

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Green Level Historic District  
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Jct Green Level Church Rd (SR 1600), Green Level West Rd (SR 1605), and Beaver Dam Rd (SR 1615) NA not for publication  
city or town Cary X vicinity  
state North Carolina code 037 county Wake code 183 zip code 27512

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or 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 commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Jeffrey Crow* SHPO 12/18/00

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

I, hereby certify that this 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  
     See continuation sheet.  
     removed from the National  
Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     other (explain):  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
31	13	buildings
1	1	sites
4	4	structures
		objects
36	18	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina  
(1770-1941)

0

6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

See continuation sheet  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival  
Late Victorian  
Colonial Revival  
No style

foundation: brick  
walls: weatherboard  
brick  
roof: metal  
other: concrete block  
\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X 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.
X 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance
Late 19th century - ca. 1945

Significant Dates
ca. 1907

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

- Primary Location of Additional Data
X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: Wake County Planning Department

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property approximately 75 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kelly Lally Molloy and M. Ruth Little, consultants

organization Prepared for the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission date 6/1/2000

street & number P.O. Box 550 telephone 919-856-6310

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina zip code 27601

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See attached

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

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

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Green Level Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

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**SECTION 6: FUNCTION OR USE**

**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
COMMERCE/TRADE: general store  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE: processing  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding  
RELIGION: religious facility  
FUNERARY: cemetery

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
COMMERCE/TRADE: general store  
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE: processing  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding  
FUNERARY: cemetery  
RELIGION: religious facility  
RELIGION: church-related residence  
SOCIAL: meeting hall

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**SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION**

**Materials, continued**

**foundation:** stone  
concrete  
**walls:** metal  
tarpaper  
**roof:** asphalt  
**other:** N/A

**Narrative Description**

Located in western Wake County in White Oak township, just east of the Chatham County line, the Green Level Historic District consists of a crossroads and surrounding houses, stores, community buildings, and farmsteads. The district includes approximately 75 acres, made up primarily of gently rolling farmland and woods of pine trees. Though most farm fields no longer produce tobacco, many of them are still in use, planted primarily in hay or cover crops.

The main crossroads is formed by the intersection of Green Level Church Road (SR 1600) and Green Level West Road (SR 1605). A spur of the Green Level West Road, Beaver Dam Road (SR 1615) intersects with Green Level Church Road north of the main crossroads near the Green Level Baptist Church. The Green Level Church Road (originally the Holly Springs to Hillsborough Road) forms the spine of the district, running north to south with historic properties on both sides. The district encompasses two stores, a church and cemetery, a Masonic lodge, and nine dwellings, three of which are part of farmsteads. Most of the district's boundaries coincide with property lines, with the Green Level Road West (originally the Raleigh to Pittsboro stage road) demarcating the southernmost boundary and the northern edge of the A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm serving as the northern boundary. Landscape features, such as the pond on the Alious H. and Daisey Mills Farm (no. 2) and woods on the A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm, demarcate the eastern boundaries of those two properties.

Although once the hub of the district, the area surrounding the crossroads now features only a few buildings. The Green Level Community Store, a simple gable-front frame structure built in 1945 by Albert M. Council (no. 8), now houses a nursery and landscaping business. The three historic buildings around the store building are frame houses of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century vintage, featuring simple Victorian trim. The largest of these, the A. C. and Helon Council House (no. 11), is a triple-A I-house of the type commonly built throughout Wake County during this period.

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The heart of the district lies just north of the main crossroads, where the Green Level Baptist Church (no. 4) stands as the visual and social focal point of the community. Built in 1907, the frame edifice displays simple Gothic Revival details, such as pointed-arch gable windows and vents and a central tower. It is one of the best-preserved country churches from this period in Wake County. Behind the church is a large cemetery where community members have buried their dead for over a century (no. 4b); beside it is the current home of the Masonic Lodge with whom the church has shared land--and for over three decades around the turn of the twentieth century--a building (no. 5). Across the road to the east of the church stands the farm and store of Alious H. and Daisey Mills (no. 2). The couple built the two-story house and store buildings in 1916 after operating a store at the crossroads (no longer standing) for many years. The largest dwelling in Green Level, the house features a tall hip roof and a wrap-around porch. The gable-front store building is similar in form to many others built throughout the county during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with retail space on the ground floor and storage above. In addition to their store, the Mills family grew tobacco on their farm. The complex includes a number of domestic outbuildings, as well as a tobacco strip room (2d) and one of the dwellings inhabited by tenants who helped with the farming operation (2a). Across the road from the Alious and Daisy Mills property (next to the Masonic lodge) is the 1930s home of the couple's eldest son, Kenneth, and his wife, Reba (no. 6). Kenneth and Reba ran the Mills family store until the 1960s.

The transforming effects of tobacco in western Wake County are clearly visible on the Green Level area landscape. Within the district, the A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm (no. 1) is a particularly well-preserved example of a tobacco farm complex from this period with its surviving packhouse and three curing-barns dating from the early twentieth century. The farm's one-and-a-half-story L-shaped frame dwelling is a good example of the simple farmhouses preferred by many area residents in the late nineteenth century.

Recent changes in Green Level have been minor and do not adversely affect the district's character. An early store building near the crossroads was demolished in the 1950s. The eighteen non-contributing resources within the district's boundaries are primarily limited to small outbuildings and structures built after the period of significance. There appear to be only four major construction projects or additions within the district in the second half of the twentieth century. A new Masonic Lodge building was constructed in 1980 on the site of an earlier lodge building (no. 5). A brick house (no. 7) and a mobile home (no. 10) have been added near the crossroads in the second half of the twentieth century. The owner of the nursery and landscaping business constructed a modest frame building next to the old Green Level Community Store building (no. 8) in the late 1990s. Green Level has thus far escaped the aggressive suburbanization that is found elsewhere in western Wake County--in some cases less than a few miles away. The district as a whole remains remarkably intact, retaining integrity of setting, location, design, materials, feeling, and association.

### Inventory List

The following inventory list begins at the north end of the district with resources on Green Level Church

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Road, beginning on the east side of the road from north to south and continuing on the west side of the road. The list concludes with the resources on the north side of Green Level West Road where it intersects with Green Level Church Road.

Resources are identified by street addresses when available. Geographical locations are given for properties without known street addresses.

Inventory List Key

C=Contributing  
NC=Non-Contributing  
B=Building  
S=Structure

1      8700 Green Level Church Rd      **A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm.** The A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm includes a late nineteenth-century farm house and a significant collection of outbuildings, primarily related to tobacco cultivation, dating from the early twentieth century to the 1930s.

C-B  
late 19th/early 20th c.  
The house at the center of the farm appears to have been built in the late nineteenth century. Probably built in two or more stages, this one-and-a-half-story dwelling consists of a rectangular main block with a slightly later front ell and a rear shed addition. The house features an L-shaped porch supported by chamfered posts topped by simple sawn spandrels, two brick chimneys, molded corner boards, and six-over-six sash windows.

According to local residents, this property was built by associated with prominent area farmer, A. M. (a.k.a. Alphonso or "Phonnie") Council and his wife, Vallaria (Ruby Council, interview; Carl Ferrell, interview). A. M. Council was described in one newspaper account as "a gentleman noted for the large sales of his famous bright tobacco" and "one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the Green Level section" (Apex Journal, Sept. 15, 1911).

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- C-B  
turn of the 20th c.      1a. Tobacco packhouse. Frame, gable-front packhouse with side and rear shed additions. The building is covered in metal, although hand-hewn sills remain visible.
- C-B  
early 20th c.      1b. Shed. Small, frame, gable-front shed covered with metal.
- C-S  
turn of the 20th c.      1c. Wellhouse. Open frame, gable-front structure.
- C-B  
early 20th c.      1d. Barn. Frame, gable-front barn covered with metal.
- C-B  
early 20th c.      1e. Shed. Small, frame, gable-front shed covered with metal.
- C-B  
ca. 1930      1f. Vehicle storage building. Frame, gable-front vehicle storage building covered with metal with two open bays in front gable.
- C-B  
ca. 1930      1g. Tobacco-curing barn. Frame, gable-roofed tobacco-curing barn clad with vertical boards later covered with tar paper.
- C-B  
early 20th c.      1h. Tobacco-curing barn. Log, gable-roofed tobacco-curing barn covered with metal.
- C-B  
early 20th c.      1i. Tobacco-curing barn. Log, gable-roofed tobacco-curing barn covered with metal.

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- |   |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 2 | 3529 Beaver Dam Rd   | <p><b>Alious H. and Daisey Mills Farm and Store.</b> The Alious H. and Daisey Mills Farm consists of a prominent farmhouse, frame store building, and a large collection of domestic and farm buildings.</p>   |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1916      | <p>Built ca. 1916, the house at the heart of the farm is two stories tall and two rooms deep, topped by a high hip roof. Situated in a grove of both hardwood and pine trees, the dwelling features a one-story wraparound porch supported by slender Doric columns, interior brick chimneys, and one-over-one sash windows. A garage has been added to the rear and a small portion of the porch has been enclosed.</p> <p>Alious H. Mills is said to have managed the Johnson and Mills store (no longer standing) at the Green Level crossroads before building this house and another store on this property just to north of the crossroads around 1916. The 1920 census lists Mills, aged 39, as a retail merchant of a general store. He lived on the property with his wife, Daisey, two sons, Kenneth and Willard, and his brother, Eugene.</p> |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s     | <p><u>2a. Alious Mills Tenant House.</u> This one-story, frame, gable-front dwelling has plain weatherboard siding and four-over-four sash windows. The wooden front porch is a recent replacement.</p>  |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s     | <p><u>2b. Shed.</u> Frame, gable front shed with open side shed.</p>   |
|   | C-B<br>early 20th c. | <p><u>2c. Potato house.</u> Gable-roofed potato house with brick foundation, log side walls, and board-and-batten siding on the front wall.</p>  |
|   | C-B<br>early 20th c. | <p><u>2d. Tobacco strip room.</u> Frame, gable-roofed tobacco strip room with concrete foundation and plain weatherboard siding.</p>   |
|   | C-B<br>early 20th c. | <p><u>2e. Feed barn.</u> Two-story, frame, gambrel-roofed feed barn.</p>   |
|   | C-B<br>early 20th c. | <p><u>2f. Corn crib.</u> Small frame, gable-roofed corn crib.</p>  |
|   | C-S<br>early 20th c. | <p><u>2g. Wellhouse.</u> Frame, pyramidal-roofed wellhouse with a wood-shingle roof topped by a finial.</p>  |

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|---|---|--|
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1920s  | <u>2h. Garage.</u> Frame, gable-roofed garage with rear shed addition.   |
|   | NC-B<br>ca. 1980s   | <u>2i. Stable.</u> Frame, gable-front stable. Non-contributing due to age.   |
|   | C-B<br>early 20th c.  | <u>2j. Smokehouse/ woodshed.</u> The main section of this frame, gable-front building served as a woodshed. The shed on the east end was used as a smokehouse. A rear shed, now demolished, housed chickens.   |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1916; ca. 1930s                                  | <u>2k. Alious Mills Store.</u> Built ca. 1916, this two-story, gable-front store building features six-over-six sash windows, gable returns, and double doors on both the front and rear elevations. One-story hip-roofed side wings flank the building and a hip-roofed room was added to the rear, probably in the 1930s. The first floor of the building housed the general merchandise business of Alious H. Mills and later, his son, Kenneth from 1916 to the 1960s. The upper story was used for storage. The building, which continued in use as a store until the 1970s, has been used for a variety of commercial purposes in the last several decades and currently houses an antiques business.  |
| 3 | 8400 Green Level<br>Church Road<br><br>C-B<br>early 20th c. | <b>Vick Council Rental House.</b> Probably built around the turn of the century, this one-story, L-plan, frame dwelling features simple Victorian details, including a front bay window and diamond-shaped gable vents. Clad in plain weatherboard siding, the house has a rear ell addition, gable-returns, and an interior brick chimney. The original wrap-around porch was replaced with a small stoop in the 1960s. According to owner Carl Ferrell, the house was owned for some time as rental property by Green Level merchant, Vick Council, whose operated the store once adjacent to the house. Alious Mills is said to have lived in this house with his family before building a new house and store just to the north. Mr. Ferrell and his wife purchased the property in 1955 and built several sheds and outbuildings. |
|   | NC-B<br>late 1950s  | <u>3a. Garage.</u> Frame, gable-roofed two-car garage. Non-contributing due to age.  |
|   | NC-B<br>1980s   | <u>3b. Workshop.</u> Frame, gable-roofed workshop. Non-contributing due to age.  |

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	NC-B 1960s	<u>3c. Tractor shed.</u> Frame, gable-roofed tractor shed. Non-contributing due to age.
	NC-B 1960s	<u>3d. Shed.</u> Frame, gable-roofed utility shed. Non-contributing due to age.
4	8509 Green Level Church Rd	<b>Green Level Baptist Church.</b> The Green Level Baptist Church property includes the church building, cemetery, and a modern parsonage and carport.
	C-B ca. 1907; ca. 1920; ca. 1975	<p>Built around 1907, the Green Level Baptist Church is one of the best examples of rural church architecture in Wake County. Featuring typical vernacular Gothic Revival details, such as pointed-arch windows and vents and a tower at the central bay, the church dominates the landscape in this rural community. Other notable details include curved rafter ends, five-panel doors, original weatherboard siding, and a finial topping the front tower. To the rear of the building is a two-story education wing that was added ca. 1920. This section features two-over-two sash windows and is topped by a tall hip roof. Another education wing was added to the south side of the building in 1975. Attached to the church by a small enclosed breezeway, this two-story, gable-front brick structure is simply finished with a small entry porch and six-over-six sash windows. A metal picnic shelter is attached to the rear of this wing.</p> <p>Originally known as Providence Baptist Church, Green Level Baptist Church was organized in 1870 (and adopted its current name shortly after). The church's first building, which was shared with the Green Level Masonic Lodge for over three decades, was constructed in 1872 on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Council. The church's first pastor was the Rev. Matthew S. Ferrell, who served for 15 years. The current church was built under the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Council.</p>
	NC-B ca. 1960s	<u>4a. Green Level Baptist Church Parsonage.</u> Brick ranch with simple classical porch. Non-contributing due to age.
	NC-S ca. 1980s	<u>4b. Carport.</u> Freestanding frame carport probably built in the 1970s or 1980s. Non-contributing due to age.

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|   | NC-Site<br>late 19th c. to<br>present                 | <u>4c. Green Level Baptist Church Cemetery.</u> Located behind the church and adjacent Masonic Lodge, the cemetery contains graves marked mostly with manufactured marble and granite stones. The earliest marked grave is 1882. Prominent community names found on stones in the cemetery include Council, Mills, Yates, Upchurch, Sears, and Hilliard. While there are a number of marked graves in the cemetery that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the majority are less than fifty years old, rendering it non-contributing due to age.   |
| 5 | 8527 Green Level<br>Church Rd<br><br>NC-B<br>1980     | <b>Green Level Masonic Lodge.</b> Built in 1980 to replace an earlier building removed from the site, this one-story, gable-roofed lodge building is made of textured concrete blocks. The cornerstone reads: Green Level Lodge No. 277, A. F. and A. M., September 12 1980, Everett Stansil Aldridge, Grand Master. The building is non-contributing due to age.<br><br>The Green Level lodge was founded in 1867. The original building was built in 1872 and shared for over thirty years with the congregation of Green Level Baptist Church.  |
|   | NC-S<br>ca. 1980                                      | <u>5a. Wellhouse.</u> Small concrete-block, gable-roofed wellhouse. Non-contributing due to age.   |
|   | NC-B<br>ca. 1980s                                     | <u>5b. Storage building.</u> Pre-fabricated metal storage. Non-contributing due to age.  |
| 6 | 8425 Green Level<br>Church Rd<br><br>C-B<br>ca. 1930s | <b>Kenneth and Reba Mills House.</b> This period revival cottage, a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling, displays simple Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival details, including a multi-gabled roofline, prominent front brick chimney, gable returns, porch topped by balcony, and paneled front door. The house has plain weatherboard siding and six-over-one sash windows.<br><br>This house and surrounding outbuildings were built by Kenneth and Reba Mills, probably in the 1930s, across Green Level Church Road from the house and store owned by Kenneth's father, Alious Mills. After Alious Mills retired, Kenneth operated the store for a number of years and later ran the Green Level Community store at the crossroads. |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s                                      | <u>6a. Garage.</u> Frame, gable-roofed garage.   |

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|---|--|---|
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s   | <u>6b. Vehicle storage building.</u> Frame, gable-roofed vehicle storage building.  |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s   | <u>6c. Shed.</u> Frame, gable-roofed shed.  |
|   | C-B<br>ca. 1930s   | <u>6d. Chicken house.</u> Two-story, frame, gable-roofed chicken house with single-sash upper-story windows.  |
|   | C-S<br>ca. 1930s   | <u>6e. Animal pen.</u> Small, frame, gable-roofed structure appears to have sheltered some sort of small animal.  |
| 7 | 8413 Green Level Church Rd<br><br>NC-B<br>ca. 1975                 | <b>House.</b> Two-story, brick split-level house. Non-contributing due to age.  |
| 8 | 8401 Green Level Church Rd<br><br>C-B<br>1945; ca. 1970; ca. 1990s | <b>Green Level Community Store.</b> This small frame store building is said to have been built around 1945 by Albert Council when he returned from World War II. Typical of many country stores from this period, the Green Level Community Store is one-story tall with a gable-front orientation. A side shed addition was added ca. 1970 when Kenneth Mills leased the store from the Councils (Ruby Council, interview). The porch that spans the front of the building is a replacement. Operated as a store until recent years, the building is now a part of a landscaping and nursery business known as Cloer Nursery Co. |
|   | NC-S<br>1990s  | <u>a. Canopy.</u> Open, metal canopy that once sheltered gas pumps. Non-contributing due to age.  |
|   | NC-B<br>1990s  | <u>b. Building.</u> One-story, frame, side-gable-roofed building that houses part of the Cloer Nursery Co. business. Non-contributing due to age.   |
|   | NC-S<br>1990s  | <u>c. Canopy.</u> Open, frame canopy that shelters plants as part of the Cloer Nursery Co. business. Non-contributing due to age.   |

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|----|--|---|
| 9  | 3525 Green Level Road West<br><br>C-B<br>ca. 1890<br><br><br><br>NC-B<br>early 20th c.<br><br>C-B<br>early 20th c. | <p><b>Vick and Mattie Council House.</b> Probably built in the late nineteenth century, this one-story dwelling displays features typical late Victorian details. These include the “triple-A” roof found so commonly on Wake County houses of this period, as well as decorative vents and variegated patterned shingles in the gables and a front bay window. The original two front entrances appear to have been converted to windows with the enclosure of the end bays of the front porch.</p> <p>The house is associated with Vick Council, who operated a store in Green Level, and his wife, Mattie.</p> <p><u>9a. Garage.</u> Frame, gable-roofed garage. Non-contributing due to deterioration.</p> <p><u>9b. Shed.</u> Small frame, gable-front shed with open side shed.</p> |
| 10 | 3604 Green Level Road West<br><br>NC-B<br>Late 20th c.<br><br>NC-B<br>Late 20th c.                                 | <p><b>Mobile Home.</b> Late twentieth-century mobile home. Non-contributing due to age.</p> <p><u>10a. Shed.</u> Small gable-roofed shed. Non-contributing due to age.</p>  |
| 11 | 3608 Green Level Road West<br><br>C-B<br>late 19th c.; early 20th c.; second half of 20th c.                       | <p><b>A. C. And Helon Council House.</b> The A. C. and Helon Council House was built in several sections beginning in the late nineteenth century. According to Ruby Council, the one-story section that is now the rear ell was built first. The two-story front section was added in the early twentieth century after A. C. Council died. Topped by a triple-A roof, the two-story section is marked by exposed rafter ends, two-over-two sash windows, and an exterior-end brick chimney. The full-facade front porch is supported by square wooden posts. An attached garage has been added in recent years.</p>   |

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The house remained in the Council family for much of the twentieth century. The 1920 census shows widow Helon Council living in this house with school-teacher daughters Bettie and Enid, as well as son, George, who was listed as a salesman. Local residents often refer to this house as the home of sisters Bettie and Beatrice Council, who occupied the home for many years in the twentieth century.

C-S  
ca. 1910

11a. Wellhouse. Frame, gable-roofed structure shelters a brick well.

C-B  
ca. 1930s

11b. House. Small, frame, gable-roofed house with German siding. A small gabled roof shelters the entry stoop. Windows have been covered up. Appears to have been a playhouse or storage building.

12 C-site

**Green Level Historic District Landscape.** The landscape of the Green Level Historic District encompasses the natural and man-made pattern of rural commercial and agricultural development that prevailed in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Wake County. This pattern consists primarily of a cluster of commercial buildings, dwellings, and community institutions located at the intersection of two or more major thoroughfares and the surrounding farmsteads whose inhabitants depended on the businesses of the crossroads.

The farmsteads on the edge of the district are themselves representative of developments in late nineteenth-century agriculture--especially the transforming influence of tobacco cultivation. The two farmsteads in the district, the A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm (no. 1) and the Alious H. and Daisey Mills Farm (no. 2), represent this transformation. These farms include cleared fields and farmsteads composed of relatively simple dwellings, domestic outbuildings, and curing barns, packhouses, and strip rooms for their tobacco crops. The farmsteads are surrounded by lightly rolling pastures and fields, some no longer in use and others still cultivated with hay or cover crops. The pastures and fields are typically bordered with woods of pine trees or fences and punctuated periodically with irrigation ponds. Despite heavy suburban development nearby, very little new construction has taken place within the boundaries of the district and Green Level retains the landscape elements that distinguish it as a rural community of its era.

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## SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary

The Green Level Historic District is a well-preserved and increasingly rare example of the rural crossroads communities that were once so common in fast-growing Wake County. The district contains all of the elements that identify it as a distinct community, including two stores dating from the early to mid-twentieth century, an early twentieth-century church and cemetery, a Masonic lodge with nineteenth-century roots, and nine dwellings (most of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century vintage), two of which are accompanied by a full complement of domestic and agricultural buildings. Despite its location in quickly suburbanizing western Wake County, Green Level maintains its rural character and appearance.

Located along the old stage route between Raleigh and Pittsboro, the crossroads village of Green Level has its roots in the first half of the nineteenth century. It was not until after the Civil War, however, that the community grew significantly. In the early 1870s, Green Level boasted at least seven stores, two mills, and two schools, as well as a newly founded Baptist Church and Masonic Lodge. Although the number of crossroads businesses decreased in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, probably due to the growth of nearby railroad towns, Green Level remained an important commercial center for local farmers, most of whom thrived growing bright leaf tobacco during these years. The Green Level Baptist Church building, as well as the Mills Store and most of the houses in the community, were all constructed during this prosperous period.

Green Level very slowly declined as a commercial hub during the mid-to-late twentieth century, but with an active Masonic lodge and a growing church congregation, retains its role as an important center of community life. While suburban development has transformed much of the countryside nearby, Green Level remains essentially unchanged from its early-to-mid-twentieth-century appearance.

The Green Level Historic District qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an intact example of the turn-of-the-century crossroads community with a well preserved and representative mix of the types of commercial, residential, and social architecture that were prevalent in such communities. It is also significant under Criterion A for its agricultural significance for its depiction, through the buildings that still stand in the community, of the transforming role of tobacco on the Wake County landscape in the early twentieth century. The period of significance begins in the late nineteenth century, corresponding with the approximate date of construction of the oldest building associated with the community, and extends through 1945, the year the last store building was constructed in the community. The context is established in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," a Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared in 1993. The most relevant historic contexts include: Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861-1885); Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918); and Boom, Bust and Recovery Between World Wars (1919-1941). Additional architectural and agricultural context information covering the period from 1941-1945 is provided below. The architectural significance of the district relates to the following property types: farm complexes; outbuildings; houses; institutional buildings; and commercial and transportation-related buildings and structures.

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### **Additional Context: Architecture and Agriculture During World War II (1941-1945)**

With few exceptions, mainly limited to large-scale projects in Raleigh or the county's small towns, construction basically came to a halt in Wake County during the war years, mirroring what was happening elsewhere in the rest of the state (Bishir, 455). In rural areas, any buildings that were constructed during the 1941-1945 period, including dwellings, farm buildings, community buildings, and commercial structures, were generally similar in size, construction, and style to those built before the war. It was only after the war, when scores of soldiers and service personnel returned home to their families and the county, state, and nation returned to "business as usual," that dramatic changes in local architecture occurred, influenced by, among other things, a mass migration by rural people from farms to jobs in the city and the resulting suburbanization (Lally, 176).

Agriculture, on the other hand, was transformed during the war years, as farm families all over the county and state, as well as the nation, were enlisted to vastly increase the production of "food, feed, fibers, and other vital farm materials" to aid in feeding "the nation and, to some extent, the people of its allies" (Carpenter and Colvard, 257). Many farmers planted "Victory Gardens" and added dairying operations to their cotton and tobacco farms (Carpenter and Colvard, 272). With the exception of the construction of additional barns or storage buildings on individual farms, however, these temporary changes had little effect on the rural landscape during these years. The more dramatic changes occurred after 1945 when many rural people left the farm for jobs and the city and increasing mechanization allowed greater crop yields with a smaller labor force.

### **Historical Background**

The rural western Wake County community known as Green Level developed in the first half of the nineteenth century along the east-west stage route from Raleigh to Pittsboro where it intersected with the Holly Springs to Hillsborough Road. The community was so named, some say by an Indian, because the land in the area was exceptionally "green" and "level" (Murray, 664). Like most crossroads communities, Green Level served as the commercial and social hub of a rural area that extended for several miles into the surrounding countryside. While travelers along the stage routes found the crossroads to be a convenient resting point, local families, including those by the name of Council, Mills, Utley, Yates, Ferrell, and Upchurch, traveled to the crossroads for goods not produced on their farms, as well as, eventually, their mail. The U. S. Postal Service established a post office in Green Level in 1847 and was served by various post masters (who were likely the owners of businesses), including Thomas J. Utley, Golden H. Upchurch, Thomas S. Johnson, Sidney W. Mitchell, and James H. Upchurch. The post office continued to operate during the Civil War and post-war years until it was permanently discontinued in 1888 (Murray, Green Level file).

Although little is known about the community's earliest years, Green Level apparently prospered greatly in the decades following the Civil War. By the early 1870s, the community supported at least seven stores and two grist- and sawmills (Lally, 340). Local masons founded a lodge in 1867, now known as the Green Level Lodge # 277. A local tavern served as the first meeting place for local Baptists, who, under the leadership of Rev. Matthew Ferrell, established a congregation known as Providence Baptist Church in 1870, renamed Green Level Baptist Church the year after (*Western Wake Herald*, 1978). The lodge and the church shared a building for over three decades (Murray, 664). By the end of

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1870s at least two schools, public and private, were educating children in the community (Murray, Green Level file).

Green Level's turn-of-the-century history and prosperity seems inextricably linked with those of two families: the Councils and the Mills. Members of both of these families owned and operated stores in Green Level at various times and were active members in the church and lodge. A. C. Council (1833-1894) and his first wife, Lewraney (1836-1876), donated two acres to the lodge and church for the building that the two institutions shared in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as a church cemetery (Murray, 664). Among the seven children that A. C. and Lewraney Council raised was Vick Council, who owned and operated a store at the crossroads for many years of the twentieth century and who owned at least two houses in the community (nos. 3 and 9) during these years (Ruby Council, interview). After the death of his first wife, A. C. Council married Helon McGee (1858-1936), with whom he had an additional seven children.

a. C. and Helon built a one-story house along the old stage route in the late nineteenth century. Although widowed in 1896, Helon lived in this house, to which a two-story front section was added in the early twentieth century, with several of her children until her death in 1936 (no. 11). The 1920 census lists her as the head of the household, living at that time with school-teacher daughters Bettie (age 40) and Enid (age 28), as well as a son, George (age 30), who was working as a salesman in a retail store. Local residents recall that the house was occupied for many years of the twentieth century by sisters Bettie and Beatrice Council (Carl Ferrell, interview; Ruby Council, interview).

Green Level farmer A. M. Council (also known as Alphonso or "Phonnie") was described in one newspaper account as "a gentleman noted for the large sales of his famous bright tobacco" and "one of the wealthiest and most prominent citizens of the Green Level section" (Apex Journal, Sept. 15, 1911). A. M. (1854-1937) and his wife, Vallaria (1857-1926), owned a farm on the east side of the old Holly Springs to Hillsborough Road (now Green Level Church Road). The farm retains its simple late nineteenth-century frame farm house, as well as a full collection of early twentieth-century farm buildings, including a tobacco packhouse and three tobacco-curing barns (no. 1). Although probably already distantly related, the two Council clans were formally linked when one of A. M. and Vallaria's children, Orus, married Emma Falsom Council, daughter of A. C. and Helon Council. The couple produced another store-owning family member, Albert Murray, who built the Green Level Community Store when he returned from World War II and owned and operated it for over two decades (no. 7).

Members of the Mills family apparently began doing business in Green Level in the late nineteenth century. Ernest T. Mills and W. B. Johnson owned and operated a general merchandise store at the crossroads during this period (the building no longer stands). In 1906, the Johnson and Mills Store advertised a new line of fall goods in the *Apex Journal*. The following year, Alious H. Mills, cousin of Ernest, took over management of the store and operated it for about a decade, while his cousin ran another family store in the nearby community of Upchurch. While managing the crossroads store at Green Level, Alious Mills and his family rented a simple one-story Victorian house next to the store (no. 3) from Vick Council (Carl Ferrell, interview). After Alious Mills moved his business and family to a farm near the church, Vick Council owned and operated the store at the crossroads (Carl Ferrell, interview).

In 1916, Alious Mills built a stylish two-story house (no. 2) and a two-story store building (no. 2k) just north of the crossroads across from the Baptist church (Willard Mills, Jr., interview). The 1920 Census lists the thirty-nine-year-old

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Mills as a merchant and shows him living with his wife, Daisey (also thirty-nine), sons, Kenneth (age thirteen) and Willard (age eight), and his thirty-seven-year-old brother, Eugene, who is listed as a salesman. In addition to his store, Mills augmented his income by growing tobacco on his land with the help of two tenant families (Willard Mills, Jr., interview). One of the tenant dwellings (2a), as well as a tobacco strip room (2d), still stand. When his father retired, eldest son Kenneth and his wife, Reba, operated the store business for many years and built a frame period revival house across the road from his father's property in the 1930s (no. 5).

Both the Council and Mills families were active members of the Green Level Baptist Church. In the early years of the twentieth century, the expanding congregation constructed a stylish new Gothic Revival church building. Completed in 1907, this edifice, which towers over all of the other buildings in the community, is similar to other churches that Baptist congregations were building throughout the county during the early years of this century and is one of the best preserved (no. 4). The congregation built an educational wing to the rear around 1920 and, still growing, expanded with additional educational space in the mid-1970s.

Although the number of businesses in the community declined in the early twentieth century, probably due to the growth of nearby railroad villages and towns, such as Carpenter, Apex, Morrisville, and Cary, Green Level continued to maintain its presence as a commercial center for local farmers. A 1922 study of rural organization in Wake County by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and North Carolina State College of Engineering classified Green Level as a "Farm-Operator Village," so named because "all its residents besides the merchants, section workers, day laborers, and widows are farm operators" (Zimmerman and Taylor, 10). Zimmerman and Taylor noted that the communities of Green Level, Rolesville, and Wakefield, were "long-time service centers which existed long before railroads. Each was located on an important stage-coach road" (Zimmerman and Taylor, 19).

As a point of comparison, of the three "long-time service centers" noted particularly by Zimmerman and Taylor whose development was not enhanced by the coming of the railroad, only Green Level maintains its unique, rural crossroads character. Rolesville, which first incorporated in 1837, grew into a small town. Wakefield, incorporated in the late nineteenth century, fell into decline when the railroad located elsewhere. Although the community still retains many prominent dwellings, it does not maintain a cohesive historic character due to demolitions and infill construction.

The success of tobacco as a cash crop may have been one factor in the community's continued early twentieth-century relevance. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, western Wake farmers, including those in the Green Level area, were among the first in the county to grow the lucrative "bright leaf" tobacco, which flourished particularly well on the rocky Triassic soils of White Oak Township. Tobacco brought farmers as much as three times the money as cotton, the main cash crop until that date (Lally 1994, 66-67), ensuring the viability of many family farms (as well as the businesses that served them). With hopes for greater prosperity, farmers flocked sections of to Wake County where soils were amenable to tobacco cultivation. Census figures show that while most of the county's rural townships reported only modest gains in population between 1890 and 1920, the population of White Oak Township nearly doubled during those same years--a strong indication of tobacco's draw (Wake County MPDF, Appendix B). Within the boundaries of the Green Level Historic District, two farmsteads, the A. M. (Alphonso) and Vallaria Council Farm (no. 1) and the Alious and Daisy Mills Farm (no. 2), represent this tobacco-fueled transformation of the county.

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Green Level's gradual decline as a rural commercial center in the twentieth century mirrors that of countless other communities throughout Wake County, as well as the state and nation, as first the railroad, then the automobile, drew people to bigger villages and towns for shopping and jobs. While Green Level currently maintains its rural character and appearance, it has been affected by the suburban development of western Wake County. Commuters from nearby subdivisions crowd the two-lane roads running through the community at rush hour. Instead of general merchandise, the surviving store buildings in the community now house a nursery and landscaping business and an antiques shop. Although tobacco is still raised in some nearby fields, "U-pick-it" fruit farms cater to new-comers and long-time residents alike. And while Green Level's commercial importance has dwindled, its social function continues. The Masonic Lodge, which continues to be an active force in the community, built a new building in the 1980 on the site it has occupied for over a century (no. 5). Green Level Baptist Church is thriving and increasing with a congregation made up not only of descendants of its founders, but with new residents who have settled in subdivisions nearby.

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**SECTION 10**

**UTM References**

	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
<b>A</b>	689340	3962240
<b>B</b>	689810	3962200
<b>C</b>	689710	3961240
<b>D</b>	689290	3961160

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Green Level Historic District is shown with a dashed line on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Green Level Historic District is drawn to include all surviving historic resources in the crossroads village, as well as nearby farmsteads and associated acreage that depict the relationship between agriculture and commerce in this historic crossroads community. The boundaries exclude rural properties without buildings that show this relationship.

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**Photographs**

The following information applies to all photographs included in the Green Level Historic District National Register nomination unless otherwise noted.

Green Level Historic District  
Wake County, North Carolina  
Photographer: Ruth Little  
June 1999

Negatives on file at North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Letters below are keyed to the sketch map.

- A. Overall view of Green Level Historic District from the north, showing Green Level Baptist Church and Alious H. and Daisey Mills Farm.
- B. A. M. and Vallaria Council House, A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm, view from the southwest.
- C. Tobacco barns, A. M. and Vallaria Council Farm, view from the north.
- D. Alious H. and Daisey Mills House and Store, view from the west.
- E. Alious H. and Daisey Mills House, view from the west.
- F. Green Level Baptist Church, view from the east.  
Kelly Lally Molloy, 12-1999
- G. Green Level Baptist Church Cemetery, view from the northeast.  
Kelly Lally Molloy, 12-1999
- H. Green Level Masonic Lodge (NC), view from the east.
- I. Chicken House, Kenneth and Reba Mills House, view from the north.
- J. Green Level Community Store, view from the east.  
Kelly Lally Molloy, 6-1999
- K. A. C. and Helon Council House, view from the southwest.

