

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Wake
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Briggs Hardware Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
220 Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Raleigh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fourth

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

COUNTY:  
Wake

CODE:  
183

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
T. H. Briggs & Sons, Inc./James E. Briggs, President

STREET AND NUMBER:  
220 Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Raleigh

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Raleigh

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
D. C.

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Wake

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Briggs Hardware Building is a brick structure, four stories in the front half, three stories in the rear. It stands in a commercial row and is three bays wide extending through the full block to the rear. The roof is enclosed in a parapet wall punctuated by chimney stacks, and is typical of this type of building being a shallow "W" shape in section.

The first floor of the building's distinctive front elevation has been reworked with large plate glass windows. On the right, a tall door with a single glazed panel provides access to a stair to the upper floors. A wide entablature with end consoles tops the first floor. It has a deeply molded architrave, a chain motif on the frieze, and a heavy molded cornice supported by undercut modillions embellished with applied floral forms. The consoles are flat-paneled and have lion's head bosses.

The fenestration of the upper three floors shows marked diminution. The plate glass sash windows have upper convex corners with corresponding surrounds that are deeply molded. Each window is surmounted by a wide hoodmold with central lion's head motif topped by a heavy, simply molded cornice. Over each cornice, except on the fourth floor, appears a centrally placed rondel. The surrounds are completed by heavy flat sills with narrow drop-blocks at each end.

Vermiculated quoins, with convex inner corners, define each edge of the facade, and a massive entablature crowns the building, bearing a curvilinear pediment. The architrave is enriched with dentils, the frieze carries a lion's head motif, and the overhanging cornice is supported by large, molded brackets, a pair beneath each cornice end block, and a single one between the center and flanking bays. The pediment bears this inscription:

1874  
BRIGGS  
BUILDING  
HARDWARE

Atop each cornice end block is a large urn with a rondel finial.

The rear elevation has irregular, reworked fenestration on the first floor and a central doorway. The two upper floors have marked diminution of their segmental headed four-over-four sash windows with corresponding brick arches.

The interior of the Briggs Building has a plan that varies from floor to floor. The basement is an open room and has a brick floor. The first floor is open as well, as this is where business is conducted and it serves as a conduit for pedestrian traffic between the two streets which the building spans. It has a diapered pressed tin ceiling, bounded by an attached entablature with an egg-and-dart architrave, and a wide pebbled frieze with foliated scroll design. The ceilings of both the first and second stories are interrupted by large rectangular openings which form a well for the third story skylight. This well has since been filled in, the holes being covered over with flooring. However, on the first floor, the solid wood, handsomely arcaded balustrade around the opening survives.

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7.

Although all windows which once occurred on the side elevations are now bricked in, a few still retain their reveals and soffits, as inner wooden trim identical to that which is used on the front and rear facade windows of the upper floors. A turned, engaged molding with turned finials occurs at the edge of the reveals and soffits. A heavy molded sill completes the surround.

The upper floors are variously partitioned, providing several large rooms on each level. Most partition doors have been removed, and of those that remain, most consist of four flat panels. Generally, doorways are surmounted by three-light rectangular transoms, and door architraves consist of two simply molded parts. The third story skylight is still present, though partially covered over. The fourth floor has its own small skylight.

Two sets of stairs ascend to the upper floors along the north wall in straight flights. They both have closed wells, and heavy molded handrails supported by heavy turned balusters terminating in thick turned newels. However, the rear stairs extend from the basement to the second floor, while the front stairs extend from the first to the fourth floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Briggs Hardware Building is the only nineteenth century commercial building that survives essentially unchanged on Raleigh's main street. Its rich red brick facade accented by bold metal trim--including handsome quoins, cornice, parapet, and window surrounds--together with its continuity of use and family ownership, make it one of Raleigh's most important architectural and historic landmarks.

Briggs Hardware was opened in 1865 in a smaller building, located at the present site, by Thomas H. Briggs in partnership with James Dodd; Briggs was a successful Raleigh businessman with a contracting firm and large real estate holdings. Despite the tribulations of the reconstruction years, the period from 1865 to 1870, according to an 1879 account, was one of intensive building and commercial expansion. Reconstruction leaders "sowed greenbacks broadcast, and prudent and far-sighted business men came behind them and reaped a golden harvest." During these "flush times," the writer continued, "Handsome stores and dwellings rose rapidly, and enterprise was manifested in many ways." Family tradition has it that Briggs was able to begin his enterprise with gold and silver coins he had buried in lead pipes near the edge of town during the war. Whatever his source of money, this "prudent businessman's" concern flourished, selling a wide variety of merchandise from soap to guns.

A new building, begun in 1872, was finished in 1874, as memorialized in the parapet inscription. Shortly after this James Dodd retired from the partnership, and Briggs formed a partnership with his two sons, James and Thomas H., Jr. An advertisement in the 1875-1876 Raleigh City Directory shows "Thos. H. Briggs & Sons" as the purveyors of "Hardware, Cutlery, House Furnishing Goods, Wagon and Buggy Material, Best Cook Stoves, Leads/Oils, Colors and Glass. Raleigh, N.C." The family also operated a concern in carpentry and building on West Street at the corner of Hargett Street, and Briggs constructed a number of buildings in Raleigh. The 1880-1881 directory (published in 1879) listed Briggs's merchandise as including "hardware, stoves, tinware, house furnishing goods, also sash, doors and blinds;" the 1883 entry was simplified to "hardware." Family history records that when Thomas Briggs died in 1886, "all businesses in Raleigh closed to honor him and a public memorial service was held in the Tucker Building Auditorium."

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8 The business has remained in the Briggs family, handling much the same variety of merchandise. In 1915, according to James E. Briggs—now president of the company, who began working there in that year—a glass street window front was put on. Partitions and some other interior details have been altered as well. The upper floors of the building served a number of uses. Family tradition reports that Thomas Briggs the younger in 1890 rented an upper floor to the Oak City Guard, "the Governor's Guard," for practice, for \$12.50 a day, with the stipulation that they not perform any "double quick drills" that might shake the building. According to J. E. Briggs, the city's first YMCA used space in the upper floors, as well as a Catholic church congregation, the Raleigh Little Theater, and a number of attorneys and insurance companies. In the 1920s buggy whip stock gave way to Fiske tires; the present merchandise includes primarily toys, hardware of all kinds, and some seeds and other garden supplies. The normal range of modern merchandise is stocked, but the store is widely known throughout the city as a source of traditional items seldom carried by other businesses. Briggs Hardware is one of the few downtown commercial concerns that has neither opened branches in suburban shopping centers nor moved out of downtown altogether. In 1972, Briggs ran an advertisement in the Raleigh News and Observer with the headline, "WHEN IS BRIGGS LEAVING DOWNTOWN?" followed by a summary of its history and the conclusion that "We want to stay around at least another 107 years if it's only to see 'what the heck will happen next.'"

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant.  
 Aulis, Jack. "Briggs: A Durable Citadel," Raleigh News and Observer, September 24, 1972.  
 Briggs Family History, no date, in Historic American Buildings Survey folder at School of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.  
 Raleigh City Directories, 1875-1876, 1880-1881, 1883.  
 Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. Raleigh: The Junior League of Raleigh, Inc., and the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission, Inc., 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 46' 39"	78° 38' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History

DATE: 28 August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 28 August 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

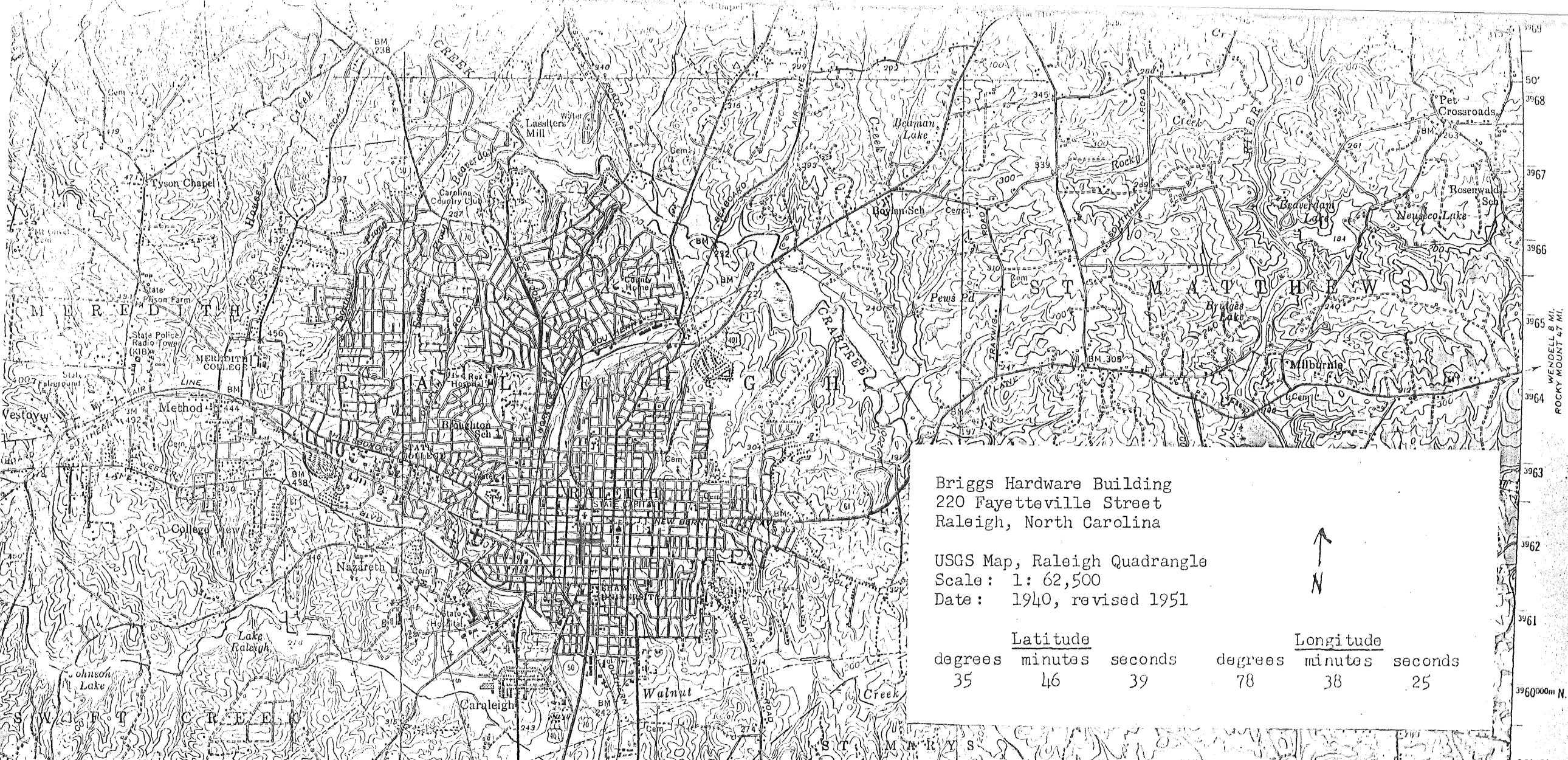
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

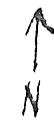
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Briggs Hardware Building  
 220 Fayetteville Street  
 Raleigh, North Carolina

USGS Map, Raleigh Quadrangle  
 Scale: 1: 62,500  
 Date: 1940, revised 1951

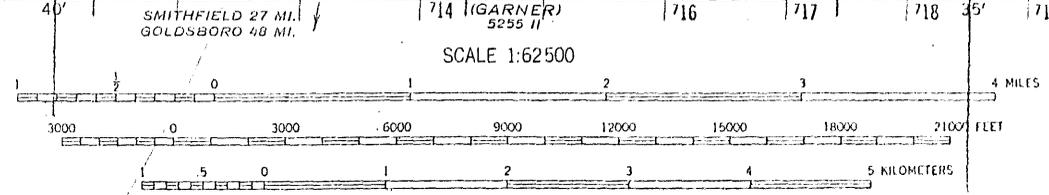
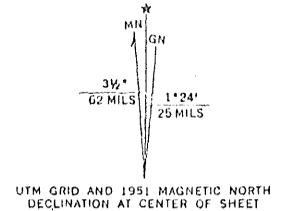


Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	46	39	78	38	25

ed by the Geological Survey  
 CGS

1938 - 1940. Revised 1951  
 American datum  
 Carolina coordinate system

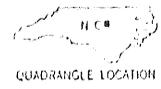
Mercator grid ticks,



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy duty	Light duty
Medium duty	Unimproved cut
U.S. Route	State Route



RALEIGH, N. C.  
 N3545-W7830/15

1951

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



1874  
BRIGGS  
BUILDING  
HARDWARE

ECKERD  
DRUGS

DRUGS  
LUNCHEONETTE

BRIGGS  
WHOLESALE  
& RETAIL  
HARDWARE

Briggs  
Hardware  
SINCE 1885

FOR LEASE