storage along northeast (right).

202. 216 **S. C. Griffin Rental House** 1930s NC-alt  
One-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow nearly identical to 208/210 built for cousin Simon Claude Griffin Sr., who lived across street at No. 217 (entry #213); aluminum siding; replacement windows; replacement porch pillars.

202-a **Lawn Curbs** 1930s C-str  
Low, poured concrete curbs define front lawn along sidewalk.

202-b **Garage** 1930s C  
Two-car gable-front building with access to Haughton Street.

202-c **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence along Haughton Street and rear property lines.

SOUTHWEST SIDE WILLIAMS STREET

203. 101 **John A. Ward, Sr. House** ca. 1905 C  
1924

Modest one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, double-pile house has single central dormer, deep porch of Colonial Revival pillars, large six-over-six sash windows on facade, and Craftsman four-over-one windows elsewhere; began as single-pile ancillary dwelling on the farm of James Wiggins "Wigg" Watts, whose large residence stood nearby at northeastern corner of Williams and Park streets; early area name was "Watts Grove;" acquired in 1924 by John A. Ward, Sr. (1891-1964), a rural mail carrier, who added rear tier of rooms, new roof and porch, and incorporated separate kitchen into ell; remained in family until 1991.

203-a **Storage Building** ca. 1930 C  
Gable-front building sheathed with vertical siding.

204. 103 **Roy T. Griffin House** 1918 C  
Handsome T-plan Colonial Revival dwelling covered by hip roof; pedimented

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gables accented by round-arched vents; Tuscan porch columns; entrance transom has stylish, lance-shaped panes; vinyl siding added 1999; Griffin (1891-1961) was farmer, partner in family-owned Farmers Supply Company (WCHD) with brothers William O. and James E. (entries #s 189 and 196), and carpenter of several nearby houses; also co-founder of three tobacco warehouses between 1925 and 1930; wife was Carrie (Peele) Griffin; their once 300-acre farm extended southeast to land now occupied by Wal-Mart.

204-a **Utilities Building** ca. 1920 C

Large, gable-roofed multi-function barn that incorporates six animal stalls, two wagon shelters, tool room, storage room, and shed-roofed, open-sided wash house, the latter projecting from northwest side of building.

204-b **Smokehouse** ca. 1920 C

Gable-front frame building with plank door in center of facade; attached wood shed.

204-c **Stable** ca. 1920 C

Gable-roofed, board-and-batten building with shed addition.

205. 109 **Griffin Rental House** ca. 1936 C

206. 111 **Griffin Rental House** ca. 1936 C

Similar one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalows with central portico carried by raised Craftsman pillars; Craftsman four-over-one sash windows and picturesque half-shoulder chimneys; built for brothers, business partners, and neighbors Roy T. Griffin (entry #204) and William O. Griffin (entry #189), with Roy as carpenter.

206-a **Garage** ca. 1936 C

Large gable-roofed garage, containing separate automobile bay and storage room for each rental house; located between houses.

207. 115 **Griffin Rental Duplex** 1940 C

Two-story gable-roofed duplex has a central portico of raised Craftsman pillars; Colonial Revival six-over-one sash windows and interior chimneys; built for brothers, business partners, and neighbors Roy T. Griffin (entry #204) and William O. Griffin (entry #189), with Roy as carpenter.

207-a **Garage** ca. 1936 C

Large gable-roofed garage, containing separate automobile bay and storage room for each rental house; located behind house.

208. 205 **House** ca. 1935 C

Modest one-and-a-half-story end-gable Colonial Revival cottage; focus of diminutive pedimented portico placed off-center; clean lines and simple details.

208-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C

Simple shed-roofed building with pent roof across front; one-car bay with original swinging doors and small storage area; access from Park Street.



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entries #s 211 and 212 with car bay and storage room each for tenant.  
 212-b **Heat House** 1960s NC-age  
 Small, concrete-block building erected for heating apparatus.

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213. 217 **Manning-Griffin House** ca. 1915 C  
 Large, two-story, asymmetrical house has broad, gable-front block expanded by wing on southwest; Colonial Revival entrance; recent metal porch columns; Asa James Manning, Jr. was Superintendent of County Schools for whom county's first rural consolidated high school in native Griffins Township was named; after his death in 1927 widow moved to 116 West Simmons Street (#22) and sold to Simon Claude Griffin, Sr. (1885-1975), a farmer in Griffins Township who was cousin of neighbors Roy T., William O., and James E. Griffin; S. C. Griffin also with local tobacco warehouses, Roanoke Chevrolet Company, and Martin Supply Company; a carpenter and mason, he built homes and barns for family members and others, including outbuildings here and rental bungalow at 216 Williams Street (entry #202).  
 213-a **Building** ca. 1915 C  
 One-story, two-room, gable-roofed building, perhaps a kitchen.  
 213-b **Barn** ca. 1915 C  
 Large, gable-roofed building combining barn, wood house, and tool shed.  
 213-c **Tobacco Barn** ca. 1930 C  
 Traditional square building with board-and-batten siding.  
 213-d **Garage** ca. 1930 C  
 Adjoining gable-front garages with three automobile bays.  
 213-e **Chicken House** ca. 1930 C  
 Shed-roofed building with pent front.  
 213-f **Vehicle Building** ca. 1945 C  
 six-bay, cement-block vehicle shelter.

NORTHEAST SIDE HARRELL STREET

214. 100 **Raymond A. Robertson House** ca. 1908 C  
 Simple one-story end-gable frame dwelling with engaged porch; house of unknown appearance built ca. 1908 for Lizzie Speight; bought in 1931 by mechanic Robertson (1906-1990) and renovated.  
 214-a **Tombstone** ca. 1792 NC-obj  
 Extraordinary slate tombstone is oldest known gravemarker in county; upright tablet has winged skull motif, an eighteenth-century symbol of death and mourning rare in eastern North Carolina; most likely of New England origin; inscription reads "In Memory of Doct<sup>r</sup> John Dash Wood / Obit March 21<sup>st</sup> / 1792 / AEtatis 25 Years;" nothing known of decedent.  
 214-b **Shed** pre 1931 C  
 Small frame shed; vertical board siding.  
 214-c **Utility Building** ca. 1940 C  
 Utilitarian cement block building; gable-front roof.

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- 214-d                      **Robertson Grocery**                      late 1930s      C  
Simple gable-front weatherboarded building; six-over-six sash windows; shed addition from 1940s; operated by wife Rosa Gray (Holliday) Robertson until mid 1940s.
- 214-e                      **Robertson's Radiator Repair Shop**                      1944              C  
Small, shed-roofed board-and-batten building; operated by Robertson until 1970.

SOUTHWEST SIDE HARRELL STREET

215.              101              **Gloria Robertson Spruill House**              1945              C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable Craftsman bungalow built in 1945 for Spruill, daughter of Raymond A. Spruill (entry 214).

SOUTHWEST SIDE BIGGS STREET

216.                      **Railroad Bed**                      1882              C-str  
Abandoned railroad bed extends northeastward through town along Railroad Street to terminus in park along Roanoke River; runs three blocks through district from Smithwick to Harrell streets (between entries 252 and 214); bed is ground level from Washington to Smithwick streets and then gradually raises in relationship to surrounding land; most prominent gradient difference is along parking lot at rear of county courthouses (entries 111 and 112) and along (former) American Legion Building (entry 224); between Smithwick and Harrell streets track follows rear and side yards of adjoining properties and is largely covered by grass or undergrowth; constructed 1882 by Seaboard and Raleigh Railway connecting Tarboro and Williamston; name changed in 1883 to Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad, which was purchased in 1894 by Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1894, and merged into multi-state Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1900; passenger service ceased in July 1939, and increasingly limited freight service continued until 1980s; merged into Seaboard Coast Line Railroad in 1967 and in 1990s taken over by CSX Corporation; actual tracks (rails and crossties) removed 1999; with help of NC Rail-Trails, Inc., a non-profit group for turning abandoned railroad beds into public trails, Town received grant from state for bicycle/pedestrian path from Washington Street to river.

217.              201              **Biggs-Coburn House**                      ca. 1902              C  
Two-story frame house is town's finest Queen Anne; hip roof broken projecting wood-shingled gables; wrap-around porch has turned posts, balusters, and frieze; leaded glass transoms; banker John Dawson Biggs, Jr. was major stockholder in incorporation of Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1905 and president for many years; house sold in 1934 to attorney Robert Lee Coburn.
- 217-a                      **Fence**                      1980s              NC-str  
Extensive picket fence along Biggs and Ray streets.



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#221-b); labeled on 1921 and 1926 Sanborn maps as "Wood Shed," though primarily used for storage since 1930s.

221-b                      **House**    1950s                      NC-age  
Small, one-story gable-roofed building at rear of lot, probably originally intended as rental dwelling; central entrance covered only by projecting eaves, and flanked by asymmetrical window arrangements; carport/garage added onto southeast (right).

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH WATTS STREET-cont

222.              114              **S. Romulus Biggs, Jr. House**                      ca. 1915              C  
Large one-story hipped-roof house with prominent hipped dormer; form expanded by wrap-around porch engaged beneath bellcast sweep of house's roof; large gable dormers on sides create, in effect, a two-story rear section; porch originally similar to adjacent house (entry 225) but was partially enclosed and given Tuscan columns ca. 1970; Biggs (1883-1958) joined family drug store and funeral business begun in 1879 by father.

223.              108              **Mary H. Gurganus House**                      ca. 1927              NC-alt  
One-and-a-half story frame dwelling altered with brick veneer and Colonial Revival porch in 1976; chief extant feature is clipped front gable; built for Gurganus (1884-1968) and her ten children soon after death of husband, a buyer with Planters Peanut Company; remodeled by son, attorney E. J. Gurganus.

223-a                      **Garage**    1950s                      NC-age  
Large, gable-roofed, two-car building.

NORTHEAST SIDE SOUTH WATTS STREET

224.              106              **(former) American Legion Bldg.**                      1936-1937              C  
Large, one-story frame building beneath broad gable-front roof; facade /spanned by shed-roofed porch that extends on each side into wings; exposed rafter ends and four-over-one sash windows provide Craftsman character; erected with WPA assistance and erected by John Walton Hassell Post of American Legion; occupied for several years after 1938 by a public library organized by the Woman's Club; later used for civic functions; now county offices for Head Start program; to rear, in area now a parking lot, was municipal swimming pool built in 1939 with WPA assistance; rather than desegregate in 1960s, pool was filled and paved.

225.              216              **Eborn-Lee House**    1853                      C  
Heavy-timber-framed house is rare antebellum example of story-and-a-jump dwelling; upper story has attenuated and paired six-over-four sash windows only on gable ends; one-over-one sash windows below are replacements from late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries; Greek Revival six-over-six sash windows with ovolo moldings remain only on rear shed rooms; small portico and vinyl siding added in 1990s; "time capsule" dated November 4, 1853 and discovered in December 1992 included letters by brickmason Thomas



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229. 111 **Burrous A. Critcher, Sr. House** 1911 C  
Large two-story Colonial Revival house with tall, hip roof pierced by interior chimneys; wrap-around porch now reduced to central portico, with Tuscan columns stored for reconstruction; cornice accents supplied by trios of miniature diamonds over second-story windows; ell is small, one-room building that was appended onto the house between 1913 and 1921; moved from earlier house at 120 East Main Street (entry 90) and was perhaps the detached kitchen that comprised that house's ell; beaded siding and mitered window surrounds suggest construction date of 1825 to 1850; Burrous Allen Critcher, Sr. (1880-1960) was son of lumberman and tobacconist Roger Samuel Critcher (houses entries 68, 220); son was successful attorney, maintaining office in (former) Bank of Martin County (WCHD); wife Ozella (Proctor) Critcher (1892-1979) opened downtown dress shop in 1933 (WCHD).  
229-a **Garage** by 1921 C  
One-car, gable-front building.

230. 107 **House** by 1921 NC-alt  
Two-story, gable-roofed house; originally L-shaped, enlarged to rectangular and porch removed; aluminum siding.  
230-a **Garage** by 1921 C  
One-car, gable-front garage with attached gable-roofed storage building; asbestos shingles.

SOUTHWEST SIDE SOUTH WATTS STREET

231. 101 **House** ca. 1947 C  
One-and-a-half-story frame Colonial Revival cottage with three gable dormers and uncovered entrance; eight-over-eight sash; sun room on southeast (left); aluminum siding.  
231-a **Garage** ca. 1947 C  
Large, gable-roofed one-car building with large storage room.
232. 103 **Parking Lot**
233. 105 **House** ca. 1940 C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed dwelling; projecting front wing had boxed cornice returns while main house does not; small two-over-two sash windows; half-shoulder exterior end chimney on southeast (left); aluminum siding; replacement metal porch posts; originally detached gable-front one-car garage now connected by open breezeway.
234. 109 **House** ca. 1940 C  
Eclectic one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed house with large shed dormer, front double-shoulder chimney, and small gable-front portico supported by brackets; attenuated Craftsman three-over-one sash windows in pairs or quadruples; one-car, gable-front garage attached at end of rear ell.



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240. 305 **Leggett-Taylor House** ca. 1896 C  
Two-story I-house with original one-story porch replaced in 1930s by two-story Colonial Revival portico; extant Victorian elements include German siding, trabeated entrance with peaked transom, and robust, double-leaf door; W. H. Leggett was general merchant and "Butcher and Dealer in Cattle;" house sold in 1933 to barber Robert A. Taylor, Sr. (1894-1956).
- 240-a **Gate** ca. 1900 C-str  
Extraordinary wrought-iron gate at front walk from Stewart Fence Company; Victorian posts lavished with palm fronds, fleur-de-lis, arrows, and ornate finials; only portion of fence to remain.
- 240-b **Garage** ca. 1960 NC-age  
Two-car, gable-roofed building with overhead garage doors.
- 240-c **Outbuilding** 1970s NC-age  
Small, gable-roofed, one-room office/workshop has exceptional modillion and dentil cornice across three-bay facade; large "picture window" contained thirty-two square panes.
- 240-d **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Wooden picket fence runs northwest of house towards entry #239.

241. 403 **Dunn-Lindsley House** ca. 1939 C  
Large, double-pile, austere, Colonial Revival house has recessed entrance with pilasters and pediment; plumber W. E. Dunn came in 1919 from Wilson, formed Alphin-Dunn Plumbing Co. in 1920; sold house in 1941 to Kenneth P. Lindsley (1897-1984), partner with brother (house entry #66) in Lindsley Ice and Coal Company.

242. 405 **William O. Griffin House #2** 1955-56 NC-age  
Brick Colonial Revival ranch with broad front gable and side sun porch; both brickmason Van Brock and carpenter Perly Gardner from Williamston; garage on north added in 1960s; Griffin (1895-1975) and family moved here from neighboring house (entry #189); he was farmer and co-founder of the Martin Supply Company (WCHD)

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH SMITHWICK STREET

243. 600 **(former) Williamston High School** 1929 C  
Impressive two-story-over-basement brick Colonial Revival school; designed by architect Eric G. Flannagan along with near-twin in Robersonville; symmetrical, rectangular building has pair of slightly projecting entrance pavilions with fluted Corinthian pilasters, austere entablature, and parapet with allegorical cartouche; cast concrete cornice, blond brick pilasters at central bays, blond brick watertable; arched and recessed stairwells in end elevations; served as high school until desegregation in 1970-1971 necessitated construction of much larger school south of town in 1974; since then used as junior high and elementary school.

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- 243-a **Williamston Middle School** ca. 1950 C  
Large, two-story, brick building with slightly-projecting symmetrical nine-bay center with two-bay end wings; central entrance has urn-topped entablature flanked by windows and enframed by two-story Tuscan pilasters rising to support modest cornice; large, replacement jalousie windows.
- 243-b **Cafeteria and Band Building** ca. 1960 NC-age  
Handsome one-story brick building is good example of "baby boom" school building; prominent central section has elevated roof and curved exterior wall along East Grace Street; three wings radiate from center beneath low, subtly-arched roofs; very noticeable 5:1 common bond pattern; original wooden jalousie windows; tall, square chimney rises from center of building; connected to rear of Middle School (entry #243-a) by covered walkway with another covered walkway extending to East Grace Street.
- 243-c **Gymnasium** ca. 1960 NC-age  
Large brick building covered by broad flat roof with lower, flat-roofed section across front containing entrance and offices; connected to High School (entry #243) by covered walkway.
- 243-d **Mobile Classroom** ca. 1990 NC-age  
Small, portable, gable-roofed building with vinyl German siding.
- 243-e **Storage Building** 1990s NC-age  
Small, gable-roofed building with vertical siding.
- 243-f **Tennis Courts** 1980s NC-si  
Two asphalt tennis courts adjacent to and northwest of Gymnasium (entry #243-c); enclosed on three sides by tall chain link fence.
- 243-g **Softball Diamond** 1960s NC-si  
Small gravel softball field northeast of Gymnasium (entry #243-c); tall chain-link fence forms three-section backstop.
- 243-h **Basketball Court** 1960s NC-si  
Small, asphalt court with two basketball goals.
- 243-i **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence extends along northwest property line southwest from Tennis Courts (entry 243-f).
- 243-j **Sign** 1970s NC-obj  
Brick and granite sign in front of Middle School (entry #243-a) stating WILLIAMSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL.

## NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH SMITHWICK STREET-cont

244. 500 **House** ca. 1955 NC-age  
One-story brick ranch modernized with new bay window; porch enclosed on northwest.
245. 410 **Francis M. Manning House** ca. 1938 C  
Noteworthy two-story example of Colonial Revival style often known as Georgian Revival; broad hip roof, brick quoins, modillion cornice, and entrance of fluted pilasters and segmental bonnet; sun porch on southeast has Tuscan columns and sheaf-of-wheat balustrade; contractor said to be Mr. Birmingham; Manning (1903-1982) succeeded father as editor and publisher of

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246. 408 **House** ca. 1960 NC-age  
One-and-a-half-story brick Colonial Revival house with slate roof, recessed entrance, eight-over-eight sash windows with paneled wooden aprons; garage attached on northwest (left).

247. 406 **House** ca. 1970 NC-age  
Large, two-story, neo-Colonial house 300 feet from street down winding drive; one-and-a-half-story wing on southeast (right).

247-a **Garage** ca. 1970 NC-age  
Gable-roofed building.

248. 310 **House** ca. 1970 NC-age  
Well-detailed one-story neo-Colonial house with semi-engaged shed roof covering three-bay porch; subtle details include cornice returns.

248-a **Storage Building** 1990s NC-age  
Pre-built, gable-roofed, two-room building with vertical siding.

249. 306 **Vacant Lot**

250. 302 **James Daniel Leggett House** 1907 C  
Large, two-story, center-hall-plan Colonial Revival with hip roof and wrap-around porch of fluted Ionic columns; trabeated entrance has beveled glass sidelights and door embellished with dentils, bead moldings, and foliate motifs; Leggett (1866-1911) retained farming interests after moving to town to run general mercantile store (WCHD) and help organize Williamston tobacco market; descendants resided here until 1992.

250-a **Fence** 1930s C-str  
Twenty-four-foot-long remnant of picket fence southeast of house facing Library (entry #251).

251. 200 **Martin Memorial Library** 1997 NC-age  
Large, L-shaped brick building beneath multiple hipped roofs; engaged loggias of large columns shelter entrances.

251-a **Wall** 1997 NC-str  
Handsome pierced brick wall four feet tall along southeastern border with East Church Street houses (entries #s 53-55).

NORTHEAST SIDE SOUTH SMITHWICK STREET

252. 200 **Bagley Rental House** 1913-1921 C  
Distinctive little one-story cottage has unusual, many-sided shape derived from shape of lot; house composed of two short, perpendicular wings with peculiar pentagonal entrance wing in between and complex roof; each wing terminates with bay window beneath wood-shingled gable; small central

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portico has semi-circular arch; some German siding on northwest elevation facing railroad; early history unclear, it being one of three rental houses owned in 1928 by banker J. G. Godard (residence entry #142, bank in WCHD) and known as one of three houses on the "Bagley property" owned by antebellum merchant Docton W. Bagley (store WCHD); first known tenant John A. Ward, Sr. moved in 1921 to 101 Williams Street (entry #203).

NORTHEAST SIDE SOUTH SMITHWICK STREET-cont

253. 202 **House** 1913-1921 NC-alt  
One-story, gable-roofed house; 1970s addition of projecting gable-front wing with blind facade overwhelms original house; small engaged porch has metal posts; vinyl siding.

253-a **Storage Building** 1950s NC-age  
Shed-roofed building with attached basketball goal.

253-b **Wall** 1950s NC-str  
Low wall of concrete blocks two courses high in rear yard.

254. 206 **Vacant Lot**

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH SMITHWICK STREET

255. 601 **Lamm-Bailey House** 1939 C  
Notable one-story brick Tudor Revival cottage has juxtaposed steep gables, front chimney, false half-timbering, arched entrances, random placement of rock-faced stone, and decorative brickwork; Coy Lamm, occupation unknown, lived here less than two years; acquired in 1956 by Leslie Wilmer Bailey, instructor in U. S. Army, and later teacher with Martin Technical Institute, now Martin Community College.

255-a **Fence** 1960s NC-str  
Horizontal board fence extends along entire property boundary.

256. 503 **House** 1950s NC-age  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, Colonial Revival dwelling; projecting asymmetrical bay has three-sided bay window with round window in gable; gable balanced by small, shed-roofed porch.

256-a **Garage** 1950s NC-age  
One-car, gable-roofed garage with storage area.

257. 407 **Hyman-Rhodes House** 1812 C  
Important two-story, gable-front Federal house flanked by one-story, gable-end wings; county's only example of both transverse-hall plan and tripartite house form, a house type popular among wealthy regional planters during early nineteenth centuries; sophisticated Georgian-Federal cornice, returns with delicate dentils, and central porch portico; replacement 1930s Tuscan columns rest on brick terrace; entrance has eight-raised-panel door with same mitered and molded surrounds at nine-over-nine sash and nine-over-six sash windows; double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney at rear of two-





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268. 311 **Garland G. Woolard House** ca. 1933 C  
Unassuming gable-front Craftsman Bungalow with gable-front porch of diminished height; typical elements include tapered porch pillars on brick pedestals, projecting side bay, half-shoulder chimney, and four-over-one sash windows; built by Jesse Whitley of Williamston Supply Company for Woolard, owner of Woolard, formerly Van Dyke, Furniture Company downtown (WCHD).

269. 215 **Robert B. Brown House** ca. 1910 C  
One-story, double-pile house with projecting pedimented front bay and Victorian posts; vinyl siding; Brown (1882-1943) was a salesman; bought in 1950s by deputy sheriff William Ira Harrison.

269-a **Garage** 1960s NC-age  
Small, two-story, gable-front building; single-car bay has cross-braced double-leaf wooden doors; one-over-one sash windows above; vinyl siding.

270. 211 **Bowen Rental House** ca. 1935 NC-alt  
Recently-altered former one-story, gable-front Craftsman bungalow with porch enclosed and neo-Colonial elements; exterior side chimney; built as rental house for merchant Herman A. Bowen who in 1942 built personal residence next door (entry 62).

270-a **Shed** ca. 1940 C  
Small, gable-roofed storage building.

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH HAUGHTON STREET

271. 406 **House** ca. 1910 C  
Diminutive one-story cottage; gable roof has slate shingles; no porch, rather uncovered entrance framed by pilasters supporting entablature; large six-over-one sash windows suggest a late nineteenth century outbuilding moved and converted for residential uses; vinyl siding.

271-a **Storage Shed** ca. 1960s NC-age  
Small shed-roofed building with German siding walls.

271-b **Fence** ca. 1980s NC-str  
Board privacy fence encloses entire rear yard.

272. 300 **Robert J. Peel House** 1923 C  
Large, two-story, T-plan Colonial Revival house; hip roof has pedimented gables enclosing semi-circular louvered vents; wrap-around porch of raised Tuscan columns with square balustrade; trabeated entrance and Craftsman windows; contractor was Albert T. Perry; plans later borrowed for John M. and James D. Bowen houses (entries 120 and 93); Peel (1869-1933) was County Superintendent of Schools from 1897 until 1914 and Clerk of Superior Court from 1914 until death; widow Sadie (1873-1945) appointed to fill his term until December 1934; divided into apartments in 1935 by contractor Julius

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Julius Martin of Robersonville.

272-a **Curb Wall** ca. 1923 C-str

Fifteen-inch-tall brick wall encloses front and side yards.

272-b **Outbuilding** ca. 1923 C

Small, gable-front building with central door.

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH HAUGHTON STREET-cont273. 210 **Noah Staton Peel House** ca. 1900 NC-alt

One-story Queen Anne cottage now completely veneered with brick; hip roof with pedimented gables and hip-roofed dormer; wrap-around porch with replacement wrought iron posts; Peel (1846-1918) was downtown merchant (WCHD); also county Clerk of Court from 1894 to 1898; remained in family until 1966.

273-a **Garage** by 1921 C

Frame gable-roofed garage and work shop at rear of house with access from West Academy Street.

274. 206 **Samuel Spencer Brown House** ca. 1902 C

Two-story I-house accented by a central false gable; unusually wide front door; large, six-over-six sash windows; turned porch posts; grocer Brown (b. 1866) was involved in family farming and lumber businesses in Jamesville before moving to Williamston in 1900; served as county's Register of Deeds from 1912 until 1930.

274-a **Garage** 1930s C

One-car, gable-front building with double, folding doors.

275. 200 **Peele-Swain House** ca. 1900 C

Two-story side-hall-plan Victorian house; wrap-around porch has turned posts with sawn lateral brackets, spindlework frieze with pendant drops, and a turned balusters; apparently built for J. H. Peele; acquired in 1936 by attorney Herbert L. Swain (1890s-1972), who represented his native Tyrrell County in General Assembly in 1917 and 1919-1921; moved to Williamston in 1921.

275-a **Shed** by 1921 C

One-room, gable-roofed shed sided with boards-and-battens.

275-b **Carport** 1970s NC-str

Two-car, gable-front building raised with large wooden posts.

275-c **Fence** 1970s NC-str

Vertical board privacy fence encloses rear yard.

276. 118 **Lovette B. Harrison House** ca. 1903 C

Handsome two-story blend of Queen Anne massing and Colonial Revival elements; bay window on facade surmounted by a wood-shingled pediment; wrap-around porch has Tuscan pillars; county native Lovette Biggs Harrison (1876-1938) entered mercantile business in 1901 with brother Thaddeus F. Harrison (house entry #291), building two large stores downtown (WCHD).



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NORTHEAST SIDE SOUTH HAUGHTON STREET-cont

281. 511 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, Colonial period cottage with small, central portico flanked by gable dormers.
- 281-a **Outbuilding** ca. 1940 C  
Long, three-room building with central, gable-front block flanked by shed-roofed sections, storage on left and garage on right; latter carport appended onto garage.
- 281-b **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Fence of "rabbit" wire encloses rear yard.
282. 513 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival house with two gable dormers; small, pedimented portico asymmetrically placed in four-bay facade; sun porch on northwest (left) enclosed.
- 282-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
Two-car, shed-roofed building with pent shed across front; no doors to automobile bays; access from Warren Street.
283. 601 **House** ca. 1935 C  
One-story, asymmetrical period cottage with projecting gable having slender, round-arched gable window; Tuscan porch columns; aluminum siding.
- 283-a **Garage** ca. 1940 C  
Long, shed-roofed building consists of two automobile bays flanking heated central storage area equipped with chimney.
284. 605 **Griffin House** ca. 1935 C  
One-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival dwelling of five bays, two dormers, and central portico with open-face barrel-vault carried by paired slender columns; vinyl siding.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH HAUGHTON STREET

285. 415 **House** 1930s NC-alt  
Modest, one-story, gable-front Craftsman bungalow; replacement porch posts; replacement one-over-one sash windows; vinyl siding.
- 285-a **Garage** 1930s C  
One-car, gable-front building with storage area; six-over-six-sash windows; weatherboard.
286. 413 **House** 1930s C  
Basic, straightforward, one-story, gable-front Craftsman bungalow; hip-roofed porch with mid-1990s replacement porch posts for original tapered pillars; exposed rafter ends; six-over-six sash windows paired on front.
287. 409 **House** by 1926 C  
One-story, hip-roofed building with asymmetrical front gable; full-width

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hip-roofed porch of tapered Craftsman pillars is partially enclosed, rest screened; two-over-two-sash windows.

287-a **Storage Building/Garage** ca. 1930 C

Two-room, gable-roofed storage building has attached shed-roofed garage; two individual such buildings are shown by 1926 Sanborn map elsewhere on lot; whether they were moved here and joined, or replaced later by present building is unknown.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH HAUGHTON STREET-cont

288. 405 **House** ca. 1948 C

One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival cottage; projecting front wing has wide eight-over-eight sash window; small porch carried by wrought-iron posts; screened sun porch on southeast (left) side; vinyl siding.

288-a **Garage** ca. 1948 C

One-car, gable-front garage with exposed rafter ends; asbestos shingles; overhead door.

289. 401 **Vacant Lot**

Site of one-story frame house erected by 1921; destroyed by 1994.

289-a **Lawn Curbs** by 1921 C-str

Poured concrete lawn curbs with recessed cut for sidewalk.

290. 411 **Godwin-Godard House** ca. 1890 NC-alt

Large, one-story hip-roofed Queen Anne with wrap-around porch of elaborate embellishments, including sawn-slat balustrade, sawn lateral scrolls on turned posts, and robust frontal corbels; merchant C. H. Godwin sold house in 1907 to grocer Salmon L. Godard (1861-1909), brother of banker J. G. Godard (house entry 142); rental property until 1973; then sided with brick veneer and enlarged with ell and carport.

290-a **Fence** ca. 1980s NC-str

Wooden picket fence with of unpainted pressure-treated wood encloses front and side yards.

291. 307 **Thaddeus. F. Harrison House** ca. 1903 C

Attractive, modestly-scaled Queen Anne cottage with pedimented wood-shingled gables enclosing semi-circular windows; wrap-around porch has turned posts invigorated by flared impost blocks; entrance has handsome Victorian door embellished with bead and reel molding; county-native Harrison (1874-1929) came to town in 1901 and formed mercantile partnership with brother Lovette B. Harrison (house entry 276), erecting two large stores downtown (WCHD); remained in family ownership until ca. 1975.

291-a **Garage** 1921-1926 C

One-car, gable-front garage covered with vertical siding; retains original double, folding doors; enlarged on rear with two unclosed automobile bays.

292 301 **Vacant Lot**

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293. 209 **Godard-Warren House** ca. 1902 C  
Imaginative and eclectic Queen Anne house; story-and-a-jump form has complex roofline accentuated by round-edged wood shingles that forms apron around gables and hip-roofed wall dormers; elongated one-over-one sash windows; later Tuscan porch pillars; house apparently built for Joseph H. Godard, who sold it in 1906 to Dr. Williams E. Warren (1879-1931), a general practitioner; occupied by widow until 1961.
294. 205 **Mortimer J. Norton House** 1935-36 C  
Attractive one-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival cottage has three dormers, fluted porch pillars, twelve-over-twelve sash windows, and louvered shutters with sailboat motif; design supposedly chosen from magazine; Albert T. Perry was contractor; lumber dealer Norton (1878-1965) came to Williamston in mid 1930s, having been in Washington, N. C for a number of years; he sold house in mid 1940s and moved to Florida.
- 294-a **Fence** ca. 1990 NC-str  
Picket fence encloses charming cottage garden in front.
295. 203 **John E. Pope, Jr. House** ca. 1912-16 C  
Large two-story Colonial Revival has prominent hip roof and hip dormers and broad elliptical fanlights of colored glass above entrance and tripartite front window; porch, which originally wrapped along southeast, supported by Tuscan columns on brick pedestals; Pope (b. 1879) had a varied career as merchant, bank cashier, and insurance agent; sold house in 1950s to Thomas Earl "Spit" Martin (1921-1992), a native of Jamesville and meat packer; wife ran a boarding and rooming house here until 1970.
- 295-a **Garage** by 1921 C  
Long, gable-roofed building along rear property line containing one automobile bay and separate work and storage areas, one being labeled "Wood Shed" on 1921 and 1926 Sanborn maps.
296. 201 **Charles R. Mobley House** 1936 C  
Large two-story Colonial Revival house has pedimented portico and gables, with terrazzo terrace extending across facade to side porch; replaced one-story bungalow severely damaged by fire on April 20, 1936; both built for Charles Robert Mobley (1894-1975), who worked at prison camp and was town's Chief of Police 1944-1946; wife Lucy (1894-1973) was telephone operator.
- 296-a **Tool Shed** 1940s C  
Small, shed-roofed building; central door flanked by small, square windows.
- 296-b **Carport** 1970s NC-str  
One-car, flat-roofed structure supported by wooden posts.
297. 119 **Vacant Lot**  
Site of large, Queen Anne home of newspaper publisher William C. Manning (1871-1938) which burned on June 9, 1945.

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297-a                      **Fence**    1960s                      NC-str  
Chain-link fence extends along both Haughton and Church streets.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH HAUGHTON STREET-cont

298.              115              **Hassell-Barnhill House**    1903                      C  
Large, two-story, Queen Anne house with complex hipped roof broken by gables decorated with wood shingles and sawn ornaments; robust Colonial Revival porch of clustered Doric pillars and pyramidal pavilion added in 1914, at which time southeast (left) wing extended and rectangular bay window added on northwest; porte cochere added after 1926; Alonzo Hassell was active in local tobacco and banking; he moved in 1934 to father's relocated house (entry 77); new owner, Julius Thomas "Jule" Barnhill (1870-1950), moved here from Everetts and continued his banking, merchantile, lumber, and tobacco interests.

298-a                      **Outbuilding**    ca. 1910                      C  
Pyramidal-roofed building with lattice-enclosed porch on rear (southwest); original use not certain, perhaps a summer kitchen.

298-b                      **Driveway**    ca. 1930                      C-str  
Complex pattern of poured concrete "ribbons" for automobile tires; extends from street in two paths, one in curving route under porte cochere and around ell, other straight in; especially complex where ribbons intersect with concrete sidewalks.

298-c                      **Fence**    1960s                      NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear of lot.

299.              103              **(former) Episcopal Rectory**    1850s                      C  
Attractive Colonial Revival dwelling is at core a modest Greek Revival house; has well-composed facade consisting of central entrance with sidelights and large trabeated transom, a pedimented classical portico, and nine-over-nine sash windows; clipped-gable roof, central pediment flanked by dormers, and Tuscan portico apparently added by parish during 1907 remodeling; local Episcopal parish acquired this quarter-acre lot on "the Road to Tarboro . . . adjoining the town of Williamston" in 1849; parish eventually built two churches on West Church Street (entry 61); remained as rectory until 1952, when it was sold and converted into rental property.

SOUTHWEST SIDE SOUTH HAUGHTON STREET

NOTE: THE 400-500-600 BLOCKS OF SOUTH HAUGHTON STREET DO NOT FOLLOW THE ODD/EVEN PATTERN OF HOUSE NUMBERS AS SEEN ALMOST EVERYWHERE IN WILLIAMSTON. HERE, THE ODD NUMBERS ARE ON THE **NORTHEAST** SIDE OF THE STREET, AND THE **EVEN** NUMBERS ARE ON THE **SOUTHWEST** SIDE OF THE STREET.

300.              422              **House**    ca. 1940                      C  
Handsome gable-front Craftsman bungalow; large gable sheathed with asphalt shingles and engages full-width porch carried by raised tapered pillars.



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tapered Craftsman pillars, with wrap-around side of porch converted to carport with decorative cast-concrete block end wall; vinyl siding.  
307-a **Outbuilding** 1990s NC-age  
Large gable-roofed building abuts Warren Street; vertical board paneling.  
307-b **Fence** 1990s NC-str  
Vertical board privacy fence extends along Warren Street.  
307-c **Storage Building** 1980s NC-age  
Long, gable-roofed storage building with several entrances; shed addition.  
307-d **Fence** 1980s NC-str  
Chain-link fence encloses rear yard.

SOUTHWEST SIDE SOUTH HAUGHTON STREET-cont

308. 606 **Harry Lee Meador House** ca. 1927 C  
One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival cottage; center pediment carried by paired replacement columns and has open-faced barrel vault; picturesque exterior end chimney; aluminum siding; Meador was leading local tobacconist; remained home of daughter Addie Lee, a long-time teacher in county schools.  
308-a **Garage** ca. 1927 C  
One-car shed-roofed building with pent shed roof across front; two storage rooms, each with door.  
309. 608 **House** by 1926 C  
One-story, double-pile, pyramidal-roofed house without dormer; extensive wrap-around porch of replacement columns later enclosed along southeast; aluminum siding.  
309-a **(former) Garage** 1960s NC-age  
Broad, gable-front, two-car garage later converted into rental unit; sheathed with vertical board paneling.  
309-b **Fence** 1970s NC-str  
Chain-link fence extends along rear and side property lines.  
310. 610 **House** 1930s NC-alt  
One-story, gable-front bungalow with gable-front porch enclosed with large jalousie windows; aluminum siding.

NORTHEAST SIDE RHODES STREET

311. 100 **William V. Ormond, Sr. House** ca. 1906 C  
Large, two-story Queen Anne house finished with Colonial Revival elements; tall, hipped roof broken by pedimented gables covering two-story bay windows; extensive wrap-around porch--now largely enclosed--has robust turned posts and turned balustrade; a native of Greene County, Ormond (1877-1950) was teacher in the local black schools; succeeded here by son, W. V., Jr. (1908-1991), who also was an educator, becoming principal.  
311-a **Fence** ca. 1906 C-str Front  
yard enclosed by "hairpin" iron fence anchored with elaborate posts; from

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Stewart Fence Company of Cincinnati.

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH ELM STREET

312. 412 **Andrew C. Roberson House** ca. 1940 C  
Picturesque Tudor Revival dwelling combines steep roofs, juxtaposed gables, and massive double-half-shoulder front chimney embellished by large metal "R", a personalizing touch not uncommon on Tudor Revival cottages; Roberson was mechanic with local power company.
313. 406 **House** ca. 1930 C  
Simple, one-story, gable-roofed dwelling with curious gabled porch probably erected soon after the end of World War II.
314. 400 **House** ca. 1930 C  
Modest, one-story, gable-front bungalow.
315. 220 **Edna B. Andrews House** ca. 1929 NC-alt  
Large, two-story house with tapered Craftsman pillars supporting wrap-around porch and porte cochere brick veneer on first story, aluminum siding on second; Andrews (1881-1964) was prominent African-American teacher, with ca. 1914 Rosenwald School in Hamilton, and later modern 1960 school named in her honor; house still in family ownership.
316. 216 **Charles S. Smith House** ca. 1932 C  
One-story, gable-roofed Colonial Revival house features handsome barrel vault portico; replacement metal posts; aluminum siding; Smith, occupation unknown, was grandson of neighbor Edna B. Andrews (entry 315); in family ownership until 1977.
317. 210 **House** ca. 1961 NC-age  
Small, nondescript, one-story, gable-front, brick bungalow; this was rear of Halberstadt lot (house entry 67) until 1961.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH ELM STREET

318. 405 **House** by 1921 C  
One-and-a-half-story end-gable Craftsman bungalow distinguished by broad shed dormer, engaged porch of tapered pillars on brick pedestals, and Craftsman windows.
319. 401 **House** by 1921 C  
Two-story, side-hall-plan house sheltered by a hip roof; deep front porch carried by replacement metal posts.
320. 311 **William Honeyblue House** 1953 NC-age  
Interesting one-story, brick house with low gable-front roof; metal casement windows set into corner imparts subtle and modest International

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style flair; handsome brick planters across front of engaged porch; design chosen from long-forgotten book of plans; contractor was "Coony" Manning.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH ELM STREET-cont

321. 205 **Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church** ca. 1915 C  
ca. 1940

Large frame building with pair of unequal corner towers framing traditional gable-front block with broad porch between; arched Queen Anne sash windows of colored glass imparts Gothic Revival character; originally frame with central belltower; enlarged to current form about 1940 when veneered with rock-faced cement blocks enlivened by quoin-like brick window surrounds; two-story church school annex added on rear in 1960s; organized in 1874 as town's first African-American congregation; lot purchased in 1882 but first simple building not completed until 1891.

322. 201 **Mizelle House** ca. 1899 C

Story-and-a-jump, gable-roofed house was originally one story with upper floor added after 1914; simple finish has large, six-over-six sash windows on lower story, with four-pane sash above; roof's exposed rafter ends reflect Craftsman influence; Stephen F. Mizelle (1856-1918), an African-American farmer, sold house in 1914 to nephew, Walter B. Mizelle (1888-1964), a teacher.

323. 115 **J. Eason Lilley Rental House** ca. 1935 C

One-story Craftsman bungalows has juxtaposed gables, accentuated eaves, wrap-around porch of tapered pillars, and tripartite window containing fourteen-over-one central sash; Lilley (1884-1952) was a prominent farmer and merchant in Griffins Township, bank director, and proprietor of Lilley Laundry and Dry Cleaners; also owner and manager of the "Martins," town's team in semi-pro Coastal Plain League between 1937 and 1941.

323-a **Garage** ca. 1935 C

Large, gable-roofed garage and storage building shared with entry 324; each tenant has separate storage room with front entrance; automobile bay for entry 323 entered from rear northwest (right) side, while automobile bay for entry 324 entered from front (southeast) corner.

324. 113 **House** ca. 1935 C

Comfortable one-story bungalow has gable-front porch carried by brick pillars spanned by subtle arches; also multiple gables, accentuated eaves, and simplified finish; sharing of garage 323-a suggests that it also was rental house owned by J. Eason Lilley.

325. 111 **House** ca. 1935 C

Charming Tudor Revival brick cottage has front chimney, round-arched entrance, and courses of accenting brickwork; small portico has faux-half-timbers, while uncovered brick terrace is enclosed by brick apron wall.

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325-a                      **Fence**    ca. 1950      C  
Short section of picket fence extends from house northwestward to property line with entry 324.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH ELM STREET-cont

326.              107/109 **Biggs Rental Duplex**    1937              C  
Two-story gable-roofed Craftsman duplex with central gable and twin porticoes, all accented with triangular brackets; exterior end chimneys; tobacconist, lumberman, and builder Roger S. Critcher (entries 68 and 220) built house as investment for daughter, Lettie Estelle (Critcher), Biggs, who died five months later; remained in Biggs family until 1992.

327.              105              **House**    ca. 1930      C  
Small gable-front Craftsman bungalow with projecting porch; fluted Doric pillars and unusually wide corner boards lends subdued Colonial Revival air to design.

NORTHEAST SIDE NORTH PEARL STREET

328.              108              **Bowen Rental House**    ca. 1940      C  
329.              110              **Bowen Rental House**    ca. 1940      C  
Pair of tidy, gable-front bungalows with hip-roofed porch of tapered Craftsman pillars, exposed rafter ends, and paired, two-over-two sash windows; erected as rental property for merchant James D. Bowen (entry 93).  
329-a                      **Garage**    ca. 1940      C  
Gable-front garage between houses, originally with swinging double doors providing access to individual automobile bays; one on northwest (left, for No. 108) has been enclosed for storage.

SOUTHWEST SIDE NORTH PEARL STREET

330.              107              **(former) Williamston Graded School**    ca. 1885      C  
moved 1921-26  
Traditional one-story, L-plan building is oldest school building town; turned porch posts, six-over-six sash windows, and peaked gable vents; diagonally-laid beaded siding on porch facade covered during application of vinyl siding in 1999; school built at 601 West Main Street (entry 120), which school committee bought in 1885; public school for white children held there until 1903 when it moved into Williamston Academy building; old school then converted into residence and moved between 1921 and 1926 one block to Pearl Street to enable construction of John M. Bowen House on old site; now rental property.

331.              103              **William Rogerson House**    1948              C  
Modest one-story gable-front Craftsman bungalow; farmer William (1898-1980) did much of carpentry himself, assisted by Claude Garrett of Williamston.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Significant Dates

1847-1848  
1882  
1901  
1922  
1928  
1929

#### Architects

Benton and Benton  
Flannagan, Eric G.  
Good Housekeeping  
McMichael, Jamee M.  
Sears, Roebuck and Company

#### Builders

Bland, Mr.  
Birmingham, Mr.  
Bryan, Joseph M.  
Clark, J. A.  
Critchler, Roger S.  
Evans, Mr.  
Forrest, Fred  
Griffin, Roy T.  
Griffin, Simon Claude  
Haskins, Mr.  
Jones, Albert Gamaliel  
Liddon, Thomas L.  
Manning, Asa James, Jr.  
Manning, Julius  
Marshall, W. R.  
Martin, Julius  
Mobley, John R.  
Perry, Albert T.  
Wyatt, Hugh

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Summary**

The Williamston Historic District comprises the vast majority of historic residential, religious, and educational resources in Williamston, a town of approximately 6,570 residents in northeastern North Carolina. It complements and is adjacent to the Williamston Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. Williamston was settled in the 1730s as a trading center along the Roanoke River, became the seat of newly-created Martin County in 1774, and was incorporated in 1779. During its 222-year history, the city and its residents have witnessed the rise, success, and decline of river and rail systems of transportation and profound changes in the commercial and agricultural traditions of eastern North Carolina. While the Williamston Historic District does contain six large, important antebellum residences--among the oldest and most important of their genre in the county--it primarily reflects the growth spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1882 and the rapid expansion of peanut and tobacco culture between 1890 and 1920. As such, it contains the residences and institutions associated with the people responsible for the town's development since its founding. The district covers forty-two irregularly-rectilinear blocks and largely surrounds the town's small, five-block commercial core.

The Williamston Historic District is overwhelmingly residential in character, with 295 (ninety-four percent) of its 312 primary resources being dwellings that encompass all of the town's pre-1951 residential neighborhoods that retain architectural integrity. These residential areas illustrate a typical pattern of small towns in which older, nineteenth-century dwellings--usually the large and impressive houses associated with leading families--are located near a central commercial area, while more recent houses from the first half of the twentieth century fan outward from this older core. Houses were erected during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries not only for descendants of the early leading families, but for county farmers attracted by the town's superior educational, mercantile, and cultural opportunities, and ambitious businessmen from other, primarily North Carolina towns, who sought economic success in the bustling little town. The district's domestic resources were exclusively of frame construction prior to 1915, and then decreasingly so. The district does contain significant nonresidential contributing buildings, including five churches, three schools, and three governmental/civic buildings. Among

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these are the sanctuaries of the town's leading historic congregations, the county's oldest two-story brick school, and the 1885-1887 (former) Martin County Courthouse, listed in the National Register in 1979 as part of a thematic nomination of the state's courthouses.

The Williamston Historic District is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development Context because of its reflection of the growth and development of Williamston. It is also eligible at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture because it contains notable examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Late Gothic Revival, Colonial Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, and Tudor Revival styles. The District contains a high degree of architectural integrity, with 247 of the 312 primary resources (seventy-nine percent), and 396 of the total of 609 resources (sixty-five percent) being contributing. While seven buildings have been moved, each meets the requirements for eligibility under Criteria Consideration B. Each of these buildings--including four that predate the Civil War and none younger than ca. 1900--was moved between 1913 and 1928 from a site within or immediately adjacent to either the Williamston Historic District or the Williamston Commercial Historic District and was moved to prevent its demolition in the course redevelopment. The six dwellings remain in residential settings and environments, with a former office converted into a storage building adjacent one of the moved houses. The district's period of significance begins ca. 1800 with the construction date of the Williams-Waters House, the oldest house in town, and ends in 1950, after which construction in central Williamston decreased sharply as most of the the land had already been developed, with future residential construction largely occurring in adjoining and outlying suburban areas.

**Historical Background and Community Planning and Development Context**Settlement and early history until 1800

The first English settlement at Williamston occurred in the 1730s along the broad Roanoke River near the ruins of a Tuscarora Indian town. Growth in the village--named Tar Landing--was slow, but was fed by an increasing flow of settlers southward and eastward from more heavily populated sections of Virginia and the Albemarle region of North Carolina. By 1774, when Martin County was created by the General Assembly, the settlement had become the section's principal shipping point for products from the forest and farm, and so was named the county seat. A courthouse

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was soon erected in the riverfront community. However, this area was prone to seasonal flooding, and by the 1780s the fledgling business section began a gradual migration westward toward and up the so called "river hill," now the 300 and 400 blocks of East Main Street (see entries 79-85; 106-109), with the courthouse being relocated by the 1780s as well. In 1779 the town of Williamston was formally established by the General Assembly, named in honor of Colonel William Williams, a large area landowner. The original town boundaries did not extend to the river, suggesting that relocation from along the river was well underway. There was no church in the Williamston area, or in Martin County for that matter, until August 1785 when Skewarkey Baptist Church was established at the present site about two miles southwest of the Williamston Historic District. Methodism was advanced locally through the efforts of pioneer bishop Francis Asbury, who first visited Williamston in January 1792 (Manning and Booker 1974, 69-71, 1-9, 82-83; Butchko 1999, 453-454). The establishment in 1793 of a post office, also the first in the county, added to the growing importance of the little town of Williamston, and by the end of the decade the town was poised to enter the new century as the largest and most important town between Plymouth, twenty miles east near the mouth of the Roanoke River, and Tarboro, about thirty miles west (Manning and Booker 1977, 3-5, 60-61, 65, 85; 1979, 21, 163-165).

Antebellum development: 1800 to 1860

From a population of 248 in 1800, Williamston became established during the early nineteenth century as a small but active trading town and the seat of county government, not unlike other regional-maritime trading towns and county seats such as Washington, Windsor, Plymouth, Halifax, Edenton, and Elizabeth City. The livelihood of its residents was dependent on trade along the Roanoke River, which extends from what is now Roanoke, Virginia, through fertile fields and dense forests to its mouth into the Albemarle Sound east of Plymouth. Throughout the nineteenth century, it served both as a highway for passengers and the region's major artery for shipment of farm and forest products to markets along the east coast. As seen in other river towns, Williamston's main economic focus was as a local market and shipping point for products and as a supplier of the needs of farmers and town residents alike. The economic health of the town was directly and inseparably linked to the prosperity of the nearby farmers (Manning and Booker, 1977, 64, 103-108, 122-131; 1974, 83; Brazeal, et al. 1979, 9-12).

The improvement of navigation on the river was a continuing concern for Williamston citizens and merchants throughout the antebellum period. A succession of transportation endeavors

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began locally with the 1812 incorporation of the Roanoke Navigation Company to promote trade on the river. A period of rising prosperity for Roanoke River towns began with the 1823 completion of a canal around the river's falls at Weldon (Roanoke Canal Historic District, NR 1976) and the 1828 enlargement of the Dismal Swamp Canal (NR 1988) farther east near Elizabeth City. These linked regional farmers and merchants to the Virginia ports of Norfolk and Portsmouth, northeastern North Carolina's main trading destinations until the 1900s. The increased use of steamboats ushered in a period of heightened activity along the Roanoke River, and the citizens and merchants of Williamston were determined to share in the improving regional economy (Manning and Booker 1979, 2-3; Black 1991, 2-3; Glass 1076; Butchko 1989, 133 134, 135, 137-138). However, competition from railroads at Weldon after 1836 diverted much of the trade in the upper Roanoke valley from the river, forcing the Roanoke Navigation Company out of business. Among several steamboat companies operating on the Roanoke River during the 1840s and 1850s were the Roanoke Steamboat Company, organized in 1856 by lawyer Asa Biggs (entry 55) and others, and the Roanoke Steam Navigation Company, which included among its organizers in 1857 merchant and preacher Cushing B. Hassell (entry 73) (Manning and Booker 1979, 3-11). Such was the importance of the river that overland travel during the antebellum period remained laborious, with the first significant advancement not coming until the 1830s when the stage coach route from Williamston to Tarboro was improved (Manning and Booker 1979, 22-23).

Williamston's role as the seat of county government brought prestige and growth, with county residents coming to town to record legal documents, attend court in various capacities, partake in elections and military musters, and take part in a variety of political, social, and educational functions. Accordingly, Williamston, as did other small county seats in North Carolina, grew to meet their needs for accommodations and supplies. Most of the town's early merchants resided within the district, including Richard Williams, Sr. and son Richard Williams, Jr. (entry 114), who started their business soon after 1800; Cushing Biggs Hassell (entry 73), who entered the mercantile business in 1831; Amelek C. Williams (entry 85), who moved his mercantile business here about 1843 from Jamesville, a small trading town down river from Williamston; and Franklin A. Rhodes (entry 257), who moved here from Tyrrell County just before the Civil War. These men and their contemporaries propelled Williamston to be as ambitious and up-to-date as any small town in northeastern North Carolina during the antebellum years, and their residences stand today to embody their careers and the town's antebellum prosperity (Manning and Booker 1979, 175-184; Democratic Banner, especially Oct 16, 1856, and

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Williamston Mercury May 18, 1859; Butchko 1998, 444-445, 419-420, 393-395).

These were just some of the businessmen operating in Williamston during the antebellum years. In 1850 the town had a population of 268--an increase of twenty persons over fifty years--that included seven merchants, five lawyers, three physicians, two clerks, two coach makers, and one each tailor, shoemaker, and innkeeper. The larger of the coach makers, Stanley Duggan, several years later erected an impressive house (entry 142) that remains the oldest residence southeast of the railroad. The county's agrarian economy is reflected by the most prevalent occupation being that of farmer, with seventeen farm households being enumerated (1850 Martin County Census). Tradesmen in 1860 included three seamstresses, two coach makers, two shoemakers, and one each blacksmith, tailor, harness maker, miller, liquor dealer, and tavern keeper. In 1850 Williamston was home to five carpenters and one each brick mason; brick maker, and cabinetmaker ; ten years later there were only three carpenters (1850 and 1860 Censuses).

The antebellum period witnessed the organization of religious congregations that have influenced Williamston residents ever since. The first church, a small log building, was erected in 1828 by the Methodist Society near the present church (entry 50); a larger frame building was built in 1836. Local Episcopalians organized in the early 1840s, and in 1849-1850 built a Gothic Revival frame building on a site to the rear of the present church (entry 61); a rectory (entry 299) was built nearby in the early 1850s. Because of the strength of the Skewarkey Baptist congregation just outside of Williamston, no Baptist church was organized within the town until the 1870s (Manning and Booker 1974, 84, 86-89, 69-74; Butchko 1999, 11-12, 453-454).

Until the 1810s, education in Williamston was a private matter for those who desired or could afford it. In 1816 the General Assembly incorporated the Williamston Academy and by August 1818 a frame building had been constructed by Thomas Grimes on a lot now the site of the (former) Church Street Elementary School Annex (entry 227). The Academy was coeducational until 1849 when a female academy was established. A two-story frame building (demolished in the 1970s) was erected in 1850 for the Female Academy at what is now 211 South Watts Street (entry 236); the builder was Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County (Manning and Booker 1974, 183-187, 191-193, 201, 196-198; Sanborn map 1913, 1; 1921, 4, 8). North Carolina did not enact an effective public school law until 1839. While six common schools for white children were reported in the county's 1840 census, there is no indication of their location. Surely one must have been in or near Williamston, the largest town

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(Lefler and Newsome 1976, 368-369; Manning and Booker 1974, 206-208).

Civil War and Recovery: 1860 to 1880

The Civil War effected major changes to the economy and lives of Williamston residents but, fortunately, brought little physical destruction or damage. Even though it was of local economic and political significance, the town's strategic value was less important than that of other towns on the Roanoke River. The end of hostilities in 1865 found Williamston businesses struggling to recover. A March 1866 issue of a short-lived local newspaper included advertisements from just five Williamston businesses, while thirty-two advertisements from Norfolk, Virginia, reaffirmed that port city as the major trading partner of local merchants and citizens (Williamston Expositor, March 17, 1866). The next year, the first Branson's Business Directory provides a more complete listing of local business activity: three physicians, five lawyers, eight general merchants, and one each boarding house and hotel (Branson 1867-1868, 70). Subsequent Branson editions record a gradual improvement among the professions and a marked increase in the numbers and specialization among the merchants (Branson 1869, 94-95; Branson 1872, 137-139; Branson 1877-1878, 186-188).

Transportation remained a major concern to local merchants, farmers, and residents. Like before, the most reliable route was the Roanoke River, and a number of steamers carrying freight and passengers plied the river during this period (Manning and Booker 1979, 5, 16). In 1878 the Roanoke River Transportation Company was organized in Hamilton by firms and individuals from throughout Martin County, including merchant Cushing Biggs Hassell (entry 73). In 1880 the company was absorbed into the Baltimore, Norfolk, and Roanoke River Transportation Company, which dominated river traffic for a period of time (Manning and Booker 1979, 11-13).

As did the rest of eastern North Carolina following the war, Williamston leaders recognized the growing importance of the railroad and quickly sought to connect the town to an existing line. Such sentiments had been expressed in the county before, but nothing became of railroads chartered by the General Assembly in 1831 and 1861. Hopes were revived in December 1873 with the incorporation of the Seaboard and Raleigh Railway Company to connect Williamston with an existing railroad to the west in Tarboro. Construction proceeded slowly until early 1882, when activity accelerated, leading to a grand opening of the railroad in the fall of 1882 (Manning and Booker 1979, 47-61).

Changes in the town's religious, educational, and social traditions after the end of the Civil War were immediate and

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profound. The antebellum Primitive Baptist and Methodist congregations were joined in 1870 by the formation of a Baptist fellowship, now Memorial Baptist Church (entry 71). Many of the area's black citizens joined one of two black congregations established during this period. The earliest, now Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (entry 321), was organized in 1874, followed by Williams Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1878 (Manning and Booker 1974, 94-95, 115, 118, 99). The Male and Female academies were reunited into a single academy in 1866 and remained the leading school for white children (Manning and Booker 1974, 198-201, 208-209, 215; McCallum 1971, 18; Branson 1867-8, 69,70; Branson 1877-1878, 187-188). The post war period also saw a considerable improvement in public education for white children and the first formation of schools for blacks in the county's history. A school for whites was in operation by August 1873, and in May 1874, land was acquired "upon which to build a free public colored school House." Its location "on the Hamilton road not far from the western boundaries of the town of Williamston" indicates that it was clearly intended to serve the town's black children, a site near the vicinity of old Woodlawn Cemetery (Deed Book V, p. 346; Deed Book W, p. 214; Manning and Booker 1974, 215-216, 226, 253).

Return to Prosperity: 1881 to 1929

The completion of the Seaboard and Raleigh Railway in October 1882 (the name being changed in 1883 to Albemarle and Raleigh Railroad, again in 1894 with its consolidation into the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, and still again in 1900 after merger into the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad) radically changed the prospects of Williamston, bringing the town into the company of progressive towns such as Tarboro, Elizabeth City, and Edenton. The local freight depot and passenger station were first located at the river wharf with the ticket office located on the west side of Smithwick Street across from entry 256. By the early 1900s they were relocated to near South Haughton Street a block outside of the Williamston Historic District. With the completion of an extension to Plymouth via Jamesville in 1889, and another extension from Parmalee through Hassell and Oak City to Weldon in 1890, all sections of Martin County were connected by rail to Williamston, enabling increasing numbers of county residents to come to the county seat on a regular basis to transact business, shop, and sell farm produce (Manning and Booker 1979, 61-87, Sanborn map, 1913).

As was seen in waterfront towns throughout northeastern North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the introduction of railroad service in the 1880s was complemented by improved maritime and land transportation. A

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succession of steamship lines that stopped in Williamston between 1882 and World War II not only transported produce and freight from the fertile fields and forests of Martin, Edgecombe, and Pitt counties to markets in Norfolk and Baltimore, but provided increased contact between local residents and places like Plymouth, Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Norfolk (Branson 1884, 439; 1890, 428; 1896, 399; Manning and Booker 1979, 18-19, 189-190; News and Observer 1905, 376; 1910, 304; 1915, 302; Butchko 1989, 155-162; Butchko 1992, 40-47). Improvements in overland transportation were more gradual, with major advancements not coming until the 1910s when the increasing popularity of the automobile made passable roads and bridges necessary. In 1911 the town's residents joined others in Williamston Township to become the first township in the county to vote for a bond issue for road improvement. Although the town commissioners issued \$25,000 in bonds for street improvements in 1919, it was not until the end of 1923 that such major thoroughfares as Main, Washington, and Haughton streets were graded and paved. Some secondary residential streets were not paved until the 1930s (Manning and Booker 1979, 23-25; Manning and Booker 1977, 94). The completion in September 1922 of a new Roanoke River bridge at Williamston, the first modern bridge to span the river between Martin and Bertie counties, further expanded the reach of Williamston's markets and businessmen (Manning and Booker 1979, 23-25, 27; 1977, 94). The rapid increase in the number of automobiles along with the start of bus service to Norfolk in 1927 resulted in such a decreased in train travel that passenger service to Williamston was discontinued in 1928 (The Enterprise December 20, 1927); January 13, February 21, 24, 28, March 2, 1928).

Far-reaching changes in agriculture, the lifeblood of the county since settlement, occurred in northeastern North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, greatly affecting the farm economy of Martin County and the development of Williamston. The introduction of peanuts and tobacco into the county occurred during the 1880s and 1890s, respectively, and their almost immediate success challenged and eventually surpassed cotton and corn as the primary crops of the area. In 1928, Martin was the only county in the state to claim three million-dollar crops, being ranked second in peanuts, seventh in tobacco, and thirty-fourth in cotton (Manning and Booker 1997, 98, 109, 112; The Enterprise April 20, 1928). With the success of these crops came the construction of cotton gins and peanut mills in Williamston. Two of the peanut mills were the Virginia-Carolina Peanut Company in 1907, led by banker Joseph G. Godard (entry 142), and short-lived Roanoke Peanut Company, founded in 1915 by district residents Leslie T. Fowden (entry 55), Henry Herbert Cowan (entry 105), and Joseph H. Saunders

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(entry 69) (Branson 1884, 438; 1890, 428; Sanborn maps, 1913, 1921, 1926; Incorporation Book 1, p. 63, 170; Manning and Booker 1979, 108-109, 98-106, 263; Incorporation Book 1, 133, 227; Book 2, 31; The Enterprise, October 18, 1907).

It was flue-cured tobacco, the "golden weed," which made the most profound change on the economy of Williamston and Martin County. Tobacco, though a cash crop during the colonial period, was absent in the Martin County landscape until the 1890s. In 1900, the census report of 1,996 acres being raised the previous year heralded the start of a revolution in the county's agrarian traditions, and within thirty years tobacco acreage surpassed that of cotton and peanuts. During the early decades, eager local farmers encouraged experienced tobacco men from the established tobacco belt in the piedmont counties along the North Carolina Virginia border to relocate in Martin County and instruct local farmers in the growth, curing, and marketing of tobacco. These local captains of tobacco assumed leading roles in the town and built or bought important dwellings for their families. They included Roger Samuel Critcher (entries 68, 220), who came from Granville County in 1898; William Thomas Meadows (entry 94), who migrated from Granville County about 1903, and James Edwin King, who arrived from Caswell County in the late 1920s (entry 90). Such was the impact of tobacco that these and other tobacco men became among the most influential residents in town, with the Williamston tobacco market becoming the primary business endeavor of the town. Joining them in the local tobacco industry were a number of county natives who moved to Williamston, including John R. Peel (entry 116), a "bookman," or bid recorder, for various tobacco warehouses (Manning and Booker 1979, 111-112, 114-116, 121-122; Critcher 1980, 154).

The establishment of tobacco auction houses enabled Williamston to compete with towns such as Robersonville, Tarboro, and Greenville for the expanding tobacco crop of eastern North Carolina. The first, the Martin County Tobacco Warehouse Company, was incorporated in 1901 by several leading businessmen, including merchant Noah Staton Peel (entry 273) and banker Joseph H. Godard (entry 142). Two warehouses, the Roanoke and the Dixie, were erected the next year near the railroad at the intersection of Washington and Haughton streets (outside both the Williamston Historic District and the Williamston Commercial Historic District). These two warehouses counted among their early managers and proprietors district residents James Daniel Leggett (entry 250) and W. T. Meadows (entry 94); Hugh M. Burras (entry 91) was a manager during the 1910s, as was Harry L. Meador (entry 308) during the 1920s. The rapid and continual increase in local tobacco production resulted in additional warehouses being organized by local businessmen and entrepreneurs to capture a portion of the increasing flue-cured tobacco profits. Many of

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the founders and managers of these warehouses resided within the Williamston Historic District, including Joseph G. Godard (entry 142) of Farmer's Warehouse; Burrous Allen Critcher, Sr., (entry 229) and Hugh M. Burras (entry 91) of the Brick Warehouse; newspaper publisher W. C. Manning (entry 297) of the Roanoke Tobacco Warehouse; and Roy T. Griffin (entry 204) of the New Brick Warehouse in 1928. The wide importance of tobacco in the county's economy was underscored in the incorporation of the Martin County Warehouse in 1929. There were seventy-nine stockholders from throughout the county, with a large majority from Williamston where many resided within the Williamston Historic District. Some of the largest were wholesale merchant C. A. Harrison (entry 43), attorney Clayton Moore (entry 58); general merchants Lovette B. (entry 276) and Thaddeus F. Harrison (entry 291); farmer Claude C. Griffin (entry 213); and lumberman Francis M. Barnes (entry 72) (Incorporation Book 1, pp. 41, 24, 262; Book 2, pp. 5, 150, 165; Manning and Booker 1979, 121-126; Sanborn maps 1913, 2; 1921, 6, 7; 1926, 4, 10).

Numerous farm-related industries were established in Williamston during the early twentieth century. Tobacco-related firms included a prize house, or prizery, in 1902 by the American Tobacco Company to grade, stem, moisten, redry, and then pack the tobacco for shipment. A steam redrying plant was built the next year by Meadows and Staton, and was replaced and then considerably enlarged and modernized after 1925 (Manning and Booker 1979, 128-129; Sanborn maps 1913, 1921, 1926). County-native J. L. Woolard (entry 37) was an ingenious maker of farm tools, opening a shop in Williamston early in the twentieth century, with J. L. Woolard and Son enjoying success in the manufacturer of tobacco flues, wagons, and cultivators for a brief period between ca. 1907 and 1913 (Manning and Booker 1979, 128-129; Sanborn maps 1913, 1921, 1926; Incorporation Book 1, p. 212). The largest farm-related industry in Williamston was the Standard Fertilizer Company, incorporated in July 1927 by Baltimore interests and opened by December 1927 (Incorporation Book 2, 130; The Enterprise, January 3, 6, 9; April 20). Forest products were also important in Martin County's economy, with most industrial endeavors involving lumber manufacturing, such as the saw mill begun in the late 1910s along the railroad (southeast of the historic district) by tobacco pioneer Roger S. Critcher (entry 222) and continued until 1970 by sons Roger A., Sr. (entry 221) and Titus S. (entry 260). A related lumber industry was operated by Francis U. Barnes (entry 72), shipping timber to Maryland where it was turned into baskets and crates (Sanborn 1921, 5; 1926, 10; Hughes 1980, entries 150, 151). Other district homebuilders and residents involved with the county's farming and forest industries included; county farm agent Thomas B. Brandon (entry 5), grain-feed mill owner William

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W. Gurganus (entry 121), district manager for a Virginia fertilizer company Vernon J. Spivey (entry 28), saw mill proprietor Henry H. Cowan (entry 105), and lumber dealer Mortimer J. Norton (entry 294).

Williamston's prosperous and expanding economy attracted ambitious merchants, professionals, businessmen, and craftsmen, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, who, along with the industrial and tobacco leaders, assumed leadership positions in every field that affected the manner and direction by which Williamston grew during the early and mid twentieth century. By erecting handsome commercial buildings (Williamston Commercial Historic District, NR 1995) and stylish dwellings within the Williamston Historic District, they shaped a small but bustling trading town that was, in many ways, little different from other small towns in the region such as Robersonville, Tarboro, Greenville, Washington, Plymouth, and Windsor. Among these businessmen and leaders were bankers Joseph G. Godard (entry 142) and John D. Biggs, Jr. (entry 217); attorneys Robert L. Coburn (entry 217), Wheeler Martin, Jr. (entry 88), and Hugh G. Horton (entry 89); and physicians William H. Harrell (entry 21), Joseph H. Saunders (entry 68), Hugh B. York (entry 27), Josiah B. T. Knight (entry 114), and James Slade Rhodes, Sr. (entry 257). The district was home to many county officials, such as Clerks of Court Noah S. Peel (entry 273) and L. Bruce Wynne (entry 49); Register of Deeds Samuel S. Brown (entry 274); treasurer Hugh M. Burras (entry 91); and Superintendents of Schools Robert J. Peel (entry 272) and Asa J. Manning (entry 213). Most of the town's municipal officials before 1950 resided in the Williamston Historic District, civic leaders such as N. C. Green (entry 41), Robert L. Coburn (entry 217), C. A. Harrison (entry 43), W. T. Meadows (entry 94), and Leslie T. Fowden (entry 55) (Manning and Booker 1977, 78-87, 193). Others employed in the public sector included teachers William V. Ormond, Sr. and Jr. (entry 311), Edna B. Andrews (entry 315), and Walter B. Mizelle (entry 322); federal magistrate Walter Halberstadt (entry 67); postmasters Joseph M. Sitterson (entry 22) and Leslie T. Fowden (entry 54); and rural mail carrier John A. Ward (entry 203).

Downtown merchants who resided in the Williamston Historic District offered patrons a wide variety of merchandise and services. Before the 1920s, general stores dominated the local commerce and almost all the proprietors of such establishments resided within the district, including James D. Leggett (entry 250), Noah S. Peel (entry 273), and brothers Lovette B. and Thaddeus F. Harrison (entries 272 and 287). During the 1910s, stores began to specialize, and Williamston's merchant variety rivaled those in any nearby town: grocers Salmon P. Godard (entry 290), and Rosa H. Robertson (entry 214-d); farmer supply companies operated by brothers James D. and John M. Bowen

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(entries 92 and 116) and brothers Roy T., William O., and James E. Griffin (entries 204, 193, and 196); druggists C. B. Clarke, Jr. (entry 40) and David R. Davis (entry 45); furniture dealers B. S. Courtney (entry 218) and Garland G. Woolard (entry 268); clothiers Cora Proctor Critcher (entry 229) and Frank N. Margolis (entry 259); and meat market proprietor W. S. Manning (entry 239). Other district businessmen included oil and motor company owner N. C. Green (entry 41), building supply owner Jesse S. Whitley (entry 58), theater owner James W. Watts (entry 138), power company manager Ray Goodmon, Sr., (entry 8), railroad agent W. H. Crawford (entry 225), ice company owners L. P. Lindsley (entry 66) and K. P. Lindsley (entry 241), telephone company manager John W. Manning (entry 78), machinists Thomas C. Cooke, Sr. (entries 276 and 82), A. E. Browder (entry 117), and Raymond A. Robertson (entry 214), livery operator James P. Waters (entry 85). While the builders and contractors known to have worked on the district's buildings will be discussed later, at least two full-time contractors, Albert T. Perry (entry 53) and Hugh Wyatt (entry 10), resided in the district, as did plumbing contractor W. E. Dunn (entry 241) and electrical contractor John M. Manning (entry 78). The careers of other resident builders, such as Roger S. Critcher (entry 220), Roy T. Griffin (entry 204), and Simon C. Griffin (entry 213), were either less active or of shorter duration.

The addition of these merchants, businessmen, and professionals to Williamston resulted in dramatic population growth during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The town nearly doubled in population in the first two decades after the arrival of the railroad, rising from 482 residents in 1880 to 912 residents in 1900. This trend continued in the new century, increasing to 1,574 persons in 1910, expanding to 1,800 residents in 1920, and rising to 2,731 people in 1930, a three-fold increase in thirty years. While some of this increase can be attributed to an extension of the town limits in 1901, a greater majority of the increase was because of the influx of new residents, the extension of residential development out West Main Street (entries 91-105 and 117-125), and the construction of houses in the northwest quadrant of the district defined by West Church, North Smithwick, and Elm streets (Manning and Booker 1977, 63-64).

In solidifying its position as the largest town in Martin County, Williamston was able to offer its citizens religious, educational, and social opportunities unparalleled in the county. Inhabitants had their choice of attending not only the four older antebellum congregations--Methodist (entry 50), Episcopal (entry 60), Primitive Baptist (out of the district), white Missionary Baptist (entry 71)--and a black Missionary Baptist church (entry 320)--but other denominations as well. These included Christian

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(1889), Pentecostal Holiness (1923), and Presbyterian congregations, with only the latter within the district (entry 115)(Booker and Manning 1974, 99-101, 103, 105-106, 110).

The town's educational opportunities improved dramatically during the period between 1881 and 1929. The Williamston Academy, which enlarged its antebellum building in 1883, remained the leading school for white children in town until the late 1890s. In 1903 it was merged into the newly-created Williamston Graded School District and was enlarged and used until replaced by the Church Street Elementary School in 1918; only a portion of the Church Street building, the (former) Annex (entry 227), survives (Manning and Booker 1974, 200-201; Incorporation Book 1, p. 39; Sanborn maps 1913, 1921, 1926). The town's first known public school for white children (entry 329) was built in 1885 at what is now 601 West Main Street, a site occupied since the 1920s by the John M. Bowen House (entry 120). It was closed in 1903 when the school moved into the old academy. In 1929 the two-story brick Williamston High School (entry 243) was erected as part of an ambitious building program in the county that saw the completion of a nearly identical building in Robersonville. These were the first two accredited high schools in the county and both buildings were designed by architect Eric Flannagan of Henderson (Manning and Booker 1974, 226-228, 235-236; Butchko 1998, pp. 313-314; Deed Book GG, p. 431; The Enterprise, December 23, 1927, Butchko 1998, 446-447).

School facilities for black children also improved dramatically during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but, as was typical throughout North Carolina, were almost always physically inferior to the white schools. A new school was built ca. 1882 on Rhodes Street near Williams Chapel A. M. E. Zion Church (one block out of the district); this two-story frame building burned ca. 1927. School was then held in various black churches until the completion in 1930 of the E. J. Hayes School, outside of the district at 705 Washington Street (Manning and Booker 1974, 253; Deed Book EE, p. 61; Sanborn map 1926; Butchko 1998, 451-452).

An increasing variety of educational, social, and entertainment possibilities were made available to town and county residents during the early twentieth century. During summers, training schools were conducted for teachers (The Enterprise, June 14, 1907) and institutes for farmers were held periodically to appraise them of the latest information on topics such as forestry, fertilizer, cotton, roads, peanuts, and hogs (The Enterprise, August 9, 16, 1907; January 24, 1908; June 13, 1922, February 10, 17, 1928). The Anti-Saloon League in 1908 mixed education, religion, and politics during a series of meetings and programs, and though victorious in passing prohibition statewide in May, the issue was resoundingly rejected

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by county voters; Williamston "drys" barely outnumbered "wets," 135 to 128 (The Enterprise, March 13, 20, 27, May 29, 1908). These and similar events were held at several venues in town, including the County Courthouse (entry 112), tobacco warehouses, the upstairs of the 1908 Town Hall (burned 1958), and the Masonic Hall (see entry 70). Traveling circuses came to town periodically, promising an "Array of Astounding Arenic Acts." When the 1908 visit of Cole Brothers Circus coincided with the Democratic County Convention, the newspaper wryly noted that "Williamston has had two shows in one week . . . . Too strenuous for the average person" (The Enterprise, September 18, October 2, 1908). In 1928 the Women's Club of Williamston was organized "to promote the charitable, sanitary, social and civic life of the community" (Incorporation Book 2, p. 156).

Sports were a popular recreational diversion in the early twentieth century as people had increasing amounts of time away from the job and farm. Baseball was played throughout the county, with residents often following their favorite teams to games in Washington, Greenville, Windsor, and Tarboro (The Enterprise, June 28, July 17, August 16, 23, 30, 1907). Horse races were also popular, particularly so after the construction in 1907 of a race track and a "delightfully cool and comfortable" grandstand by the newly-formed Williamston Trotting Club west of what was then the town limits (Incorporation Book 2, pp. 28, 76; The Enterprise, September 20, 1907; Manning and Booker 1979, 144-145; Sanborn maps 1921, 1926). Williamston's position as the county's social center was underscored during the early 1900s with the establishment of moving picture theaters. Movies were shown in the Masonic Hall as early as January 1908, and later on the second story of the Town Hall. With the construction in 1928 of the Watts Theatre at 140 West Main Street (WCHD, demolished 1996), Martin County had its first modern moving picture house (The Enterprise, January 24, 1908, Sanborn maps 1913, p. 3; 1921, p. 4; 1926. p. 2-3; Skewarkian 1985, 43; Butchko 1998, 33-34; The Enterprise, March 3, May 1, 25, 1928).

Depression, War, and Recovery: 1930 to 1950

Like other small, agrarian-based towns of northeastern North Carolina, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on the economy and residents of Williamston. Difficult times on the farm reverberated throughout the economy and were keenly felt in Williamston's warehouses, mills, and stores as farmers had less reason to spend the limited money they had. Times were so bad during 1931-1932 that The Enterprise, which was accepting peanuts in payment for subscriptions, reported in January 1931 that it was starting out the New Year full of hope and peanuts (Manning and Booker 1979, 159-160, 110, 125-126, 130-132, 149, 225). By

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the mid 1930s, government programs such as price and acreage controls provided enough stabilization that economic recovery became evident (Manning and Booker 1979, 104-105, 149, 157-160). During these lean years, tobacco remained the most important local crop, and in 1938 the Williamston Tobacco Board of Trade was organized by, among others, tobacconist James R. King (entry 90) (Incorporation Book 2, pp. 339, 153). Three Williamston tobacco warehouses--the combined Roanoke-Dixie, the Farmers, and the Planters--operated during the 1930s, and were joined in 1938 by the Carolina and continued to provide a competitive market for farmers in Martin and neighboring counties throughout the 1940s (Manning and Booker 1979, 125-126, 129). Peanuts remained an important cash crop as well during the 1930s and 1940s, with the construction of the county's first cleaning and shelling facility since 1915 by the Columbian Peanut Company in 1930 not only provided a local market but seasonal employment for as many as 125 workers. It was sold in 1940 to businessmen Jesse S. Whitley (entry 58), N. C. Green (entry 41), and George H. Harrison and continued as the Williamston Peanut Company into the 1960s (Manning and Booker 1979, 227-228; Incorporation Book 2, p. 390). Limited commercial growth in downtown Williamston during the Depression included the formation of Clark's Drug Store in 1931 by C. B. Clark, Sr. (entry 40), and the Van Dyke, later Woolard, Furniture Company in 1933 by Garland G. Woolard (entry 268) (Incorporation Book 2, 176, 193). S. C. Griffin (entry 213) was among the founders of two new automobile dealerships in town, the Roanoke Chevrolet Company in 1933 and the Dixie Motor Company (Dodge) in 1939 (Incorporation Book 2, 198, 378).

There were only minor changes in religious, educational, and social opportunities during the 1930s and 1940s. No new congregations organized, and after the construction of an annex (entry 227) to the Church Street School ca. 1930, no improvements were undertaken to the town's schools until the Williamston Middle School (entry 243-a) was built ca. 1950 to accommodate increased "baby boom" enrollment. In 1938 the town's first public library was organized by the Williamston Woman's Club, first occupying the (former) American Legion Building (entry 224). Moving pictures remained popular throughout the period, with the Watts Theatre, which was remodeled and modernized in 1940, remaining the only commercial venue in town. The town's--and county's--most passionate diversion was baseball. The first organized baseball team in Williamston was in 1880, and local teams such as the white "Giants" and African American "Quick Steps" and "Braves" played county and regional rivals throughout the early twentieth century. The peak came between 1937 and 1941 when Williamston fielded the "Martins" in the minor league Class D Coastal Plains League composed of nine teams in eastern North Carolina. The team's owners and chief promoters were brothers

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and county farmers John D. and J. Eason Lilley, with the latter also having commercial and rental interests in town (entry 323). District resident Ray Goodmon (entry 8), served as league president from 1939 to 1941 and 1946 to 1952. The baseball diamond was located on what is now the playing field of the (former) Williamston High School (entry 243-g); it was removed by 1960 (Butchko 1999, 33-34, 38-39; Johnson and Wiles 1993, 26, 191, 194, 197, 201, 205).

The federal government took significant roles in Depression relief and labor shortages during World War II. Like it did in many small and medium towns in northeastern North Carolina, the Works Progress Administration raised local employment by contributing to the construction of two public buildings within the Williamston Historic District, the 1936-1937 Martin County Agriculture Building (entry 113) and the 1936-1937 (former) American Legion Building (entry 224). A third building, the 1938 United States Post Office, abuts the district as part of the Williamston Commercial Historic District (NR 1995). An even greater federal presence in town was the construction in 1943 of a prison camp for Italian and German prisoners of war. Located near the Roanoke River bridge, one of the primary purposes of the camp was to provide much-needed labor in the Standard Fertilizer Company mill, its operation being critical to expand production on the region's farms. It is considered to be one of the first uses of prisoner of war labor in an industrial plant in the country. Prisoners, who were primarily Germans from Rommel's elite "Desert Corps," were also utilized to harvest peanuts and work in lumber and pulp industries (Manning and Booker 1979, 156-157, 107, 226; Butchko 1999, 438-439). Williamston residents took active roles during World War II. Not only did several hundred of the town's young men and women enter the armed services, but the home front was under strict rationing of items such as canned goods, metals, meats, tires, gasoline, and shoes. Through regular newspaper exhortations such as a monthly column entitled "Town and Farm in Wartime," citizens were urged to sacrifice, prepare, and invest in war bonds (Butchko 1998, 39-40).

The twenty-year period between the onset of the Great Depression and the end of the district's period of significance in 1950 saw Williamston's population nearly double, from 2,731 persons in 1930, to 3,966 residents in 1940, and 4,979 citizens in 1950 (Manning and Booker 1977, 64). While a portion of this increase was due to minor annexations of outlying areas, these two decades saw the construction of several dozen dwellings along West Grace Street (entries 2-14), South Houghton Street (entries 276-284 and 297-309), Ray Street (entries 126-139), Marshall Avenue (entries 140-167), Warren Street (entries 172-176), and Williams Street (entries 191-212). The Grace Street dwellings

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extend the district one block north from the older residential areas along Church, Academy, and Simmons streets, while the other streets comprise much of the Williamston Historic District south of Main Street. While most of these streets contain houses older than 1930, and some older than 1920, the building boom between 1930 and 1950 utilized most of the available lots in central Williamston, pushing post-1950 residential development to suburban areas north and west of the Williamston Historic District (Sanborn Map 1921, pp. 7, 8; 1926, pp. 4, 5).

Williamston After 1950

Changes in agriculture and transportation continued to affect the Williamston Historic District after 1950. Tobacco remained the mainstay of the local agricultural economy, and by the early 1970s the local crop was worth over \$10 million annually. As was typical of other tobacco market towns in eastern North Carolina, the opening of the local market in late summer was a period of great anticipation and commercial activity, bringing many of the county's residents into town for a variety of market-related activities. However, during a span of just three years between 1959 and 1961, the local tobacco market relocated to modern facilities along the US 17-64 Bypass, leaving the old buildings along Washington and Haughton streets (outside of the district) vacant or occupied for other purposes. A further blow to central Williamston's tobacco heritage was the fiery destruction of the two original warehouses, the Roanoke and Dixie, on June 1, 1963 (Manning and Booker 1979, 112-3, 126-130). The county's peanut production enjoyed considerable growth during the half-century after World War II, with production per acre more than quadrupling between 1953 and 1973. Like with tobacco, various control programs have resulted in a decline of acreage since the 1970s; yet, the importance of peanuts in the county's economy has increased monetarily (Manning and Booker 1979, 106-107). Cotton declined considerably in importance, reached a low in acreage during the late 1960s, and began an increase in acreage in the late 1970s and again in the 1990s (Manning and Booker 1979, 110). Soybeans, which were not planted in the county prior to 1925, became widespread after World War II, joining tobacco, peanuts, corn, and cotton as mainstays in the farm economy (Manning and Booker 1979, 135).

Advances in transportation, education, and society effected profound changes in Williamston after World War II. Continued improvement of the state's highway system brought modern highways through town, with three of eastern North Carolina's major thoroughfares, US routes 13, 17, and 64, intersecting in Williamston. The completion of a five-lane bypass for these routes--now Boulevard Street--in the 1970s removed much of the traffic from central Williamston and brought the advent of

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highway-oriented shopping centers (Manning and Booker 1979, 221-223). The end of legal segregation in education in 1970 resulted in the completion three years later of a new Williamston High School in a newly annexed area southwest of town. The district's old school buildings then found new uses, the former Williamston High School (entry 243) as a junior high and elementary school, and the Central Elementary School Annex (entry 227) as administrative offices for the County Board of Education (Manning and Booker 1979, 228, 292-193). The operation since 1963 of what is now Martin Community College, located just southwest of the current municipal limits, has proved highly successful in bringing college courses and technical training to county residents (Manning and Booker 1969, 298-300).

Williamston's population growth during the last fifty years of the twentieth century at first increased from 4,979 persons in 1950 to 6,924 in 1960, and then began a nearly forty-year trend of gradual decreases or little change. In 1995 the town counted 6,570 persons, a decrease of five percent since the peak in 1960. However, it remains the largest municipality in Martin County, being more than three times the size of the next largest town, Robersonville, and containing one-quarter of the county's 25,078 residents (Manning and Booker 1977, 64-65; North Carolina Employment Security Commission 1995).

**Architecture Context**

The buildings in the Williamston Historic District represent the broad range of architecture fashion typical of residential, religious, educational, and governmental buildings in eastern North Carolina during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. As various sections of the forty-two-block district were laid out, each was relatively densely developed, providing few available lots for later, and sometimes intrusive, development. Because the town's commercial development was generally limited before World War II to the downtown core that now comprises the Williamston Commercial Historic District (NR 1995), and post-war commercial development occurred along Washington Street leading away from downtown and on an outlying bypass, the Williamston Historic District has been able to remain overwhelmingly residential with minimal late-twentieth-century commercial intrusions. The most visible noncontributing buildings in the district are a modern county courthouse (entry 111) and an office building (entry 86), built in 1982-1983 and 1965, respectively, which replace the historic Martin County Courthouse (entry 112) (NR 1979) and enable the seat of county government to remain in the district. Also notable are two public libraries (entries 1 and 251), constructed ca. 1961 and 1997, respectively, in close

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proximity to the town's elementary and junior high school (entry 243).

The district contains seven antebellum buildings, the oldest being the ca. 1800 Williams-Waters House (entry 85). Having a crossetted, two-part surround that enframes a large, six-raised-panel door, it illustrates a retardataire Georgian feature that rarely survives in Martin County. Following a pattern common in Martin County and eastern North Carolina during the nineteenth century, the house was enlarged and modified during the 1840s and 1850s using Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate elements, the most prominent being a polygonal bay window with bracketed eaves that gives the house a subdued Italianate flair. The 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House (entry 257) is the county's only example of both the tripartite form and the transverse-hall plan, a form and plan favored by the plantation elite of the Roanoke Valley between 1790 and 1830 (Bishir 1990, 88-96). Its central, two-story, gable-front block is flanked by one-story wings, with central portico and cornices embellished by sophisticated transitional Federal-Georgian moldings and dentils. Traditional vernacular Federal style elements popular in the region are seen in the 1810 Williams-Knight House (entry 114) and the 1833-1834 Asa Biggs House (entry 55)(NR 1979), both of which have Federal style, side-hall-plan cores that were enlarged during the 1840s and 1850s into center-hall-plan residences. While the former retains an original chimney with "1810" datebrick, the Biggs House is a notable example of a vernacular Federal style house that was enlarged at least four times before 1921. It still retains an asymmetrical five-bay facade with enlarged Greek Revival windows on the lower facade and small, nine-over-nine sash Federal windows above, and exterior end chimneys.

The Greek Revival style found its finest development in Williamston between 1848 and 1854 with the construction of two impressive two-story, double-pile houses. The center-hall-plan Cushing Biggs Hassell House (entry 73) is a superlative illustration of the style, executed in 1847-1848 by master builder Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County whose known body of work includes a dwelling with similar finish in Martin County near Oak City and buildings in Hertford and Halifax counties (Butchko 1998, 56-57, 176-177; Bishir and Southern 1996, 273, 275, 303). Embellished with academic Greek Revival ornament, the house features a splendid Doric entablature, bull's-eye window surrounds, and Jones's trademark reel molding in the outer corner of the paneled pilasters that frame the house. Its construction is the most thoroughly documented in the county, with Biggs, a prosperous merchant and the leading preacher in the entire Primitive Baptist denomination, making regular entries in his diary as to its progress. The notes are so complete as to include the names of the sawyers Ausbon Dunce and Acrel Johnston,

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both being free blacks, brick mason and plasterer G. A. Ellington, painter John W. Rodgers, tinner Mr. Womack (installing gutters), and even wallpaper hanger J. C. Wagstaff (Hassell Diary, January 17, June 9, 1847). The 1853-1854 Duggan-Godard House (entry 142) is a smaller, side-hall-plan Greek Revival house with more austere finish, having monumental pilasters embellished with sunburst capitals, molded window surrounds with cornerblocks, and the original one-bay portico facing what appears to be the side of the house because of the opening of Marshall Avenue in the 1930s. A former Office (entry 209-a) is an intriguing and important example of small frame offices erected ca. 1835, especially in light of two larger offices, both ca. 1850, in the Williamston Commercial Historic District (NR 1995). The diminutive building has differing door and window surrounds on each elevation.

Even with the arrival of the railroad in 1881, house construction in Williamston did not boom until the start of the Williamston Tobacco market in 1901. Hence, few houses survive that were built during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Both the ca. 1890 Harrell-Moore House (entry 21), a large L-plan house with paneled and bracketed cornices and peaked window hoods, and the diminutive one-story house at 310 East Main Street (entry 83) with large windows surmounted by similar peaked windows, are the finest of a limited number of Italianate dwellings in the district. The town's Queen Anne houses date from the style's later years when the style's asymmetrical composition was increasingly rendered with elements of the emerging Colonial Revival style; similar Queen Anne-Colonial Revival hybrids were chosen by ambitious businessmen and entrepreneurs throughout northeastern North Carolina (Butchko 1989, 186-188; Butchko 1992, 70). Notable examples include the ca. 1902 Biggs-Coburn House (entry 217), on which each elevation has a projecting wood-shingled gable and the wrap-around porch is embellished with turned posts, balusters, and spindlework frieze. Other large, ambitious, early examples as the 1903 Hassell-Barnhill House (entry 298) and the 1907 Herbert Henry Cowan House (entry 105), each of which has a complex roofline accented by sawn gable ornaments, were updated with Colonial Revival porches. The 1914 Dr. Hugh B. York House (entry 27) displays a definitive Queen Anne tower with octagonal roof and a porch of fluted Doric columns. On a more modest scale, the one-story, ca. 1903 Thaddeus F. Harrison House (entry 291) retains its wood-shingled projecting gable and turned porch posts. The 1908 Critcher-Saunders House (entry 68) is noted for the fact that its rectangular Colonial Revival main block, while surmounted by a tall, truncated hip roof embellished with stylish Colonial elements, is finished with Queen Anne sash windows and a porch of turned millwork.

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The Colonial Revival houses which dominated residential architecture in Williamston during the early twentieth century reflect the several forms of the style as it existed in eastern North Carolina. Among the earliest examples were two-story, double-pile, center-hall-plan houses such as the 1907 James Daniel Leggett House (entry 250), on which a porch of stylish fluted Ionic columns with terra cotta capitals wraps the main block. The 1911 Burrous A. Critcher, Sr. House (entry 229) is more austere finished. An asymmetrical version of the two-story Colonial Revival residence is illustrated by the hip-roofed, L-plan 1923 Robert J. Peel House (entry 272), which has prominent pedimented gables containing demilune louvered vents and a wrap-around porch carried by pairs of Tuscan columns raised on brick pedestals. The 1921-1926 John M. Bowen House (entry 93) and ca. 1927 James D. Bowen House (entry 120) also utilized the Peel House plans, providing the district with rarely-seen three versions of the same house.

The two most prevalent forms of the Colonial Revival style in Williamston followed national trends during the 1920s and 1930s. The most impressive locally is the large, rectangular, two-story house that has a central, one-bay portico and flanking side porches and is illustrated by a number of examples, the earliest being the 1922 Moore-Whitley House (entry 58). Its diminutive pedimented portico has Doric columns and a curved lower edge that implies a barrel vaulted ceiling that does not occur, a distinctive feature echoed by other Williamston examples. The Williamston Historic District contains at least twelve examples of this genre, making it one of the finest such collections in northeastern North Carolina, in fact, few similar houses exist in historic districts in Edenton (NR 1973) and Elizabeth City (NR 1977, Boundary Expansion 1994). Local examples include the 1929 N. C. Green House (entry 41) with true barrel-vaulted portico and the ca. 1928 Hugh G. Horton House (entry 89) with semi-circular portico. During the mid 1930s the genre was executed in brick, with six handsome residences raised between ca. 1934 and ca. 1938. These large and more stylishly ambitious houses benefited from the sophisticated design of architect Charles Collins Benton (d. 1960), a master of the style from Wilson where several notable commissions are located in the West Nash Street Historic District (NR 1984). His finest domestic commission in Williamston was for the 1934 C. A. Harrison House (entry 43), a large two-and-a-half-story residence that illustrates the style at its most elegant, with flat-roofed portico and flanking porches topped by balustrades, cast concrete accents, and a Palladian window on the rear. Other houses feature two-story porticoes, a central pediment on the ca. 1936 Dr. J. A. Eason House (entry 46), and a full-width, flat-roofed portico on the 1937 Dr. William C. Mercer House (entry 75); both

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are attributed to Benton and his brother Frank Whitaker Benton, who practiced for a number of years as Benton and Benton. The most numerous Colonial Revival houses in the district, however, are the several dozen one- and one-and-a-half-story cottages erected for middle-tier home builders between 1927 and 1942. These designs were heavily influenced by rising interest in the historic houses of Tidewater Virginia and the early restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. The examples in Williamston illustrate the full spectrum of the style: frame or brick, with or without dormers, covered or uncovered entrance, and with or without side porches. Notable examples include the 1927 J. R. Leggett House (entry 171), whose symmetrical design with pedimented portico is similar to "The Crescent" as advertised by Sears, Roebuck and Company; the brick 1942 Herman A. Bowen House (entry 62) with three gable dormers and uncovered entrance; the brick 1932 Elbert S. Peel House (entry 44) with simple portico sheltering only the entrance; the 1932 Perlle M. Brown House (entry 48) which has original shutters with cut-out shield motifs; 116 Marshall Avenue (entry 143), which has two dormers and a central portico with barrel vault; and a charming, ca. 1940 duplex at 203/205 Marshall Avenue (entry 161), with each unit having a small portico framed by cornice returns that has a curved fascia to suggest a barrel vault.

The Bungalow/Craftsman style is second in popularity only to the Colonial Revival style in the Williamston Historic District. This style is characterized by low, horizontal profiles, juxtaposed gables with deep eaves accented by exposed rafter ends and triangular brackets, porches carried by tapered pillars raised on brick pedestals approximately three feet tall, and window compositions containing multiple, often four, vertical panes over one large lower sash. Immensely popular in North Carolina during the 1910s and 1920s, the style, because it was so suited to smaller, unpretentious dwellings, continued in popularity during the 1930s when the Great Depression resulted in less expensive building practices. Most Craftsman bungalows in the district are one story tall, with larger one-and-a-half-story versions contained beneath gable roofs. The ca. 1913-1921 Wheeler Manning, Jr. House (entry 88) is a superb example of the style as seen in eastern North Carolina, combining multiple gables, flared eaves with shaped rafter ends, and wood-shingled gables. The engaged porch is carried by heavy, weatherboarded pillars that rest upon a sophisticated wood-shingled balustrade wall that continues with a wood-shingled apron to extend around the house. The form of the ca. 1918 Critcher-Corey House (entry 136), a one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed dwelling with large gable dormer and engaged porch, is prevalent within the district. It is seen in a variety of finishes: wood-shingled gables; shed, gable, or hip dormers; and Tuscan or tapered Craftsman columns.

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One of the most distinctive examples is the ca. 1922 Mae Smith House (entry 187), with recessed second-story porch and prominent eaves brackets; the plans are believed to have come from Sears, Roebuck and Company. One-story Craftsman bungalows were especially popular for rental houses, with a quartet of nearly identical houses erected between 1919 and 1921 (entries 80, 179, 180, 181) having shallow gable and wide shed dormers, while simpler gable-front bungalows, such as the ca. 1921 Critcher-Harrison House (entry 81) and the ca. 1940 Bowen Rental Houses (entries 328, 329), were built as rental houses over an almost twenty-year period.

Although represented with much fewer examples, two other architectural styles provide added depth and breadth to the domestic twentieth-century houses in the Williamston Historic District. The Tudor Revival style, which was almost always erected in brick, had limited popularity during the 1930s for modestly-scaled houses in northeastern North Carolina. Its characteristic multiple steep gables, arched windows, prominent front chimneys, and the decorative use of stucco, false half-timbers, and stone accents is eloquently expressed by the 1939 Lamm-Bailey House (entry 255) and the 1937 James E. Griffin House (entry 196). The ca. 1949 A. E. Browder House (entry 117) illustrates the continuation of the style past the end of World War II. While the Spanish Colonial Revival style is illustrated in the district only by the 1929 Frank N. Margolis House (entry 259), this two-story, stuccoed masonry house handsomely illustrates the round-arched openings, clay roof tiles, metal casement windows, and uncovered terraces that were typical of the style. The style enjoyed wide popularity in Florida from the 1920s to 1940s but is rare in northeastern North Carolina. The Margolis House is the only example in Martin County.

The five contributing churches follow popular forms of the Gothic and Colonial revivals rendered in frame and brick. Four illustrate Gothic Revival ecclesiastical traditions, with the only frame example, the 1902 First United Methodist Church (entry 50), being also the oldest church in town and the only Gothic Victorian building. The gable-front building is framed by partially-inset corner towers with crenellated tops while lancet-arched windows and entrances add definitive Gothic character. The 1915 Memorial Baptist Church (entry 71) was designed by James M. McMichael, a prolific church architect from Charlotte, whose designs in northeastern North Carolina include churches in Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Washington (Bisher and Southern 1996, 135, 103, 177). It follows rectangular, auditorium-plan churches nationally popular during the period, and its hip roof is expanded by large, cross gables and anchored at each corner with a tower or tower representation. Gothic-arched windows, stone accents, and decorative brickwork are

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similar to those in McMichael-designed churches throughout North and South Carolina. The 1916 Church of the Advent Episcopal Church (entry 61) is the most architecturally sophisticated church in Martin County, following a gable-front, cruciform form and handsomely rendered in gray brick. Designed by Charles Collins Benton, the building features a three-stage crenellated tower, Gothic-arched windows and red clay roof tiles. While Church of the Advent exhibits academic stylishness, Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church (entry 321), the only African American church in the district, displays the type of vernacular Gothic Revival elements that are found in rural churches throughout the state. As remodeled ca. 1940, the building has a pair of unequal towers, a veneer of rock-faced concrete block, and brick surrounds at the Gothic-arched windows applied in a quoin-like manner. The district's only Colonial Revival church is the 1930 First Presbyterian Church (entry 115), designed by Eric G. Flannagan of Henderson. Handsomely raised in Flemish bond brick, it has a pedimented Tuscan portico, splendid Doric entablature, and round-arched nave windows with brick archivolt.

The most important of the three contributing governmental and civic resources is the (former) Martin County Courthouse (entry 112)(NR 1979), an imposing Italianate brick building having a central, three-stage belltower and segmentally-arched windows; its fortress-like appearance is unique among the state's historic courthouses. The adjacent 1936-1937 County Agriculture Building (entry 113), an austere, one-story Colonial Revival building with pedimented Tuscan portico, is typical of public buildings erected during the Depression through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Another WPA project, the 1936-1937 (former) American Legion Building (entry 224), is, however, a large, gable-front, frame building with notable Craftsman elements. These last two buildings, along with the 1938 United States Post Office a block southwest in the Williamston Commercial Historic District (NR 1975), comprise an important collection of WPA buildings in such close proximity to each other.

The main educational resource in the district is the (former) Williamston High School (entry 243), an impressive brick Colonial Revival structure with fluted Corinthian pilasters and a cast concrete entablature. Designed by Eric G. Flannagan and erected in 1929 along with a near twin in Robersonville, it was the most modern school building in Martin County, heralding a period of improved educational facilities in the county, with architect Flannagan designing other school buildings in the smaller towns of Bear Grass, Jamesville, and Robersonville (Butchko 1998, 117, 118, 279, 90, 313-314, 316). The adjacent ca. 1950 Williamston Middle School (entry 243-a) is a similar, though slightly smaller and more simply-detailed, building as the

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High School. The (former) Williamston Graded School (entry 330) is a one-story, L-plan, frame building erected ca. 1885 as the first post-Civil War public school for white children in town, and is one of the best maintained of the approximately ten nineteenth-century frame schools surviving in Martin County (Butchko 1998, 88-89, 190, 191, 240-241). Modestly finished with large windows and simple turned porch posts and attic vents, the building is a notable survivor of the first generation of improved schools erected after the Civil War.

In addition to the aforementioned architects of Charles Collins Benton, Benton and Benton, James M. McMichael, and Eric Flannagan, and builder Albert G. Jones, numerous other contractors are represented by buildings in the Williamston Historic District. Chief among them are Albert T. Perry, who built, in addition to his own ca. 1917 residence (entry 53), at least four other houses (entries 45, 260, 272, 294) during the early twentieth century. Two other resident contractors were Hugh Wyatt, who renovated the landmark Cushing Biggs Hassell House (entry 73) in the early 1930s, built his residence (entry 10) in 1946, and enlarged the 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House (entry 257) in 1950; and Roy T. Griffin, a farmer-carpenter who built his residence (entry 204) in 1918, dwellings for two brothers (entries 189 and 196), and at least five family-owned rental houses (entries 198, 199, 205, 206, 207) on Williams Street between 1930 and 1940. Each of these contractors/carpenters no doubt built other resources within the Williamston Historic District which local remembrances or records have overlooked. Other resident contractors/carpenters who did work that is largely unattributed include John R. Mobley (entry 105), Simon Claude Griffin (entries 211, 212, 213), and Asa James Manning, Jr. (entry 4). The most notable out-of-town contractor was Julius Martin of Robersonville (eleven miles west) who erected at least three known dwellings (entries 56, 57, 272) and most likely many more.

The resources of the Williamston Historic District provide an important look at the development of a town that was typical of northeastern North Carolina during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While following national trends of architectural style, the owners and builders/carpenters chose forms and features that suited their needs, from impressive, architecturally sophisticated residences and churches to modest dwellings exhibiting vernacular adaptations of the prevailing styles. With houses of differing form, scale, age, and style usually within the same block, the resultant district eloquently, yet reservedly, illustrates the multi-layered development so typical of small towns in northeastern North Carolina.

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**Criteria Consideration B**

Seven buildings in the Williamston Historic District have been moved from their original locations, all before 1928 and all to prepare the old site for new construction or development. The most important is the Cushing Biggs Hassell House (entry 73), the city's finest Greek Revival residence that was erected 1847-1848 by master builder Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County. It was moved in 1925 from the Main Street site almost directly behind (southeast) its present West Church Street address to prevent its demolition as its old site was to be developed for commercial property (The Enterprise, August 25, 1925; see also Williamston Commercial Historic District, 1995). Between 1913 and 1926 the block bounded by West Main, South Haughton, and Washington streets, an area outside of the Williamston Historic District but partially inside the Williamston Commercial Historic District, was cleared of three frame dwellings prior to new construction. Each of these houses was moved to a site within the Williamston Historic District: the ca. 1860 Hassell-Muse House (entry 77) about 1914 to West Church Street; a ca. 1900 house (entry 266) between 1914 and 1921 to Park Street; and the ca. 1870 Moore-Carstarphen House (entry 210) between 1921 and 1926 to Williams Street (Sanborn 1913, 2; 1921, 7; 1926, 4). Also between 1921 and 1926, the ca. 1885 (former) Williamston Graded School (entry 330), the oldest education resource in the district, was moved from West Main Street to North Pearl Street to enable the construction of the John M. Bowen House (entry 120). Perhaps the move with the most far-reaching consequences was that of the 1812 Hyman-Rhodes House (entry 257), which in 1927 was moved within the district a distance of about 200 feet from a southeast-facing orientation in the middle of North Smithwick Street to a northeast-facing orientation on the same property. This was required to extend North Smithwick Street northwestwardly to the new Williamston High School (entry 243), and in so doing allowed eventual residential development northwestwardly from Simmons Avenue, including Grace Street (entries 1-14). It is the only move for which there is some record of the moving crew, they being an African American crew from Goldsboro (Butchko 1999, 445, 446, 387 n. 37; The Enterprise, May 8, 1928). The original location of only one moved building, the ca. 1835 Antebellum Office (entry 209-a), remains a mystery, as does its use during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries before its relocation. It is shown at its present site on the 1926 Sanborn map, the earliest to include the block, as an outbuilding to the adjacent, and moved, Moore-Carstarphen House. Earlier Sanborn maps provide few clues as to the previous location of the diminutive building, although as an office it was most likely located within the town's commercial area (Sanborn 1926, 10).

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These seven buildings meet the requirements of Criterion Consideration B because they remain in domestic use on residential streets and largely follow the known setbacks and spacings of their original lots. Furthermore, all were moved from within or immediately adjacent to either the Williamston Historic District or the Williamston Commercial Historic District; in two examples, the Hyman-Rhodes House and the Cushing Biggs Hassell House, the houses were moved to rear or side portions of their original lots.

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### 10. Geographical Data

#### UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	18	314845	3969220
6.	18	314600	3968960
7.	18	314320	3969125
8.	18	314460	3969520
9.	18	314340	3969680
10.	18	313740	3969160
11.	18	313680	3969240
12.	18	313860	3969580
13.	18	313800	3969690
14.	18	313860	3969860

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Williamston Historic District are delineated by the heavy black line on the accompanying 1 inch=200 feet-scale map labeled Exhibit A. It is a composite of tax maps on file at the Tax Accessor's Office, Martin County Courthouse, 305 East Main Street, Williamston, North Carolina 27892.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Williamston Historic District were drawn to encompass the largest concentration of residential resources in town that date from 1800 to 1950 and retain integrity of form, materials, setting, feeling, and association.

