

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William H. Long House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200 East Fourth Street not for publication

city, town Greenville vicinity of First congressional district

state North Carolina code 37 county Pitt code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: law offices

4. Owner of Property

name HV and D Associates

street & number 200 East Fourth Street

city, town Greenville vicinity of North Carolina state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pitt County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Greenville vicinity of North Carolina state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town vicinity of state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William H. Long House is a representative example of the Neo-classical Revival style homes built in North Carolina by prosperous businessmen and community leaders during the first quarter of the twentieth century. A two-story brick residence dominated by a monumental tetrastyle portico, the house is well proportioned and displays elements that suggest the growing popularity of the Colonial Revival style. Located near the Pitt County Courthouse in downtown Greenville, the Long House's recent rehabilitation and reuse as attorneys' offices have helped to assure its future in a town which has few reminders of its early twentieth century architectural fabric.

Built in 1917-1918, the William H. Long House is a large, boxy, two-story brick veneer house with a hipped roof intersected by gable roofed wings on the back and sides. A monumental pedimented portico supported by four composite columns dominates the front (north elevation) of the house and is balanced by a one-story porte cochere supported by paired Tuscan columns on the west elevation. Four interior chimneys with plastered panels and bands rise above the ceramic tile roof which is differentiated from the brick of the building by a wide metal cornice. All decorative details are concentrated on the front of the house except for the brick quions at every corner.

The ornamentation of the three bay front facade is achieved through the use of stone and decorative brick work. Stone keystones are used in the corbeled brick window surrounds on the first story, while stone lozenges are set in herringbone patterned brick panels above the second story windows. Stone sills are also employed with those on the second story being treated as pseudo-balconies by the installation of plain iron balustrades. The projecting central bay, treated as a pavillion beneath the two-story portico, contains the entrance which is further set off by a transom with beveled and leaded glass, and by a molded stone surround with consoles.

The interior is a center hall plan, two rooms deep, with wings at the rear for kitchen, pantry and bath. A stair at the back of the hall rises in three runs to the second floor. The finish throughout is plastered walls with wide molded baseboards and window and door surrounds. The mantles in each room are different in design, but reflect Colonial Revival detailing. Large single panel sliding doors divide the first floor rooms which are used today as private offices. Changes necessary to convert the residence into a professional building were strictly cosmetic.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1917-1918 constructed Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1917-1918 by William Henry Long and his wife Jennie M. Long (nee Williams), the William H. Long House is a fine example of an imposing Neo-classical Revival style residence designed for the locally prominent attorney and politician. Set on a small rise in what was once a prestigious neighborhood near the Pitt County Courthouse and Greenville's central business district, the house -- an isolated and unmistakable reminder of the owner's wealth and the town's early twentieth century growth -- is now surrounded by commercial structures and parking lots. Purchased from Mr. Long's daughter in 1979, the house has been recently renovated and is being used as offices by HD&V Associates, one of Greenville's largest law firms whose partners are also active in local politics.

Criteria assessment:

- B. Associated with the life of William Henry Long (1866-1920), a prominent Greenville attorney and politician who specialized in real estate and served as mayor from 1901 to 1903.
- C. Representative example of the Neo-classical Revival style house popular near the turn of the twentieth century; it was built to reflect the owner's prominence and is now one of the few remaining residential resources which reflects Greenville's early twentieth century growth and development.

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Until 1889, Pitt County was almost totally dominated by agriculture. It was characterized by a handful of small communities and a slowly growing county seat at Greenville. In the aforementioned year, the Scotland Neck and Kinston Railroad was completed to Greenville, awakening the commercial interests of the sleepy town and replacing the Tar River as the county's chief commercial artery of transportation. A year later the railroad line was extended to Kinston, opening the market for tobacco producing Pitt County. Towns sprang up along the railroad; the county's population increased by nearly 25 per cent; and new, agriculture related industries emerged in Greenville and other small towns. In 1891, the county's first tobacco warehouse opened in Greenville, the first of more than thirty that would be built over the years. A flurry of railroad building in the 1890s crisscrossed the county, bringing manufacturing and industrial enterprises into the sprawling farmlands. While the smaller towns received some of the benefits of the boom era of the 1890s, Greenville took the lion's share and gradually emerged as the "metropolis" of Pitt County. Three disastrous fires (1896, 1899, and 1910) destroyed most of the buildings on Main Street and the courthouse square and did considerable damage to the structures along Third and Fourth streets. Nevertheless, Greenville continued to grow far more rapidly than the county, becoming an industrial island in a sea of agriculture.

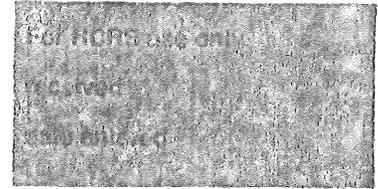
Pitt County's boom period, which had begun in 1891, continued through the second decade of the twentieth century. Taxable wealth increased by 78 per cent, 14 per cent higher than the state average. Most of the increase was attributed to the growth in the tobacco industry, but other manufacturing interests were making their appearance by 1920. The town of Greenville (pop. 5,772) also engaged in lumber, fertilizer, buggy, and other manufacturing enterprises.

William H. Long, a prominent Greenville attorney, built the house that bears his name in 1917-1918. It was constructed on land belonging to his wife, Jennie M. Long, who had bought out the interests of her brothers and sisters. Mrs. Long's father, Dr. Richard Williams, had owned the property and lived at the site for many years. The older home of Dr. Williams was torn down by William H. Long in August, 1917. The older house was located on the same lot but in the northwestern corner next to the street. The property, consisting of lot numbers 129 and part of 130, remained in the Williams-Long family for over a century.¹

William Henry Long was born near Hertford, North Carolina, on September 7, 1866, and moved at age 7 to Tennessee with his father. He entered the University of Tennessee but returned to North Carolina to complete his education. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1892 with a specialty in legal studies. Long moved to Greenville and studied law under former governor Thomas J. Jarvis. He was granted admission to the bar in 1893 and set up practice in the growing town.²

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As an attorney, Long acted as legal counsel and agent for Messrs. Elliott Bros. of Baltimore, Maryland. Messrs. Elliott Bros. were once the owners of the largest amount of residential and commercial property in Greenville, and paid the highest taxes in the county. They also held much valuable property in other parts of Pitt County. As their agent in 1903, Long conducted the biggest land transaction ever seen in that area up until that time.³

In 1901, William Henry Long was elected mayor of Greenville and served for two years, declining reelection in 1903. His administration was marked by progress, popularity, and a cordial relationship with the Board of Aldermen, who upon his retirement presented the outgoing mayor with a gold headed cane in recognition of his service.⁴

Long lived in the house until his death in 1920.⁵ On December 16, 1898, he had married Jennie Williams of Greenville and two daughters were born of the union, Hennie Estelle and Anna Elliott. The widow continued to live in the house for many years, even though she transferred title to her daughters in 1940.⁶ The youngest daughter, Anna, married J. P. Royer and lived in the house, along with Anna's daughter, Jane Joyner, born from Anna's first marriage. Jane moved out of the house a few years ago. Anna continued her residence until she sold the property on December 3, 1979 to the law firm of Howard, Vincent & Duffus (HV&D Associates).⁷

The house is a substantial example of a type widely popular in North Carolina communities around the turn of the century. Probably influenced by the 1893 Columbian Exposition, which produced such enthusiasm for the revival of classicism in the country, as well as by the Jamestown Exposition of 1907, prosperous mill owners, bankers, professional men and others were attracted to the columned house in the early twentieth century. Nearly every North Carolina town boasts one or more of these large, boxy dwellings dominated by a tall portico, most often with Corinthian columns. Here, in an example of the late teens, the brick material of the walls and the Colonial detail suggest the coming influence of the Colonial Revival. The house is unusually well-preserved in form, plan, and detail. Greenville grew rapidly in the early twentieth century, and this house is among the most notable domestic examples from that period; it is made especially significant locally by the fact that so much of Greenville's heritage has been lost during subsequent development.

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¹Charles M. Vincent, Interview with Anna Long Royer, daughter of William H. Long, November, 1979, hereinafter cited as Royer interview; Pitt County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville, Deed Book L-11, p. 268, hereinafter cited as Pitt County Deed Book. A ledger once owned by William H. Long, now in possession of Howard, Vincent & Duffus Law Firm, Greenville, has pasted a \$500 Confederate note with the following inscription: "This bill was found in the old house where Dr. Richard Williams lived when the house was torn down in August 1917."

²Royer interview; and Alumni Directory (Chapel Hill: The Alumni Office, 1954), 543, hereinafter cited as Alumni Directory.

³The Daily Reflector (Greenville), February 4, 1903, hereinafter cited as Daily Reflector.

⁴Daily Reflector, July 1, 1902.

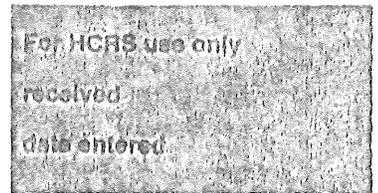
⁵Alumni Directory, 543.

⁶Royer interview; and Pitt County Deed Book J-23, p. 456.

⁷Royer interview; and Researcher's interview with Charles M. Vincent, March 17, 1980.

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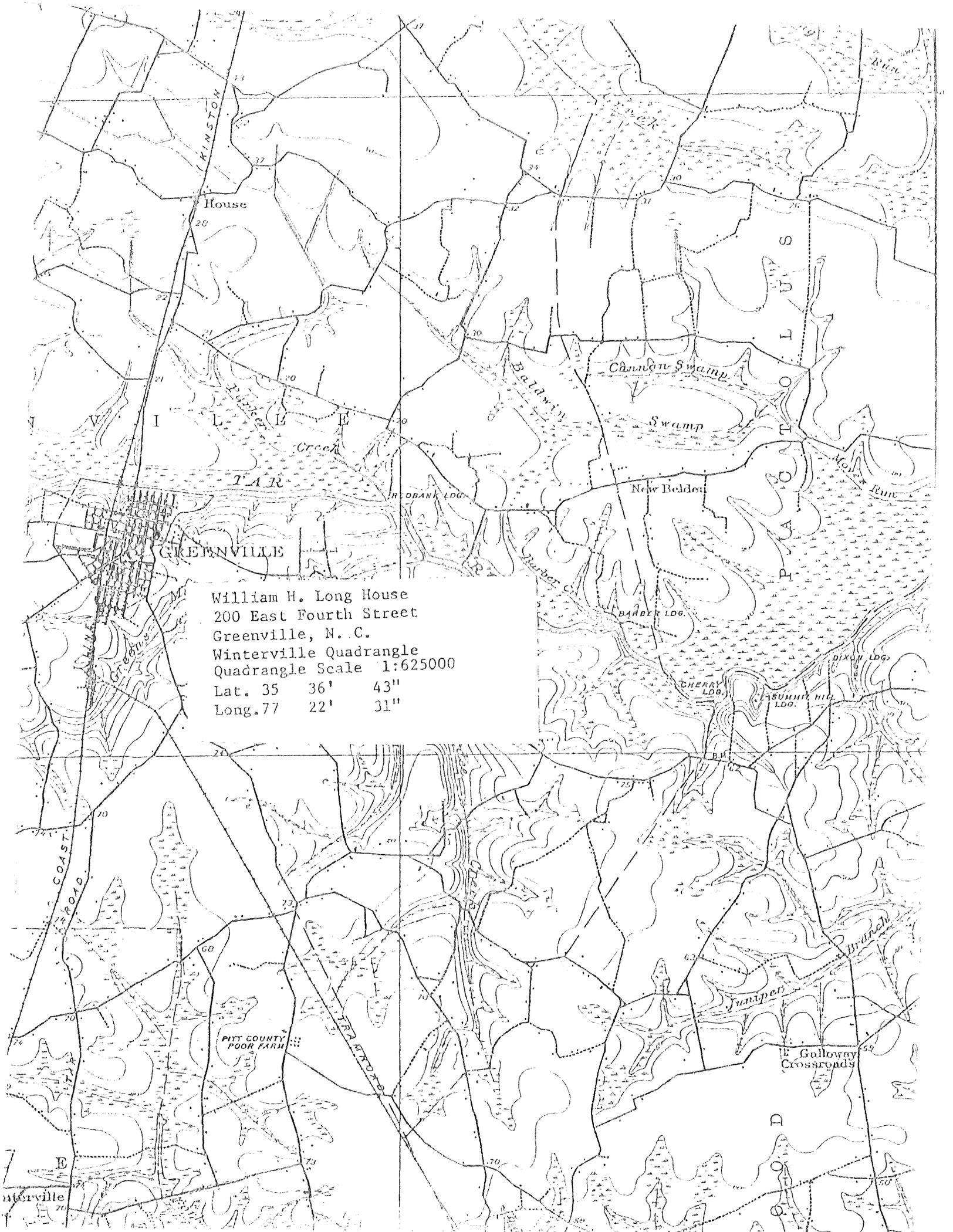


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Howard, Vincent & Duffus. HV&D Associates, Notes in Division of Archives
and History, Raleigh.

Pitt County Records
Deeds
Wills

Vincent, Charles M. Interview with Anna Long Royer, November, 1979.



William H. Long House
200 East Fourth Street
Greenville, N. C.
Winterville Quadrangle
Quadrangle Scale 1:625000
Lat. 35 36' 43"
Long. 77 22' 31"

