

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 Columbia Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number roughly defined by the Scuppernong River, US64,  
Road St., and Howard St. N/A  not for publication

city or town Columbia N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Tyrrell code 177 zip code 27925

### 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.)

William S. Rain SHPO 1-28-94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Columbia HD  
Name of Property

Tyrrell, N.C.  
County and State

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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
118	50	buildings
		sites
1		structures
1		objects
123	50	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
- COMMERCE/financial institution
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/general store
- GOVERNMENT/courthouse
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/professional
- GOVERNMENT/courthouse
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- RELIGION/religious facility
- LANDSCAPE/parking lot

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

See continuation sheet

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls WOOD
- BRICK
- roof ASPHALT
- other METAL
- ASBESTOS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Columbia HD  
Name of Property

Tyrrell, N.C.  
County and State

### 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)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

#### Period of Significance

ca. 1880 - 1944

#### Significant Dates

N/A

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Columbia HD  
Name of Property

Tyrrell, NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property approx. 35 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	38172100	39756210
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	38174100	39756210

3	18	38173100	39751160
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	38168210	39751180

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 J. Daniel Pezzoni

organization Preservation Technologies, Inc. date November 12, 1993

street & number Post Office Box 7825 telephone (703) 375-3128

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019-0825

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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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Columbia Historic District  
Tyrrell County, N.C.

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**Architectural Classification**

- Queen Anne
- Romanesque
- Craftsman
- Colonial Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Art Deco
- Ranch Style
- Second Empire
- No Style

**Architect/Builder**

- Alexander, Jim
- Alexander, Joe
- Alexander, John
- Bateman, Abraham
- Brickhouse, Stephen
- Schlez, Johann Frederick
- Smith, B. F. Construction Company
- Snell, Brit
- Swain, Thomas

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the Columbia Historic District are portrayed on two 1:200-scale maps that accompany this report. The first map is a composite of Town of Columbia tax parcel maps C-4 and C-5. The second map is based on the first map and indicates street addresses, contributing status information, and the view direction of the photographs that accompany this report. The boundaries of the district are portrayed on both maps as a heavy black line.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the Columbia Historic District are determined so as to include the historic core of the Town of Columbia, which is those areas developed prior to 1944 that retain architectural integrity. Natural and man-made boundaries such as the Scuppernong River and the four-lane Scuppernong Drive (U.S. 64) contributed to the determination of the boundaries.

**UTM References continued**

5	18	386620	3975280
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6	18	386640	3975520
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Columbia Historic District occupies the heart of the town of Columbia, the county seat of Tyrrell County, North Carolina. The town is situated on the east shore of the estuary of the Scuppernong River, which flows into the Albemarle Sound several miles to the north. The topography of the town is flat and low lying; at no point does the elevation exceed five feet above sea level. Broad agricultural fields and forested swampland typify the surrounding areas.

The approximately thirty-five-acre Columbia Historic District touches on the Scuppernong River estuary on its west end and is bounded by modern development on its other sides. The irregular grid of streets and lots that form the underlying structure of the community's townscape date originally to the platting of the town between 1793 and 1802, although the plan has evolved continuously over the past 200 years. The streets of the town are inclined ten degrees off of compass orientation. Main Street, the principal historic artery of the town, begins at the Scuppernong River waterfront and passes eastward through the district. The majority of the town's historic commercial buildings cluster along Main Street between Water and Broad streets. The southeast corner of Main and Broad streets is occupied by the 1903 Tyrrell County Courthouse and Jail set in a landscaped public ground. The principal residential areas included in the district are located along Main Street east of Broad Street, along older streets such as Elm, Broad, Church, and Bridge, and along thoroughfares to the north of Bridge Street platted in the early twentieth century such as Martha and Howard streets and Virginia and Pennsylvania avenues.

The district contains a varied collection of buildings dating from the nineteenth century to World War II. No building in the district exceeds two stories in height, although the courthouse and several churches have attic stories or bell towers that rise above two stories. The dwellings in the district are principally frame in construction, and most originally had weatherboard siding, some of which has been covered or replaced with stucco, brick, asbestos shingles, and aluminum or vinyl siding. The earliest commercial buildings are frame, but the majority are brick. Most dwellings have gable roofs, although hip and pyramidal roofs also appear. The earliest commercial buildings have gable roofs with the gable facing the street; later commercial buildings generally feature shed or flat roofs concealed behind parapets. The foundations of many dwellings and some commercial buildings and churches consist of brick foundation piers placed under corners and other bearing points. Several of these pier foundations have original brick latticework filling the gaps between the piers, others have modern brick or concrete block underpinning. The more substantial masonry commercial buildings and churches have full brick foundations. Basements are almost nonexistent on account of the high watertable, one exception being the basement under the Steanie C. Chaplin House at 107 N. Broad St. Some of the older

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dwellings and some later picturesque dwellings have chimneys constructed of brick. Beginning in the early twentieth century, brick stove flues gained in popularity for both dwellings and commercial buildings.

In addition to these general characteristics of Columbia's historic building stock are a host of construction details that lend distinctiveness to individual buildings. Victorian sawn and turned ornament appears on virtually every unaltered late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century dwelling. At a minimum this ornament appears as an elaboration of the porch posts, which are usually turned and are tied to the porch plate with simple sawn brackets. In full-blown examples, intricate ornament festoons the porches, gables, eaves, and door and window surrounds. The application of modern siding has obscured some original ornament as it has some original siding. The town's brick commercial buildings often feature some form of decorative brickwork, be it a simple corbeled course at the top of a parapet, or elaborate recesses, basketweave and stack-bond brickwork, and round and segmental arches over doors and windows.

The glass used in windows exhibits the same spectrum of variety as other materials. Most glass for domestic and commercial use is clear rolled glass; crown glass is rare or nonexistent owing to the absence of early buildings. Double-hung sash windows--the typical sash arrangement--feature a variety of pane compositions from late-nineteenth-century 6/6- and 9/9-sash, through early-twentieth-century 1/1- and 2/2-sash, to 1920s and 1930s Craftsman arrangements such as 3/1- and 4/1-sash. Stained glass is used in domestic, commercial, and ecclesiastical contexts (especially the latter). In dwellings, stained glass appears sometimes in transoms or non-utilitarian decorative windows; in several brick commercial buildings of the 1920s and 1930s, green glass squares have been incorporated into prism-glass transoms; in churches stained glass appears in geometric and representational window compositions. Architectural glass is used in the 1940s shop front of the 1932 S. M. & Martha Combs Building at 302 Main Street.

Information was collected on the interiors of forty buildings in the district, documenting a range of plan types and finishes. Domestic interiors include the common two-room and center-passage plans as well as many side-passage plans (typically less common than the former plans). Commercial interiors feature front sales spaces and occasionally rear storage rooms and offices. Churches generally feature nave plans. Common wall and ceiling treatments in the town's historic buildings include plaster-and-lath, plaster-on-brick, beaded tongue-and-groove, pressed metal, modern paneling, and sheetrock and other modern wall boards. Historic wallpapers are observed in several interiors. Most interior ornament appears on stairs and mantels, with turned newels and balusters common to stairs, and chamfering and other millwork, colonnettes, and decorative brick and glazed tilework common to mantels.

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Columbia has representatives of most late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles. The earliest dwellings are Victorian in character, combining elements of the Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Second Empire styles. Dwellings of the 1920s and 1930s feature the eclectic styles of the period: the Craftsman, Mission, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles. The Tyrrell County Courthouse and possibly one or two commercial buildings show the influence of the Romanesque style, and the town's churches feature lancet-arched door, window, and belfry openings that are Gothic Revival in derivation. The exterior detailing of the Columbian Theatre at 304 Main Street appears to be Art Deco in inspiration. Most of the town's buildings owe as much to an indigenous vernacular aesthetic as they do to styles imported from outside the area.

Columbia's streets have a character of their own, created by the variety of buildings, paving materials, and landscaping. The commercial section of Main Street is an architecturally-defined space that opens into a vista of the Scuppernon River. The residential streets are defined by the houses and churches that line them, the shade trees that arch over them, and the sidewalks and yard plantings that form their outer edges. These streets lend considerable charm to Columbia's townscape, and their idyllic character encourages use by the town's many pedestrians and bicyclists.

**Integrity Statement**

Integrity is defined by the National Register of Historic Places as "authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period." As a whole, the Columbia Historic District meets the integrity requirements of the National Register. The commercial and residential streets retain much the same character they exhibited during the period of significance, with an intact complement of historic buildings and a general absence of modern intrusions such as large parking lots or incompatible development. Individual buildings exhibit greater or lesser degrees of integrity. For the purposes of this report, residential and other non-commercial buildings are considered to have enough integrity to classify them as contributing to the district if they retain their basic original form and important features such as porches, chimneys, and flues. The loss of original ornament (when that ornament is known to have existed) and the replacement or concealment of original siding with modern materials (provided the replacement is not garishly obtrusive) are not, in and of themselves, sufficient to classify a building as noncontributing. Commercial buildings are considered to have integrity and to be classified as contributing if they retain their basic original form and some of their original features. Because the street-level elevations of commercial buildings rarely survive in their original form in Columbia (or for that matter, in most North Carolina communities), shop-front alterations alone are not considered to

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compromise the integrity of a building, provided the upper-story facade of the building retains its historic form and detailing.

Since most historic buildings in the Columbia Historic District have enough integrity to classify them as contributing, the noncontributing buildings are usually those that were constructed in 1945 or later and so do not meet the National Register's fifty-year-old age requirement. Several buildings in the district--two small-scale commercial buildings and one residence--are known to have been built in 1946 and are architecturally similar to buildings dating to the 1930s and early 1940s, yet they are not of sufficient architectural or historical significance to warrant their inclusion in the district under Criteria Consideration G (which allows designation of properties under fifty years of age in certain cases). The Scuppernon River played an important role in Columbia's history, but the absence of historic resources directly associated with the river, and the clustering of modern development along the historic waterfront, made it impossible to include most of the waterfront in the district.

Although the westernmost boundary of the district only touches on the banks of the Scuppernon River and does not extend further, it is conceivable that there are submerged sites and objects (ship wrecks, pilings, ballast piles, ship launching rails, etc.) in the river that have potential for inclusion in an expanded district. Archaeological remains associated with Columbia's antebellum history may also survive in historic areas not included in the district, especially the strip of land between the west boundary of the district and the Scuppernon River, and the riverside to the south of U.S. 64--the town's historic waterfront.

A total of 171 resources are included in the Columbia Historic District. The majority of these resources--121, or 70.8 per cent--are classified as contributing to the historic character of the district (this count includes the Tyrrell County Courthouse, which was listed in the National Register in 1979). The breakdown of contributing resources is as follows: 99 primary buildings (houses, commercial buildings, churches, etc.), 19 secondary buildings (garages, sheds, barns, etc.), a secondary structure (the Schlez water tank), and a secondary object (the Confederate monument next to the courthouse). There are 26 noncontributing primary buildings in the district and 24 noncontributing secondary buildings for a total of 50 noncontributing resources in the district.

### Inventory List

The inventory list is organized by street location, beginning with west-east streets listed from north to south, and concluding with north-south streets listed from west to east. For the west-

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east streets the properties are listed from west to east on the north side of the street and then east to west on the south side of the street. For the north-south streets the properties are listed from north to south on the west side of the street and then south to north on the east side of the streets. The west-east streets are listed in the following order: Howard, Martha, Bridge, Main, Hicks. The north-south streets are listed as follows: Water, Elm, Broad, Church, Pennsylvania, Second, Virginia, Light, Road.

Due to the absence of Sanborn maps and the dearth of historical documentation for the town, the building dates that appear in the list are often approximate, based on oral tradition and architectural cues and occasionally on primary and secondary source materials. These approximate dates are preceded by "ca." The National Register status of the building as "contributing" or "noncontributing" is indicated by a "C" or an "N" before the list number. The full titles of the sources cited at the end of each entry appear in the bibliography of this report.

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Inventory List

<u>List #</u>	<u>Street #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Name</u>
North side Howard Street				
C 1.	707	ca. 1890	2	Spruill-Hassell House

The Spruill-Hassell House is one of several Gothic Revival-inspired residences of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century period in Columbia. The two-story frame house features a steep gable roof with two prominent front gables, a rear shed dormer, and asphalt shingle roofing. The exterior of the house is stuccoed. Other exterior features include a brick chimney that rises on the west gable end interior, a one-story front porch supported by classical columns, a five-bay front elevation with a center entry with textured-glass sidelights and transom, 2/2-sash windows, and a one-story ell with a gable-end carport. The interior was remodeled in the mid-twentieth century. Bill Spruill, who may have been an early board member of the Merchants & Farmers Bank, is the earliest known owner of the house, which is believed to have been only one story in height during his ownership around 1900. The Hassell family next owned the house; they are believed to have added the second story. Merchant Howard Leary, a native of Chowan County, purchased the house in the 1920s. Leary added the ell and remodelled the interior by removing a center passage and making other changes. (Sources: Cavell L. Ayers, daughter of Howard Leary and present owner; *The North Carolina Year Book*, 1906.)

C 1A.	707	ca. 1940	1	Weatherboarded frame shed.
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North side Martha Street

C 2.	502	1910	2	Holloway House
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The Holloway House is a two-story frame dwelling dating to 1910. The house has vinyl siding, a gable roof with a large front gable and asphalt shingle roofing, interior brick flues, 2/2-sash windows, a one-story wraparound porch supported by turned posts with sawn brackets, a front entry with sidelights and an unusual lozenge-paned transom, and a one-story ell with a side porch. The interior features a side-passage plan, a closed-stringer hall stair with turned newels and balusters, plaster-and-lath walls and beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings throughout, four-

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panel doors, and picture rails in some rooms. (Source: Pandora College, owner.)

C 2A.            502            ca. 1940            1            Weatherboarded frame shed.

C 3.            504            ca. 1910            2            Snell's Inn

Snell's Inn is one of Columbia's few boarding houses to survive from the early twentieth century. The two-story frame inn was built by J. B. "Brit" Snell between 1907 and 1910 and was run by his daughters as "Snell's Inn" during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The building has weatherboard siding, a hip roof with multiple gables and asphalt shingle roofing, interior brick flues, an inset front entry bay with a glassed-in door porch, a one-story wraparound porch with turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets, and a one-story ell with porches on both sides.

C 4.            602            ca. 1910            2            House

This two-story frame house has a triple-A gable roof and other features that suggest a date of construction in the early twentieth century. Other features of the house include weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, an interior gable-end brick flue with a corbeled cap, 2/2-sash windows with aluminum awnings, a screened one-story front porch, and a one-story ell.

N 4A.            602            ca. 1970            1            Carport.

C 5.            702            ca. 1910            2            House

This plainly detailed two-story frame house probably dates to about 1910. The house has weatherboard siding, a gable-front roof with asphalt shingle roofing over earlier wood shingles, a brick flue on the west elevation, 2/2-sash windows, a screened one-story front porch, and a one-story ell with an engaged side porch and evidence of a former breezeway.

C 6.            706            ca. 1930            1-1/2            House

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This 1-1/2-story frame dwelling has a gable-fronted bungalow form that suggests a date of construction in the 1920s or 1930s. Other features of the house include asphalt shingle roofing, 3/1-sash windows, and a screened one-story front porch.

N 6A.            706            ca. 1950            1            Shed.

C 7.            802            ca. 1910            2            House

A triple-A gable roof is the prominent feature of this two-story frame house. Probably built around 1910, the house also has asbestos shingle siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, and a screened one-story front porch supported by turned posts with Japanese-inspired sawn brackets.

**South side Martha Street**

C 8.            801            ca. 1910            2            House

This two-story frame house has a triple-A gable roof, 2/2-sash windows, and other features that indicate a date of construction in the early twentieth century. Vinyl siding, asphalt shingle roofing, a one-story ell, and a wraparound one-story porch supported by replacement Craftsman brick and wood posts are other features of the house.

N 9.            705            1963            1            Hardison House

Built in 1963 for the Hardisons by builder Philip Ambrose and his son, the Hardison House is a one-story brick-cased ranch house with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and an engaged carport.

C 10.           605            ca. 1910           2            Spencer House

Like many other two-story frame houses in Columbia with triple-A gable roofs, the Spencer House (named for a historic occupant) was probably built in the early twentieth century. The house has asbestos shingle siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, a reworked one-story front porch, and a one-story ell with a side porch supported by

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turned and chamfered posts.

C 10A. 605 ca. 1940 1 Weatherboarded frame garage.

C 10B. 605 ca. 1940 1 Metal-sided frame shed.

N 11. 601 ca. 1990 1 House

This one-story, vinyl-sided, frame modular house was probably built in the early 1990s.

N 12. 5XX ca. 1960 1 House

This one-story frame house dates to the third quarter of the twentieth century and features aluminum siding, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

N 12A. 5XX ca. 1990 1 T111-sided frame shed.

C 13. 411 ca. 1920 2 House

This two-story frame foursquare has modern weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled hip roof with a hipped front dormer, a Craftsman one-story front porch sheltering a front entry with a small transom, and 1/1-sash windows. The house probably dates to the 1910s or 1920s.

North side Bridge Street

C 14. 208 ca. 1930 1 Columbia Garage

The Columbia Garage may have been built around 1930 as a Ford dealership and repair garage. Fred Reynolds and Philip Swain may have been the original owners of the business; in the late 1940s, Lloyd Davenport bought the garage, which is still owned and operated by the Davenport family. The utilitarian one-story brick building has recessed structural bays on the front

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elevation, three of which contain doors and windows for an office on the inside; the fourth is fitted with a garage door that leads to the repair area. Off the rear is a concrete-block extension of the repair area dating to the 1950s. The interior of the original section has exposed brick walls painted silver, beaded tongue-and-groove exterior doors and 2/2-sash windows, and wood roof trusses that are charred from one or more past fires. (Sources: Bertram Davenport, son of Lloyd Davenport and present owner; Iredell Hassell, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 15.            210            ca. 1910            1            House

This unusual one-story frame dwelling features a gabled front wing that once served as a dentist's office. Since about 1940 the house has been owned by the Roughton family. The house has weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, front and rear shed additions, and an interior with plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings and four-panel doors. Standing behind the house is a weatherboarded frame storage building that was originally connected to the rear of the house by a breezeway and served as a kitchen. The form and detailing of the house suggests a date of construction in the early twentieth century. (Source: Beatrice Roughton, owner.)

C 15A.            210            ca. 1910            1            Weatherboarded frame shed.

C 16.            302            ca. 1880            2            McClees-Coffield House

The McClees-Coffield House is a two-story brick-veneered house that incorporates an earlier dwelling. Around 1900 the house belonged to the McClees family. By the second quarter of the twentieth century it had been acquired by Jeff Davis, who lived there with his son-in-law and business partner Mr. Coffield. Their business, the Davis & Coffield general merchandise store at 201 Main Street, is said to have been the largest enterprise of its kind in the area. The front two stories of the house appear to be original, with a five-bay facade, 6/6-sash windows on the second-story, and 9/9-sash windows with lightly tinted panes on the first story. (The latter feature suggests a date of construction in the 1870s or 1880s.) In the 1910s or 1920s, this original section was expanded to the rear and encased in a stretcher-bond brick veneer. The completed house has a hip roof with gabled dormers and pressed metal roofing, brick chimneys on the exterior sides, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a one-story ell with an enclosed side porch, and a wraparound one-story porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports. (Sources: Christine Weatherly, owner; Camille Everton, Columbia historian; Virginia Wade,

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Columbia historian.)

C 17. 306 ca. 1920 1 Howard Taft House

The Howard Taft House is a one-story frame dwelling that probably dates to about 1920. The double-pile house has vinyl siding, a pyramidal roof with a brick flue at the apex, 1/1-sash windows, and a screened front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports.

C 18. 402 ca. 1920 1-1/2 House

Columbia businessman Jeff Davis may have built this house and 404 Bridge in the 1920s for use as rental units. The 1-1/2-story frame Craftsman bungalow has weatherboard siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing and front and rear shed dormers, decorative eaves brackets, brick flues, a one-story gabled front porch supported by Craftsman brick and wood posts, and a one-story ell. The interior features a double-pile two-room plan and a stair with a turned newel post.

C 19. 404 ca. 1920 1-1/2 House

Columbia businessman Jeff Davis may have built this house and 402 Bridge in the 1920s for use as rental units. The 1-1/2-story frame Craftsman bungalow has vinyl siding, a gable roof with a gabled dormer and asphalt shingle roofing, a one-story ell, a front entry with sidelights and a narrow decorative transom, and an engaged front porch supported by Craftsman brick and wood posts.

C 20. 410 ca. 1920 1-1/2 Joe Davenport House

The 1-1/2-story frame Joe Davenport House is similar to other houses on the 400 block of Bridge Street in that it is a Craftsman bungalow. It is possible that Davenport built the house himself, since he was a carpenter by trade. The asbestos-sided house features a side gable roof with a shed dormer and asphalt shingle roofing, eaves brackets, brick flues, and a screened, engaged front porch supported by Craftsman brick and wood posts.

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C 21.            416-418            ca. 1915            1            Llewelyn Yerby House

Llewelyn and Lucy Yerby built this one-story frame house in the 1910s. The house features a spreading pyramidal roof with gabled extensions and tripartite windows in the gables, brick flues, asbestos shingle siding, 6/1-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, an ell, and a wraparound porch supported by classical columns. The subsurface remains of a blacksmith shop may exist at the back of the lot. (Source: Virginia Wade, owner.)

C 22.            504            ca. 1904            2            Frederick L. W. Cohoon House

Columbia businessman Fred Cohoon built this house in 1904 or 1905, which at the time was one of the few houses north of Bridge Street. Cohoon operated a livery stable and one or two stores in the downtown, and he speculated in farm real estate. His son Ray, the second owner of the property, was Tyrrell County's sheriff. The large, two-story, frame house has a five-bay front elevation, a double-pile plan, a gable roof with a prominent front gable and asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, a front entry with sidelights and transom, 2/2-sash windows, and a formerly semi-detached one-story kitchen ell. The screened one-story front porch is supported by classical columns. (Source: Frederick Cohoon, III, grandson of Frederick L. W. Cohoon and owner of house; period business directories.)

C 23.            602            ca. 1905            1            Columbia Christian Church

Columbia Christian Church dates its origin to 1902, when a nine-day revival held at the courthouse resulted in the collection of \$300 for the construction of a church. A lot was purchased in 1903 and in 1905 the church was under construction using lumber donated by one of the trustees, C. W. Swain. In its original form the church had two lofty towers with metal crestings at its front corners (the east spire was taller and featured a lancet-arched open belfry), lancet-arched windows with clear glass panes, and a "semi-circular choir loft [that] gave the sanctuary a worshipful atmosphere." The church was remodelled beginning in the 1940s with the insertion of stained glass windows, the reduction of the corner towers, the addition of a large fellowship hall and kitchen to the rear, and the replacement of the original weatherboards with vinyl siding. In its present form the one-story frame church building has a four-bay nave form, corner towers with pyramidal roofs and original cut-out rosettes, and a gable-fronted roof with asphalt shingle roofing. On the interior survives diagonal beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot panels, subdued brown graining on simple door and window surrounds, windows with blue and

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purple milk glass panes, and an altar rail with turned balusters. (Sources: Hassell, "Church Founded in 1902"; *Swamproots*, 1979 Special Edition, p. 39.)

N 24.            606            ca. 1965            1            Godwin House

The Godwin House is a one-story, brick-veneered, gable-roofed ranch house of about 1965.

N 24A.           606            ca. 1970            1            Frame shed.

C 25.            702            ca. 1910            2            Reynolds House

The triple-A gable roof and 2/2-sash windows of the two-story frame Reynolds House suggest a date of construction in the early twentieth century. Other features of the house include asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, a modern exterior stair to the second story, a two-story ell, and a glassed-in one-story front porch.

N 25A.           702            ca. 1950            1            Metal-sided frame garage.

C 26.            706            ca. 1910            2            House

This handsome two-story frame house was probably built during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The dominant feature of the house is a front wing with a two-story bay window under a projecting gable supported by large sawn brackets. Other features are weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, an exterior brick flue, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a one-story ell, and a wraparound one-story porch supported by turned posts. The house may have been built by Stephen Brickhouse, an early-twentieth-century Columbia builder who specialized in two-story bay windows.

C 27.            708            1905            1            Columbia Baptist Church

Columbia's first Baptist church was built in 1882 and was replaced in 1905 by the present one-story, gable-fronted, frame building, a 60' by 30' structure with a 30' by 20' side wing. The

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entry tower on the front southeast corner of the church originally featured a graceful spire with metal cresting and a lancet-arched opening. A chapel was constructed on the end of the side wing in 1946 giving the building a secondary gabled front. In recent decades a latticed belfry with wood finials has substituted for the original spire, weatherboards have given way to vinyl siding, the rear gable end was extended to accommodate a baptismal pool and offices in 1974, and a large fellowship hall and kitchen wing was added to the rear in 1985. Asphalt shingle roofing, cornice returns, and lancet-arched windows with colorful stained glass are other exterior features. On the inside, the main sanctuary has a vertical beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot, a coved Celotex ceiling, and a segmental-arched opening over the pulpit containing an elevated baptismal pool. On the west side of the sanctuary are a bank of dark-stained doors that can be folded back in order to join the side seating area with the main seating area. To the north of the church at 207 N. Road St. is a brick Ranch-style parsonage dating to about 1979. (Sources: Carlisle Harrell, church member; *Swamproots*, v. 2, p. 10.)

South side Bridge Street

N 28.            703            ca. 1975            1            Earl Rhodes Work Shop

This one-story frame building was constructed (or assembled out of building parts) by Earl Rhodes for use as a work shop in the 1970s. The building has a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, tar-paper siding, and a garage door.

C 29.            701            ca. 1940            1-1/2            House

This 1-1/2-story house combines elements of the Tudor and Colonial revival styles, a hybridization suggesting a date of construction in the 1940s. The house has a stretcher-bond brick exterior, a gable roof with gabled dormers and asbestos shingle roofing, a gabled front vestibule, and a screened shed-roofed porch on the east gable end.

C 29A.            701            ca. 1940            1            Stuccoed frame garage.

C 30.            607            ca. 1910            2            House

This two-story frame house was probably built in the early twentieth century. The house has a

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gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, a replaced brick chimney on the east gable-end exterior, a gabled one-story front wing, a two-story ell, and a screened one-story front porch.

C 30A.          607                  ca. 1940                  1                  Weatherboarded frame garage.

C 31.            605                  ca. 1940                  1-1/2              **Albert Spencer House**

Service station owner Albert Spencer built this 1-1/2-story Tudor/Colonial Revival house, probably during the 1940s. The house has a stretcher-bond brick exterior, a gable roof with gabled dormers and asbestos shingle roofing, a typically Tudor Revival combination front chimney and gabled vestibule, an octagonal window and a stone or cast-stone front entry surround on the vestibule, and a screened porch on the east elevation.

C 32.            507                  ca. 1904                  2                  **Thomas Yerby House**

This two-story, gable-fronted frame house was built around 1904 by Stephen Brickhouse, a speculative builder in early-twentieth-century Columbia. Several years later, Thomas and Catherine Yerby moved to Columbia from Lancaster County, Virginia, and may have rented the upstairs of the house. Then, around 1919, the Yerby's purchased the house and lived in the downstairs while renting out the upstairs. The house has asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, 2/2-sash windows, a one-story bay window on the front, a small integral one-story ell, a one-story front porch with turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets, and a screened one-story back porch. The side-passage-plan interior has plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings, molded door and window surrounds with decorative corner blocks, and a scrolled hand rail at the base of the stair supported by slender balusters. Behind the house are a mid-twentieth-century concrete block garage and a landscaped yard. (Sources: Virginia Wade, daughter of Thomas and Catherine Yerby and owner of house; Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

N 32A.          507                  ca. 1950                  1                  Concrete block garage.

C 33.            505                  1913                      2                  **George N. Hurdle House**

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George N. Hurdle moved to Columbia in 1911 to work for the Branning Building Company. A year later he opened a store at 501 Bridge Street, and then in 1913 he built this two-story frame house next to his store as a residence for himself and his wife, Mamie. The Hurdle House is a well-preserved example of a common period house type in Columbia. It features weatherboard siding, a triple-A gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing and a textured and stained glass peaked window in the front gable, and exterior brick gable end chimneys. Windows are 2/2-sash. Other exterior features include a front entry with sidelights, a screened one-story front porch with turned posts and a weatherboarded half wall, and an integral one-story ell with a 1930s addition. The single-pile center-passage-plan interior has a stair with turned newel posts and balusters, and a Craftsman brick mantel in the west first-story room that was installed by Columbia brick mason Joe Alexander in the 1930s. Behind the house are a frame garage and a frame storage shed, one of which may have served originally as a carriage house. (Source: Lucia Cunningham, daughter of George and Mamie Hurdle and owner of house; period business directories.)

C 33A.	505	ca. 1930	1	Weatherboarded frame garage.
C 33B.	505	ca. 1930	1	Weatherboarded frame shed.
C 34.	501	1912	1	<b>George N. Hurdle Store</b>

George N. Hurdle built this one-story frame store in 1912, a year before he built his residence next door at 503 Bridge Street. Hurdle and later his daughter, Lucia Cunningham, sold a range of general merchandise including dry goods, clothes, and shoes until the store closed in 1978. The store has weatherboard siding, a gable-fronted roof sheathed in corrugated metal, a brick flue, original wood and glass front display windows and an inset entry, and 2/2-sash windows (one on the rear protected by iron bars). The interior features beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing and has a stair at the back that leads to attic storage space. Off the southeast corner of the store are the poured concrete footings of a former wooden water tank. The tank, fed by downspouts from the roof of the store and the adjoining Hurdle House, was installed by J. B. "Brit" Snell in 1926. (Sources: Lucia Cunningham, daughter of George and Mamie Hurdle and owner of store; period business directories.)

C 35.	413	ca. 1910	2	<b>Erskine Brickhouse House</b>
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In the early twentieth century when he built this house, Erskine Brickhouse owned a farm about a mile from Columbia. Erskine and his wife, Sue Wilkerson Brickhouse, chose to live in town to be near Sue's parents. The Brickhouse House is a two-story frame dwelling with asbestos shingle siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, a gabled two-story front wing, a brick flue, 2/2-sash windows, a wraparound one-story porch supported by turned posts with sawn brackets, and a one-story ell. Beside the house, running along Church Street, is a herringbone brick sidewalk dating to the 1910s. (Lucia Cunningham, long-time neighbor.)

N 35A.          413                  ca. 1950                  1                  Frame shed.

N 36.            409                  ca. 1960                  1                  House

This one-story brick-veneer house with complex gable roof and engaged side carport probably dates to around 1960.

N 36A.          409                  ca. 1960                  1                  Brick garage.

**North side Main Street**

N 37.            204                  1946                      1                  Robert Mitchell Barber Shop

Robert Mitchell opened his first barber shop in the former Columbia Hotel on Main Street in the late 1930s. In 1946 he contracted with concrete block-maker George Owens to build this small one-story building. Mitchell opened for business on Easter Monday 1946, charging 35 cents for a haircut. His shop features a stretcher-bond brick veneer on the front (brick was restricted to the front owing to post-war material shortages), a parapet with a recessed signage panel, stepped side parapets, and a plate glass front window. (Source: Robert Mitchell, owner.)

N 38.            208                  1980                      1                  Fran's Shear Magic Hair Styling Parlor

In 1980, Fran Byrum drew the plans for this small one-story frame shop and hired Columbia builder Frankie Snell to build it. The building is domestic in scale and finish and has natural

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weatherboard siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, 1/1-sash windows, and a front stoop supported by square wood posts with sawn brackets. (Source: Fran Byrum, owner.)

C 39.            210            ca. 1900            2            **Jule C. McClees Store**

Jule C. McClees sold women's clothes, caskets, and other general merchandise out of this store in the early twentieth century. The two-story frame building has a conventional gable-front form with asbestos shingles on the front gable end, weatherboard siding on the sides, metal roofing, 2/2-sash windows, and a wood-shingled pent roof sheltering large original display windows and an inset entry. The interior has a number of notable features including a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling, windows that can be used to seal off the front display areas, and shelving along the side walls supported by hundreds of small spindles. (Source: Virginia Wade, Columbia historian.)

C 40.            212            ca. 1900            2            **Sam Sykes Store**

Sam Sykes operated a grocery in this two-story, gable-fronted, frame building during the early twentieth century. The store has asbestos shingle and original weatherboard siding, metal roofing, cornice returns, two brick flues projecting above the roof ridge, 2/2-sash windows, and the original display windows and inset entry with the window muntins encased in aluminum. (Sources: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 41.            214-216            1931-1932            1            **W. J. White Building**

W. J. White opened for business in 1926 in a shop on the south side of Main Street. A year later his enterprise was described as "One of the better stores in town catering to women as well as men." In 1931, White hired a member of the prolific Alexander family of builders to construct this large one-story brick emporium, which was completed in 1932. The building features corbeled and basketweave-bond parapets on the Main and Elm street elevations, a cantilevered hip-roofed awning on the Elm Street side with Spanish tile roofing and a pressed metal ceiling, 2/2-sash windows, and modern shop fronts. (Sources: Bill White, son of W. J. White; "Columbia Route Saves Mileage"; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 42.            302            1932            2            **S. M. & Martha Combs**

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Building

Seldon and Martha Combs had this handsome two-story brick commercial block built in 1932. The Main and Elm street elevations of the building have regularly recessed courses that create a striped or rusticated effect. In the front parapet is a basketweave-bond panel with a central white marble tablet bearing the name and date of the building. Other features include stepped side parapets, 1/1-sash windows, a 1940s aluminum, architectural glass, and plate glass shop front with an aluminum awning, and a two-story rear addition of five-course American-bond brick work. (Source: date block.)

C 43.            304            ca. 1935            2            **Columbian Theatre**

The Columbian Theatre was built by Johann Frederick "Fred" Schlez in the 1930s as the successor to his earlier theater building at 108 North Elm Street. The building is of stretcher-bond brick construction (or veneer) with a stepped front parapet, metal second-story windows, and three structural bays at street level. The east bay served as the entry for whites; it has a tile floor, an Art Deco sign over the entrance, and a ticket booth. A marquee formerly projected above this entrance. The middle, smaller bay was the entry for black patrons; it too has a ticket booth. This entry leads to a balcony. The west bay, now an appliance store, was originally a concession stand run by Thomas Yerby. In 1965 the Columbian Theater was the only cinema in Tyrrell County. (Sources: Ruth Woodley, owner and widow of former business associate of Fred Schlez; Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 2131.)

C 44.            308            1928-1929            2            **Cohoon Building**

Built in 1928 or 1929, the Cohoon Building was the most modern commercial building of its time in Columbia. It was built for the A. J. Cohoon Oil Company, the principal oil and gasoline distributor in Tyrrell County with twenty-five branch stations by the 1930s. The second story of the building contained lodgings; the cut-away corner on the first story functioned as a drive-through service station. The remaining street-level space was occupied by the company's offices and the grocery of A. L. Walker & Company. Architecturally, the Cohoon Building mirrors the Mediterranean detailing of the 1928 Steanie C. Chaplin House at 107 North Broad Street; presumably the Cohoon Building was built by the same prolific Columbia contractors, Jim and Joe Alexander. The large, two-story building is constructed of textured, buff-colored brick laid in a stretcher bond. Two-story piers with recessed panels and stack-bond caps define the corners of the building; brick walls with corbeling, soldier-course bands, and 1/1-sash windows span

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between the piers at the second-story level, and above that is a coping of Spanish tiles. The cut-away corner has a pressed metal ceiling and an office bay with plate glass windows and a transom of clear and green glass panes. The pressed metal ceiling extends to the interior of the service station and the grocery. Pledger's Hardware has occupied the first story of the building since 1948. (Sources: *Swamproots*, v. 11, pp. 44-46; "Columbia Route Saves Mileage".)

C 45.            402            ca. 1940            1            Building

This one-story commercial building of about 1940 has a stretcher-bond brick exterior, a corbeled and dentil-like brick parapet, a remodeled shop front with an inset entry and a modern, asphalt-shingled mansard awning, and doors and windows at the back suggesting a second shop occupied the rear of the building.

C 46.            406            ca. 1885            1            Meekins House

The Meekins House is among the most stylish of Columbia's late-nineteenth-century dwellings, although it is possible that it incorporates older fabric. The sills, plates, corner posts, and corner braces are mortise-and-tenoned and pegged together, and some framing members may be hewn--all indications of construction prior to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The one-story house has a hip roof with asphalt shingle roofing, weatherboard siding, tall 6/6-sash windows with bracketed cornices, a front entry with a bracketed cornice, sidelights, and a transom glazed in dark red stained glass, a small rear wing, a foundation of brick piers with brick lattice underpinning between, and a brick flue. The dominant feature of the exterior is the front porch, which is supported by chamfered posts that are capped by scroll brackets with turned pendants and are linked by lacy sawnwork arches. The interior has been modernized. Judge I. M. Meekins was raised in the house before 1900; in the early 1930s, J. C. Meekins owned the property. (Source: Chip Jones, owner; Dean, "Columbia, Gem of Tyrrell"; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

N 46A.            406            ca. 1990            1            Frame/concrete block garage.

C 47.            408            ca. 1900            2            House

This large, two-story, frame house probably dates to the turn of the twentieth century, as suggested by its fenestration, porch, and other detailing, although it is possible that the building

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was earlier used as a mill. In the early twentieth century it was owned by a Mr. Twiddy, possibly E. V. Twiddy. The house has a gable roof with a large front gable featuring a window with louvered shutters, asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, vinyl siding, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, transom, and a molded four-panel door, a one-story wraparound porch supported by square wood posts with sawn brackets, and a two-story ell added in 1949 by then-owner Jim H. Bateman. (Sources: Lucille Ward, owner; Virginia Ward, Columbia historian.)

N 48.            414            1982            1            Tyrrell County Public Library

The Tyrrell County Public Library was built in 1982 by the Edenton Construction Company, Inc. The large one-story building features a stretcher-bond brick veneer with quoining at the corners, an asphalt-shingled mansard parapet, 6/6-sash windows with molded lintels, and Colonial Revival front entry with side lights and a broken pediment. (Source: plaque.)

C 49.            504            1912            1            Wesley United Methodist  
Church

Wesley United Methodist Church organized in 1875 and built its first building in 1879 or 1880. In 1909 a building committee was formed and the corner stone for the present church was laid. The church--the first to be constructed of brick in Columbia--was completed in 1912. Wesley United Methodist Church is a large one-story building with a metal-sheathed gable-fronted roof and a bell tower at its front (southwest) corner. This bell tower features decorative recesses, corbeling, and crenelation above attenuated lancet-arched louvered belfry openings. Next to it is a recessed entry porch behind three lancet arches. The building's lancet-arched doors, stained glass windows, and other openings are framed in white brick that contrasts with the red brick of the exterior walls. In the front gable is a circular stained glass window with an eight-pointed star motif. To the rear of the building is a plain, two-story, red brick Sunday School Annex built in 1936-1937. The principal space of the nave-plan interior is the sanctuary, which has a vaulted ceiling sheathed in varnished beaded tongue-and-groove boards and spanned by iron tie rods, and a choir set into a polygonal apse and fronted by a Gothic railing. The stained glass of the windows is a mottled light green in color with brown, amber, and lavender accents. Outside the church, set into the concrete sidewalk along Church Street, is a marble (tombstone?) fragment that reads "ROURKE/Norfolk." (Source: *Swamproots*, v. 7, p. 28.)

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C 50.            506            ca. 1910            2            House

Stephen Brickhouse, a speculative builder in Columbia at the beginning of the twentieth century, is believed to have built this house, possibly for a relative. Later the house was owned by the Meekins family. The two-story weatherboarded frame house has a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, a front wing with a gable roof that overhangs a two-story bay window, an interior brick chimney, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a reworked one-story front porch with modern turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets, 2/2- and 1/1-sash windows with louvered shutters, and a one-story ell connected to the house by an enclosed breezeway. The center-passage-plan interior features transitional Victorian/Craftsman detailing. The center passage has a stair with winders and turned newel posts and balusters, and a screen at the rear formed by tapered posts on book cases with decorative glass doors. The front parlor has a mantel that incorporates curious fluted colonnettes; the dining room behind the parlor has a bracketed shelf mantel flanked by glass-fronted china cabinets. On the west side of the house is a well-shaded landscaped yard and a modern carport/storage building. (Sources: Douglas Hoffman, occupant; Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

N 50A.            506            ca. 1990            1            Frame carport.

N 51.            508            ca. 1970            1-1/2            Wesley United Methodist  
Church Parsonage

This modern one-story frame Cape Cod is 1-1/2-story in height and has a gable roof with gabled dormers and asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, and a gabled front stoop.

N 52.            602            ca. 1970            1            House

This modern brick ranch house is one story in height and has an asphalt-shingled gable roof that engages a front porch.

C 53.            604            ca. 1925            2            Benjamin Davis Apartment  
House

Ben Davis, brother of merchant Jeff Davis, built this two-story frame dwelling as an apartment

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house in the 1920s. The house has a weatherboarded first story and a wood-shingled second story, a hip roof with a hipped dormer and asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, 4/1- and 6/1-sash windows, and a one-story wraparound Craftsman porch with brick and wood supports and a porte cochere. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 54.            606            ca. 1930            1            Joe Davenport House

Watch repairman "One Eye" Joe Davenport built this gable-fronted bungalow, probably in the 1920s or 1930s. The one-story frame house has novelty weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, and a screened Craftsman front porch.

N 55.            608            ca. 1910            1            House

This one-story frame house is of a type known as the Coastal Cottage form. The main characteristic of the form is a gable roof that engages both a front porch and rear shed rooms. Other aspects of this house are vinyl siding and modern 1/1-sash windows.

**South side Main Street**

C 56.            701            ca. 1900            2            Jesse N. Cooper House

Jesse Norwood and Sadie Cohoon Cooper may have been the original owners of this interesting two-story frame house, which was probably built around 1900. The house has a cross-shaped plan with gabled roofs that meet at a brick chimney with a decorative cap. Other features are weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows, a two-story ell with a one-story addition, and a one-story wraparound porch supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. Shortly after the end of World War II, Sadie Cooper built a one-story dry cleaning establishment next door at 703 Main Street. (Sources: Ever Cooper, owner and daughter-in-law of Jesse and Sadie Cooper; Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 56A.            701            ca. 1930            1            Weatherboarded frame shed.

C 57.            600            ca. 1905            2            William Owens House

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Farmer and horse trader William Owens built this handsome two-story frame house around 1905. The prominent feature of the house is the one-story wraparound porch with turned posts, sawn brackets and frieze, and corner gazebo. (The gazebo is similar to that on the Combs-Hussey House at 415 Main Street.) The house also features weatherboard siding, a triple-A gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, a modern west gable-end brick chimney that replaces an earlier chimney or flue, 2/2- and modern 6/6-sash windows with modern paneled shutters, and a two-story ell and one-story rear additions. The center-passage-plan interior has a closed-stringer stair with turned newel posts and balusters. Behind the house is a modern frame shed with an engaged porch supported by cylindrical posts. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian and relative of William Owens.)

N 57A.	600	ca. 1990	1	Frame shed with porch.
C 58.	415	ca. 1900	2	Combs-Hussey House

The Combs-Hussey House has a complicated early history. Businessman and hotel owner Seldon M. Combs and his wife Martha built most or all of the house in the late 1890s, and Martha used the two front rooms on the first story (at the time joined into one room) as her millinery shop. Later (before 1909), George Hussey purchased the house and added the handsome wraparound porch and the east side porch. Hussey also divided the millinery shop into two parlors and made other changes. In 1909 or 1910, grocer and county official Arthur L. Walker bought the property; he later traded it with Clarence Cohoon for the latter's house several blocks to the east. The Combs-Hussey House, in its final form, is a two-story gable-fronted frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows with louvered shutters, scalloped millwork in the eaves and rake, and brick chimneys and flues. To the rear is a one-story kitchen ell with a modern exterior gable-end brick chimney, an enclosed side porch, and an enclosed breezeway connection to the house proper. The one-story wraparound porch added by Hussey features turned posts and balusters, sawn brackets, spindle friezes, small gables over arched sections of frieze corresponding to house entryways, and a gazebo-like element at the northwest corner capped by a metal finial. (The gazebo is similar to that on the William Owens House at 608 Main Street.) A small porch on an east side wing of the house uses the same decorative elements as the main porch. The interior of the house features Craftsman mantels in the two front rooms with brackets, colonnettes, mirrors, and mottled glazed tile hearths and fireplace surrounds. Walls and ceilings are typically sheathed in beaded tongue-and-groove boards. behind the house in a landscaped yard is a frame garage with a gable roof and brick-pattern pressed metal siding. (Source: William and Marian Trow, owners.)

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C 58A. 415 ca. 1930 1 Metal-sided frame garage.

C 59. 413 ca. 1900 2 House

This two-story frame house of about 1900 has a gable-fronted form, asphalt shingle roofing, asbestos shingle siding, 6/6-sash windows, and a reworked one-story front porch.

C 60. 409 ca. 1905 2 William H. McClees House

This two-story frame house was probably built during the first decade of the twentieth century. Around 1925 it was purchased by grocer William Henry McClees and his wife Beatrice Armstrong McClees. The house has a gable roof with a pronounced front gable, asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, brick flues, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, a one-story screened wraparound porch with a half wall, and a one-story ell. Inside, the house has a side-passage plan, an archway between the front entry hall and the front parlor, and a simple bracketed parlor mantel of 1920s vintage. Behind the house is a one-story frame storage building with side shed additions that incorporates as its central element a former barber shop and bank building. This central element is a gable-fronted, weatherboarded building with a four-panel front door flanked by sidelights and a transom, and a two-room interior with wallpapered plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings above a vertical beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot in the front room, and more extensive beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing in the rear room. This building originally stood on Main Street at the northeast corner of the public ground (adjoining its present lot) and is said to have been used as the office of an unidentified bank before 1910. In the second quarter of the century it was used as Ike Pledger's barber shop. (Sources: Robert McClees, owner; *Swamproots*, v. 4 & 6.)

C 60A. 409 ca. 1900 1 Weatherboarded frame shed.

C 61. 405 ca. 1910 2 Tyrrell County Jail

The Tyrrell County Jail is a cubic, two-story, six-course American-bond brick building dating to the early twentieth century. The building features a hip roof with asphalt shingle roofing, brick chimneys or flues with corbeled caps, a corbeled cornice and a corbeled belt course at the

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level of the second-story window heads, segmental-arched windows (with bars on the rear elevation), and a one-story front porch supported by brick and wood posts.

C 62.            403            1903            2            Tyrrell County Courthouse

The Tyrrell County Courthouse was constructed in 1903 and is believed to be the county's third courthouse building. The two-story Romanesque Revival brick building was designed and built by the B. F. Smith Construction Company, specialists in the construction of courthouses in eastern North Carolina during the period. The handsome building features a hip roof with parapeted gable projections containing round-arched louvered vents, asphalt shingle roofing, brick chimneys, a modillion cornice, tall round-arched 2/2-sash windows on the second story linked at the level of the sills and the springing points of the arches by corbeled belt courses, segmental-arched door and window openings on the first story, tinted glass transoms over the front entries on the first and second stories, and a modern one-story front porch supported by grouped classical colonnettes on brick pedestals. The remodeled interior of the building has a double-loaded corridor plan and vestiges of original detailing such as molded door surrounds. The courthouse and the adjacent Tyrrell County Jail are set on a landscaped public ground that also includes a cast metal memorial to the county's Confederate officers and enlisted men. The Tyrrell County Courthouse was listed in the National Register in 1979. (Source: "Tyrrell County Courthouse.")

C 62A.            403            ca. 1900            1            Metal monument.

N 63.            303            ca. 1960            1            Wayne's Auto Supply

Wayne's Auto Supply is a one-story concrete block building dating to the mid-twentieth century that was built as a service station with a corner plate-glass-fronted office and two service bays with garage doors. Surrounding the building on its Main and Broad street elevations is a parking lot. A Standard Oil service station occupied the site in the early 1930s. (Source: *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 64.            301            ca. 1935            1            East Carolina Bank Annex

This simple one-story brick building was built in the 1930s as an addition to the Merchants and

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Farmers Bank/East Carolina Bank building that stands on its west side. The building was used by the East Carolina Bank from 1936 until 1975. The building is constructed of textured brick laid in a stretcher bond and now painted, and features a front parapet with houndstooth and dentil-like corbeling, bricked-up square-head windows and a stepped side parapet on the west elevation, and a modernized plate glass shop front with a metal awning. (Sources: Virginia Haire, vice president of East Carolina Bank; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 65.            301            ca. 1905            1            Merchants and Farmers  
Bank/East Carolina Bank

Banks may have operated in Columbia during the nineteenth century, but the first for which there is firm information is the Merchants and Farmers Bank. The bank may have been organized in 1904 (the date of the first mortgage issued by the bank), and it first appears in business directories in 1905. Shortly thereafter the institution built a small but elegant bank building at 301 Main Street. The M&F Bank later merged with the Tyrrell County Bank and then went out of business; in the early 1930s the bank building was occupied by Sam Bateman's millinery shop and the office of potato broker W. S. Carawan. In 1936 the Columbia Branch of the Engelhard Banking and Trust Company opened in the building, and Engelhard's successor--East Carolina Bank--operates from a modern building on U.S. 64. The one-story brick Merchants and Farmers Bank/East Carolina Bank features paired round-arched openings on the front facade (now bricked up; formerly a front entry and a display window) that may have been inspired by the slightly earlier Tyrrell County Courthouse. Other details are an intricate corbeled cornice, round- and segmental-arched door and window openings on the Elm Street and rear elevations, and brick flues. (Sources: Virginia Haire, vice president of East Carolina Bank; Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4; v. 6, p. 35.)

C 66.            211            ca. 1910            2            Columbia Drug Company

Dr. C. McKeel opened the Columbia Drug Company in 1910; presumably he built this two-story brick building the same year. The business was the leading pharmacy in town during the pre-World War II period. The Cohoon Telephone Company occupied an upstairs office in the building in the 1920s. Later occupants of the building were a restaurant and a real estate office. In 1975, the present owner remodeled the building as his law office. The Columbia Drug Company Building features a front parapet with corbelling and alternating narrow and wide recessed panels that reflect the spacing of the three segmental-arched second-story windows underneath, a stepped parapet and bricked-up door and window openings on the Elm Street

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elevation, and a windowless modern shop front. (Sources: Charles Ogletree, owner; Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, p. 66; "Columbia Route Saves Mileage"; *Swamproots*, v. 4; period business directories.)

C 67.            209            ca. 1925            1            Yerby Building

The Yerby Building, probably built in the 1920s, contained two businesses: Thomas K. Yerby's men's clothing store (established about 1905) in the west half, and Wayland Yerby's "Yerby Quality Store" men's, women's, and children's clothes and shoe store in the east half. The Yerby's were brothers who hailed from Lancaster County, Virginia. The building is a one-story brick block with a corbeled cornice, rusticated piers, metal lintels over the two shop fronts, and modern display windows and inset entries. (Source: Virginia Wade, daughter of Thomas Yerby; "Columbia Route Saves Mileage"; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 68.            207            ca. 1930            1            Tyrrell County Bank

This one-story brick building of about 1930 may have served as a drug store and/or a bank before World War II. The building features a stepped front parapet with corbeling, a recessed signage panel, and stretcher-bond brickwork above a textured glass transom and early metal and glass display windows and inset entry. On the rear elevation are a large bricked-up window and a door with a barred transom. The interior has exposed ceiling joists and bare brick walls; on the east wall (the party wall of the adjoining building) are remnants of an early-twentieth-century circus poster that was preserved when this building was built. (Sources: Fiona King Finch, owner and Columbia historian; Virginia Wade, Columbia historian; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 69.            205            ca. 1930            2            William H. McClees Store

This two-story brick commercial building contained the store of William H. McClees during the second quarter of the twentieth century. McClees became sole proprietor of his father's grocery store in 1922. He may have moved into this building in 1930. The first floor may have accommodated the Laughinghouse Tea Room in 1936. The building features textured stretcher-bond brickwork, a corbeled parapet with a soldier-course band, a row of five 1/1-sash windows topped by corbeled round arches, and a later plate glass shop front with inset entries below an original transom of clear and green glass panes. The first-story interior features a pressed metal ceiling. (Sources: Fiona King Finch, Columbia historian; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

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C 70.            203            1930            1            Building

The building has a stretcher-bond front with a corbeled and soldier-course parapet, metal lintels over the two shop fronts (now with painted panels celebrating Tyrrell County history in place of the original display windows, rougher seven-course American-bond brickwork on the west side elevation, and segmental-arched doors and 2/2-sash windows on the rear elevation. The deteriorated interior of the building has plaster-and-lath walls and a pressed metal ceiling. (Sources: Virginia Wade, Columbia historian; *Swamproots*, v. 4; v. 9, p. 10.)

C 71.            201            ca. 1920            2            Davis & Coffield Building

Davis & Coffield operated one of the largest general merchandise stores in the area out of this two-story brick building during the 1920s and 1930s. Much of the company's stock was stored in a warehouse that formerly stood behind the building, and a fraternal organization may have used the second story of the building as meeting space. A later occupant of the building was the Tyrrell Furniture Company. The Davis & Coffield Building has a front elevation constructed of stretcher-bond pressed brick with rusticated corner cantons, a corbeled parapet cornice, 2/2-sash second-story windows with corbeled segmental arches, and modern shop fronts under a suspended metal awning. The side elevations are constructed of rough seven-course American-bond brickwork with stepped parapets and segmental-arched door and window openings. The rear elevation is stuccoed, and the first-story interior has been modernized. (Sources: Virginia Wade, Columbia historian; Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, p. 68.)

**North side Hicks Street**

C 72.            5XX            ca. 1910            1            House

This one-story frame house was probably built during the early twentieth century and has weatherboard siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, and 2/2-sash windows.

C 73.            508            ca. 1900            2            Clarence Chaplin House

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Clarence Chaplin, brother of Columbia hospital director Steanie C. Chaplin, was a farmer who also operated a grocery in downtown Columbia. Chaplin's wife, Florence, was a public school teacher. In the early twentieth century the Chaplins built this large, two-story, frame house on Main Street; in recent years the house was moved to the back of its lot so as to face Hicks Street. The house has weatherboard siding, a gable roof with a prominent front gable, limited sawn ornament, and asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, 2/2-, 4/4-, and 6/6-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a two-story rear wing and one-story rear additions, and a one-story wraparound porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. The first-story interior features plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings, vertical beaded tongue-and-groove wainscots, and a front parlor mantel with colonnettes and a mirrored overmantel. (Source: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident.)

South side Hicks Street

C 74.            505            ca. 1900            2            Adams House

Mr. Adams, the owner of this house in the mid-twentieth century, worked at the Norfolk Southern depot in Columbia until the line ceased operations in the late 1940s. The Adams House is a two-story frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, brick flues, 1/1-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, a long one-story ell with 6/6-sash windows and a screened side porch, and a screened one-story front porch with an ornamental gable on axis with the front entry. Behind the house is a weatherboarded frame work shop with a metal-sheathed gable roof and 6/6-sash windows.

C 74A.            505            ca. 1900            1            Weatherboarded frame shop.

West side North Water Street

C 75.            1XX            ca. 1925            2            Riverview Cafe

The Riverview Cafe is a two-story frame building built in the mid- or late 1920s. The cafe was run by Albert Bateman. Other uses of the building have included a bowling alley, a pool hall, a bar, a laundry, and a shoe repair shop. The building has stone-pattern pressed metal siding, a gable-fronted roof that engages a two-tier front porch, corrugated metal roofing, a brick flue, and 3/1-sash and modern windows. The west end of the building extends out into the

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Scuppernong River. (Sources: Fiona King Finch, Columbia historian; Charles Ogletree, neighbor; J. D. Brickhouse, Tyrrell County administrator.)

East side North Water Street

C 76.            202            ca. 1890            2            Thomas Spruill House

Thomas Spruill owned this two-story frame house on the Columbia waterfront in the early twentieth century. The second story may have been used as a Masonic meeting hall before or during Spruill's ownership. The house, which probably dates to the late nineteenth century, has weatherboard and asbestos shingle siding, a gable roof with a large front gable and asphalt shingle roofing, a modern replacement brick chimney on the south gable end, large 6/6-sash windows with louvered shutters, shed-roofed one-story rear additions, and a partially enclosed one-story wraparound porch supported by paired classical columns. In the yard behind the house are two frame sheds, one with weatherboard siding and the other with whitewashed vertical board siding, and a latticework fence. (Sources: Virginia Wade, Columbia historian; Iredell Hassell, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 76A.            202            ca. 1920            1            Vertical board-sided frame shed.

C 76B.            202            ca. 1920            1            Weatherboarded frame shed.

C 77.            204            ca. 1930            1            Bill Cohoon House

Bill Cohoon occupied this gable-fronted Craftsman bungalow in the 1940s. The one-story frame house has vinyl siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 1/1- and 2/2-sash windows, and a screened front porch.

C 78.            206            ca. 1900            2            Robert T. Knight House

Robert T. "Captain Bob" Knight was one of Columbia's more colorful inhabitants. Knight fixed boats on the shore in front of his two-story frame house, and the submerged rails he used to move the ships in and out of the water are believed to remain in place. In his later years Knight

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operated a meat market on Main Street. The Knight House is a two-story frame dwelling dating to the turn of the twentieth century with aluminum and novelty weatherboard siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, an interior brick chimney with a large cap, 6/6- and 2/2-sash windows, a two-story front wing with a one-story shed addition, and a one-story screened front porch. (Sources: Charles and Midge Ogletree, neighbors; *Swamproots*, v. 1, p. 21.)

C 79.            302            1940            1-1/2            Hazel and H. T. Davenport  
House

The Hazel and H. T. Davenport House is an outstanding example of the Tudor Revival style. Designed by Hazel Davenport and a Norfolk, Virginia architect and built in 1940, the 1-1/2-story brick and wood-shingled frame house features prominently on its front elevation a massive brick chimney with asymmetrical paved shoulders joined to a front stoop with a frieze board suggestive of a flattened Tudor arch. Other exterior features are the steep gable roof with gabled dormers and asbestos shingle roofing, and 6/6- and 9/9-sash windows. The Davenport House was among the first in town to take advantage of the scenic qualities of the Scuppernong River waterfront. The front yard and a small lawn area across North Water Street from the house are beautifully landscaped. (Source: Hazel Davenport, owner and designer.)

N 80.            306            ca. 1900            2            Jerry Brickhouse House

This two-story frame house was probably built around 1900, as suggested by deed records. It was owned by Jerry Brickhouse, Tyrrell County Clerk of Court, in the early twentieth century. Around 1940 the house was shifted to the north to make way for the construction of the Hazel and Hezekiah T. Davenport House at 302 North Water Street. Remodeled in recent years, the house has modern wood shingle siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, a two-story front wing with a half-round louvered vent in its front gable, modern 6/6-sash windows, and a partially enclosed one-story front porch. The small yard in front of the house is landscaped with ground covers, a rail fence, and a lily pond. (Source: Midge and Charles Ogletree, owners.)

N 80A.            306            ca. 1950            1            Garage.

West side North Elm Street

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C 81.            111            ca. 1930            1-1/2            Lizzie Cooper House

Lizzie Cooper is likely the original owner of this 1-1/2-story frame Craftsman bungalow built about 1930. Later, Cooper's daughter and her son-in-law, Lizzie and Jim Alexander, lived in the house. The house has weatherboard siding, a gable roof with front and rear gabled dormers, lightning arresters, and asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, 1/1-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a mid-twentieth-century one-story rear wing, and an engaged front porch supported by classical columns above a brick half-wall with stuccoed recessed panels. (Source: Beatrice Roughton, long-time Columbia resident.)

N 82.            107            1950            1-1/2            William J. White House

Clothier William J. White built this 1-1/2-story Colonial Revival brick house in 1950. The house features a gable roof with three gabled front dormers, a shed-roofed rear dormer, and asphalt shingle roofing, a brick chimney, a one-story front wing with an octagonal window in the front gable, and an engaged front porch. (Source: Bill White, son of builder.)

N 82A.           107            ca. 1950            1            Brick garage.

**West side South Elm Street**

C 83.            105            ca. 1935            2            Building

This one-story brick commercial building appears to date to the decade of the 1930s. The building has a storage loft on the front that gives it a two-story height, otherwise it is one story in height. The front elevation is constructed of stretcher-bond brickwork and the sides are five-course American bond. Other features include two shop fronts, a front parapet with corbeling and a basketweave-bond band, a hip-roofed awning with sockets for incandescent bulbs along its edge, and a side wing at the southwest rear corner.

**East side North Elm Street**

C 84.            108            ca. 1900            2            Columbia Theatre

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This two-story gable-fronted building was probably built around 1900 for commercial purposes. An early occupant was the Tyrrell Hardware Company. In 1919, German immigrant Johann Frederick "Fred" Schlez and W. T. Reynolds formed the Columbia Amusement Company and opened the Columbia Theatre in this building. The theater's first show was the 1919 silent film *Granddaddy Longlegs*, starring Mary Pickford. Grace Reynolds accompanied the movies on a piano, and before the showings a canvas painted with advertisements was rolled down in front of the screen and then rolled back up. Sam Woodley was Fred Schlez's partner in later years. In the 1930s, Schlez built the Columbian Theatre building at 304 Main Street, and this building was converted to use as a candy warehouse and a furniture store (its current use). The theater is a weatherboarded frame building with metal roofing, modern wood and glass display windows, and a two-story interior space with a cove cornice, Celotex ceiling, and a mezzanine level to the rear (the latter dating to after the building's use as a cinema). The screen was located at the back (east) end of the building, and the balcony formerly occupied the front. (Sources: Cecil Lilley, owner; Ruth Woodley, widow of Sam Woodley; Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, p. 63; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 85.            112            ca. 1930            1            Fred Schlez House

German immigrant Johann Frederick "Fred" Schlez came to Columbia around 1919 and with local businessman W. T. Reynolds opened the Columbia Theatre at 108 North Elm Street. In the 1920s or 1930s, Schlez built this one-story Craftsman bungalow next door at 112 North Elm. The Schlez House is one of the more sophisticated bungalows in town and features a front porch with a gable roof and pergolas supported by classical columns that stand on a stuccoed concrete half-wall. Other features are weatherboard siding, a hip roof with asphalt shingle roofing and projecting gables with half-round louvered vents, a brick chimney on the north elevation, and 4/1-sash windows. Behind the house is a contemporaneous, weatherboarded, frame garage with a side work or store room. Standing at the back corner of the house is the lone survivor in the downtown of a once common fixture in Columbia: a wooden water tank. The tank is constructed of cedar planks held together with steel tension bands, and is sheltered under a conical metal roof and supported by concrete posts. Cisterns like this one were fed with rain water from the roof of an adjoining building which was then purified with charcoal, and they may have been produced at one of the two barrel factories that operated in the town in the late 1920s. (Sources: Ruth Woodley, Columbia historian; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 85A.            112            ca. 1930            1            Weatherboarded frame garage.

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C 85B.          112                  ca. 1930                  1                  Wooden water tank.

**West side North Broad Street**

C 86.                  207                  ca. 1930                  1-1/2                  Frank Alexander House

The Frank Alexander House is a 1-1/2-story Craftsman bungalow with a stuccoed exterior. The house has an asphalt-shingled gable roof with decorative eaves brackets and a gabled front dormer, brick flues, 1/1-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a one-story ell with modern weatherboard siding, and a screened one-story front porch with stuccoed Craftsman supports. Next to the house is a later garage/carport.

N 86A.              207                  ca. 1950                  1                  Weatherboarded frame garage.

C 87.                  107                  1928                  2                  Steanie C. Chaplin House

Steanie C. Chaplin (1897-1952) was a community leader in Columbia during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The Tyrrell County native attended Wake Forest College and the Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia. After graduating from the latter in 1920, Chaplin returned to Columbia and set up practice. By 1930 he established the Columbia Hospital on North Broad Street, which had grown to a thirty-bed capacity at mid-century. In 1928 Chaplin built a residence on the corner of Broad and Bridge streets next door to his hospital. The one- and two-story, buff-colored brick house is one of the more architecturally sophisticated dwellings in Columbia. It was built by the town's accomplished Alexander brothers, brickmasons Jim and Joe, who at the same time were building Mission-style-influenced brick commercial buildings nearby on Main Street. Ultimately Mediterranean in inspiration, the house features an arcaded front porch, round-arched and square-headed windows, ceramic water spouts that project through the roof parapets in imitation of viga ends, a front entry with sidelights and a eye-shaped transom in an arched surround, a small stained glass window at the top of the southeast corner pier of the two-story section of the house, and a Spanish-tile pent roof over the second-story front windows. The interior of the house is equally unusual. The front entry leads into a foyer at the base of a curving stair with a delicate scrolled handrail supported by slender balusters. This stair defines the south side of the large living room, which features a corner fireplace and free-form brick Craftsman mantel. Throughout the interior are arched openings and other Mission- and Craftsman-style features. (Sources: Dennis and Lynda Combs, owners; Charles and Midge

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Ogletree, neighbors; Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, pp. 68-69; Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 2140.)

West side South Broad Street

C 88.            103            ca. 1925            2            Walker Store

In the early 1930s, Eddie Walker ran a store in this two-story brick building that probably dates to the 1920s. The building features stretcher-bond brickwork on the front, decorative dentil-like corbeling in the front parapet, original wood and glass display windows over brick half-walls with decorative recessed panels and under a boarded-up transom, and segmental-arched and square-headed 2/2-sash windows on the side elevations. (Source: *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

N 89.            105            ca. 1945            2            Building

This building has two sections: a two-story stuccoed masonry south section with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and 1/1-sash windows with wood and metal awnings; and a 1-1/2-story asbestos-sided frame north section that features a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing and small gabled dormers, and an enclosed one-story front porch. Concrete front steps, walks, and pedestal-like features along the sidewalk may be original to the building, which may date in its completed form to the 1940s.

C 90.            109            19th c.            1-1/2            McClees House

The McClees House is one of a handful of dwellings in Columbia that may incorporate antebellum fabric. According to tradition, the 1-1/2-story heavy frame dwelling was moved in the 1890s to its present site from the corner of Main and Broad streets to make way for a hotel. The house is rumored to date to the early 1800s, but the present exterior treatment with its ornate front porch dates to the 1880s or 1890s. The house has vinyl siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing and a 1920s or 1930s shed dormer, 2/2-sash windows with modern shutters, a brick flue, a one-story ell with a modern bay window, and a hip-roofed one-story front porch with turned posts and sawn brackets and balustrade. Next to the house is a latticed carport. (Source: *Swamproots*, v. 11, p. 12.)

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N 90A. 109 ca. 1990 1 Latticed carport.

East side South Broad Street

C 91. 118 ca. 1900 2 T. H. Woodley House

Columbia lawyer and mayor T. H. Woodley and his wife Venie Spruill Woodley built this two-story frame house around 1900. The house has weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed roof consisting of four gables in a cross-shaped arrangement, brick flues, 6/6-sash windows, and a one-story ell. The house presently has a glassed-in one-story front porch, but originally a two-tier porch extended across the front. Behind the house are a frame shed composed of two connected units, and a carport. (Source: Peggy Griffin, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 91A. 118 ca. 1900 1 Weatherboarded frame shed.

N 91B. 118 ca. 1960 1 Carport.

C 92. 116 ca. 1910 2 Clarence Flowers House

Dr. Clarence Flowers built this two-story frame house in the early twentieth century, either in 1903 or (more likely) 1914 as suggested by dates scrawled on bricks in the house's chimney. Later the house was owned by H. M. "Dack" Newberry. The house has a conventional foursquare form with an asphalt-shingled hip roof with a hipped front dormer, weatherboard siding, 1/1-sash windows, a front entry with textured glass sidelights and transom, a small one-story ell, and a one-story wraparound porch supported by classical columns. The front entry opens into a side passage containing a closed-stringer stair with a paneled spandrel, turned balusters, and a Craftsman square newel post. The front parlor and the dining room behind it on the first floor share a corner chimney. The two-stage mantel in the parlor has Corinthian colonnettes, a mirror, and a hearth and fireplace surround of mottled blue-green glazed tiles. The mantel in the dining room has a similar form, albeit with square-section colonnettes and plainer glazed tile. (Sources: Ruth Woodley, owner; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

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C 93. 114 1939 1 Columbia Post Office

Built in 1939 during the term of postmistress Effie A. Brickhouse, this utilitarian post office is an early example of concrete block construction in Columbia. The post office has a stuccoed front, stepped side parapets, a pedimented front stoop, and a concrete block addition to the rear with loading docks. The lobby on the interior has old wood floors, modern wood paneling, and aluminum lock boxes. (Sources: Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, p. 76; *Swamproots*, v. 10, p. 6.)

C 94. 112 ca. 1895 1-1/2 William R. Spruill House

William R. Spruill, known to his contemporaries as "Pot-Licker Bill," was a merchant and horse trader in Columbia and the town's mayor at the turn of the twentieth century. He built this 1-1/2-story frame house in the 1890s, embellishing it with a stylish Victorian porch of chamfered posts, sawn balustrades, and unusual arched frieze boards linking the tops of the porch posts. Other features of the house are a gable roof with a prominent front gable and asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, 2/2-sash windows with louvered shutters, rear shed rooms, and a remodeled interior. An ornamental picket fence originally enclosed the front yard. (Source: Peggy Griffin, owner and great-great-granddaughter of William Spruill; period business directories.)

N 94A. 112 ca. 1980 1 Metal-sided shed.

N 95. 108 ca. 1960 1 Tyrrell Hardware Company

This large, one-story, concrete block building dates to the third quarter of the twentieth century and features a stretcher-bond brick facade, large glass and aluminum display windows, and a front awning supported by wood and decorative metal supports.

C 96. 104 1935-1937 1 Tyrrell County Agriculture Building

This utilitarian one-story building was built by the Works Progress Administration of North Carolina in 1935-1937, as noted by a plaque next to the front entrance. The hip roof, stretcher-bond brick exterior, and pedimented front porch with classical columns and half-round louvered

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gable vent give the building a Colonial Revival character. Other features are asphalt shingle roofing, brick lattice foundation vents, 8/8-sash windows with aluminum awnings, plaster-and-lath interior walls and linoleum flooring, and a rear auditorium wing with a stage. The Agriculture Building adjoins the rear of the Tyrrell County Courthouse.

East side North Broad Street

N 97.            104            ca. 1970            1            **NAPA Pledger Auto Parts Building**

This one-story concrete block building dates to the second quarter of the twentieth century and has stretcher-bond brick veneer across the front, a parapet with a vinyl mansard in the blue and yellow NAPA colors, and a front mansard that shelters large display windows and a garage door.

N 98.            106            1946            1            **Jean Combs Building**

Jean Combs employed a Mr. Bateman to build this one-story concrete block and brick dry cleaners in 1946. The building has a conventional commercial form, a front parapet with a recessed signage panel, and display windows flanking an inset entry. (Source: Dennis Combs, owner.)

C 99.            108            1886            2            **Joseph A. Spruill House**

Several houses survive in Columbia that are associated with the early years of the town's late-nineteenth-century lumber boom. The Joseph A. Spruill House is one of the finest and best preserved of these. Built in 1886 by Spruill, a political figure, the two-story weatherboarded frame house features a triple-A gable roof (in the late nineteenth century, Spruill affixed a small cross to the front gable) with asphalt shingle roofing and elaborate sawn cornice brackets, 2/2-sash windows with sawnwork and scrollwork cornices and louvered shutters, and a one-story front porch with chamfered posts on paneled pedestals, sawn brackets and pendant detailing, and turned balusters. This elaborate detailing was formerly accented with a polychromatic paint scheme. Other exterior features include a front entry with a two-leaf door with round-arched Italianate panels and a transom with a stencilled pattern, interior gable-end brick chimneys, and a shed-roofed one-story ell with an elaborate latticed side porch. The center-passage-plan interior has fancy Victorian mantels with arched frieze profiles and projecting panels, a staircase with

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turned newel posts and balusters, four-panel doors, and paneled pocket doors allowing the connection of the first-story north parlor and the adjoining dining room. The yard was originally enclosed by an elaborate picket fence with gate posts topped by turned finials. (Sources: Jesse and Peggy Godwin, owners; Virginia Wade, Columbia historian; *Swamproots*, 1979 Special Edition.)

N 99A.          108                  ca. 1960                  1                  Carport.

**West side Church Street**

C 100.          1XX                  ca. 1900                  2                  House

This two-story frame house was probably built around 1900 and was later associated with the Leroy and Liverman families. The house features well-preserved Victorian milled ornament in the front gable, in the lintel of the window under this gable, and in the form of Japanese-inspired sawn brackets on the turned posts of the one-story wraparound porch. Other features of the house are weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows, brick flues, a one-story ell, and a modern one-story side wing with a bay window. Behind the house, linked to the ell by a Neo-Victorian covered walkway, is a combination storage building/carport. (Sources: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 101.          109                  ca. 1915                  2                  Sam Sykes House

Sam and Annie Sykes built this two-story frame house in the early twentieth century. Sam was a farmer who also operated a store at 212 Main Street. The Sykes House has weatherboard siding, a hip roof with asphalt shingle roofing and a front gable with a decorative window, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a screened one-story front porch, and a one-story ell with a deck extension. Behind the house are a modern shed and a two-story frame barn with red weatherboard siding. This barn was probably constructed in the early twentieth century as a stable for horses with a hay mow above. (Sources: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

C 101A.          109                  ca. 1915                  2                  Weatherboarded frame stable.

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N 101B. 109 ca. 1980 1 Plywood-sided frame shed.

C 102. 113 ca. 1910 2 **Sam R. Bateman House**

Sam Bateman, an early owner of this house with his wife Sally, ran a millinery shop in downtown Columbia that was located at 301 Main Street in the 1930s. The Bateman House is a two-story frame dwelling with asbestos shingle siding, a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, interior gable-end brick flues, a one-story ell with 3/1- and 6/1-sash windows and aside porch, and a one-story front porch supported by stuccoed Craftsman columns. (Source: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident; *Swamproots*, v. 4.)

N 102A. 113 ca. 1970 1 Shed.

N 102B. 113 ca. 1970 1 Shed.

**East side Church Street**

C 103. 110 ca. 1910 2 **Sam Holloway House**

Sam and Elsie Holloway lived in this house in the 1930s. Sam ran a store on Main Street. The Holloway House is a two-story weatherboarded frame dwelling with a triple-A gable roof, asphalt shingle roofing, interior gable end brick flues, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights, a screened one-story front porch, and a two-story ell with an enclosed one-story side porch and a one-story addition. (Source: Evora Bateman, long-time Columbia resident.)

N 103A. 110 ca. 1980 1 Metal-sided shed.

N 104. 106 ca. 1970 1-1/2 **Dietrich House**

This modern 1-1/2-story dwelling is identified as the headquarters of the International Yachting Center. The tan-colored brick house is remotely Colonial Revival in inspiration, with steep gable

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roofs, shed dormers, distressed wood-shingled gable sheathing, a large central chimney, an engaged front porch, and an attached two-car garage.

## East side Pennsylvania Avenue

N 105. 208 ca. 1990 1 House

This one-story, vinyl-sided, frame modular house was probably built in the early 1990s. Standing next to it is a two-story frame barn from the early twentieth century with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof.

C 105A. 208 ca. 1920 2 Weatherboarded frame barn.

## East side Second Street

N 106. 106 ca. 1985 1 House

This one-story frame house probably dates to the 1980s and features natural weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, and an engaged front porch.

## West side Virginia Avenue

C 107. 205 ca. 1915 2 House

This two-story frame house probably dates to the 1910s. The house has a gable-fronted form, asphalt shingle roofing, weatherboard siding, 1/1-sash windows, a large modern brick chimney on the north elevation, a one-story ell with an enclosed breezeway connection to the house, and a one-story front porch.

## East side Virginia Avenue

N 108. 210 ca. 1950 1 House

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This one-story house is apparently one of Columbia's earliest and most innovative ranch houses. Probably constructed around 1950, the house may have a concrete block core beneath stucco and brick veneers. A low-pitched hip roof with deep eaves and metal and glass picture windows are other features of the house.

**East side Light Street**

C 109.      402              ca. 1925              1-1/2              House

This 1-1/2-story frame house probably dates to the 1920s. The house has an asphalt-shingled gable roof, a front gable that engages a one-story front porch, exposed rafter tails in the eaves, weatherboard siding, and 4/1-sash windows.

**West side North Road Street**

C 110.      401              ca. 1910              2              Whitley House

A lawyer by the name of Whitley owned this house in the 1910s, probably not long after the house was built. The two-story frame dwelling features a triple-A gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, brick flues, asbestos siding, 1/1-sash windows with decorative slatted shutters, a front entry with sidelights, and a one-story wraparound porch supported by turned posts with spindle brackets. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 111.      303              ca. 1910              2              William E. Liverman House

William E. "Buck" Liverman owned this house in the 1910s, probably not long after the house was built. The house is a later product of a Columbia tradition of double front gable dwellings that are ultimately Gothic Revival in inspiration. The house has a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, interior gable-end brick flues, weatherboard siding, 2/2-sash windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, a one-story ell with an enclosed breezeway to a formerly semi-detached kitchen, and a one-story wraparound porch with turned posts and balusters, sawn brackets, and a spindle frieze. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

N 112.      207              ca. 1979              1              Columbia Baptist Church

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**Parsonage**

This one-story brick ranch house was built about 1979 as a parsonage for the adjoining Columbia Baptist Church. The house features an asphalt-shingled gable roof and a Colonial Revival-inspired gabled front porch.

C 113.      109              ca. 1910              2              H. A. Owens House

This two-story frame house, which was probably built around 1910, was deeded by H. A. Owens to Birdie E. Owens in 1912. The house has a gable roof with a prominent front gable and asphalt shingle roofing, aluminum siding, 2/2-sash windows, a side carport wing, and a screened one-story front porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. (Source: Carlisle and Rena Harrell, owners.)

N 114.      105              1946              1              Virginia Spencer House

Virginia Spencer hired her neighbor John Alexander to build this one-story house in 1946. The house was built during a period of material shortages, hence its structure is concrete block with an exterior stucco finish. The house has an asphalt-shingled gable roof, a pedimented front stoop, 3/1-sash windows, and an engaged sun room on the south end. (Source: Rena Carlisle, daughter of Virginia Spencer.)

**West side South Road Street**

N 115.      1XX              ca. 1925+              2              Apartment Building

The first story of this two-story frame building is the 1920s store of Clem Cohoon, later owned by Ernest Brickhouse. In recent years a second story was added to the first and the building was given an asphalt-shingled gable roof and vinyl siding. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

**East side South Road Street**

C 116.      120              1907              1              Marion A.M.E. Zion Church

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The corner stone of this one-story nave-plan church reads "A.M.E. ZION CHURCH/1907/G.W.BROWN/PASTOR," although one account states that the building was originally Columbia's public school for white children, built in 1884. Marion Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church has a number of interesting details such as corner blocks at the top of the corner boards, an octagonal louvered belfry with a wooden spike as a finial, and a Queen Anne window with stained and textured glass on a rear addition. Other features of the church are weatherboard siding over circular-sawn vertical planks, a gable-fronted roof with asphalt-shingle roofing, 1/1-sash side windows with textured amber panes, and evidence of former front windows flanking the centered front entry. (In July 1993 the church was vinyl-sided.) (Source: Dorothy Redford, historian; Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, p. 61.)

C 117.      116A      ca. 1935      1-1/2      House

This gable-fronted Craftsman bungalow was built as a rental unit in the 1930s by Ernest Brickhouse, who ran a store at the nearby intersection of Main and Road streets. The 1-1/2-story frame house has asbestos shingle siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 3/1-sash windows, and a screened front porch. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 118.      116B      ca. 1935      1-1/2      House

This gable-fronted Craftsman bungalow was built as a rental unit in the 1930s by Ernest Brickhouse, who ran a store at the nearby intersection of Main and Road streets. The 1-1/2-story frame house has aluminum siding, asphalt shingle roofing, and a screened front porch. The house stands immediately behind 116A South Road Street. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 119.      114      ca. 1935      1-1/2      House

This gable-fronted Craftsman bungalow was built as a rental unit in the 1930s by Ernest Brickhouse, who ran a store at the nearby intersection of Main and Road streets. The 1-1/2-story frame house has asbestos shingle siding, asphalt shingle roofing, 3/1-sash windows, and a screened front porch. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 120.      108      ca. 1885      1-1/2      Abner Alexander House

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From the 1870s to the early twentieth century, Dr. Abner Alexander was one of only a handful of physicians who practiced in Columbia and Tyrrell County. Alexander built this 1-1/2-story frame house, probably in the 1880s, as one of the first in town with paired, steeply-pitched, Gothic Revival-inspired front gables. Another distinctive characteristic of the house is the one-story front porch, which has turned and chamfered posts and a concave mansard roof--another stylistic allusion, in this case to the Second Empire style. Other features of the house are weatherboard siding, asphalt shingle roofing, a front entry with a bracketed cornice, two-leaf doors, sidelights, and two lozenge-shaped panels in place of the transom, 2/2-sash windows with bracketed cornices like that over the front entry, an interior brick chimney on the north gable end and an exterior brick flue on the south gable end, and a one-story ell with an engaged side porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze. (Sources: Camille Everton, Columbia historian; J. D. Brickhouse, Tyrrell County Administrator; period business directories.)

N 120A.	108	ca. 1950	1	Weatherboarded frame shed.
C 121.	106	1909	1	<b>St. Andrews Episcopal Church</b>

Of particular interest among Columbia's churches is St. Andrews, located on South Road Street. Built in 1909 to replace a late-nineteenth-century chapel formerly located near the corner of South Broad and Scottsville streets, the weatherboarded frame St. Andrews has a relatively conventional, gable-fronted, nave-form exterior with lancet-arched stained-glass windows and a front entry tower topped by an octagonal open belfry with a belled roof and classical colonnettes. Other features of the exterior are asphalt shingle roofing, entries at the base of the front tower with lancet-arched transoms, and a brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. Departing dramatically from the exterior is the interior, which features a varnished tongue-and-groove gambrel ceiling supported by a hammer-beam roof structure. The ends of the hammer beams are crudely shaped into leering dragon heads like those that appear on the prows of Viking longboats. Except for the hammer beams, the exposed structural members of the roof are sheathed in gauged and beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Similar sheathing forms wainscots in the sanctuary and the chancel and is used to trim the large lancet archways that define the chancel area. The pews and chancel furnishings are, appropriately, Gothic Revival in inspiration, and the delicate Gothic altar rail was carved by Johann Frederick Schlez, Columbia's movie-house owner during the 1920s and 1930s. It is not known whether the church's builder, Thomas Swain of Washington County, was acquainted with Richard Upjohn's 1859 designs for an Episcopal chapel in Columbia. (Sources: Ruth Woodley, church member; NCSHPO file on

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St. Andrews.)

**East side North Road Street**

C 122.          108                  ca. 1905                  2                  **Stewart Bateman House**

Farmer and lumberman Stewart Bateman built this two-story frame house about 1905 using lumber he cut himself. The house has a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, vinyl siding, a brick flue, 2/2-sash windows, a one-story ell, and a classical stoop that replaces an original front porch. (Source: Camille Everton, daughter of Stewart Bateman and present owner.)

C 123.          110                  ca. 1900                  2                  **Daniel Alexander House**

Builder Daniel Alexander built this two-story frame house for himself sometime around 1900. Alexander built other houses in the immediate vicinity such as the 1946 Virginia Spencer House across Road Street at 105. The Alexander House has a triple-A gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, asbestos shingle siding over weatherboards, a brick flue, 2/2-sash windows with louvered shutters, and a screened one-story front porch. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 124.          112                  ca. 1905                  2                  **William E. Alexander House**

This two-story, gable-fronted, frame house was occupied by William E. and Dora Alexander in the 1910s. The house has asphalt-shingle roofing, asbestos shingle siding, a brick flue, 2/2-sash windows, a rear shed room, and a one-story front porch supported by square wood posts. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

C 125.          202                  ca. 1900                  1                  **House**

This one-story frame house of the turn of the twentieth century has a hip roof with asphalt shingle roofing, aluminum siding, a brick flue, 4/4-sash windows, a two-light transom over the front entry, and a late Craftsman porte cochere on the south side.

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C 126.	302	ca. 1910	2	John S. Davenport House
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John S. Davenport occupied this house during the 1910s, and it is possible that he built it not many years earlier. The well-preserved two-story frame dwelling has a gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing, weatherboard siding, a two-story front wing, brick flues, 2/2-sash windows with decorative slatted shutters, a modern carport on the south gable end, a one-story ell, and a one-story wraparound porch with turned posts and balusters and a spindle frieze. Davenport may have operated a blacksmith shop on the property. (Source: Camille Everton, Columbia historian.)

N 126A.	302	ca. 1950	1	Shed.
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Summary

Columbia, the county seat of Tyrrell County, North Carolina, was established in 1793 on the Scuppernon River estuary. The town grew slowly during the antebellum period, but development accelerated in the postbellum period with the establishment of large lumber mills adjacent to the downtown. By the early twentieth century, the town had achieved roughly its present size and functional diversity, with a well-defined business district along Main Street, a county court complex at the center of town, and white and black residential neighborhoods. The Columbia Historic District, which includes most of the town core, is historically significant as the center of government in Tyrrell County and as the county's principal commercial hub. The 1903 Tyrrell County Courthouse (NR, 1979), the ca. 1910 Tyrrell County Jail, and a landscaped public ground lie at the heart of the district, and a virtually uninterrupted row of commercial buildings dating from the turn of the twentieth century to about 1940 line both sides of Main Street. The town's commercial buildings include several early gable-fronted frame stores and more common brick commercial blocks, two cinemas, one or two banks, and architectural oddities such as the 1928-1929 Cohoon Building with its Mediterranean styling and cut-away corner filling station. The district is also significant for the architectural character of its dwellings, stores, churches and other buildings--the largest and most varied architectural collection in the county--and for the historic streetscapes created by those buildings. Many dwellings show the influence of popular late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles such as the Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles, whereas other houses owe more to an indigenous vernacular aesthetic. Representative of the stylistic range in the district are such residences as the late-nineteenth-century Abner Alexander House, one of the first dwellings in town to feature steeply-pitched paired front gables; the ca. 1900, Queen Anne-influenced, Combs-Hussey House with its ornate wraparound porch; and the whimsical 1928 Steanie C. Chaplin House with its Mediterranean styling. The period of significance for the district extends from ca. 1880, roughly the date of the town's earliest documented buildings, to 1944, encompassing the period of the town's historic development into the community of today.

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**Historical Background and Commerce Context**

The town of Columbia--known originally as Elizabeth Town--was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1793, although settlement of the area in and around the present town boundaries began much earlier. Between 1793 and 1802, the town was laid off on the east side of the estuary of the Scuppernong River at a place called Shallop's Landing and the first lots were sold.<sup>1</sup> In 1799 the town was selected as the seat of Tyrrell County, which was established in 1729 as a precinct of Albemarle County.<sup>2</sup> A year later Thomas Hoskins and Zebedee Hassel sold the county a one-acre lot in the town for the construction of a courthouse and other public buildings.<sup>3</sup> This "public ground," as it was known, was inclined ten degrees off of compass orientation--the present inclination of the streets in the historic center of town--and it measured 165' by 264' in size, roughly corresponding in size to the present courthouse lot in the center of Columbia.<sup>4</sup> Early deeds refer to a street leading from the public ground to the river--either present-day Main Street or Bridge Street--and an intersecting street--possibly the present Broad Street.<sup>5</sup> Other, more enigmatic early references are to "the old field of Columbia," "the third row of lots from the lane running back from the water," and "the burrying [*sic*] place containing sixteen feet by sixteen feet."<sup>6</sup>

The name of the town was changed from Elizabeth Town to Columbia in 1810, apparently to avoid confusion with another Elizabethtown in North Carolina.<sup>7</sup> For the remainder of the antebellum period, Columbia led a languid existence as the seat of a sparsely populated county and as a service and trade center for a large hinterland on the south shore of the Albemarle Sound. Trade and lodging associated with the activities of the county court probably formed the economic basis of the town. The 1850 Federal census of population, the first to list occupation and other statistics for individuals, suggests that virtually the entire cadre of professionals and tradesmen in the town lived in a single residence--the tavern of J. F. Davenport. With Davenport lived William D. Carstarphen, a leading merchant during the late antebellum and early postbellum periods; three other merchants, three lawyers, five carpenters, two physicians, two blacksmiths, and a peddler. Whether this population boarded in a single large building or whether the individuals lived and worked in a complex of separate buildings owned by Davenport is unknown. Black slaves and possibly free blacks almost certainly lived in town; J. F. Davenport, for example, was a slaveholder. County officials such as the clerk of court, sheriff, and constable lived on farms outside the town.

Perhaps to ameliorate the impoverished community life implied by the 1850 census, the men and women of Columbia took several actions to civilize their town during the antebellum period. The Columbia High School was begun in 1844 by Miss Mary Mann and the facility may have remained open through the Civil War.<sup>8</sup> In the late 1850s, the Rev. Joseph W. Murphy of St.

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David's Rectory in Scuppernong (located nine miles from Columbia) attempted to raise funds for the construction of an Episcopal church in Columbia, which he described as "a place where I have hardly any one to back me & where there is great hostility to the Ch. of our love." A "few friends of the church" in Columbia were able to raise \$75 towards the construction of the church, and the celebrated New York architectural firm of Richard Upjohn and Company sent a set of plans, but a qualified contractor could not be engaged and Murphy abandoned his crusade.<sup>9</sup>

The correspondence of the Pettigrew family of Tyrrell and Washington counties sheds additional light on Columbia during the antebellum period. In 1843, Ebenezer Pettigrew, the patriarch of the family, wrote to carpenter William Norman asking him to perform some work at his plantation. Norman responded that he was "putin the blinds to the Court Hous" in Columbia and could not oblige. The Pettigrews received plantation supplies through Columbia. In 1842, William Dunn of Columbia wrote Ebenezer Pettigrew to inform him that a smith's bellows and anvil had arrived from Baltimore. The following year Thomas Alexander of Columbia purchased some livestock for Pettigrew.<sup>10</sup>

Something of the extent and physical form of Columbia is known from an 1860 maritime chart of the Albemarle Sound (see exhibit page A).<sup>11</sup> The chart shows fourteen houses and buildings loosely arranged along an irregular grid of streets and lanes. One group of buildings clusters along the water front, the other centers on two buildings on special lots located further inland. These two buildings probably represent the courthouse and jail and the buildings around them were probably located on what is now the 100 blocks of South Broad and South Elm streets. One of the waterfront buildings is depicted as larger than the others and is the only one shown with a rear ell; this may have been the Davenport tavern. The 1860 chart agrees with the census data in its portrayal of a tiny courthouse seat that had not yet achieved the size and complexity of a *bona fide* town.

Several accounts of Columbia during the Civil War survive in the Pettigrew correspondence. The Albemarle Sound saw action early in the war as Federal forces fought to regain control of the region. On March 8, 1862, six companies of a New Hampshire regiment landed at Columbia in search of a rebel militia rumored to be gathering there. An employee of William Pettigrew reported that 2,000 federal troops "committed some depredations in Columbia they broke open the Jail clerks office stores and Dwelling Houses of such as were gone from home, found some wine & other licquors [*sic*; and] drank freely." One of the Pettigrew women opined that the Federal soldiers "behaved like thoroughgoing scoundrels" during their brief visit to the town.<sup>12</sup> A participant in the raid later recalled that, "No enemy was found, but the public whipping-post was: this the boys demolished, to the delight of the colored people."<sup>13</sup>

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Columbia began to develop a more diverse community life after the Civil War. Business directories of the period provide the best evidence for this trend. Levi Branson's *North Carolina Business Directory, for 1867-8* lists seven general merchants in the town (the only merchants listed for the county), two hotels, two physicians, three grist mills, and a lawyer. Members of the Spruill and McClees families, later to become prominent in town affairs, were represented in the count. An 1872 directory indicates that the grist mills doubled as sawmills, and that they were steam-powered.<sup>14</sup>

The 1870 Federal census suggests a population of slightly over a hundred people, of whom roughly 15 per cent were African-American. A sawmill in town (probably the Spruill mill) employed both black and white workers. In addition to commerce, milling, and county administration, maritime occupations such as fishing, sailing, piloting, and boat building would have featured in the life of the waterside town. Among the wealthiest businessmen in town were Edmond and John McClees, proprietors of hotels and boarding houses, and merchant Nathan Owens.

Town population growth quickened during the closing years of the nineteenth century. An 1883 business directory put the population of the town at 166; a directory published by another company a year later cited a population of 193.<sup>15</sup> By 1896 the population had grown to 250 individuals, and by 1902 it had swelled to 382, according to directories of those years and the Federal census of 1900.<sup>16</sup> Population growth in the town far outstripped that of the county. Whereas the Federal censuses indicate that the town population more than tripled between 1870 and 1900, the county population increased a meager 19 per cent from 4,173 to 4,980.

Columbia's postbellum population increase was largely the result of the expansion of the local lumber industry. The growth in national demand for lumber, improvements in shipping and rail networks, and increased mechanization of the industry permitted a more intensive exploitation of Tyrrell County's bountiful forest resources. Business directories count between one and two sawmills in Columbia for most of the late-nineteenth-century period. In the late-1890s, the Branning Manufacturing Company of Edenton constructed a large planing mill on the waterfront south of town, possibly on the site of the old Spruill mill. This mill featured an enormous bow-roofed drying shed, a water tower, and several kilns with metal smoke stacks.<sup>17</sup> In 1899 the mill constructed a railroad spur eastward from town to better access timber tracts.<sup>18</sup>

The 1900 Federal census illustrates the profound effect of this one industry on the life of the community. Of the 382 residents listed for Columbia, 130 were listed as having occupations, and 39 of the 130 listed occupations involved the felling and transport of timber and the production of lumber. Sixteen of the town's 100 white workers were employed by the industry,

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and 24 of the town's 30 black workers worked at the mill or in the log woods. William T. Camper functioned as the superintendent of the Branning mill and his nephew Clyde L. Wacker worked as the mill engineer. (No above-ground resources associated with Columbia's lumber industry have been identified in or adjacent to the historic district.)

By the dawn of the twentieth century, Columbia had achieved a diversity of civic life comparable to that of today. Main Street served as the town's commercial spine, extending from the wharves and warehouses on the Scuppernong River to the courthouse and jail complex at the intersection with Broad Street. Main Street east of Broad Street, older streets such as Elm, Broad, Church, and Bridge, and new thoroughfares platted in a former corn field to the north of Bridge Street--Martha and Howard streets and Virginia and Pennsylvania avenues--constituted the principal residential neighborhoods for the town's white population. The town's African-American community developed around South Broad Street and Scottsville Street adjoining the Branning mill. In 1908, the Norfolk and Southern Railroad completed a line begun to Columbia from Mackey's Ferry by the Virginia & Coastal Carolina Railroad; this line crossed the Scuppernong River and entered the town near the present approach to the U.S. 64 bridge. Churches, schools, neighborhood stores, work shops, and stables were located throughout the residential areas.

An important facet of Columbia's vigorous commercial life was banking. Banks may have operated in Columbia during the nineteenth century, but the first for which there is sufficient information is the Merchants and Farmers Bank. The bank may have been organized in 1904 (the date of the first mortgage issued by the bank), and it first appeared in business directories in 1905. Shortly thereafter the institution built a small but elegant bank building at 301 Main Street. The building features paired round-arched openings on the front facade (now bricked up) that may have been inspired by the slightly earlier Tyrrell County Courthouse. The bank later merged with the Tyrrell County Bank and then went out of business; in the early 1930s the bank building was occupied by a millinery shop and the office of potato broker W. S. Carawan. In 1936 the Columbia Branch of the Engelhard Banking and Trust Company opened in the building, and the bank's successor--East Carolina Bank--operates from a modern building on U.S. 64.<sup>19</sup> One other historic bank building may survive in the district. Located behind the William H. McClees House at 409 Main Street is a tiny weatherboarded frame office dating to around 1900. The building originally stood on Main Street at the corner of the courthouse lot and contained a barber shop in the 1930s, but several accounts state that it was earlier occupied by an unidentified bank.<sup>20</sup>

Columbia's African-American community coalesced in the 1890s as blacks from rural sections of Tyrrell County and surrounding areas moved to Columbia to work for the Branning

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Manufacturing Company. Blacks had been a part of the town's lumber industry since the days of the antebellum Simmons shingle operation, but until the 1890s the black population of the town remained small. In 1900 there were eight black heads of households in Columbia, all of whom rented their accommodations. Black-owned and -operated businesses were begun in the early twentieth century including Wade Owens's general store and dry cleaning establishment, Charles Peele's blacksmith shop (formerly located at the intersection of Road Street and Scuppernong Drive), and the barber shops of Thomas Bryant and Ike Pledger, located on Main Street.<sup>21</sup> When the railroad was extended to Columbia in 1908, its tracks effectually divided the town into a white section on the north side and a black section to the south. The division consolidated a trend that had been taking place since the 1890s, when blacks settled in the older residential areas near the Branning mill and whites moved to new houses in the newly platted blocks north of Bridge Street. In the 1950s, the U.S. 64 bypass (Scuppernong Drive) was constructed along what was then the abandoned rail corridor.

Churches were established and they became important institutions in the black community. Salem Missionary Baptist Church, begun shortly after the Civil War as a "bush shelter" in the Alligator district of the county, moved to Columbia and built its present building at 401 Scottsville Street in 1914. Two other black churches in the town are Zion Grove Disciples of Christ Church at 410 South Road Street and Marion Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church at 120 South Road Street. According to one account, the latter church building was originally used as the town's first white public school, constructed in 1884 or shortly after, but the church's corner stone gives the date as 1907.<sup>22</sup> Congregations also formed in the white community. Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church was organized in 1875 (although the town's Methodists were meeting together earlier), the congregation of St. Andrews Episcopal Church was organized in 1879, the Columbia Baptist Church built its first building in 1882, and the Columbia Christian Church dates its origins to a nine-day revival held at the courthouse in 1902.<sup>23</sup>

The lumber boom created by the establishment of the Branning Manufacturing Company and the location of other, smaller wood-products industries along the waterfront attracted people to Columbia who in turn required housing. In 1900, according to the Federal census, few of the town's white heads of households and none of its black household heads owned their residences. Hotels and boarding houses catered to the town's mobile population. A surviving example is Snell's Inn at 504 Martha Street, a large frame boarding house erected by J. B. "Brit" Snell between 1907 and 1910.

Columbia saw several improvements during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1926, a 566-foot-long timber, steel, and concrete highway bridge was built across the Scuppernong River into the town, the final link in the extension of U.S. 64 from Washington County to Columbia. The bridge

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incorporated a steel pony truss swing span that could be manually pivoted to allow the passage of ships. On September 7, 1926, the local citizenry celebrated the opening of the bridge that "reannexed" Tyrrell County to the rest of the state, hosting a parade, a barbecue, and a dance on the banks of the river.<sup>24</sup> During the depression of the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration completed a number of improvement and construction projects in the county including the erection of the Tyrrell County Agriculture Building at 104 South Broad Street in 1935-1937.<sup>25</sup> Brick sidewalks had been introduced to the town around 1910; one survives along Church Street next to the Erskine Brickhouse House at 413 Bridge Street. The town's streets and other sidewalks were paved in 1927.<sup>26</sup> The first public library was assembled in 1930 and placed in the courthouse, and the post office moved to a building of its own for the first time in 1939, occupying a simple stuccoed concrete-block building at 114 South Broad Street.<sup>27</sup>

Tyrrell County's population peaked in 1940 at 5,556 and has since declined to 3,856 in 1990, giving the county the smallest population of any county in North Carolina.<sup>28</sup> Columbia's population has also declined, from 1,099 in 1960 to 836 in 1990.<sup>29</sup> Railroad service to the town was discontinued in 1948 and the tracks taken up, but beginning in the late 1940s more state monies were expended on the paving of Tyrrell County roads, culminating in 1959 with the construction of the concrete U.S. 64 bridge.<sup>30</sup> Today, Columbia continues in its historic role as the center of government and commerce in Tyrrell County. Local interest in the town's history has grown in recent decades. From 1974 to 1984 students and faculty at the Columbia High School published a literary/historical magazine known as *Swamproots* that preserved a wealth of oral history related to the town and its inhabitants. Excitement over the town's bicentennial and waterfront redevelopment have generated this National Register project and a number of private and public historic rehabilitation projects.

### Architecture Context

The nature of Columbia's early domestic and commercial architecture is unknown, since no positively dated antebellum building has been identified in the town, and period descriptions of the town's architecture are virtually nonexistent. The basic characteristics of the town's antebellum architecture may be inferred by comparison to other communities in the region. The region's nineteenth-century urban and small-town architecture was predominately frame in construction, although brick was common for the more stylish residences and mercantile establishments in the larger towns. Dwellings were generally provided with foundations of brick piers, with or without underpinning, and were heated by brick chimneys usually placed on the exterior of one or more gable ends. Most buildings were sheathed in weatherboards and roofed with wood shingles. In fact, shingle production for export was an important industry in the

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county during the late antebellum period, with forty individual operations reported in the 1850 Federal census. The Simmons shingle operation, located in or adjacent to Columbia, employed sixty workers, many of whom were slaves from surrounding plantations hired out by their owners.<sup>31</sup>

Although no intact antebellum building has been identified in Columbia, one or two dwellings in the town are believed to incorporate antebellum fabric. The McClees House at 109 South Broad Street is a 1-1/2-story heavy frame dwelling that was moved from the corner of Main and Broad streets in the 1890s to make way for a hotel. The house is rumored to date to the early 1800s, but the present exterior treatment with its ornate front porch dates from the 1880s or 1890s.<sup>32</sup> Another house thought to incorporate early fabric is the Meekins House at 406 Main Street. Although the exterior finishes date to the late nineteenth century, the structure consists of heavy, mortise-and-tenon pegged corner posts, corner braces, sills, and plates, some of which may be hewn.

Considerable information survives for a particular antebellum Columbia building that, unfortunately, was never actually built in the town. In the late 1850s, the Rev. Joseph W. Murphy of St. David's Rectory in Scuppernon (located nine miles from Columbia) attempted to raise funds for the construction of an Episcopal church in Columbia. In 1859, Murphy corresponded with the celebrated New York architectural firm of Richard Upjohn and Company and requested that the firm send him plans for "a Church to seat comfortably 150 persons & to be built of wood, upright plank & open roof & of course a true Ch-like building." The plans and specifications Upjohn sent for the chapel (which do not survive) apparently called for a stone foundation and northern wood species for framing members and cladding. The Rev. Murphy wrote back to his architect: "As respects stone for foundation - We us[e] brick here [all] genuine Stone must be imported & costs very high . . . as regards the use of hemlock, spruce & white pine - We have not such wood & we have just as good without importing - The cypress will do just as well as any of them & cypress backed by our common yellow Carolina pine will certainly make a very good Church for any County."<sup>33</sup>

The quarter-century following the Civil War is the first period for which buildings survive in significant numbers in Columbia. The earliest houses are associated with the town's late-nineteenth-century lumber boom. One of the finest and best preserved of these is the Joseph A. Spruill House at 108 North Broad Street. Built in 1886, the two-story weatherboarded frame house features elaborate sawn cornice brackets, door and window heads, and porch detailing formerly accented with a polychromatic paint scheme.<sup>34</sup> The center-passage-plan interior has fancy Victorian mantels, a staircase with turned newels and balusters, and paneled pocket doors allowing the connection of the principal parlor and the dining room. Another Spruill family

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home, the one-story double-pile 1890s William R. Spruill House at 112 South Broad Street, and the similar Meekins House at 406 Main Street feature front porches with arched friezes spanning between chamfered posts. Also of note is the Abner Alexander House at 108 South Road Street. The 1-1/2-story house probably dates to the 1880s and is one of the first in town to have paired, steeply-pitched, Gothic Revival-inspired front gables. Another distinctive characteristic of the house is the front porch, which has turned and chamfered posts and a concave mansard roof--another stylistic allusion, in this case to the Second Empire. All of these houses relied on materials and ornament produced at local sawmills for their structure, finishes, and detailing.

Nearly all of the town's early-twentieth-century housing continued traditional architectural forms: frame structure, weatherboard siding, simple gabled forms, brick foundation piers, and brick chimneys (and flues). Added to this basic architectural vocabulary were distinctive traits--the signatures of individual builders--such as paired front gables, five-bay facades, one- and two-story bay windows, and wraparound verandas with corner gazebos. Many of the houses large and small built in Columbia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries appear to have been used as speculative rental housing.

One notable house that achieved its final form during the first decade of the twentieth century is the Combs-Hussey House at 415 Main Street, begun in the late 1890s by hotelier and livery stable owner Seldon M. Combs and his wife Martha Combs. The first floor of the front of the house originally contained Martha's millinery shop. Soon afterwards, George Hussey acquired the house and added a wraparound porch with its fanciful corner gazebo. Hussey probably also inserted the two parlors into the former millinery shop, finishing the walls and ceilings with beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing and adding simple Victorian/Craftsman mantels, one with colonnettes, a mirrored overmantel, and a mottled green-and-white ceramic tile hearth. Similar mantels and ceramic fireplace paving appear in the Clarence Flowers House at 116 South Broad Street, built for a doctor around 1910.

An important architectural development during the first years of the twentieth century was the construction of a new Tyrrell County Courthouse. Designed and built in 1903 by the B. F. Smith Construction Company, specialists in eastern North Carolina courthouse construction, the Romanesque building was among the first--if not the first--brick edifices in the town. The building has a hip roof enlivened by parapeted gables, segmental- and round-arched window and door openings, a mostly modern one-story front porch supported by classical columns, and fragmentary original interior detailing. Beside the courthouse is a ca. 1910 two-story brick jail with barred segmental-arched windows, and a cast metal memorial to the county's Confederate officers and enlisted men. The ensemble is set amid lawns, plantings, and shade trees at the southeast corner of Main and Broad streets that contrasts with the commercial character of the

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other three corners of the intersection.<sup>35</sup>

In 1905, Columbia's Baptist and Christian congregations erected stylish weatherboarded frame churches with lancet-arched windows, multi-staged corner bell towers, and fancy beaded tongue-and-groove interiors. The Methodists completed their church in 1912, a handsome brick building with a crenelated Perpendicular Gothic bell tower, an inset entry arcade, and a varnished tongue-and-groove sanctuary ceiling. Of particular interest among Columbia's historic churches is St. Andrews, located at 106 South Road Street. Built during the first decade of the twentieth century, the weatherboarded frame church has a relatively conventional exterior with lancet-arched stained-glass windows and a front entry tower topped by an octagonal open belfry with a belled roof and classical colonnettes. Departing dramatically from the exterior is the interior, which features a varnished tongue-and-groove gambrel ceiling supported by a hammer-beam roof structure. The ends of the hammer beams are crudely shaped into dragon heads like those that once gave a fearsome appearance to the prows of Viking longboats. It is not known whether St. Andrews's builder, Thomas Swain of Washington County, was acquainted with Richard Upjohn's 1859 designs for an Episcopal chapel in Columbia.<sup>36</sup> (The presence of architecturally significant churches in the district warrants the inclusion of National Register Criteria Consideration A among other applicable criteria.)

The earliest surviving commercial buildings in Columbia date to the turn of the twentieth century. The oldest stores stand on the north side of Main Street and on adjoining back lots. One, the Jule C. McClees Store at 210 Main Street, is a two-story frame building where women's clothes, caskets, and a wide range of general merchandise were sold. The store features original display windows and shelving supported by hundreds of turned spindles. Next door at 212 Main Street is the similar Sam Sykes Store, and a block away at 108 North Elm Street is a large two-story frame building originally occupied by the Tyrrell Hardware Company and converted into the Columbia Theatre in 1919 (the cinema's first feature was "Granddaddy Longlegs" starring Marry Pickford). Located at 501 Bridge Street is the one-story George N. Hurdle Store, a general merchandise store opened in 1912 to cater to the new residential neighborhood on the north side of town. One of the more recent frame commercial buildings is the Riverside Cafe, located on the Scuppernong River waterfront at the intersection of Main and North Water streets. This two-story building with pressed metal siding was built in the 1920s as a restaurant and recreation center. All of the store buildings mentioned above have conventional nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century gable-fronted forms with large display windows.

As the twentieth century progressed, merchants replaced the earlier frame stores with more permanent brick buildings. Reportedly among the first of the brick stores was the 1910s

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Columbia Drug Company at 211 Main Street, a two-story stretcher- and American-bond building with segmental-arched windows, recessed panels in the front parapet, and stepped parapets on the side elevations. The Davis & Coffield Building at 201 Main Street was another of this first generation of brick stores. The two-story double-store building has a pressed stretcher-bond brick street front with rusticated corner piers and decorative segmental window heads. A warehouse that formerly stood behind the store contained a varied stock of goods that earned Davis & Coffield a reputation as "the largest and most prosperous general store in eastern North Carolina."<sup>37</sup>

Considerable rebuilding in brick occurred in the late 1920s and 1930s. A desire to improve the image of the town may have contributed to this push, for as one commentator noted, "At the beginning of this century, Columbia looked more like a hastily thrown-up frontier community than a century-old county seat. In the 1930's citizens got to work and tore down most of the old stop-gap buildings to make way for more substantial structures."<sup>38</sup> The show piece of the new era was the Cohoon Building at 308 Main Street, built in 1929 as the headquarters of the A. J. Cohoon Oil Company, with twenty-five branch filling stations the principal oil distributor for the county at the time. The two-story buff-colored brick building displays Mission Style influence in the Spanish tile coping of the parapet and (formerly) above the cut-away corner where vehicles pulled in for fueling and service.<sup>39</sup> Similar stylistically to the Cohoon Building is the 1931-1932 W. J. White Building at 214-216 Main Street, a one-story brick women's clothing emporium with a Spanish tile awning over the sidewalk on its east elevation. Somewhat more classical in inspiration is the 1932 S. M. & Martha Combs Building at 302 Main Street, a two-story brick commercial block with rusticated elevations and a basketweave parapet panel with a white marble date block.

New domestic architectural forms and styles were introduced in the 1920s and 1930s, paralleling the changes that occurred in the Main Street business district during the same period. One particularly interesting house of the period was the Steanie C. Chaplin House at 107 North Broad Street, built by the director of the town's hospital in 1928. The two-story buff-colored brick house is Mediterranean in inspiration, with an arcaded front porch, round-arched windows (one with stained glass), ceramic water spouts that project through the roof parapets in imitation of viga ends, and a Spanish-tile pent roof over the second-story front windows.

Behind the Chaplin House at 112 North Elm Street is a more conventional house that nevertheless represented a novelty for Columbia in the 1920s. The Johann Frederick "Fred" Schlez House, built by the town's German-immigrant theater owner, is a one-story Craftsman bungalow with a front porch that combines classical columns with pergolas. Standing at the back corner of the house is the lone survivor of a once common fixture in Columbia: a wooden water

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tank. The tank is constructed of cedar planks held together with steel tension bands, sheltered under a conical metal roof, and supported by concrete posts. Cisterns like this one were fed with rain water from the roof of an adjoining building which was then purified with charcoal, and they may have been produced at one of the two barrel factories that operated in the town in the late 1920s.<sup>40</sup> Few early outbuildings of any kind survive in the town. Only two small frame barns for horse stabling and fodder storage have been identified; one behind the Sam Sykes House at 109 Church Street and the other standing next to a modern modular home at 208 Pennsylvania Avenue. Most surviving historic outbuildings served as garages or storage sheds.

Another example of the eclectic taste that prevailed throughout the nation before World War II and eventually penetrated to Columbia is the Hazel and H. T. Davenport House at 302 North Water Street. The 1-1/2-story brick and wood-shingle house is a text-book example of the Tudor Revival style. Designed by Hazel Davenport and a Norfolk, Virginia architect, the house features a massive brick chimney with asymmetrical paved shoulders and joined to a front stoop with a frieze board suggestive of a flattened Tudor arch. The Davenport House was among the first in town to take advantage of the scenic qualities of the Scuppernong River waterfront. Houses like the Chaplin, Schlez, and Davenport residences testify to the town's growing links to national culture during the first half of the twentieth century.

A number of local construction firms and individual builders were active in Columbia during the early twentieth century. The Branning mill may have had a home-construction subsidiary known as the Branning Building Company.<sup>41</sup> Stephen Brickhouse built several frame dwellings during the first decades of the century that feature Queen Anne-inspired bay windows, among them the Thomas Yerby House at 507 Bridge Street, the house at 506 Main Street, and possibly the house at 706 Bridge Street. Brickhouse was the second owner of the Kemp-Brickhouse House at 802 Green Street (located outside the district), to which he added a monumental portico in the 1910s. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Alexander brothers were responsible for much of the imaginative brickwork in the town, working on the 1928 Steanie C. Chaplin House at 107 North Broad Street, the 1931-1932 W. J. White Building at 214-216 Main Street, and probably the 1928-1929 Cohoon Building at 308 Main Street. All three buildings incorporate Spanish tile roofing, a favorite detail of the builders. Another, more modest product of Alexander family brickwork is the Craftsman mantel inserted into the 1913 George N. Hurdle House at 505 Bridge Street in the 1930s. In addition to these professional builders were many amateur carpenters who left their mark on the town. One of these was Fred Schlez, who carved a Gothic altar rail for his wife's church, St. Andrews.

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Endnotes

1. Tyrrell County Deed Book 12, p. 604. The county deed references that follow will be abbreviated as in this example: DB 12, p. 604.
2. "Tyrrell County Courthouse." 1979 National Register nomination.
3. Davis, *History of Tyrrell County*, pp. 42-43; DB 12, p. 421.
4. DB 24, p. 428.
5. DB 12, p. 422.
6. DB 12, p. 563; DB 12, p. 623.
7. Davis, p. 43.
8. Drake, *The History of Education in Tyrrell County*, p. 31.
9. Correspondence in the Tyrrell County files at the Survey and Planning Branch of the Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
10. Pettigrew Papers. North Carolina Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
11. "Coast Chart No. 41."
12. Pettigrew Family Papers. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
13. Lyman and Hadley, *History of the 6th New Hampshire Regiment*, pp. 35-36.
14. Branson, 1972.
15. Chataigne, 1883; Branson, 1884.
16. Branson, 1896; *North Carolina Year Book*, 1902.
17. Butchko, *Edenton*, p. 44; DB 41, p. 109; *Swamproots*, 1979 Special Edition, p. 40.
18. DB 45, p. 265; Davis, 63.

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19. *Swamproots*, v. 4; v. 6, p. 35; Haire, Virginia C., June 30, 1993 letter.
  20. *Swamproots*, v. 6.
  21. *Swamproots*, v. 3, p. 8; Redford interview.
  22. Davis, 61.
  23. *Swamproots*, v. 6, p.34; v. 7, p. 28; v. 11, p. 10; Hassell, "Church Founded In 1902."
  24. McClees and Wolke, "Scuppernong River Bridge." The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 in an attempt to prevent its dismantling; however, it has since been removed.
  25. Davis, 71; plaque on building.
  26. *Swamproots*, v. 3, 24.
  27. *Swamproots*, v. 9, p.13; v. 10, p. 6.
  28. Weeden, *Tyrrell County 1990 Land Use Update*, pp. 10-12.
  29. Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina*, p. 2131; Weeden, p. 17.
  30. Davis, p. 78; Sharpe, p. 2131. This bridge may soon be replaced by a larger structure.
  31. Teller, *Baseline Data for an Economic History of Tyrrell County*, p. 2; Redford interview.
  32. *Swamproots*, 1979 Special Edition, p. 36.
  33. Correspondence in the Tyrrell County files, Survey and Planning Branch.
  34. *Swamproots*, 1979 Special Edition, p. 36. All houses mentioned in this report are of weatherboarded light frame construction unless otherwise specified.
  35. The Tyrrell County Courthouse is the only building or structure presently standing in the county that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
  36. *Swamproots*, v. 6, p. 34.

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37. Sharpe, p. 2130.

38. Ibid.

39. *Swamproots*, v. 11, pp. 44-46; "Columbia Route Saves Mileage."

40. Drake, p. 7. Similar water tanks formerly stood behind the Joseph A. Spruill House at 108 North Broad Street and the George N. Hurdle Store at 501 Bridge Street. The Hurdle cistern was installed by J. B. "Brit" Snell in 1926.

41. Lucia Cunningham interview, Columbia, N.C., June 25, 1993.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Columbia Historic District (same for all photos).  
2. Tyrrell County,, N.C. (same for all photos).  
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos).  
4. Date of photo: June 1993.  
5. Location of negative: North Carolina Division of Archives and History (same for all photos).  
6. Bridge Street, 500 block (south side). Direction of view: southeastward.  
7. The photograph number appears at the top of each heading.
2. 4. May 1993.  
6. Main Street, 200 and 300 blocks (south side). Direction of view: southwestward.
3. 4. June 1993.  
6. Main Street, 200, 300, and 400 blocks. Tyrrell County Courthouse at extreme left. Direction of view: westward.
4. 4. June 1993.  
6. Bridge Street, 200 and 300 blocks. Direction of view: westward.
5. 4. May 1993.  
6. Tyrrell County Courthouse, 403 Main St. Direction of view: southeastward.
6. 4. May 1993.  
6. Cohoon Building, 308 Main St. Direction of view: northwestward.
7. 4. June 1993.  
6. St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 106 S. Road St. Direction of view: southward.
8. 4. May 1993.  
6. Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, 504 Main St. Direction of view: northwestward.
9. 4. May 1993.  
6. Combs-Hussey House, 415 Main St. Direction of view: southeastward.

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10. 4. June 1993.  
6. Spruill-Hassell House, 707 Howard St. Direction of view: northward.
11. 4. June 1993.  
6. Joseph A. Spruill House, 108 N. Broad St.: first-story north room mantel.
12. 4. June 1993.  
6. House, 702 Martha St. Direction of view: northeastward.
13. 4. June 1993.  
6. House, 114 S. Road St. Direction of view: southward.
14. 4. June 1993.  
6. Johann F. Schlez House, 112 N. Elm St.: house on left, wooden water tank in center, garage on right. Direction of view: eastward.
15. 4. June 1993.  
6. Tyrrell County Public Library, 414 Main St. Direction of view: northeastward.
16. 4. May 1993.  
6. Scuppernon River water front as seen from the U.S. 64 bridge.  
Direction of view: northward.

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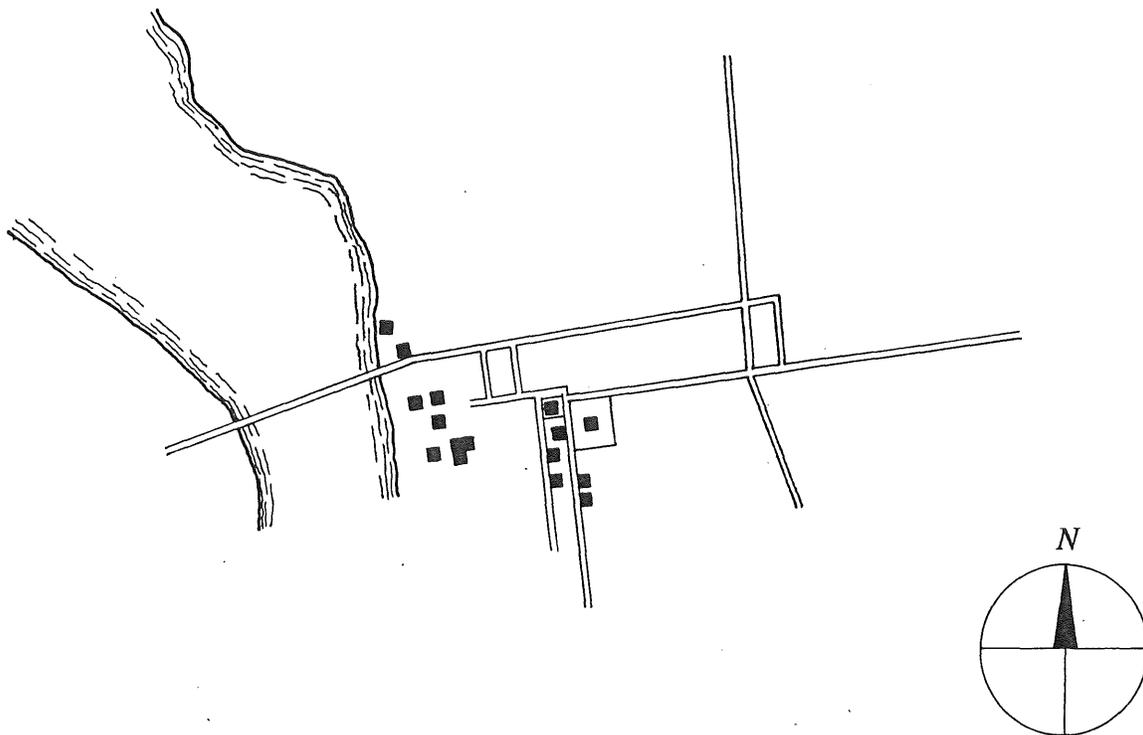
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## EXHIBIT A

Columbia, N.C., 1860, from "Coast Chart No. 41, Albemarle Sound, North Carolina." This tracing is faithful to the original, although the scale has been enlarged to 1" = approximately 950'. The building on the larger square lot at the center may be the Tyrrell County Courthouse.



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## EXHIBIT B

Columbia, N.C., 1920, from W. B. Cobb, *Soil Survey of Tyrrell County, North Carolina, 1924*  
(map dates to 1920). 1" = approximately 1,800'.

