

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 Apex Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number bounded by N. Elm, N. Salem, Center, S. Salem N/A not for publication

city or town and W. Chatham streets, Apex N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27502

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. King . 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

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

- building(s)
XX district
site
structure
object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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 & Architectural Resources of Wake County, NC (1770-1941)"

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure
Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Department Store
Transportation: Rail-related
Government: City Hall

- Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure
Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Department Store
Transportation: Rail-related
Government: Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commercial style
Queen Anne
Bungalow/Craftsman
Neoclassical Revival (see continuation sheet)

- foundation brick
walls weatherboard
brick
roof asphalt
other granite
metal

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions of property significance.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions of property characteristics.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning/Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1870-1943

Significant Dates

1873

1912

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simpson, Frank (architect)

Stout, J.W. (contractor)

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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS) including preliminary determination, National Register status, and Historic American Buildings Survey/Engineering records.

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data including State Historic Preservation Office, other state/federal/local government, university, and other.

Name of repository:

Apex Historic District
Name of Property

Wake, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 48± acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	6914	2510	3195	663	0
Zone		Easting		Northing		
2	17	1694	7910	3195	641	0

3	17	6914	4310	3195	556	0
Zone		Easting		Northing		
4	17	693	8710	39	55	7910

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 M. Ruth Little

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date Nov. 30, 1993

street & number 2709 Bedford Avenue telephone 919-836-8128

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

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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Apex Historic District, Wake Co., N.C.

Architectural Classification continued:

Colonial Revival

Other: I-house

Description

The Apex Historic District is located in the town of Apex, in southwest Wake County. The district consists of the town core, which developed prior to 1943, and is a generally rectangular area containing approximately nine blocks. The town straddles the CSX Railway tracks, which run in a roughly north-south alignment at the rear of the stores and houses on the east side of Salem Street, the main street, which is parallel to the railroad tracks. The historic district extends for approximately seven blocks on both sides of the street, and extends one block to the east along the intersecting street of Center Street and one block to the west along the intersecting street of West Chatham Street. It contains 81 principal buildings; approximately half of these are commercial and institutional buildings located primarily in the two center blocks of Salem Street, the other half are houses located primarily along the north and south ends of Salem Street and along Center and West Chatham streets. Additional principal resources are a historic water tower and the railroad tracks.

There are 60 secondary resources, most of which are garages. One hundred seven of the 143 total resources, or 76%, have retained their architectural character and contribute to the significance of the district. The district contains two buildings already listed on the National Register: former Apex Town Hall [#23], a brick Renaissance Revival-style 1912 building with an arcaded street level originally containing a market and town hall and second floor auditorium, and the former Apex Union Depot [#52], an eclectic-style brick building constructed in 1914. Other pivotal buildings are the Seaboard Air Line Freight Depot built in 1925, a number of extremely intact early 20th century brick stores, and approximately a dozen unusually well-preserved Victorian dwellings.

Salem Street, which forms the central spine of the district, is a two-lane paved street with sidewalks on both sides. The 100 and 200 blocks of N. Salem Street from Chatham Street to Center Street contain the commercial district, consisting of

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a solid block of brick one and two-story row stores in the 100 block and, on the west side of the 200 block, a brick row containing the buildings that originally housed the Apex Town Hall, L. R. Jackson Tobacco Warehouse, Hinton Hardware and the Apex Mule and Supply Store. This brick row is opposite the former Apex Union Depot and the former Seaboard Air Line Freight Depot. Only a few post-1943 buildings interrupt this almost continuous streetscape of early twentieth century railroad, commercial and municipal buildings. The railroad tracks and a paved service road extend to the rear of the east side of Salem Street. A paved alley runs to the rear of the 100 block of N. Salem Street on the west side. The houses that line Salem Street north and south of the commercial district have small well-landscaped front yards, with lawn, shrubs and trees. This is also true of the houses on Center Street, West Chatham Street, and Holleman Street, the other residential streets included in the district. The commercial and residential streetscapes are remarkably unaltered from their appearance during the early 1940s, the latter years of the period of significance.

Notes: Properties are organized by streets, beginning at the south boundary of the district and continuing north. North-south Streets are listed west side first, then east side. East-west streets are listed north side first, then south side.

All buildings are of frame construction unless otherwise indicated.

All references to existence and function in the year 1928 are taken from the Sanborn Insurance Map of that year, the only year in which Apex was mapped by this company. This map is available on microfilm at the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

Dates are estimated using design, inclusion on the 1928 Sanborn Map, and secondary sources such as Holleman's history and oral history provided by local residents, including Ann Poe Grebing, George T. Rogers, Edna Stephens Friddle, Elizabeth Rogers Covington, and Margaret Benton Ferry.

Historic names of buildings, if available, are enclosed in brackets after the street address. Only the names of early or original occupants are given.

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Apex Historic District, Wake Co., N.C.

All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria. Any building built after the end of the period of significance, in 1943, is noncontributing due to its age (NC-Age). Buildings built before 1943 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their original character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-Alt.). Examples of this are complete window, door, and porch replacements; artificial siding that obscures original door, window, wall and eave detailing; and extensive post-1943 additions. Such artificial siding as aluminum, vinyl or asbestos shingles does not automatically render a building noncontributing so long as the application of the siding does not obscure the decorative finish of the openings and the eaves.

Salem Street, west side

C 1. 306 S. Salem St. [A.T. Seymour Sr. House] ca. 1913. Two-story sidehall plan house with a pyramidal roof, hipped dormer, and wraparound front porch with a sunroom on the south side and a porte-cochere on the north side. The house was built for A.T. Seymour Sr. and family. The Watkins family lived in the now-demolished house to the south. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Seymour were partners in a hardware store which opened in the first decade of the century.

C a. Shed, pre-1928. One-story gabled building, now covered with plywood sheathing.

C b. Shed. 1930s. One-story gabled building, now covered with plywood sheathing.

NC (Age) c. Vehicle shed, ca. 1970. Three-bay open vehicle shed.

C 2. 300 S. Salem St. [S.W. Seymour Sr.] ca. 1938. Two-story front-gable Craftsman style house with bracketed eaves, Craftsman sash windows, a bracketed hood over the front entrance, and a side shed porch with replacement posts. The house has been covered with vinyl siding. It was built for S.W. Seymour Sr. and family.

C a. Barn. ca. 1900. Frame 2-story side-gable barn with plain siding, some 4/4 sash windows. An earlier dwelling on this site belonged to Miss Adelaide Upchurch, and this barn was associated with this dwelling.

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NC (Age) b. Outbuilding. ca. 1950. One-room frame building with 2/2 horizontal paned sash windows and aluminum siding. This may have functioned as a small rental house.

[W. Moore St. intersects]

NC (Age) 3. 212 S. Salem St. [Apex Family Medicine]. ca. 1970. Modern one-story brick and stone veneer commercial building with plate glass front.

C 4. 210 S. Salem St. [Dixon W. Maynard House] ca. 1900. Large Colonial Revival style 2-story double-pile house with a high hip roof, numerous gabled dormers, tall 1/1 sash windows, a classical entrance, and a wraparound porch with clustered classical posts. Emma Allen is said to have been the original owner and operator of a boarding house here; Dixon W. Maynard bought the house from her in 1918.

C 5. 206 S. Salem St. [Percy J. Olive House] ca. 1900. Queen Anne style 1-story house with a front-gable wing with elaborate ornament, including fishscale shingles, above a bay window and an ornate sawnwork porch with a spindle frieze. A tower at the south end has been removed.

C a. Garage. ca. 1930. One-story front-gable garage.

NC (Age) 6. CCB Bank. 202 S. Salem St. ca. 1960. One-story brick commercial building with drive-through porte-cochere on north side and paved parking lot on north side and rear.

[Holleman St. intersects]

NC (Alt.) 7. 114 S. Salem St. [Delma Farrar House] ca. 1930. Craftsman style 1-story front-gable house which has replacement 2/2 horizontal-paned sash windows, replacement wrought-iron posts supporting the front-gabled stoop, and asbestos shingles on the walls. The roof has exposed rafter tails.

NC (Alt.) a. Garage. ca. 1950. One-story front-gable concrete block building.

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Apex Historic District, Wake Co., N.C.

NC (Alt.) 8. 110 S. Salem St. [Johnson-Cash House] ca. 1910. Two-story, double pile house with a high hip roof, a front cross-gable, and exterior end brick chimneys. The house retains its original 2/2 sash windows and wraparound porch, but has a replacement front door and replacement sidelights. All exterior walls and trim, including the porch posts, are covered with vinyl siding. This now serves as the Apex Baptist Church annex. Charlie Johnson and later Fred G. Cash Sr. were early owners.

C a. Outbuilding. ca. 1910. Two-room, side-gabled storage building with batten doors and plain siding.

NC (Age) 9. Apex Baptist Church. 112 S. Salem Street. (sw jct. S. Salem & W. Chatham sts.) 1986. Large scale Colonial Revival style brick veneer building with a facade with arched entrance bays and a three-stage steeple that replaced the frame church building on this site constructed in 1912. The congregation was organized in 1873. Several stages of 2-story brick educational buildings are connected with the sanctuary and extend on the west side of the building.

NC (Age) a. Annex. ca. 1960. One-story side-gabled concrete block building with metal casement windows.

[W. Chatham St. intersects]

C 10. 101-103 N. Salem St. [Merchants and Farmers Bank and H.C. Olive Mercantile Store] 1911-1912. Neoclassical Revival style 2-story brick building containing two stores. The building was designed by Raleigh architect Frank Simpson and built by contractor J.W. Stout of Sanford. The upper facade is unified by a row of paired 1/1 sash windows with a modillion cornice. The south section, the bank, has a cutaway entrance with an unusual polygonal brick column at the entrance. The storefronts have been altered. Between the two storefronts, a pair of doors with fanlights and round-arched headers with granite keystones lead to the upstairs offices. The south elevation has pairs of 1/1 sash windows within segmental-arched openings. The north store was originally the H.C. Olive Mercantile Store, and became a movie theatre in the 1920s. At the rear is a small brick store addition.

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Apex Historic District, Wake Co., N.C.

C 11. 105 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick store with a corbelled brick parapet and a replacement storefront. The rear elevation has segmentally-arched windows.

C 12. 107-109 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick building containing two stores. The pilastered upper facade has a corbelled brick parapet. The storefronts appear to be early.

C 13. 111-113A N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick building with a plain brick parapet and two stores, both with replacement storefronts. The brick parapet above the south store is plain; the north store has a mousetooth brick parapet. No. 111 housed a printing shop in 1928 and still functions as a printing company, the Harris Printing Company.

NC (Alt.) 14. 113 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick building with a replacement storefront and upper facade concealed in metal sheathing. At the rear is a concrete block addition. In 1928 this housed a cleaning and pressing operation, and it now contains the Apex Cleaning Company.

C 15. 115 N. Salem St. [H.C. Benton Grocery Store] ca. 1912. One-story brick building with a decorative brick parapet and a molded metal cornice with corner corbels over the altered storefront.

C 16. 117 N. Salem St. ca. 1942. One-story brick building with unusually intact facade. The upper facade has a shallow pedimented parapet with decorative brickwork and the original storefront retains a double wooden door and metal molded cornice. This was built in the early 1940s as the Post Office by F.G. Cash. This was earlier the site of Buck Branch's blacksmith shop.

C 17. 119 N. Salem St. [H.D. Holland Drug Store] ca. 1912. Two-story brick building with 2/2 segmentally-arched sash windows, a mousetooth brick parapet, and a metal storefront cornice with corner corbels. The storefront is replacement. The 1928 Sanborn Map shows this building housing the drugstore.

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NC (Alt.) 18. 121-123 N. Salem St. [Mac Upchurch Furniture Store] ca. 1912. Two-story brick building containing two stores whose upper facade has been covered with plywood and whose storefronts have been infilled with vinyl siding. A few segmentally-arched openings survive on the rear elevation. This is shown as containing one store on the 1928 Sanborn Map.

C 19. 125-127 N. Salem St. [Bennett & Son Building; Sears General Store] ca. 1912. Two-story, 4-bay brick building containing two stores. The facade has pressed brick veneer, 1/1 segmentally-arched window sash and a corbeled brick cornice. Both storefronts retain original plate glass windows with wood-paneled aprons, double wooden doors, and metal cornices with corner corbels. The rear elevation contains segmentally-arched windows at both levels. Number 125 was the S.T. Bennett, Sr. & Son Building; number 127 was R.C. Sears General Store.

[Saunders St. intersects]

NC (Alt.) 20. 219 N. Salem St. 1909. [Apex Mule and Supply Store] Large 2-story three-bay wide brick building. The two storefronts have been infilled with weatherboard and bay windows to create a Colonial Revival appearance. The upper facade retains its original paneled bays, with two 1/1 segmentally-arched windows and molded metal cornice. All windows on the south side elevation have been infilled with brick, and there is a large 1-story pre-1928 brick addition at the rear. This was apparently built in 1909 as the Apex Mule and Supply Store, and became the second largest business in Apex by 1911. Later the building was used as the local Chevrolet dealership.

C 21. 221-223 N. Salem St. [W.A. Hinton & Son Hardware] ca. 1912. This 2-story brick building containing two stores is one of the most stylish and intact commercial buildings in Apex. The upper facade of each store has a large round-arched window with a drip molding, containing a pair of 1/1 sash with fanlight. Smaller 1/1 sash windows flank these. All windows have rusticated granite trim. Each upper facade has pilastered treatment with a corbeled brick parapet and molded metal cornice. The original storefronts have plate glass windows with transoms, paneled aprons, and double wooden doors. For some years this was W. A. Hinton & Son Hardware, but its original function is unknown.

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C 22. 225 N. Salem St. [L. R. Jackson Tobacco Warehouse] ca. 1919. Large 1-story brick warehouse, approximately 9 bays wide, with a prominent stepped parapet concealing the low front-gabled roof. The 1/1 sash windows and doors are set in segmentally-arched openings. The three south bays now contain a new plate-glass storefront. The north elevation has wide segmentally-arched openings with diagonal-batten doors through which the tobacco was loaded and unloaded. This is the only one of three early 20th century tobacco warehouses surviving in Apex. It did not operate as a tobacco warehouse long; the 1928 Sanborn Map indicates that the entire building contained hardware storage.

C 23. 235-237 N. Salem St. [Apex Town Hall] [NR 1985]. 1911-1912. This pivotal landmark was constructed as a combination market and government building at the peak of the early 20th-century railroad and tobacco boom in Apex. The 2-story red brick building is Neoclassical Revival in style, with full-height pilasters supporting a heavy modillion cornice and paneled brick parapet with center oculus. The first story contains three round-arched doors and the upper facade and north elevation have double segmental-arched windows. All openings have been infilled with glass bricks. The interior originally housed a vegetable and meat market and a small jail and fire house on the first floor and the mayor's office and a 300-seat theatre on the second level. The interior has been remodelled several times and now houses the Apex Parks and Recreation Department.

[Templeton St. intersects]

C 24. 215 Templeton St. [G.W. Atkinson House] ca. 1870. Frame I-house, three bays wide, with finest sawnwork porch in Apex. The intact house has plain siding, 6/6 sash windows, interior rear chimneys, and an original four-panel front door with transom and sidelights. The shed porch has delicate paired posts with sawnwork spandrels with star and floral designs that form an elliptical arch between each porch bay. Most of the sawnwork balusters in the railing are replacements. The house is said to have been built for G. W. Atkinson, early Apex developer and businessman. It is the only residence in this area, located at the end of a dirt lane behind the commercial buildings. It originally sat closer to Salem

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Apex Historic District, Wake Co., N.C.

Street, and was moved back to this site about 1911 (from Apex Walking Tour typescript, Feb. 27, 1972). Only the front half of the .71 acre lot, extending approximately 200 feet from the front boundary, is included in the district, as it is likely that the rear section will be developed.

NC (Age)a. House. 1950. Small gable-front frame house built in 1950 by F.G. Cash, Sr. as a home for his brother, Warren B. "Watt" Cash. It is now a rental dwelling on the Atkinson House property.

NC (Age) 25. 305 N. Salem St. [Powell Brothers Ford Dealership] Late 1940s. One-story concrete-block building with brick veneer and large plate-glass windows. The garage section has a stepped parapet at the front and rear, and the sales room projects out from it in a box shape. A large ca. 1960 addition projects on the south side. The building is non-contributing because it is less than fifty years old and because of such character-altering changes as a large south side ca. 1960 addition and the boarding-up of several showroom windows. The Ford dealership was operated by J. D. Powell. The building is on the site of two earlier buildings, an auto repair building and the Carolina Hotel.

C 26. 307-309 N. Salem St. [Pate House] ca. 1895, enlarged ca. 1907. Substantial 1-story frame ornate Victorian house, 6 bays wide, with two front doors and a front cross-gable at the south end. The house has plain weatherboard, 4/4 sash windows, interior brick chimneys, and an original front porch with turned posts, a spindlework frieze and turned balusters. The original core is the north half, built for the Rev. T. J. D. Pate, Free Will Baptist minister and farmer, when he was in his old age. The south half and the porch were added by his son a few years later.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. 1-story building with a shed roof.

C 27. 311 N. Salem St. [Ralph & Ruby Poe House] 1937. One and 1/2 story brick Tudor cottage built for the Poes by Raleigh contractor Willie Chappell. The house has such Tudor features as an arched stone entrance, front-placed chimney with decorative brickwork, and a corner recessed porch.

C a. Garage. ca. 1937. Front-gable 1-story garage.

C 28. 317 N. Salem St. [Hunter-Schaub House] ca. 1893. Substantial 2-story house with a front-gable wing with lunette window, German siding, 4/4 sash

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windows, interior brick chimneys, and a wraparound porch with Doric columns. The picket fence with its pickets of various lengths forming a wavy top is said to be as old as the house. The house was built for prominent Apex citizen A. B. Hunter.

- C a. Smokehouse. ca. 1893. Front-gabled building of traditional form.
- C b. Wood shed. Early 20th century. Shed-roofed building.
- C.c. Pumphouse. ca. 1920. Small brick building built as a pump house..
- C d. Garage. 1920s. Hip-roofed building with plain siding.
- NC (Age) e. Chicken House. ca. 1950. Concrete block building.

C 29. 323 N. Salem St. [Tula Upchurch Holland House] early 20th century. Classical Revival style 1 1/2 story side-gable house with large front-gable wing and a wraparound porch with square posts. The Palladian motif of arched windows with flanking vents in each of the three gables is perhaps the most striking feature. The house has plain siding, 1/1 sash windows, and a bay window on the north side. The house is said to have been originally owned by Tula Upchurch Holland and her husband, a druggist. The picket fence enclosing the back yard appears to be old.

C a. Greenhouse. Early 20th century. Small brick greenhouse similar to others of the period in Apex.

C b. Garage. ca. 1920. One-story garage with hipped roof and original narrow siding.

[Thompson St. intersects]

C 30. 401 N. Salem St. [John Beasley House] ca. 1910. Queen Anne style pyramidal cottage with a front gable, hipped front and side dormers, 2/2 sash windows, plain siding, an entrance with transom and sidelights, and a hipped front porch with turned posts and brackets. Though associated with the John Beasley family, the house served as the Apex Baptist Church parsonage for many years.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. One-story front-gable building with German siding.

C 31. 405 N. Salem St. ca. 1910. Queen Anne style 1-story house with two front cross-gables with cutaway bay windows and sawtooth wood shakes and star-shaped ventilators in the gables. The house has 2/2 sash windows and an original

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front porch with turned and bracketed posts and turned railings. The house has vinyl siding.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gable garage with plain siding.

C b. Shed. 1930s. 1-story, side-gable building with plain siding.

C 32. 409 N. Salem St. [R.C. Sears House] ca. 1910. Queen Anne style 1-story house with two front gables, one above a cutaway bay window, with diamond-shaped ventilators, 2/2 sash windows, interior chimneys, plain siding, and an original porch with turned and bracketed posts. The R.C. Sears family still occupies the house.

Salem Street, east side

C 33. 207 S. Salem St. [A.G. Bell House] ca. 1910. One-story Triple-A style house with diamond-shaped ventilators in the front and side gables, 1/1 and 4/4 sash windows, wide gabled eave returns, plain siding, and interior chimneys. The original front porch was replaced by a gabled stoop with wrought-iron posts. The front picket fence is not historic.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gable building with plain siding.

NC (Age) 34. 203 S. Salem St. 1955. Small brick ranch house built for Elizabeth Rogers Covington.

C 35. 201 S. Salem St. [Olive-Rogers House] ca. 1910. One-story Triple-A style house with diamond-shaped ventilators in the front and side gables, wide gabled eave returns, tall 2/2 sash windows and plain siding. The front porch has replacement bungalow posts. George T. Rogers, the present owner, purchased this house from Mrs. Sebastian Olive in 1925.

C a. Garage. 1925. Hipped-roof garage with plain siding.

C b. Shed. ca. 1925. Shed-roofed storage building with German siding.

C c. Shed. ca. 1930. Shed-roofed storage building with German siding.

C 36. 115 S. Salem St. [Cofield-Herndon House] ca. 1925. Craftsman style one-story house with side-gable roof and large front cross-gable, Craftsman style sash windows and front door with Craftsman sidelights, plain siding, and a wraparound

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porch with bungalow style posts. J.M. Herndon Sr. purchased this house from the Cofields.

C a. Barn. pre-1928. Two-story front-gabled horse barn covered with German siding.

NC (Alt.) 37. 111 S. Salem St. [Branch-Cash House] early 20th century, overbuilt ca. 1950. Two-story double pile Colonial Revival style house with aluminum siding, 1/1 sash windows, a pedimented entrance stoop and a hipped roof. This was originally a 1-story house that was raised to two stories and remodelled about 1950. James A. Cash Jr. purchased the house from Buck Branch.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. One-story front-gable building with side sheds.

C 38. 107 S. Salem St. [Olive-Seymour House] 1917. Large bungalow with a side-gable roof, interior chimneys, and a front hipped dormer with five windows. The gable ends are covered with wood shakes. The house has 1/1 sash windows and an engaged wraparound porch with tapering Doric posts and a solid board railing. The first story has been covered with aluminum siding. The house was designed by Raleigh architect Frank Simpson for Lindsay Olive. A.T. Seymour Jr. later owned it.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gable building with plain siding.

C b. Shed. pre-1928. Front-gable building with plain siding.

NC (Alt.) 39. 103 S. Salem St. [Olive-Martin House] ca. 1875. Frame I-house, five bays wide, with rear ell and numerous later additions. Some original exterior features, such as interior end brick chimneys, 4/4 sash windows and gable returns are intact, but the facade was altered with a Mount Vernon style porch and Colonial Revival door surround. The large magnolia trees in front are said to have been planted soon after the house was built. This was the home of H.C. Olive, first mayor of Apex; later the home of Dr. C. C. Jones and his wife, Lila, who gave the town pool, park and community building to Apex.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gable building with side sheds and German siding.

[E. Chatham Street intersects]

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C 40.100-102 N. Salem St. [A.V. Baucom Pharmacy] 1912. Pivotal corner 2-story brick building containing 2 stores, each 3 bays wide. Although both storefronts are altered, the upper facade and south elevation are basically intact, with large 1/1 sash windows with rusticated granite trim and a metal modillion cornice at the top. The south elevation has segmentally-arched 1/1 sash windows and iron tie rods visible. This is one of the earliest modern brick buildings constructed after the 1911 fire, and was built to replace the earlier A.V. Baucom Pharmacy. In 1928 the corner store was still a drugstore.

C a. Store attached to rear. ca. 1925. 1-story brick store, fronting on E. Chatham St., which retains a metal cornice and corbeled brick parapet but has a replacement storefront. This was labelled "Post Office" on the 1928 Sanborn map.

C b. Store attached to rear. ca. 1925. 1-story brick store rear, fronting on E. Chatham St., which retains a metal cornice and corbeled brick parapet but have a replacement storefront.

NC (Alt.) 41.104 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick building, 6 bays wide, which retains its corbeled brick veneer parapet but has a replacement storefront with black glass panels that have been partially removed. In 1928 this was an auto sales and repair store.

C 42 106 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick building with intact brick veneer facade with corbeled brick parapet and replacement storefront.

C 43. 108-110 N. Salem St. [C.P. Sellars Building] ca. 1910. Large 2-story brick building, 7 bays wide. The upper facade retains its brick veneer and 1/1 sash windows with rusticated granite trim. The two storefronts are ca. 1960 replacements. The rear elevation has segmentally-arched 6/6 sash windows.

C 44. 112 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. Two-story brick building that continues the same form and details as 108-110 N. Salem St. The storefront appears to be original, except that the door has been replaced.

C 45. 114 N. Salem St. [Andrew B. Martin Building] ca. 1912. Two-story brick store with early storefront, intact upper facade with 1/1 upper sash windows and a

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corbeled parapet. The brick of the facade have been covered with unsympathetic thick paint.

C 46. 116-118 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. One-story brick store with original storefront with double wooden door and a corbeled brick cornice. The south bay was added in 1950.

C 47. 120 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. Two-story brick building, 4 bays wide, with original storefront consisting of one large segmentally-arched 2/2 sash window on each side of the double wooden door with a 2-pane transom. The south bay contains an original door to the second floor. The upper facade has windows that are identical but smaller than those of the storefront. This was originally A.B. Hunter & Co. General Merchandise, and later Poe Brothers General Merchandise.

C 48. 122-124 N. Salem St. ca. 1912. Two-story brick building containing two stores. Both have replacement storefronts, but the upper facade is intact and contains brick veneer with pilastered treatment, mousetooth cornice, a plain parapet and segmentally-arched 2/2 sash windows.

C 49. 126 N. Salem St. [Watkins & Seymour Building] 1912. Pivotal corner building that is the largest in the block, extending through the block to the rear alley. The 2-story brick Classical Revival style building has an original storefront, brick veneer facade with 1/1 sash windows with rusticated trim, a corbeled brick cornice and a paneled parapet. The common-bond brick walls and segmentally-arched 1/1 sash windows are intact on the north and rear elevations. The interior retains its coffered tin ceiling. This is one of the earliest modern brick buildings constructed after the 1911 fire, and was built for the Watkins & Seymour Hardware Company. The 1928 Sanborn Map indicates that paints and oils were sold here.

NC (Age) 50. Apex Volunteer Fire Department. ca. 1970. Utilitarian 2-story brick building, 7 bays wide, with a flat roof.

C 51. Apex Municipal Water Tank. 1925. (structure) Located at the rear of 112-116 N. Salem St., beside the rr tracks. Tall metal water tower with truss-type posts

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supporting a cylindrical tank. The town acquired this small parcel of land in 1925 for the construction of this tank.

C 52. [Apex Union Depot] 1914. NR 1988. This is the most significant historic landmark in Apex, because it embodies Apex's reason for establishment in 1873 as a stop on the Chatham Railroad. The eclectic style depot is a one-story brick building with a bellcast hip roof, a broad overhang with heavy chamfered brackets, and three interior chimneys. The walls are dark red brick veneer and trim is of brown sandstone. All openings have segmentally-arched heads and nearly all sash and doors are original. The interior is equally intact, with tongue-and-groove wainscots, molded trim and three Neoclassical style mantels. The original floor plan with its racially segregated waiting rooms and restrooms is still in place. The depot was designed by the Seaboard Railway home office in Norfolk, Virginia to replace the earlier station destroyed by fire. It served both the Seaboard Air Line Railway and the Durham and Southern Railroad. In 1970 it was converted to the public library.

C 53. Seaboard Air Line Railroad Tracks. 1869, with later upgrading. (structure) 2,200 feet of metal railroad tracks laid on wooden ties, lined with a grassy bank along most of this length. The tracks occupy a 200-foot wide right-of-way that forms the east boundary of the district from just north of Moore Street to a point opposite the junction of Thompson Street with Salem Street. These railroad tracks, now owned by CSX Transportation, are a significant and contributing feature of the Apex Historic District because they were the reason for the town's establishment and prosperity until the 1950s.

NC (Age) 54. Apex Auto Service. 300 N. Salem St. 1950s. International style brick porcelainized aluminum-clad service station with a flat roof. The building was built directly across the street and moved here in the 1960s.

C 55. Former Seaboard Air Line Railroad Freight Station. 100 Center St. on rr tracks. ca. 1925. Long 1-story freight station with a shallow gable roof with overhanging eaves that extend out as a canopy on the long sides and extend to cover a large loading dock on the north end. The building has board-and-batten

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sliding double doors in the loading bays, 1/1 sash windows in the office area, and German siding. It is now the CSX Transportation Station.

NC (Age) a. CSX Storage Shed. ca. 1960. Located in fork of tracks north of freight station. One-story side-gabled building with metal siding.

NC (Age) 56. 308 N. Salem St. [Apex Car & Truck Sales] ca. 1950. Small front-gable brick veneer building built as an automobile sales office.

C 57. 316 N. Salem St. [White-Duncan House] ca. 1900. Large 2-story frame, double pile house of Neoclassical Revival style, with a hip roof, wide eaves with modillions, a pedimented front cross-gable, a classical entrance and a large front porch with clusters of Ionic columns and a turned balustrade. The house has large 1/1 sash windows and a bay window on the west side. Unlike the other houses on N. Salem St., this house faces downtown Apex to the south rather than facing the street. It was built for Mrs. White, one of the daughters of Rev. Patrick Dowd, owner of nearby Shepherd's Vineyard plantation. She is said to have faced the house to the south in order to watch the activity in downtown Apex from her porch.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gable garage with plain siding.

C b. Shed. 1930s. Shed-roofed storage building.

C c. Shed. pre-1928. Side-gabled storage building with German siding.

C d. Shed. pre-1928. Side-gabled storage building containing two rooms, now covered with metal sheathing.

N. Elm St.

C 58. 406 N. Elm St. [Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House] ca. 1870. The traditional I-House form, with brick chimneys located on the rear, links the house to other Wake County farmhouses of the period. The house apparently retains its original floor plan and finish, with a center hall plan, simple Greek Revival style mantels, four-panel doors, and a steep stair with a heavy turned newel and balusters. The wraparound front porch with center cross-gabled balcony, bracketed posts and a spindle frieze may have been added around the turn-of-the-century. The one-story south end wing was apparently added at this time. The rear ell was demolished in the 1950s. Although this tract contains 7 acres, only the

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house, outbuildings, and the yard area are included in the district boundary. The farm fields and pond at the north side and rear are excluded because it is likely that this portion of the tract will be subdivided and developed.

The land was originally part of Shepherd's Vineyard, the large plantation of Rev. Patrick Dowd. The house is said to have been built about 1870 for Dr. A. F. Thompson, who married one of Dowd's daughters, but acquired soon after by W. F. Utley, a Civil War veteran and successful Apex merchant. A. J. Fletcher, noted Raleigh businessman, married the Utley daughter and owned it at one time. The Tunstall family has owned it since the 1940s.

C a. Smokehouse. early 20th century. Traditional front-gable building with board-and-batten siding.

C b. Barn. early 20th century. Traditional small, front-gable hay barn with board-and-batten siding.

C c. Barn. early 20th century. Traditional small side-gable barn with board-and-batten siding. These two barns have been linked by a metal infill addition.

NC (Age) d. Kennel. ca. 1950. One-story concrete block building.

Center Street, north side

C 59. 205 Center St. [Betts-Poe-Beasley House] ca. 1889. Triple-A I-house that faces the railroad tracks, although it has a Center St. address. The house has exterior end brick chimneys, 6/6 sash windows, but has lost its original front porch and has aluminum siding. The interior features late Greek Revival-style mantels, and the rear wing has hand-planed wall boards and Greek Revival-style doors that indicate that this section may predate the main block. In the early 20th century Henrietta Poe ran a boarding house here, sometimes feeding up to 100 people at a meal.

C a. Garage. 1930s. Front-gable building with German siding.

C b. Shed. 1930s. Front-gable building with plain siding.

C c. Playhouse. 1930s. Small gabled building with 4-pane windows and plain siding.

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C 60. 207 Center St. [Nat Beasley House] ca. 1930. Craftsman-style 1-story front-gable house with German siding, Craftsman sash windows and an off-center front-gable porch with bungalow posts. This was built for Nat and Mary Birch Beasley on the rear portion of the Betts-Beasley House property, and does not appear on the 1928 Sanborn Map.

C a. Barn. early 20th century. One-story front-gabled building with side sheds and board-and-batten siding. This is on the 1928 Sanborn map in its present location.

C 61. 209 Center St. ca. 1925. Hipped roof bungalow with front and side dormers, overhanging eaves with curved brackets, 9/1 sash windows, plain siding, and a front porch with replacement wrought-iron posts.

C 62. 213 Center St. [Tom Womble House] ca. 1915. Large stylish bungalow with a side-gable roof with bracketed eaves, interior brick chimneys, Craftsman sash windows, an original front door with sidelights and a front porch with bungalow posts and a brick balustrade.

C a. Garage. ca. 1925. This 1 1/2 story front-gable building with German siding appears on the 1928 Sanborn map.

[N. Hughes St. intersects]

C 63. 301 Center St. ca. 1915. Large pyramidal cottage with a hipped front dormer, gabled side dormers, 9/2 sash windows, interior chimneys and plain siding. The wraparound porch has bungalow posts and a wood-shingled pediment over the center bay.

Center St., south side

C 64. 212 Center St. [Poe House] ca. 1915. Two-story foursquare plan house with a side-gabled roof, front-gabled dormer, a 2-story bay window on the east side, and a wraparound porch with bungalow posts. The house has 1/1 sash windows, plain siding, and interior chimneys.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Hipped roof building with German siding.

C b. Shed. pre-1928. Front-gabled building with German siding.

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[N. Hughes St. intersects]

C 65. 300 Center St. [Wayne Thomas House] ca. 1900. Two-story foursquare dwelling with side wing and rear ell has a pyramidal roof, interior brick chimney, plain siding and 2/2 sash windows. The most notable feature is the wraparound porch with a gabled balcony above the entrance. The balcony posts feature unusual sunburst spandrels joined by a delicate sawnwork heart pendant.

C 66. 306 Center St. ca. 1925. One-story bungalow with hipped roof with curved eave brackets, Craftsman sash, and plain siding. The engaged front porch has bungalowoid posts and a replacement railing.

C a. Shed. pre-1928. Gabled storage building with metal sheathing.

W. Chatham St., north side

C 67. 104 W. Chatham St. [Dr. Charles Wilkerson House] ca. 1915. Large 1-story side-gabled house with large front cross-gable, wide eave returns, interior brick chimneys, and 6/6 sash windows. The replacement front door has a 2-pane transom, and the front porch has replacement bungalowoid posts. The house is covered with vinyl siding.

NC (Age) a. Garage. ca. 1989. Side-gabled frame building.

NC (Alt.) 68. 106 W. Chatham St. [Blades-Johnson House] ca. 1937. Two-story front-gable Craftsman style house with bracketed eaves, Craftsman style sash windows, interior brick chimney, a front stoop and a side porch. The replacement wrought-iron posts of the stoop and porch, the side carport addition, a 1-story rear addition, and the vinyl siding render this a noncontributing building. It was built for the Blades family.

C 69. 108 W. Chatham St. ca. 1925. Craftsman style 1-story duplex with a front-gable with wooden shakes engaging a front porch with bungalowoid posts, Craftsman sash windows and German siding.

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C 70. 200 W. Chatham St. [R.B. Martin Sr. House] ca. 1920. One-story late Victorian style house with a pyramidal hipped roof with gabled ends, an interior chimney, 4/4 sash windows, plain siding, and a hipped front porch with classical posts that are probably replacements. The 1928 Sanborn Map indicates that this was the Telephone Exchange.

NC (Age) 71. 202 W. Chatham St. ca. 1955. Brick ranch with a side-gable roof and 6/6 sash windows.

NC (Alt.) 72. 206 W. Chatham St. 1920s. Small Craftsman 1-story, side-gable house with a center chimney, two gabled dormers, 6/6 sash windows and a bracketed entrance hood. The house has a large west side addition, aluminum siding, and a front metal-roofed porch with wrought-iron posts that have altered its original character and made it noncontributing.

NC (Age) 73. 210 W. Chatham St. ca. 1950. Cape Cod-style 1-story house with a side-gable roof, front bay window, 8/8 sash windows, and vinyl siding.

NC (Age) a. Garage. ca. 1950. Front-gable building with German siding.

C 74. 218 W. Chatham St. [Atkins-Huff House] ca. 1915. Triple-A style I-house with exterior rear chimneys, plain siding, 2/2 sash windows, and a hipped front porch with square Doric posts. The rear ell has a bathroom addition and a deck. The glazed and paneled front door is original and the front cross-gable is plain.

C a. Smokehouse. ca. 1915. Traditional front-gabled building with plain siding.

C a. Playhouse. ca. 1930. Small gabled building with 2/2 sash windows and plain siding.

W. Chatham St., south side

C 75. 201 W. Chatham St. [T.W. Atkins House] ca. 1935. Craftsman style 1-story brick veneer house with a side-gable roof, a front-gabled porch with bungalow posts and a brick porch railing, and Craftsman style sash windows. This does not appear on the 1928 Sanborn Map. This served in later years as the Apex Baptist Church parsonage.

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C 76. 205 W. Chatham St. [Henry Dewitt House] ca. 1915. One-story house with pyramidal roof and front-gabled wing with a diamond-shaped ventilator and wide eave returns. The house has original 2/2 sash windows, plain siding, interior chimney, and front porch with porte-cochere. The porch has replacement bungaloid posts.

C 77. 207 W. Chatham St. [W.W. Young House] ca. 1925. Craftsman style 1-story side-gabled house with large front shed dormer and engaged front porch with a porte-cochere. The house has bracketed eaves, Craftsman style sash windows, and original bungaloid porch posts with stone piers. The walls are covered with aluminum siding.

NC (Age) a. Detached rental house. 1960s. 2-story brick veneer apartment at rear.

C 78. 209 W. Chatham St. [McKee House] ca. 1920. Neoclassical style pyramidal cottage with hipped front dormer and an engaged porch with tapering Classical posts that wraps around the front and both sides. The house has the original glazed door with sidelights, unusual sash windows with a diamond muntin pattern in the upper sash, and plain siding.

C a. Shed. pre-1928. Front-gable building with plain siding.

C 79. 211 W. Chatham St. [Ernest Stephens Sr. House] ca. 1925. Front-gabled Craftsman style house with a gabled porch with bungaloid posts and Craftsman style sash windows. The walls have aluminum siding.

NC (Age) a. Garage Apartment. ca. 1950. Two-story front-gabled garage with concrete block first story and frame upper story with rear addition.

C 80. 215 W. Chatham St. [Toka Banks House] 1915. One-story Triple-A style house with a diamond-shaped ventilator in the front gable, plain siding, 2/2 sash windows and an original porch with turned and bracketed posts and a plain railing. This was built for the Martin family, who operated an Apex grocery store, and was later owned by Toka Banks.

NC (Age) a. Shed. ca. 1950. Gabled concrete block building.

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C 81. 219 W. Chatham St. [Burtis Benton House] ca. 1920. One-story Triple-A-style house with diamond-shaped ventilators in the gables, 6/6 and 2/2 window sash, and a porch with bungalow posts that may be replacements of the original posts. The walls are covered with aluminum siding.

C a. Garage. pre-1928. Front-gabled frame building.

NC (Age) 82. 106 Holleman St. [Stam & Fordham Law Office] ca. 1965. Small and unobtrusive 1-story brick, flat-roofed commercial building with plate glass entrance door and windows.

C a. Shed. ca. 1930. Small front-gable frame storage building with German siding. This is probably a remnant of a house that formerly stood on this lot.

C 83. House. ca. 1915. One-story, side gable house with 6/6 sash windows, molded eave returns, asbestos wall shingles and a hipped front porch with replacement posts and balusters.

NC (Age) a. Garage. ca. 1950. Front-gable, two-bay concrete block building.

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Statement of Significance

Summary:

The Apex Historic District, containing sixty well-preserved commercial buildings, railroad depots and houses dating from the 1870s to the early 1940s, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as one of the most intact turn-of-the-century railroad towns in Wake County. The town began as a railroad depot on the Chatham Railroad which came through in 1869; the line later became the Seaboard Air Line. In 1906 the Durham and Southern Railroad connected Apex with the city of Durham, placing Apex at the junction of two important rail lines. Like several other post-Civil War railroad towns surrounding the capital city of Raleigh, Apex boomed in the early twentieth century when it became a tobacco and cotton market, but its loss of status as an agricultural market in the 1920s caused a stagnation that lasted until the 1960s when the town experienced an economic revitalization from newcomers who took jobs at nearby Research Triangle Park and were attracted to the small-town atmosphere of Apex. The densely-developed district flanks both sides of Salem Street, the main street, and extends out along several intersecting streets. The district contains two individually listed National Register properties, the former Apex Town Hall [1985], now the Apex Parks and Recreation Department, and the former Apex Union Depot [1988], now the Apex Library. The district is also eligible for the Register for its significant collection of brick stores, most dating from the second decade of the century, and its frame houses, including late nineteenth century I-houses and early twentieth century Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival styles. Among the pivotal brick stores are the Merchants and Farmers Bank/Olive Mercantile Store at 101-103 N. Salem Street, and Hinton Hardware Store, 221-223 N. Salem Street, and the Watkins & Seymour Building, 126 N. Salem Street. Notable late nineteenth century I-houses are the Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House, 406 N. Elm Street, and the G.W. Atkinson House, 215 Templeton Street. The Olive House, 206 S. Salem Street and the Beasley House, 401 N. Salem Street, are exceptional early twentieth century Queen Anne-style houses. The Maynard House on S. Salem Street and the Hunter-Schaub House, Tula Upchurch Holland House, and the White-Duncan House on N. Salem

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Street are impressive examples of the Colonial and Neoclassical Revival styles of the turn-of-the-century period. One of the finest bungalows is the 1917 Olive-Seymour House at 107 S. Salem Street, designed by Raleigh architect Frank Simpson. The town of Apex is documented in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, NC (1770-1941)," the multiple property documentation form.

Historical Background:

Apex is one of the earliest new towns that developed in Wake County around the state capital of Raleigh as railroads traversed the county after the Civil War. The community began as a railroad depot built on the Chatham Railroad, which came through in 1869 on its way from Raleigh to Haywood in Chatham County. Apex is said to have been the highest point on the railroad, hence its name. In its early years the Apex stop functioned primarily for the transportation of lumber, but the area was becoming a residential community as well. In 1871 when the post office was established in the Mann grocery store across from the depot, some one hundred families lived within three miles of the post office. The Chatham railroad became the Raleigh and Augusta in 1871, and the line extended through to Sanford and Fayetteville. This line became the Seaboard Air Line by the early twentieth century.¹

The town was informally developed by a number of private landowners. In the 1860s Sallie and John McC. Ellington and Nancy and Hilliard Bell owned much of the square mile of land that was incorporated as the town. They began subdividing their land and selling smaller parcels as early as 1867. In addition to the Chatham Rail Company, other early buyers of their lots and other property in the area included W. R. Eatmon, Henry C. Olive, W. H. Harward, Q. I. Hudson, Rev. A. N. Betts, Guilford Lewis, G. W. Atkinson, W.F. Utley, Jesse R. Penny, W. S. Mann, Dr. A. J. Thompson, J.R. Upchurch, and P. C. Ferrell. Other land owners in the immediate area were Gray Jones, Rev. Patrick W. Dowd and a Mr. Horton.²

In 1873, in recognition of its development as a trading center, the town of Apex was chartered. The municipal limits were set at a half mile in each direction from the center of the warehouse of the Chatham Railroad, located west of the track.

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The first mayor was H.C. Olive, and the first commissioners were A. N. Betts, W. O. Ellington, Q. I. Hudson, and John McC. Ellington. W. F. Utley was named town marshal. There was apparently no original town plat, but streets of 45 feet and 50 feet width were planned and a few were partially surveyed in the early years. Some of the streets were obviously given directional names, including Chatham Street, leading west toward Chatham County; Salem Street, pointing north toward Salem Baptist Church and the Salem community; and Center Street, partially bisecting the original square mile and originating at the center point specified in the charter. Thompson Street was named for Dr. A. J. Thompson, whose house still stands at its east end [# 58].³

At the time of its charter, Apex had two lumber mills, several general stores, a sash, blind and door factory, a turpentine distillery, a wheel manufacturer, and Baptist, Methodist and Christian churches.⁴ In the 1880s and 1890s Apex developed slowly and steadily into a small town with schools, churches and businesses, and by 1900 the population was 349.⁵

A fire in February 1905 which destroyed a number of frame commercial buildings on Salem Street provided an incentive to build with fireproof brick buildings. The town's first brick store was built by Hunter and Olive to replace their burned-out store, and two outsiders, J.C. Angier and J.B. Mason, established Apex's first bank, the Merchants and Farmers Bank, which opened for business in August 1905.⁶

A second rail line completed in 1906 provided the next big economic boost. In 1899 the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad was built from Apex to Angier and a few years later extended to Dunn in Harnett County. The Duke family of Durham, founders of American Tobacco Company, bought this railway company and built an extension from Apex to Durham and renamed it the Durham and Southern in 1906.⁷ This placed Apex at the junction of two rail lines, the Seaboard Air Line and the Durham and Southern, which had connections with the entire Atlantic seaboard, and thirty trains came through daily.⁸

Because Apex was located in a region of rich tobacco cultivation, it was almost inevitable that its businessmen would organize a local tobacco market. In 1905

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Apex's first tobacco warehouse, the Golden Leaf Tobacco Warehouse, was built at the northwest corner of N. Salem and Hunter streets. In 1906 a second warehouse, the Planters Warehouse, was built next door. In 1919 a third warehouse, the Jackson Warehouse [#22], was built on N. Salem Street across from the depot. This is the only one still standing; the Planters Warehouse burned about 1920 and the Golden Leaf Warehouse was demolished some years after that.⁹

The tobacco market brought more businesses to town. The following is a partial list: Apex Bottling Works, 1906; Strickland and Wheelless Shoe Store, 1906; Apex Mule and Supply Company, 1908; Apex Insurance and Realty Company, 1909; Apex Mercantile Company, 1910; Johnson Undertakers, 1910; Watkins-Seymour Hardware Company, 1910; and the Apex Cotton market, 1910.¹⁰ Concurrent growth occurred in new residences. In 1906 the section of town south of the business district was farmland, with only two houses. By 1911 this section was filled with new houses.¹¹

On the early morning of June 12, 1911, the so-called "Great Fire" destroyed most of the business district. Eight commercial buildings, including the new brick Merchants and Farmers Bank, and the postmaster's house were destroyed, and a number of other buildings were damaged, including almost all of the old frame stores that were still standing after the 1905 fire.¹² This provided the impetus to recreate the Apex business district with modern brick buildings.

On September 15, 1911, *The Apex Journal* printed a special industrial edition to demonstrate that the town was rising from the ashes. The newspaper boasted that modern brick buildings were being erected or were in the planning stage for a "gents' furnishings and shoes, meat market, moving-picture show, two dry goods stores, one grocery, one hardware, one drug store, two churches, and the town hall..." The Merchants and Farmers Bank [#10] was immediately rebuilt at the corner of Salem and Chatham streets. The newspaper bragged that the two-story brick building, designed by Raleigh architect Frank Simpson and constructed by J.W. Stout of Sanford, is "said to be the handsomest bank building in Wake County outside the city of Raleigh."¹³ The new drugstore was A.V. Baucom Pharmacy [#40], the handsome brick Classical Revival style two-story building constructed in 1912 at the corner of Salem and Chatham streets opposite the new

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Mechanics and Farmers Bank. The new gents' clothing store was the H.C. Olive Mercantile Company [#10], housed in the north half of the bank building. The new hardware store was the Watkins-Seymour Hardware, a two-story pressed brick building located at 126 N. Salem Street.[#49]

By 1913 the 100 block of Salem Street, the major business block, was lined with handsome pressed brick front stores.¹⁴ Most of these were probably two-story buildings. Most of the one-story brick buildings were probably built in the 1920s when growth had slowed. All but one of the present stores in the 100 block are on the 1928 Sanborn Insurance Map, indicating that the 100 block assumed its present appearance during the 1920s.

Apex's population increased to more than 1,000 by 1920. In 1922 the town's tobacco warehouses were converted to cooperative ownership through the Tri-State Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association. A group of Tri-State men came to Apex and sold shares in warehouses to farmers, using two of the town's warehouses for the operation. Within a few years, however, the cooperative scheme fell through, and local growers were forced to take their tobacco to Fuquay Springs and Durham. Thus Apex felt the effects of a local depression even before the Great Depression of 1929. The 1920s marked the demise of the Apex tobacco market and a subsequent population decline to 863 by 1930.¹⁵

The economic collapse of Apex was reflected in the rapid decline of the town's rail service. By 1934 only four daily stops were made at the Apex depot. Despite a revival of rail service during World War II, service declined even more during the postwar years and in 1959 Seaboard discontinued all passenger service. In 1969 railroad officials donated the brick depot to the town of Apex and the station was converted into a community library.¹⁶

Since the 1960s, the small town atmosphere of Apex has appealed to people moving into the Raleigh and Research Triangle Park areas, and the town has experienced a rebirth. Its 1990 population was close to 5,000. The town planners commissioned a study of the business district in 1989 and the recommendation was made to preserve the historical character of the district by restoring the upper facades of the stores, many of which had been concealed by modern materials, to

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their original early twentieth century appearance. Since then a number of store facades have been restored. The town's next preservation effort is the listing of the downtown area on the National Register of Historic Places in order to give the district protection and make its contributing buildings eligible for the Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

Architecture Context:

The Apex Historic District contains two buildings already individually listed on the National Register, the 1912 Town Hall [#23] and the 1914 Union Depot [#52]. There are a number of other pivotal buildings in the district. The 1911 Merchants and Farmers Bank, the 1912 Seymour Hardware, and the ca. 1912 Hinton Hardware Store at 221-223 N. Salem Street are intact examples of stylish early 20th century commercial buildings. The Hunter-Schaub House at 317 N. Salem Street [#28], Maynard House at 210 S. Salem Street [#4], Olive House at 206 S. Salem Street [#5], and the White-Duncan House at 316 N. Salem Street [#57] are intact Queen Anne or Classical Revival style houses built between the 1890s and 1910s. Many of the other buildings in the district contribute strongly to the continuity of building design of the streetscape, thus creating a district instead of merely a collection of individually important buildings.

Early Apex architecture is vernacular in character. The four earliest buildings in the district are the G.W. Atkinson House on Templeton Street [#24], the Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House at 406 N. Elm Street [#58], the Olive-Martin House at 103 S. Salem Street [#39], all said to have been built in the 1870s, and the Betts-Poe-Beasley House at 205 Center Street [#59], said to have been built ca. 1889. The locations of these houses is characteristic of nineteenth century country crossroads where farmers and storekeepers built their houses as close as possible to their place of business. The Tunstall House and Beasley House sit directly on the railroad tracks, the Olive-Martin House is adjacent to Baucom Drugstore on Salem Street, and the Atkinson House is located behind the Town Hall on a dirt alley. Each house has the basic Wake County farmhouse form: a two-story frame block, one room deep, with exterior chimneys. This I-house form is a vernacular building type built by country builders throughout the county during the second half of the nineteenth century.

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By 1900 Apex's stores had become as stylish as the buildings then going up in nearby Raleigh. In fact, the directors of the Merchants & Farmers Bank hired Raleigh architect Frank Simpson to design their new Classical Revival style building after the 1911 fire, and used Sanford builder J. W. Stout as contractor. Stout is said to have done other buildings in town as well. The 1912 Town Hall is a sophisticated design accommodating the traditional arcaded ground market level within the overall Classical Revival design. After a fire destroyed the 1906 Union Depot, an expensive new brick depot was built in 1914 from a design by the staff of the Seaboard Railway home office in Norfolk, Virginia. It is the most sophisticated depot surviving in Wake County. Apex had a sense of being a special place that deserved elegant architecture, and it got it during the second decade of the new century.

By 1900 the segregation of business and residential areas considered proper for a modern municipality had taken hold, and stylish new houses were being built in neat rows on the streets surrounding the business district. The rural I-house was largely abandoned in favor of such nationally popular forms as the front gable and wing (Olive House, 206 S. Salem Street, #5), the Colonial Revival foursquare (Maynard House, 210 S. Salem Street, #4), the pyramidal cottage (Beasley House, 401 N. Salem Street, #30) and the one-story cottage with a front cross-gable, known as the "Triple A" (Banks House, 215 W. Chatham Street, #80). Some of these houses still had vernacular features, such as the unusually large cross-gable on the Wilkerson House, 104 W. Chatham Street [#67], but Apex residents forsook the vernacular I-house in favor of one or two-story double-pile houses with projecting front wings, bay windows and dormers. When Mrs. White built her house at the north end of town about 1900, [White-Duncan House, 316 N. Salem Street, #57], the model which she used for the two-story double pile dwelling was a house in Durham that she admired. The tripled classical porch posts, large-scale turned balusters of the porch railing, and heavy modillion cornice and front cross-gable of the White-Duncan House are quite urban in style.

During the 1920s Apex residents generally chose Craftsman designs for their new houses. The large bungalow at 107 S. Salem Street [#38] was designed for the Olive family by Raleigh architect Frank Simpson. A number of smaller Craftsman

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style houses were built among earlier houses on Center and West Chatham streets in the 1920s and 1930s. The downtown area was largely built out by the 1930s. One of the last houses to be built in the district before World War II is the brick and stone Tudor cottage built in 1937 by Raleigh contractor Willie Chappell for Ralph and Ruby Poe at 311 N. Salem Street [#27].

The compact diversity of the Apex Historic District, with stores, depot, Town Hall and houses in close proximity to the railroad tracks, is unique in Wake County. The late 19th century railroad towns of Garner and Varina have small depot districts listed on the National Register, but the depots are small frame buildings and the brick stores along the railroad tracks are fewer and less stylish than those in Apex. Neither town achieved the prosperity of Apex during the early 20th century. Other county railroad towns--Cary, Wendell, and Zebulon--have lost their depots and undergone post-World War II development, creating a nonhistoric layer of commercial buildings that interrupt the continuity of early twentieth century stores and houses that is one of the most significant survivals of the Apex Historic District. No other town in the county has a comparable grouping of buildings that were the essential components of a railroad town: the passenger depot, the freight depot, the Town Hall, a tobacco warehouse and a large collection of stores and houses, all dating from the early twentieth century.

Community Development Context:

Wake County was served early by rail lines, the Raleigh and Gaston being completed from Raleigh north in 1840, while the North Carolina Railroad came through from southeast to northwest in 1859. The Chatham Railroad was completed south from Raleigh to Chatham County in 1869. In the late 1800s several additional rail lines were added, including the Raleigh and Cape Fear and the Cape Fear and Northern. The Raleigh and Pamlico was built in 1907.¹⁷

The villages of Cary, Morrisville, Auburn, Garner, Apex, Wendell, Zebulon, and Varina were created when railroads crisscrossed the county between the 1840s and the early twentieth century. With the exception of Auburn and Morrisville, the rest of the communities grew into towns during the early twentieth century when they became cotton and tobacco markets.¹⁸ These towns were transformed from

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loose clusters of frame buildings into blocks of brick commercial buildings, warehouses, and residential blocks surrounding the commercial district. Garner and Varina never grew beyond a one-block business district on one side of the tracks, while Wendell and Zebulon continued to grow throughout the twentieth century and development within and around the business districts has changed the original relationships between the houses and stores. Cary became a suburb of Raleigh in the 1960s and has lost most of its historic character.

Apex has significance as one of the most intact railroad towns in Wake County, for it retains its large, handsome passenger depot, a substantial freight depot, the early twentieth century town hall, three block faces of well-preserved early twentieth century stores, and a number of blocks of early houses surrounding the business district. No other railroad town in the county exemplifies a bustling railroad town of the ca. 1920 era as well as does Apex.

¹Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1. (Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983), 648, 651.

²Murray, 652.

³Murray, 652.

⁴Murray, 651-652.

⁵Carl P. Holleman, Jr. *Pluck, Perseverance and Paint*. (Durham, N.C.: Moore Publishing Company, 1973), 6.

⁶Holleman, 10.

⁷Holleman, 7-9.

⁸*The Apex Journal*, September 15, 1911.

⁹Holleman, 14-16.

¹⁰Holleman, 16-17.

¹¹*The Apex Journal*, September 15, 1911.

¹²Holleman, 63-68; Moses N. Amis, "Historical Raleigh...with Sketches of Wake County and its Important Towns," 1913, typescript of 1963 by Anne Lydia Olive.

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¹³*The Apex Journal*, September 15, 1911. Special Industrial Edition. Typescript by Anne Lydia Olive, 1963, in Genealogy Collection, North Carolina State Archives.

¹⁴Amis, "Historical Raleigh..."

¹⁵Holleman, 17-20.

¹⁶Tom Belton and Michael T. Southern, Apex Union Depot National Register nomination, 1988, page 8.5. Copy on file at State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

¹⁷David and Allison Black, "Downtown Garner Historic District," National Register nomination, 1988. Copy on file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 8.4.

¹⁸Kelly A. Lally, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (1770-1941)," Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993. Copy on file at State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

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Oral history provided by the following Apex residents: Ann Poe Grebing, George T. Rogers, Edna Stephens Friddle, Elizabeth Rogers Covington, Margaret Benton Ferry, and others, September-November 1993.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Apex, 1928. Copy on microfilm at N. C. State Archives, Raleigh.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the district are shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn approximately at a scale of 1/3 inch = 50 feet. This map is a composite of Wake County Tax Maps 0741.06, 0742.18, 0742.19, and 0742.14, mapped in 1993.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to include the densest concentration of contributing resources in the historic core of Apex. Boundaries follow property lines with the following exceptions: Parcel 3240, containing the Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House, only the house and outbuildings and residential setting is included (approximately 400 ft. x 500 ft.); Parcel 0822, containing the G.W. Atkinson House, only the residential setting, extending approximately 200 feet in depth from the front of the lot, is included.

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Photographs

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Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: September 1993

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

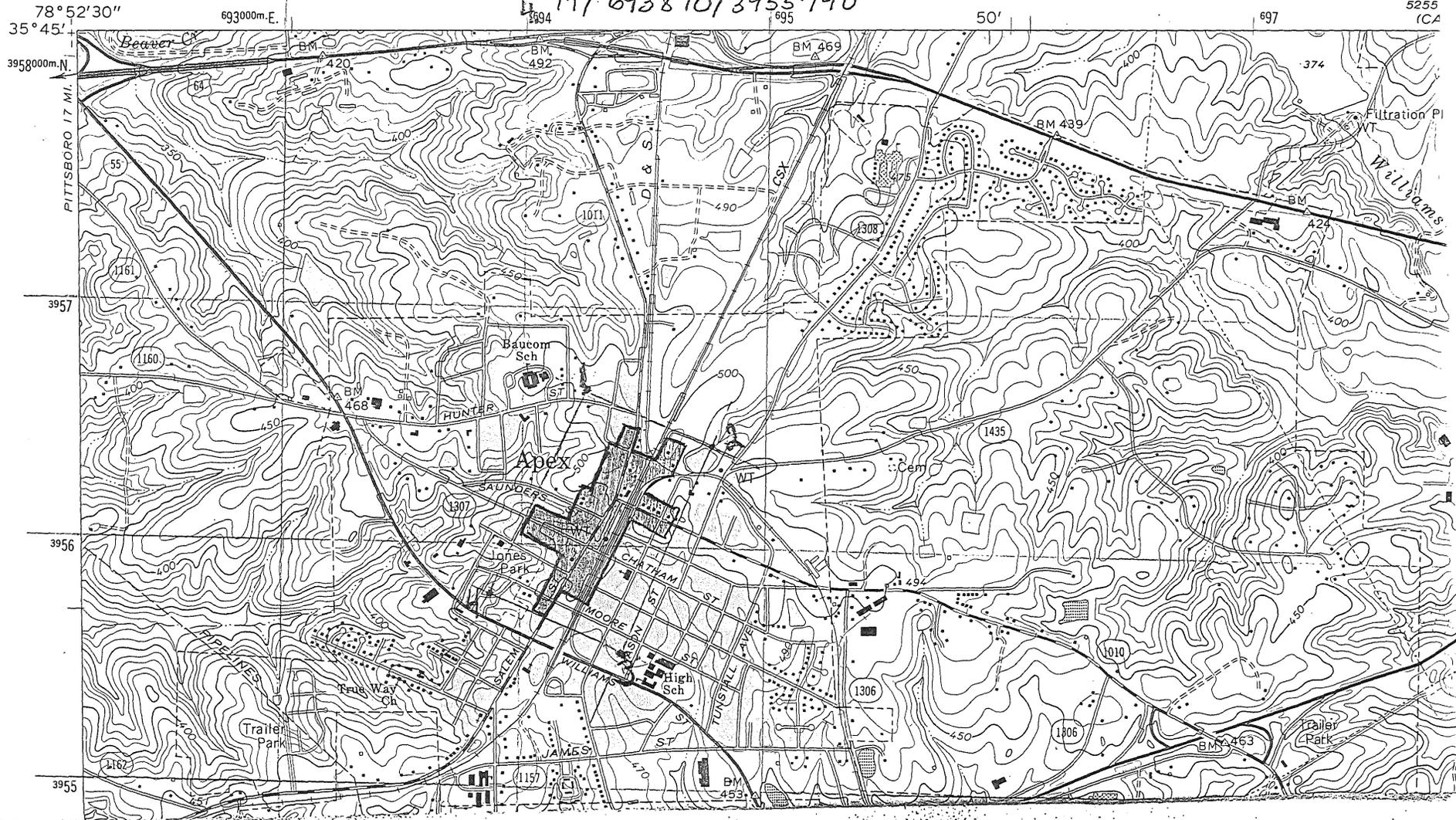
- A. View of 100 block N. Salem St., east side, from southwest
- B. View of 200 block N. Salem St., west side (former Apex Town Hall in foreground), from north
- C. Former Apex Union Depot, from northeast
- D. Former Seaboard Air Line Railroad Freight Station, 100 Center St., from northeast (former Apex Union Depot in background)
- E. 101-103 N. Salem St., west side, from east
- F. 125-127 N. Salem St., west side, from northeast
- G. 121-123 N. Salem St., west side, from northeast. [noncontributing]
- H. Apex Baptist Church, 112 S. Salem St., west side, from northeast [noncontributing]
- I. 200-100 block S. Salem St., west side, from north [#206 in foreground]
- J. 300 block S. Salem St., west side, from southeast
- K. 317 N. Salem St., west side, from south
- L. 111, 107, 103 S. Salem St., east side, from southwest [#111 is noncontributing]
- M. 301 and 213 Center St., north side, from southeast
- N. Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House, 406 N. Elm St., from southwest
- O. 401 N. Salem St., west side, from southeast.
- P. 202 W. Chatham St., north side [noncontributing]

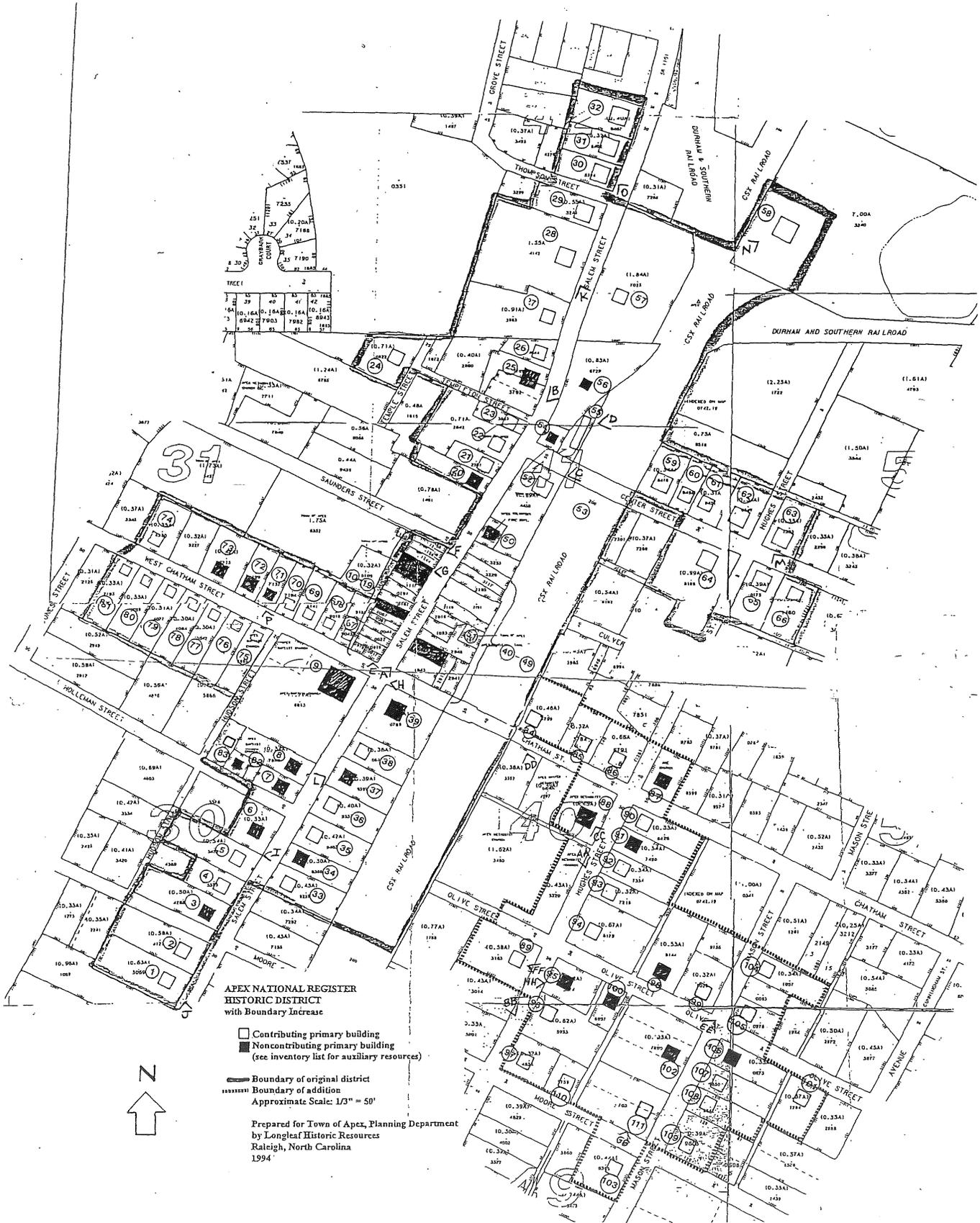
APEX HISTORIC DISTRICT
WAKE CO., NC

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1. 17/694250/3956630
2. 17/694790/3956410
3. 17/694430/3955560
4. 17/693870/3955790

5255 IV SW
(GREEN LEVEL)





APEX NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT with Boundary Increase

- Contributing primary building
- Noncontributing primary building (see inventory list for auxiliary resources)
- Boundary of original district
- Boundary of addition

Approximate Scale: 1/3" = 50'

Prepared for Town of Apex, Planning Department
by Longleaf Historic Resources
Raleigh, North Carolina
1994

