

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
McNeely-Strachan House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Salisbury Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
226 South Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury (Eighth Congressional District, the Hon. Earl Ruth)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rowan	CODE 159
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Mildred Seaber

STREET AND NUMBER:
226 South Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McNeely-Strachan house was built about 1820 as a two-story frame dwelling that probably had a gable roof. Just before the Civil War the two-tier porch was constructed across the front, and large windows replaced the smaller original ones. About 1911 the exterior chimneys were rebuilt and the high hip roof was added.

The main (east) facade is dominated by the two-tier flat-roof porch, which is enclosed on each level by a five-bay ornamental cast iron arcade in a grapevine pattern. The cornice of the porch features a pair of molded brackets above each support. Under the porch the wall is finished with flush siding and has a central entrance at each level flanked by pairs of floor-length windows with nine-over-six sash. The recessed first floor entrance contains a double door framed by sidelights and an extremely large transom with two ranges of eleven rectangular lights. At the second level, the doorway is surmounted by a simple single-light transom.

On the east side, the roof features two small hip roof dormers flanking a large central gable dormer that contains a Palladian window. A single dormer, similar to the small ones on the front, appears between the chimneys on each side of the roof.

On the interior the McNeely-Strachan house has a center-hall plan two rooms deep. The hall, a pleasing combination of Federal, Greek Revival and Victorian styles, has walls plastered above a vertically-sheathed wainscot. The wainscot continues up the stair, which rises from the left side of the hall in two flights. The open-string has its original ornamental brackets, but the turned balustrade with heavy newel is a Victorian replacement.

The Greek Revival entrance is surmounted by an unadorned entablature. The doors leading from the hall into the adjacent rooms have Federal surrounds but are topped by Greek Revival entablatures that represent an attempt at unifying the different styles present in the hall. The walls in all the rooms on the first floor have been replastered, but the original baseboards remain. Each room also retains an original Federal mantel, the most elaborate of which is in the northeast parlor. It has a rectangular opening framed by a molded architrave with an applied guilloche band. The three-part frieze and molded shelf are supported by engaged fluted colonettes. Of particular interest in this parlor is the fine brass gas chandelier consisting of six radiating brass fixtures adorned with cut glass pendants. It is the most elaborate of the Victorian chandeliers that have been retained throughout the house. The chandeliers are complemented by the ornate brass valances over the windows in the downstairs parlors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "first successful effort to establish a college in North Carolina" was the founding of Queen's College in Charlotte in 1771. The college, which was authorized to grant degrees, was to have "three or less tutors" and to be financed by a tax on rum. But in 1772 King George III "supposedly . . . disallowed" the act incorporating Queen's College. The school, which had already begun operations, continued to operate without a charter until 1777, when it was chartered as "Liberty Hall" by the General Assembly of the newly independent state. The financial stringency" of the Revolution led to its decay, however, and by 1780 it had closed. In 1784, a new charter was obtained, and the school re-opened in a new location under the name of "Salisbury Academy" in Salisbury. But again, financial difficulties proved too much for the school, and it was closed after serving only seven years.

After an interval of sixteen years, the Raleigh Minerva announced in 1807 that the Salisbury Academy was being revived. To aid the academy in its financial struggles, the Salisbury Thespian Society under the leadership of its president, John T. Henderson, took over the school's charter in 1812 and conducted a state-wide lottery to raise funds for new school buildings. The Thespians were able to report by 1820 that a "commodious pile of buildings were erected in a retired part of town" on lots 35, 36, 43 and 44, which property the society and purchased from John Fulton. Among these buildings was the house now called the McNeely-Strachan House, which occupied lots 36 and 44 and served as the girls' school of the academy.

Within a few years, however, expenses proved to be too heavy for the Thespians, and they were forced to close the school and sell the property. In 1825, John Giles, president of the society, sold the lots "whereon the Academy stands" to Mrs. Rebecca Nesbit Troy. Mrs. Troy owned the house jointly with her half-brother, Maxwell Chambers, a prominent and wealthy Salisbury citizen. In 1840 Maxwell Chambers, David F. Caldwell, and his wife, Rebecca Troy Caldwell, sold the house to Dr. Claudius B. Wheeler. The house changed hands several times before being purchased in 1859 by Dr. Josephus W. Hall, who had moved to Salisbury from St. Louis, Missouri, where he had been a professor of medicine at Washington University. On a wall inside the house's only closet is the inscription: "Dr. J. W. Hall and Mary C. Hall moved into their new home October 9, 1859." The Halls made several changes to the property, including the addition of the two-tier porch and the elaborate cast-iron gate at the front entrance to the yard. Descendants of the Halls (among whom were the McNeelys and the

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Strachans from whom comes the present name of the house) have lived there for over a hundred years. Mrs. Mildred Seaber, great-granddaughter of Dr. Hall, now owns and lives in the house.

The McNeely-Strachan House, surrounded by a large wooded lawn, is an attractive amalgam of the architectural styles of several periods. Originally a Federal-style building designed for use as a girls' school as part of an academy descended from the first college established in North Carolina, it has been expanded and remodeled to suit the tastes and needs of owners for over a hundred and fifty years. The effect is of a variety of elements--Federal, Greek Revival, mid-Victorian, and post-Victorian--each retaining its own individuality yet blending into a harmonious whole. This effect is enriched by the collection of furniture and appointments of various periods of use that is an integral part of the eclectic charm of the McNeely-Strachan House.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brawley, James S. Old Rowan Views and Sketches. Salisbury, North Carolina: Rowan Printing Company, 1954.

Lefler, Hugh T., and Newsome, Albert R. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		35° 40' 03"	80° 28' 23"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.5 Acre

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 16 July 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 16 July 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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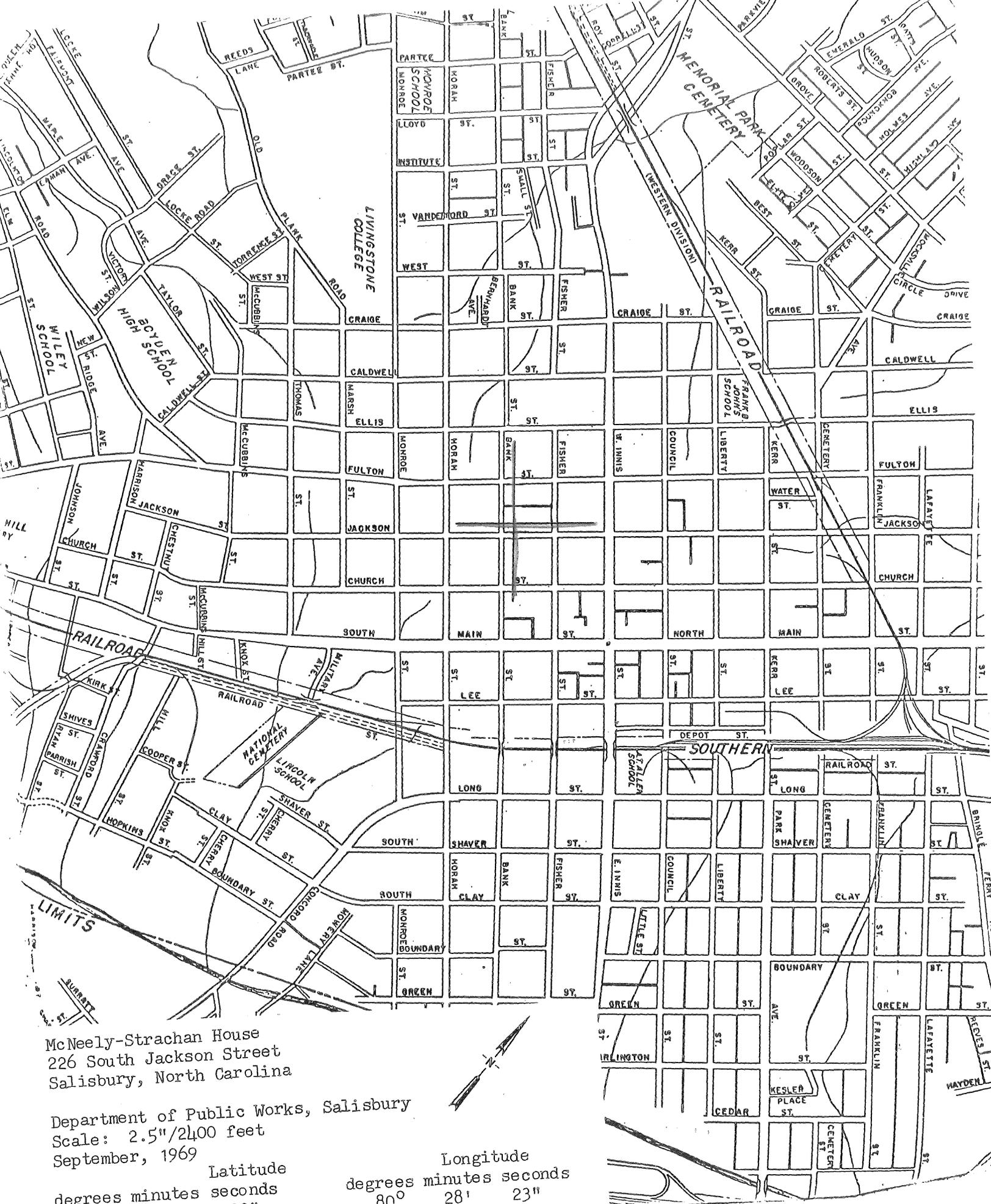
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Rowan County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).



McNeely-Strachan House
 226 South Jackson Street
 Salisbury, North Carolina

Department of Public Works, Salisbury
 Scale: 2.5"/2400 feet
 September, 1969

Latitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 35° 40' 03"

Longitude
 degrees minutes seconds
 80° 28' 23"

