

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 any 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 **Creswell Historic District**
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **Roughly bounded by 208 E. Main Street (E) and 310 W. Main Street (W) Streets, 302-400 S. Sixth Street (S) and 219 N. Sixth Street (N)** not for publication **N/A**
city or town **Creswell** vicinity
state **North Carolina** code **NC** county **Washington** code **187** Zip **27928**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Jeffrey J. Crow *SHPO* *7/1/02*
Signature of certifying official Date
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: _____ other (explain): _____
___ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register

Signature of Keeper
Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
78	38	buildings
0	0	sites
3	2	structures
0	2	objects
81	42	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
DOMESTIC	hotel
GOVERNMENT	post office
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	bank
AGRICULTURE	warehouse
RELIGION	church

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
COMMERCE	department store
GOVERNMENT	post office
VACANT/NOT IN USE	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Gothic, Italianate, Queen Anne
Late 19th/20th century Revivals/Colonial, Tudor, Mission
Late 19th/20th century American/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: brick
roof: metal
walls: wood, brick, metal
other:

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

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)

Social History, Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance 1874-1952

Significant Dates 1874

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

See Attached

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography *See Attached*

(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
Local government
X University
Other

Name of repository: North Carolina Collection, East Carolina University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 23 acres

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

Zone : 18	Easting	Northing		Easting	Northing
1	373895	3970380	2	374160	3970340
3	374360	3970460	4	374400	3970420

___ 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: Penne Smith Sandbeck	date 4/1/2002
street & number: P.O. Box 456	telephone 757-258-1501
city or town Williamsburg state VA	zip code 23187

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

name	Att. Mr. Bill White (Mayor of Creswell)	telephone	
street & number	104 S. Sixth Street	zip code	27928
city or town	Creswell	state	NC

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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect

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Washington County, N. C.

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7. Summary Description:

Creswell's Historic District is located within the municipality of Creswell in eastern Washington County approximately three-tenths of a mile south of two-lane U. S. Highway 64. It is half a mile northwest of the Scuppernong River landing now known as Spruill's Bridge.¹ The town, whose now dry artesian springs once flowed effortlessly, nevertheless remains a wet enough place that drainage canals are necessary; the largest one in town runs parallel approximately 100 yards west of Seventh Street.

The district is small, as the original town was (and continues to be) a small place. It comprises less than eleven blocks, most of which are only blockfaces and not entire blocks. Roughly, the district's perimeter follows that of the original town, founded in 1874, with extensions to the west, north, and east incorporating early twentieth-century development. Creswell Historic District's northernmost boundaries extend to the Clyde Smithson House (No. 53) at 219 North Sixth Street, one lot south of U. S. Highway 64. Its southernmost boundary is the George Stillman House (No. 64) at 308 South Fifth Street, two lots below Middle Street. The eastern boundary is the terminus of the 1890 Claude T. Spruill House (No. 21) at 208 East Main Street, and the western boundary is the west terminus of the 1930 Mike Davenport House (No. 1) and property at 310 West Main Street, one lot east of Eighth Street. Within these boundaries, streets within the district include Fifth through Seventh Streets, which run from northeast to southwest, and Main and Middle Streets, which run (except for a slightly western curve Main Street takes west of Seventh Street) northwest to southeast.

The historic district, encompassing the town's older commercial and residential areas, contains representative examples of the following architectural styles: Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional. The majority of buildings are either of timber frame or balloon frame construction, and most of them are still weatherboarded, though beneath replacement vinyl covering; there are a few cases where buildings were later veneered with brick. For the most part, brick is a building element rarely used, apart from chimneys and foundation piers, until the 1920s. Trees once shading the commercial and residential streetscapes are mostly gone but there are a number of mature shade and flowering trees in the historic district's neighborhoods, primarily pecan, pine, cedar, dogwood, and oak trees.

Streets are laid out in informal grids; the four blocks comprising the heart of the original downtown area, bounded by Main Street, Seventh Street, Sixth Street, Middle Street, and Palmetto Street, are almost perfectly square except for Palmetto Street's intersection with North Sixth Street. Commercial buildings are set almost directly on the street, where sidewalks are not present. Older residential buildings, for the most part, are located approximately fifteen to twenty feet from the road, modest early twentieth-century bungalows are located about ten feet from the road, and more upscale Colonial Revival style 1930s-1950s dwellings are twenty to sixty feet from the road. Lots along Main Street's commercial district are generally narrow and

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shallow, where lots of the older, more intact houses in town are usually narrow but deep. In a few instances, surviving outbuildings indicate that houses built between 1878 and 1940 utilized their rear lots for domestic outbuildings, vegetable gardens, and barns.

There is a total of 123 resources in Creswell's historic district. Within the district are eighty-one contributing and forty-two noncontributing resources. This includes seventy-eight contributing buildings, and three contributing structures. Within the district, there are also thirty-eight noncontributing buildings, two noncontributing structures, and two non-contributing objects. Overall, approximately sixty-five percent of the combined resources contribute to the district's intrinsic character.

The Creswell Historic District does not include the large tract on the south side of Middle Street comprising Creswell Middle School, whose 1939 brick school and auditorium were demolished in 1996 to make way for a new educational complex.

The oldest buildings in town, dating from between 1875 to 1890, are concentrated in three places; the intersection of Sixth and Main Streets, the intersection of Fifth and Main Streets, and the intersection of Fifth and Middle Streets. The A. G. Walker Store (No. 9), circa 1877, at the northwest corner of Main and North Fifth Streets, is the oldest building in town, a two-story, three-bay Italianate style weatherboarded commercial edifice resting on a thick hewn wooden sill which, in turn, rests directly on the ground. This five-bay deep former emporium retains deep bracketed eaves and pronounced gable returns, corner pilasters, most of its elongated nine-over-six double-hung sash windows, and rear bracketed shelter at its second story's center bay. The frame front-gable, one-story-and-a-half building at 102 West Main Street was the Walker Store's warehouse (No. 8), built between 1880 and 1900. The store's alley at its rear (north) elevation separates it from A. G. Walker's two-story 1878 dwelling (No. 60) where Gothic Revival form (steeply pitched side-gable roof, center decorative gable with a pointed arch attic window, simple chamfered post supports with plain curved sawnwork brackets) and Italianate/Gothic style (diamond-paned colored glass transom, double entrance door with wide colored glass sidelights, windows with flat bracketed lintels, mantelpieces with sinuously curvilinear decoration) combine.

Across Main Street, at the southwest corner of its junction with South Sixth Street, is the 1890 Hopkins Hotel (No. 59), a two-story Queen Anne style dwelling that evidences lingering influence of the Italianate style, such as its diamond-paned transoms, flat bracketed window lintels, and, as with the A. G. Walker House, a curvilinear staircase. The 1890 Claude T. Spruill House (No. 21), located at 208 East Main Street, a short distance east of that street's intersection with South Fifth Street, is comparable to the Walker and Hopkins dwellings, particularly as it also shares a curvilinear staircase with exposed tongue-and-groove boards at its twist. The Spruill House exterior, with its large center gable, transomed windows with bracketed hoods, and hip roof porch with chamfered post supports, closely resembles the Walker House. It is, however, a plainer house with less interior decoration. Given that a massive two-story, front-gable frame store was connected to

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the house's west elevation from its inception until 1934, it is probable that Spruill put his extra money into his business, not his domicile.

The third oldest zone within the district, at the intersection of Middle and South Fifth Streets, has the 1890 Alfred Alexander House (No. 68) and the circa 1890 Roy Hopkins House (No. 69), both of which are nearly identical in style to the Hopkins Hotel, especially their bilevel porches with chamfered post supports and sawnwork decoration. With Hopkins Hotel and the Roy Hopkins House, the sawnwork is of a spikier, more sawtooth, nature than the foliate scrolling usually surviving in eastern North Carolina from this period, as evidenced by the Alfred Alexander House's porch decoration.² Across from the Alfred Alexander House at 308 South Fifth Street is the George Stillman House (No. 66), a two-story, front-gable weatherboarded dwelling, circa 1890, rendered in a style with elements of late Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate design. The Stillman House, the only dwelling in town with a sidehall plan, has many intact exterior features, beginning with the hip roof bilevel porch with its original handrail and chamfered post supports, above which is a now-enclosed pointed arch attic window. Other original features include the nine-over-six (first floor) and the six-over-six (second floor) double-hung sash windows which, at the first floor, have drip-molded lintels.

Contributing buildings from the town's second period of development, 1892 to 1911, are clustered around these same intersections and along the streetscape of 100 East Main Street. There are at least eight commercial buildings along 100 East Main Street's north and south streetscapes constructed during this period, along with residences on North Sixth Street, South Sixth Street, North Seventh Street, and West Main Street. Of the commercial buildings, the two most typifying Creswell's turn-of-the-twentieth-century stores are the Bateman Store (No. 35) at 115 East Main Street, and its neighbor, the store just across South Fifth Street at 201 East Main Street (No. 36). These edifices, two-story, front-gable weatherboarded stores, are three bays across in width (the store at 201 East Main Street has a side shed extension with a false-front parapet, original to the building) with prominent storefront windows, applied sawnwork decoration at the storefront's bracketed cornice, bracketed window hoods and small rear shed extensions possibly serving a utilitarian purpose. According to longtime residents, store operators usually lived on the second floor, rather than using the second floor for storage. Smaller commercial buildings constructed during this period include the O. D. Hatfield Store at 104 East Main Street (No. 12), and the former millinery shop at 116 East Main Street (No. 17), both of which are also front-gable weatherboarded buildings.

Residences constructed between 1892 and 1911 include the William Willey House at 103 North Sixth Street (No. 46) and the Norman Davenport House (No. 37) at 102 North Seventh Street. The William Willey House, a two-story weatherboarded dwelling framed by mature oaks and pecans is a two-story T-plan Queen Anne style house with many early Colonial Revival style features such as double-hung one-over-one sash windows with original louvered shutters, and prominent horseshoe gables. The house, built for merchant

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William Willey, has a one-story rear ell, a detached smokehouse and shed, and, at its front curb, "WmW" inscribed in the concrete. On the other hand the Norman Davenport House is a one-story, three-bay side-gable weatherboarded dwelling traditional to eastern North Carolina. The now-screened hip roof front porch is original, as are the exterior end flue chimneys and double-hung six-over-six sash windows; from the 1930s until the 1960s, however, the house was gradually expanded at its rear ell and north elevation to accommodate the Davenports' needs. The rear ell's one-and-a-half-story extension, with its shed dormer, dates from the 1930s and the two gabled extensions at the north elevation appear to have been built in the 1940s.

Other traditional style dwellings in town, a turn-of-the-twentieth-century continuation of older forms and styles, are found throughout the district, particularly on West Main Street, Middle Street, and South Fifth and Sixth Streets. The house at 205 South Sixth Street (No. 42) is a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. However, in its simple details (minimal decoration, double-hung sash with drip hoods, hip roof porch shaded by large cedars), this house recalls nineteenth-century houses built in North Carolina's remote coastal communities. Another example is the Edgar Woodley House (No. 56) at 112 South Sixth Street, a one-story side-gable house also constructed circa 1900, which has retained much of its original character in addition to two early twentieth-century outbuildings, a shed and small weatherboarded two-story barn. Dr. J. L. Hassell's former home at 104 South Sixth Street (No. 58) is now Creswell's Town Hall but many original features of this two-story, side-gable building—plain chamfered newel posts, tongue-and-groove board walls, even the patterned beaded board siding in the front hall—survive to document the surroundings of average Creswell citizens from the 1890s to the 1910s.

All but two of Creswell's historic district churches were built during this period between 1892 and 1911. Christ Episcopal Church (No. 44), the Gothic Revival/Queen Anne style edifice built in 1898, stands at the northeast corner of South Sixth and Middle Streets. It is a large, steeply-pitched front-gable frame building with a corner entrance at its southwest belfry tower, two rear cross-gable extensions at the side elevations, and a five-sided apse lit by multipaned stained glass windows. Above the belfry, the tower is capped by a conical bellcast roof set off by small corner turrets and gablets with quatrefoil openings. Exterior decorative elements—the entrance's three-part pointed arch surround, the belfry's louvered vents and quatrefoil decoration, and the multipaned Queen Anne style windows—are all intact. The church's exterior was covered by brick veneer sometime between the late 1960s and 1974.³ Inside, lanterns hang from the patterned beaded board ceiling's hammerbeam roof trusses. The walls are plastered to the high chair rail, below which is manufactured beaded board wainscoting. Original elements besides the bracing, ceiling, and wainscot (the lanterns are replacement) are the wood chancel rail at the altar, Gothic Revival style wooden chairs behind the chancel rail, the elaborate brasswork pulpit and lectern, hymnal boards in the shape of a cross, and choir stall. According to longtime residents, a one-story front-gable brick building connected to Christ Church's north elevation by an open walkway was constructed in the 1980s and serves as the parish house. It is not known

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which house in town was Christ Church's rectory. Although, due to recent brick veneering, this church is not considered a contributing resource, its interior and surviving exterior details are intact.

Two other churches built in Creswell during this period are Creswell Baptist Church (No. 39), an auditorium plan frame church that was brick veneered in the late 1970s, and the Methodist Protestant Church (No. 41), a small front-gable frame church whose weatherboards were covered by aluminum siding in the early 1960s. Located at 108 Seventh Street, Creswell Baptist Church, constructed circa 1900, retains its multipaned Queen Anne style windows at its side elevations (there is a three-part opalescent stained glass window at the front elevation). Inside, the church has all of its original four-panel millwork doors, as well as its manufactured beaded board patterned wainscoting in the sanctuary and vestibule. The Methodist Protestant Church, constructed in 1895, was moved from its original location just below the southwest corner of Middle and South Sixth Street to its present site, across the street at 209 South Sixth Street, in 1922. Although no longer in regular operation, it is still maintained and is said to still have all its original interior elements, such as patterned beaded board ceilings and walls, wooden pulpit and lectern, and carbide light fixtures.⁴ Auxiliary buildings for these churches—a one-story brick building directly behind the Creswell Baptist Church, and a two-story side-gable frame building attached to the Methodist Protestant Church's rear elevation—were constructed in the 1940s. The Methodist Protestant Church's circa 1900 parsonage, a plain two-story, three-bay side-gable dwelling with little exterior decoration beyond the front entrance's two-pane sidelights and the hip roof porch's chamfered posts, is next door at 301 South Sixth Street. Creswell Baptist Church's former parsonage, a Colonial Revival style American Foursquare dwelling with a full-façade hip roof porch and hip roof dormer, was constructed between 1911 and 1920.

From 1911 to 1925, residential development in Creswell continued along West Main Street, and also North and South Sixth Streets. Some of these are Colonial Revival style extensions and adaptations of older houses; an example is the house (No. 3) at 304 West Main Street, a two-story, side-gable dwelling which continued to be added on to (extension of the two-story rear ell, then a small sunporch at the house's east elevation) into the 1930s and 1940s. The Norman House (No. 22) at 311 West Main Street, on the other hand, a weatherboarded American Foursquare with Colonial Revival and Craftsman style decorative elements, appears to retain its original form and much, if not all, of its original exterior. There are two-over-two double-hung sash windows in the house's two-story main block and Craftsman style three-over-one double-hung sash windows in the one-story rear shed kitchen/enclosed porch extension. Above this extension is a second-story rear porch, still with its manufactured beaded board ceiling and some of its chamfered post supports and sawnwork balustrade. Craftsman style decorative elements include the deep eaves' modillion brackets and applied vertical sawnwork to the front porch's square support columns.

Nonresidential buildings constructed between 1911 and 1925 include the Creswell Episcopal Methodist

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Church (No. 51; not the same as the Methodist Protestant Church) at 205 North Sixth Street, constructed in 1918, and the former Bank of Creswell (No. 11) at 102 East Main Street, circa 1911, the town's first brick building.⁵ A weatherboarded Colonial Revival style edifice with a projecting front-gable portico and a hip roof extending into the classroom rear annex's own hip roof, the former Creswell Methodist Church is quite intact within and without, having kept its beaded board ceiling and walls. It also retains four-over-four single and three-part windows with Craftsman-influenced pointed arch glass transoms, which are clear and not stained glass, as well as the four-over-four double-hung sash windows at the classroom annex. This former church was obtained by the Creswell Ruritan Club in 1964 and is now owned by the town of Creswell. Photographs of the former Bank of Creswell taken as recently as 1985 show the building's former façade, a curved brick parapet with paneled piers, signage paneling, stretcher bond stringcourse, and arched storefront window and recessed entrance.⁶ Presently, the parapet is covered by a front-gable roof and the façade has been covered by a tan brick replacement façade.

Some twentieth-century popular designs are reflected in town homes. Craftsman style frame dwellings became popular in Creswell between 1925 and 1940, particularly on West Main Street and North and South Sixth Street. Small front-gable Craftsman bungalows, like the Mike Davenport House (No. 1) at 310 West Main Street, were a popular house type; this particular house is notable for its lively exterior decoration, including shingles and applied sawnwork at its gable and front porch posts. Otherwise, elements of the Craftsman style appears in Colonial Revival and Minimal Traditional style dwellings; as mentioned before, the Norman House at 311 West Main Street, an American Foursquare, has Craftsman style wooden posts on its front porch, as well as windows at its rear ell. The Tudor Revival style never caught on in Creswell, possibly because people continued to maintain and live in their late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century dwellings; one house with some Tudor Revival elements is the Harry Starr House (No. 24) at 301 West Main Street, with its steep offset front-gable entrance. Ranch style houses proved popular with many later twentieth-century Creswell residents, and a few brick ranch houses dating from the 1950s to the 1970s are found in the historic district, as well as in the 1960s residential areas along West Palmetto Street, South Seventh Street, and South Fifth Street.

Creswell's mid-twentieth century commercial and government buildings are not extensive, mainly because older buildings had been used for so long. Willie Phelps built a one-story brick double storefront (No. 16) in the late 1940s, probably the most "modern" edifice in town, next to the impressively intact Mission Revival service station (No. 10) on the northeast corner of Main and Sixth streets. Administrative buildings, such as the 1940s fire station at 109 West Main Street (No. 28), were utilitarian; the 1961 post office at 201 West Main Street (No. 26) combines utilitarian features with some late International Style sleekness, with its granite-tiled recessed north wall and alternating bays of plate glass window and brick.

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Although dwindling in number, outbuildings and structures tell of Creswell's past as a remote agrarian village. The oldest surviving outbuildings, a late-nineteenth century smokehouse and dairy, are at the A. G. Walker House (No. 60b and 60c); Clyde Smithson's house at 219 North Sixth Street has two intact outbuildings from the 1930s (No. 53). Humble structures, such as the town well (No. 18) on East Main Street, and little wooden board footbridges (No. 23d) traversing neighborhood ditches, are also still present.

Overall, the Creswell Historic District retains a significant amount of its historic architectural fabric and intrinsic late-nineteenth century to early twentieth-century character. The commercial buildings particularly maintain an integrity of materials, design, setting, and feeling, even where altered by replacement vinyl siding. The residential area, although hard-hit by having lost buildings, largely retains its overall integrity and, remarkably, many early-to-mid twentieth-century plantings. The town's present quiet backwater status has been its best preserving agent, resulting in a high number of commercial buildings and late-nineteenth century residences.

¹ The Scuppernong River, not much more than a wide creek until reaching Columbia, N. C., about eight miles east of Spruill's Bridge, is often called "Lake Phelps River" by locals, due to the mistaken belief that the 16,000 acre freshwater lake six miles south of Creswell is its source. According to Bland Simpson, in his collection of essays about the North Carolina coast, *Into The Sound Country* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1997), p. 48, Lake Phelps is sometimes called Scuppernong Lake for the same reason.

¹ Two period buildings that have been substantially altered are just outside these three "early period" zones. A one-and-a-half-story Gothic Revival frame dwelling at 110 S. Sixth Street, constructed circa 1880, is no longer contributing. The J. W. Starr House at 307 West Main Street (west of Main Street's intersection with Seventh Street), constructed circa 1885-1890, has also been altered over time but still retains some original exterior features including a bracketed raking cornice, sawnwork vergeboard, a bilevel front porch, and round-arch attic windows.

¹ The earliest photographs I have seen of Christ Church in its present brick veneered state were taken by Janet Seapker, then with the N. C. State Historic Preservation Office, in April 1974 (see N. C. SHPO survey files for Creswell).

¹ Frances Hopkins and Syble Spruill, Creswell, NC, April 4, 2001 conversation with Penne Smith Sandbeck. Also, Janet Seapker, April 1974 photographs of Creswell Methodist Protestant Church, N. C. SHPO survey files, Raleigh, N. C.

¹ The Bank of Creswell is dated as circa 1911 because 1911 is the first time the bank is mentioned in documentation (*North Carolina Year Book, 1911*, is first source).

¹ Michael T. Southern, April 1985 photographs of Creswell commercial buildings, N. C. SHPO survey files, Raleigh, N. C.

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Inventory List

The historical information contained in this inventory comes from a number of resources, defined in full by the Section 9 bibliography. Particular sources include Creswell's 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 Federal census records; town directories; survey files; Frances Bickel Jones and Shirleyan Beacham Phelps, *Washington County, N. C.: A Tapestry* (1998); and oral history obtained from Creswell residents including Jack Patrick, Ray and Syble Spruill, Frances Hopkins, Mrs. Allie A. Hatfield, Mr. and Mrs. John Furlough, Ronnie Barnes, and Hilton Chesson.

The inventory is organized street by street, beginning with the west-east streets, which is Main Street; these begin first with the north streetscape, then the south. Following these, the north-south streets are listed (Seventh, Sixth, and Fifth), beginning with the west streetscape, then the east. In some cases, only one streetscape forms part of the district. If provenance of a building is known, it is mentioned. Outbuildings and structures are mentioned as such in each entry.

Each inventory entry begins with the following information in the left margin:

Number of Resource on Map List; Address of Resource

Status of Resource

Date of Resource

A contributing resource is a building (and structure, in some cases) that has maintained its integral form and style characteristics from its building date. It should retain enough of original exterior and interior elements (the latter in the case of a building) for original form and style to be not just discernable, but readily identifiable as an architectural type. Under these conditions, a building whose weatherboards are covered with vinyl siding, so long as it meets the above standards, can be categorized as a contributing resource, but a brick veneered building (because brick's application, unlike vinyl siding, means that many original features were obliterated in the course of veneering) cannot. A non-contributing resource, on the other hand, is one that, through substantial alterations or deterioration, has lost its former integrity.

Key to Inventory

C = Contributing resource
NC = Noncontributing resource
NC-Age= Noncontributing resource due to age
NC-Alt= Noncontributing resource due to extensive alteration

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CS = Contributing structure (fence, arbor, water pump)
NCS = Noncontributing structure
CO = Contributing object (commemorative marker or tablet, well pump)
NCO = Noncontributing object

North Side, West Main Street

1. 310 West Main Street
C
ca 1930
Mike Davenport House: One-story, three-bay front-gable frame Craftsman bungalow on brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. Intact knee bracing, exposed rafter ends, and decorative shingles and sawnwork on front gable and also on square wooden porch posts. Large Craftsman style 6:1 double-hung sash at the front elevation is original. Original weatherboarding has a projecting course just below the Craftsman style 4:1 double-hung sash windows, below which is wider weatherboarding (also original). Enclosed rear shed porch. This was the 1930s home of C. N. "Mike" Davenport, Jr., a Creswell mechanic and undertaker for whom the community park at Spruill's Bridge is named.
2. 308 West Main Street
C
ca. 1900
House: Two-story, two-bay frame dwelling with hip roof on low brick piers with concrete block infill. Standing seam metal roof covering and partly rebuilt interior chimneys. Stylistically, a combination of late Greek Revival (boxy form, corner pilasters, six-over-six double-hung window sash) and early Colonial Revival (simple window surrounds with hood molding, cornice's scalloped course beneath wide soffit, plain two-panel sidelights) features. One-story hip roof porch, now screened. Main block of house has original weatherboarding. 1940s extension of one-story rear ell and small 1940s east elevation hip roof extension both have aluminum siding. Porch retains tongue-and-groove ceiling and chamfered post supports.
- 2a. 308 West Main Street
C
ca. 1930
Shed: weatherboarded shed with sloping roof and batten door entrance.

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2b. 308 West Main Street
C
ca. 1945

Shed and small tractor shed: One-story, front-gable one-room frame shed (now sided with plywood) on concrete block piers with small tractor shed at rear (north) elevation. Pent shelter at entrance, 4:4 double-hung sash window at each side of door and a 3-pane louvered sash window at the east elevation. This shed, which appears to have been a potting shed or workroom, was altered circa 1970.

2c. 308 West Main Street
NCO
ca. 1940

Concrete table: Cast concrete table created for utilitarian purpose that adjacent oak tree has grown into over the years.

3. 304 West Main Street
C
ca. 1900; alt. 1920, 1940

House: Two-story, three-bay frame Colonial Revival style dwelling with a two-story rear ell and a circa 1920 sunporch at the east elevation. Weatherboards covered with replacement aluminum siding, original 4:4 double-hung sash windows at main block's side elevations; other windows at front elevation and rear ell are 6:6 double-hung sash, and the sunporch windows are 1:1 double-hung sash. Front stoop entrance enclosed, with Craftsman style sash door and paneled sidelights below a late Colonial Revival style pediment. Entrance at west elevation's rear ell has a front-gable shelter and Craftsman style sidelights. Side-gable main block appears to have been built at the turn of the twentieth century and then successively altered in the 1920s and 1940s, probably when rear ell was expanded and one-story rear extension added. Grounds surrounding house have mature mid-twentieth century plantings (azaleas, cedars, pines, rhododendrons, boxwood, holly) and, along the property's line with West Main Street, cast concrete ball-on-plinth ornaments.

4. 302 West Main Street
NC-Age
ca. 1960-1970

House: One-story, four-bay brick ranch house with carport incorporated beneath wide side-gable hip roofline, as is shallow front porch. Concrete driveway extends to road leading to rear of property. House is adjacent to Creswell's largest municipal drainage creek.

4a. 302 West Main Street
NC-Age
ca. 1960

Shed: One-story, three-bay corrugated metal and plywood-sided shed directly north of 302 West Main Street dwelling, and adjacent to drainage canal. Small eyebrow style one-over-one windows on either side of wood door entrance makes the building resemble a chicken house, but it was more likely a workshop.

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[Drainage Canal, then North Seventh Street Intersection]

5. 116 West Main Street
NC-Age
ca. 2000

Jack Patrick House: One-and-a-half story Neo-Colonial style dwelling constructed from modern materials. Vinyl siding. Full-façade front porch incorporated into side-gable roofline. House has front-gable dormers, raised brick foundation.

5a. 116 West Main Street
NC-Age
ca. 2000

Garage: One-and-a-half story Neo-Colonial style side-gable garage constructed from modern materials and designed to conform to details of house. Vinyl siding, dormer windows, small shuttered six-over-six double-hung sash windows.

6. 112 West Main Street
NC
ca. 1955-1965

Manufactured house (trailer): Five-bay trailer, one-room deep, with full-façade enclosed front shed extension. In poor condition.

[vacant lot]

7. 106 West Main Street
C
ca. 1878-1880; moved
and altered ca. 1940

House (former A. G. Walker Kitchen): One-story, three-bay side-gable frame dwelling with aluminum siding and standing-seam metal roof. One-story rear ell with enclosed west elevation porch, and one-story east elevation extension. Main block of house rests on brick piers with concrete block infill; rear ell and extensions rest on brick piers, no infill. Screened shed roof porch at north elevation of rear ell. Replacement 1:1 double-hung sash windows in house's main block, 2:2, 6:6, and 1:1 double-hung sash at rear ell. Center stoop entrance has late Craftsman style sash door sheltered by bracketed front-gable door hood. Chimneys replaced by metal vent. Roofline at main block has a wide pitch and prominently returned gables. According to owner, main block of house originally connected to north end of A. G. Walker House (No. 60)'s rear elevation and used as kitchen; owner's father moved this building to current lot in 1940.

8. 102 West Main Street
C
ca. 1880-1900; alt. 1940

Walker-Barnes Warehouse: One-and-a-half story front-gable frame building on low brick piers, three sections deep, with center batten sliding platform door entrance, and double-hung six-over-six sash windows that are elevated at the front façade. Above these windows on the façade is a large louvered gable ventilator. Building covered by aluminum shingles. Roof covered with

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standing-seam metal retains wide eaves with exposed rafter battens. At east elevation, there are vents and an enclosed side platform door. 1940s open shed at rear elevation supported by wooden poles on concrete plinths. This was a fertilizer storage and general storage warehouse for the adjacent A. G. Walker Store (No. 9), bought by the Barnes family from the Walker estate circa 1940.

9. 100 West Main Street
C
ca.1877

A. G. Walker Store: Two-story, three-bay weatherboarded Italianate style commercial building whose hewn sill rests directly on ground. Nearly all of original exterior elements intact. These are: bracketed eaves and raking cornice; 9:6 double-hung sash windows (some panes missing), bracketed window hoods at second story, drip molding at first; standing seam metal roof (replacement) and corbel cap interior chimney; and bracketed shelter at second floor rear entrance (stairs removed some years ago). In keeping with nineteenth-century rural commercial buildings, this five-bay store is quite deep. Later owner altered some of front storefront entrance (1970s shingled pent roof shelter, bricking in aprons over wide storefront bay windows) but interior still has tongue-and-groove sheathing. The building is in deteriorated condition; its current owner has constructed an iron bracket, ostensibly to support the front elevation.

This store was built for Augustus G. Walker and was mentioned in *Branson's N. C. Business Directory* by 1877. Walker, one of the town's first merchants, was also one of its most successful. This is now the oldest commercial building left in town. Its proximity to A. G. Walker's house is also a remarkable surviving feature, as storeowners' homes and their stores eventually were less and less likely to be alongside one another by the early twentieth century, unless it was a smaller scale business like a beautician, a milliner, or a pest exterminator. At one time, a small cinema was located upstairs (possibly in the 1930s and 1940s, according to longtime residents). The Walker family ran this store until the late 1930s when it was sold to another family, who ran it, on a smaller scale, until the 1970s.

[Sixth Street]

10. 100 East Main Street
ca. 1930-1935
C

Esso Service Station: Three-bay Mission Revival service station, with all stuccoed concrete block and tile roofing intact; shaped piers dividing the service station bays all appear to be in good condition. Service station office area has wood and glass transom in place, including transomed windows; later metal and plate glass was inserted for larger windows,

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but wood frame still in place. Original sash door. Both paneled wood and glass garage doors appear intact. Original aprons at either side of entrance bricked in ca. 1945. Circa 1945-1950, a small stucco concrete block office was added on the Sixth Street elevation; a one-bay extension, the office's Modern appearance is emphasized by its flat roof, corner plate glass windows with projecting header brick sill, and unadorned surface. Service station has been out of operation since 1975, but is still maintained and used for storage.

11. 102 East Main Street
ca. 1910
NC-Alt

Bank of Creswell: One-story, two-bay 6:1 bond brick commercial building with ca. 1990 tan brick façade and ca. 1990 vinyl-sided weatherboarded front gable. Original scrolled false front parapet covered by this gable. Tan brick replacement façade covers original arch entrance and wide transomed arch storefront window. Vertical panels on either side of entrance (whose sash door has been replaced by a metal door), as well as apron below former storefront window (now enclosed with three 6:6 double-hung sash windows). There is a side entrance at the east elevation, and it has a wooden horizontal five-panel door. Two windows at the rear elevation have been enclosed.

This was the Bank of Creswell, founded ca. 1910 by Daniel Edgar Woodley. After the Depression, this was briefly Dr. Phelps' office, and then a post office. By the 1950s, a pharmacy and soda shop was here. Since the 1970s this building has been used for tire storage.

12. 104 East Main Street
ca. 1910
C

O. D. Hatfield Store: One-and-a-half story frame front-gable weatherboarded commercial building. This former store retains nearly all of its original exterior elements (the four-pane projecting storefront bay windows are partially boarded up). The front gable roofline has prominently returned gables and a shuttered window that may have served as a louvered ventilator. Below, there is indication that the storefront entrance had a bracketed cornice. The entrance's glass transom, wooden sash doors, wooden screen doors and paneled wooden window aprons are in place. This building rests on an enclosed brick foundation, and has an east shed extension.

Although this commercial building was constructed within the first ten years of the twentieth century, its first known owner and operator was dry goods merchant O.

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D. Hatfield, who was at this store by 1915. Hatfield, who married a local woman who worked in his store (Allie Ambrose Hatfield) by the 1930s, served on town council for many years and was known as "Dock". He eventually bought the Hopkins House (No. 59) in the 1940s where his widow now lives.

13. 106 East Main Street
ca. 1915-1930
C

Willoughby House: One-story, four-bay frame gable-and-wing dwelling on a brick pier foundation. The projecting front-gable bay was altered ca. 1970-1980 with a cut-in metal door and replacement paired 6:6 double-hung sash windows; apparently, this was used as an office. The east and west elevations of the wing retain some 2:2 double-hung sash windows. The house's side-gable section, partly concealed from the street by a large cedar, has a shed roof porch supported by square wooden posts, 2:2 double-hung sash windows, a Craftsman style sash front door, and two rear shed extensions—at the west side is a small screened porch, at the east is an enclosed shed extension that, from the small four-pane window, suggests it was built as a bathroom. The wing has a standing seam metal roof covering and the house's main block has a patterned tin roof. Much of the original weatherboarding is still in place.

14. 108 East Main Street
ca. 1925
C

Former Store: One-story, front-gable frame weatherboarded building covered by replacement vinyl siding. Standing seam metal roof, center brick interior flue, some 4:4 double-hung sash, and a rear shed. Front entrance has original Craftsman style sash (three vertical panes) door and replacement plate glass window. Brick pier foundation, no infill. This is thought to have once been a milliner's shop in the 1920s-1930s.

15. 110 East Main Street
ca. 1910
C

Willie Phelps House: Two-story, three-bay frame side-gable weatherboarded dwelling with original front shed porch and a one-story rear ell. Porch supported by slim battered wooden posts over capped brick piers; foundation of house rests on brick piers with no infill, and roof covered by standing seam metal. Roof has exposed rafter ends. Weatherboarding has molded corner pilasters. There are 6:6 double-hung sash windows at the front elevation and 4:4 double hung sash at the side elevations and ell. House retains exterior end chimneys with corbeled bases. Rear ell has screened porch covered by wooden latticework.

This was the home of Willie Phelps, an early-to-mid-twentieth-century Creswell merchant whose store was at the northwest corner of East Main and North Fifth Streets, in addition to the one-story brick double storefront at 112-114 East Main Street (No. 16). Mature crepe myrtles and cedars are in front yard.

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16. 112-114 East Main Street
ca. 1940-1950
C

Phelps Building: One-story, three-bay 6:1 bond brick commercial building divided into two three-bay storefronts with a firewall. Constructed by Willie Phelps as commercial property; concrete sidewalk extends across front elevation. Flat roof, with metal coping along parapets. Recessed signage panel over each storefront, which is sheltered by ca. 1960s metal awning. Beneath the awning, the storefronts' wood and glass bay windows, recessed center entrances with sash doors, wood and glass transoms, and brick aprons with vents are all in place.

16a. 112-114 East Main Street
ca. 1940
C

Shed: One-story, front-gable nailed vertical board shed on concrete block piers with a corrugated metal roof. Two center entrance doors.

17. 116 East Main Street
ca. 1890-1910
C

Store: One-story, three-bay frame front-gable weatherboarded commercial building. Retains large 9:9 windows flanking transomed storefront sash door entrance. Cornerboards, box cornice, standing-seam metal roof all in place. Small 4:4 window at rear elevation. Thought to have been a milliners shop ca. 1900. Post-and-board fence with hinged metal gate joins this building to the Phelps Building.

18. ca. 1940
CS

Town Well: Raised brick platform with concrete slab and iron hand pump date from the early-to-mid twentieth century, and was in common use for years. Creswell's artesian springs made water easily obtainable until the water table was lowered in the 1960s and 1970s (some say that Texasgulf, the former phosphate plant in Pamlico County, played a contributing role in lowering the water table in this part of eastern North Carolina). There were other public wells in town at the turn of the twentieth century, one having been just south of East Main Street's southwest intersection with South Fifth Street, but this is the only one left.

19. 118 East Main Street
ca. 1900-1920
C

Store: Two-story, front-gable three-bay frame commercial building owned by Willie Phelps ca. 1935-1950. Was Carl Dail's auto parts store in the 1960s. This building was converted into apartments ca. 1999. Although the storefront has been altered with replacement windows and doors and windows have been cut into the side elevations, the front and rear elevations 6:6 double-hung sash is original. Weatherboarding covered with replacement vinyl siding. Interior completely gutted.

[Fifth Street]

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20. 206 East Main Street
ca. 1960-1970
NC-Age

Maitland's Funeral Home: One-story, three-bay cinder block building with a front-gable roof and a frame extension under construction at its west elevation. Carport at east elevation.

21. 208 East Main Street
1890
C

Claude T. Spruill House: Two-story, three-bay frame side-gable late Italianate style dwelling with a large center gable and a one-story rear ell, all resting on a brick pier foundation. The house has standing seam metal covering its roof and one-story full-façade hip roof porch. The interior end chimneys are still in place, with small corbel caps. Weatherboarding has been covered by replacement vinyl siding, but this has fortunately not compromised the house's late nineteenth-century character. At the porch, original chamfered post supports (did not see evidence of a handrail) have simple inset spandrels. Center transomed entrance has sidelights, and windows on first and second story in the house's main block (including attic fanlight in center gable and attic windows in the side gables) have bracketed hoods. At the second story's center bay is a pair of transomed double-hung 6:6 sash windows. Inside, the house follows a center hall plan, its most impressive feature being the hall's narrow curvilinear staircase, comparable to the Hopkins Hotel (No. 59) and the A. G. Walker House (No. 60). Staircase has original turned newel post and balusters, as well as a molded handrail, and boards visible in the risers. The rest of the house is plain; where not altered by sheetrock or blown-in foam ceilings, the house has tongue-and-groove walls and manufactured beaded board ceilings. The center hall rear entrance now has a 1940s bathroom instead of a porch, but the two-pane transom is still overhead as well as a four-panel door. There is also a two-pane transom over the east and west parlor entrances.

This was the home of late nineteenth-century merchant Claude T. Spruill, who constructed this house in 1889 and completed it, along with an adjacent two-story frame store, in August 1890. Spruill ran a dry goods store, which included his wife's millinery shop, until his death circa 1925. In 1934, Spruill's nephew Walter Peal detached the house from the store's east elevation and moved it about 100 yards east of its original location, roughly where Maitland Funeral Home stands. The store was torn down in the 1980s; photographs from the 1900s and the 1970s exist of store and house.

21a. 208 East Main Street
ca. 1975-1990
NC-Age

Shed: Frame front-gable open shed, used for storage and as a carport.

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21b. 208 East Main Street
ca. 1955-1970
NC-Age

Garage: Cinder block front-gable garage with pull-down metal garage door.

21c 208 East Main Street
ca. 1955-1970
NC-Age

Utility building: Small frame front-gable shed.

South Side, West Main Street

22. 311 West Main Street
ca. 1915-1920
C

Norman House: Frame hip roof Colonial Revival style American Foursquare with a one-story rear shed extension, part of which is an enclosed porch, resting on a brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. Roof has replacement asphalt shingles but retains wide flared eaves with modillion brackets, and hip dormer; there is also an open rear porch over the shed extension, which has comparable eaves and modillion brackets. Interior chimney flues have small corbel caps. Chamfered post supports and part of a sawnwork balustrade are in place on the upstairs rear porch. At the house's front hip roof porch, there are also modillion brackets but square wooden posts with applied Craftsman style sawnwork. Exterior elements—2:2 double-hung sash windows in the main block; decorative window at the second story's center bay; plain door and window surrounds with simple drip molding and sills; weatherboarding, and cornerboards—original and intact. There are 3:1 double-hung sash windows at the rear shed. The front entrance's Craftsman style sash door may be a replacement. Inside, the house's original finish has been removed; it followed a sidehall passage plan before the west hall wall was removed to expand the front parlor (1980?). Surviving mature plantings from the early twentieth century include pecans, dogwoods, cedars, and crepe myrtles.

22a. 311 West Main Street
ca. 1955-1965
NC-Age

Shed: Tin-sided frame building with tin-sided hinged plywood door. Flat roof, sided with standing seam metal, has exposed rafter ends. This is at the rear of the Norman lot, close to Creswell Middle School.

[empty lot]

23. 307 West Main Street
ca. 1885-1890
C

J. W. Starr House: Commodious frame two-story, three-bay side-gable dwelling with a one-story rear ell and side screen porch; the house's main block, which has been altered through the years, is rendered in the Gothic

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Revival style, with elements of Italianate and general Victorian design, in addition to Craftsman and Colonial Revival style alterations. This rests upon a brick pier foundation with brick infill. The rear ell, which has an exterior rear brick flue, has an enclosed shed porch. The main block's wide center decorative gable, along with its side gables, retain millwork vergeboard and arched 2:2 double-hung attic windows. In spite of the house's weatherboards being covered by replacement vinyl siding, brackets are still in place along the cornice. Windows in the house's main block are 2:2 double-hung sash; the rear ell has 6:6 double-hung sash along its west elevation, and 4:4 double-hung sash at its south gable end. There is a shed extension above the rear ell at the house's second floor, possibly for a bathroom. At the front elevation is a full-façade, bilevel porch with wooden square post supports, and an original turned rail balustrade at the second floor; the first floor's balustrade was probably removed circa 1940 when the original wood porch floor was replaced with a brick platform and steps. The porch ceiling has also been lowered (ca. 1970?), partly obscuring the center doubleleaf entrance's transom. The entrance's narrow six-panel wooden doors are original. Both the first floor entrance and the second floor's center bay door have narrow paneled sidelights. The replacement asphalt tile roof still has one interior chimney with corbeling at its cap; the east chimney was removed in the 1930s or 1940s, and a Craftsman style brick exterior end chimney was rebuilt in its place. Surrounding the house are mature pecan trees and crepe myrtles.

This was the home of James Walter Starr, Creswell's deputy sheriff in 1902, who briefly ran a boarding house at this dwelling and owned a livery stable in town in 1911. By 1915, Starr had a dry goods business on Main Street and, five years later, served as town mayor. His wife, Alice Phelps Starr, was A. G. Walker's granddaughter and town postmistress from 1915 until 1935. According to local residents, after J. W. Starr's death, his brother, Milton, resided in this house.

23a. 307 West Main Street
ca. 1940
C

Shed: One-story, front-gable frame shed with a side shelter, covered with standing seam metal.

23b 307 West Main Street
ca. 1940
C

Garage: Wide front-gable frame garage shelter sided with standing seam metal.

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23c. 307 West Main Street
ca. 1940
C

Shed: Small front-gable nailed vertical board shelter; appears to have been altered (perhaps widened opening).

23d. 307 West Main Street
ca. 1950
NCS

Footbridge: At west boundary of Starr lot, there are three wooden boards laid over a small ditch; apparently this was a footbridge between this and the Norman property. Although it is very rudimentary and not possible to precisely date, this footbridge is nevertheless important in that it tells of Creswell's swampy, frequently flooded terrain throughout its existence as a town.

24. 301 West Main Street
ca. 1935-1945

Harry Starr House: One-and-a-half story frame side-gable dwelling that is a Minimal Traditional style dwelling with Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman style features. Tudor Revival features include the front-gable section of the front elevation in which there is an offset front-gable enclosed vestibule entrance. Colonial Revival features include the shuttered 6:1 double-hung sash windows, the weatherboarded exterior (now covered by aluminum siding), and the east elevation screen porch extension's pilaster corners; the screen porch's upper balustrade has been removed. The front Craftsman style sash door appears to be original. There is a shed dormer at the rear elevation. The house rests on a low brick foundation, has an asphalt tile roof, and a ribbon brick flue chimney. Surrounding this house are tall oak trees and mature crepe myrtles.

Harry Starr, the son of J. W. and Alice Phelps Starr, ran a small business on Main Street and lived in this house.

25. ca. 1960
NCS

Drainage Canal: Concrete ramp with two large corrugated metal pipes for handling overflow.

[Empty lot]

26. 201 West Main Street
1961
NC-Age
(Federal Property)

Creswell Post Office: One-story brick and masonry building; its flat roofline, cantilevered shelters, and the front elevation's alternating band of narrow plate glass windows and flat brick piers show trickle-down elements of standard late International style design as modified for government and commercial buildings. The projecting east wall and entrance bay of the front elevation, along with that elevation's recessed north wall, are lined with granite tiles; signage, in aluminum lettering, is on the north wall. Inside, through the metal and plate glass doorway and vestibule, the cinder block and vinyl-clad interior is

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very spare and appears little altered from its opening date of 1961. Although this building is not yet fifty years old, it has remained quite intact and is exemplary of the many modern post office buildings constructed throughout many small towns during the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations. South of the post office building, across from its rear parking lot, is a former iron post box, which served the town from 1961 until approximately 1985, now chained shut.

Creswell more or less began with the founding of a post office, and this is one of the many post offices that has served the town. Other businesses that have been where townspeople picked up and sent their mail include the A. G. Walker Store (No. 9), the former Bank of Creswell (No. 11), and the former Claude T. Spruill store that was demolished in the 1980s. Townspeople who served as postmasters included William Atkinson (1872, 1876), N. O. Eborn (1875), Thomas Hassell (1879), Joseph B. Davenport (1881, 1889), Julius L. Howell (1885), Maxcy Alexander (1893), Clarissa Spruill (1897), B. F. Spruill (1900), Ida Walker Phelps (1910?-1915), and Alice Phelps Starr (1915-1935).

27. 115 West Main Street
ca. 1915-1920
C

Creswell Baptist Church Parsonage: Two-story frame Colonial Revival style American Foursquare dwelling that, along with an enclosed one-story hip roof rear porch, rests on brick piers with concrete block infill. There is a side-gable garage extension at the house's west elevation built in the 1970s, but it is unobtrusive. The house's commodious hip roof has standing seam metal covering, as does the roof's hip dormer, and one small interior brick chimney flue is still in place. Except for the front elevation, which has some replacement vinyl siding, the other elevations retain original weatherboarding; cornerboards, surrounds, and 1:1 double-hung windows are all in place. Surrounding the house are a number of mature mid-twentieth-century plantings, including a privet hedge, fig bushes, pecan trees, oaks, crepe myrtles, holly, and cedars.

This was the parsonage for Creswell Baptist Church (No. 39) until approximately 1965. Although there had been rural Baptist churches in the vicinity from the early nineteenth, including nearby Concord Primitive Baptist Church, the earliest documentation of a Baptist church in Creswell was in 1889, when the Plymouth newspaper described a "handsome missionary Baptist church" under construction. This house is thought to have been built some twenty to forty years later. Pastors who lived in this parsonage included J. W. Rose (ca. 1915), W. R. Height (ca. 1916), and W. J. Byrom (ca. 1920).

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27a. 115 West Main Street
ca. 1955
NC-Age

Shed: Front-gable open shed with wooden post supports and a standing seam metal roof.

27b. 115 West Main Street
ca. 1990
NC-Age

Shed: Front-gable plywood shed with two small hinged doors

28. 109 West Main Street
ca. 1945-1950 (1990 ext.)
C

Creswell Fire Department: One-and-a-half story concrete block and brick industrial building with three bays for the fire trucks and a small entrance bay at the north elevation's east end with a plate glass and metal door. The original metal fire engine whistle is still in place on the roof. There is also a small upstairs section, probably for firefighters on call. At the building's west elevation is a small brick extension just south of the front elevation; this extension is a public assembly room for the town of Creswell.

[Sixth Street]

29. 101 East Main Street
ca. 1950
C

Holton's Service Station: One-story, two-bay concrete block service station with projecting flat-roof three-bay concrete block extension at the east end of the station's north elevation; this brick-veneered extension, which has a concrete block chimney flue, original metal casement windows, and a metal door, is the station office. The two service bays on Main Street, as well as the two service bays on South Sixth Street, have paneled metal and glass sliding garage doors. The fuel area retains two circa 1970s low metal fuel tanks and pole fluorescent lighting. Although hardly picturesque, it is important to remember that Creswell residents from the 1950s to the 1960s would have seen this station's humbly modern features as a progressive addition to their town.

29a. 101 East Main Street
ca. 1920-1930
C

Shed: Intact early twentieth-century weatherboarded front-gable shed with standing-seam metal roof covering and a nailed vertical board door with metal hinges. Appears to be part of service station property.

30. 105 East Main Street
ca. 1900; alt. ca. 1945, 1985
C

Alvah and Lucy Alexander Store: One-story, front-gable frame commercial building with a rear gable extension and two side shed extensions; the first of these, a front-gable one-bay extension at the buildings's east side with a false front parapet, is thought to have been added shortly after this building was constructed; the second extension at the building's west end continues

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the store's front elevation and false front parapet, and may have been added during the early twentieth century as well. At the building's front-gable and false front parapet, is an original bracketed cornice; the east extension's parapet has a similar bracketed cornice. Beneath store's the circa 1945 metal awning, the storefront's diamond-paned transom windows, though painted over, are still in place. The front elevation was altered after the Second World War by replacement brick aprons, and large plate glass and metal windows, although some of the windows are still secured within wooden surrounds. The store's interior showroom has been successively altered, most recently in the late 1980s.

Alvah and Lucy Alexander, who ran a dry goods and notions store in this building from approximately 1945 until 1985, was this building's longest occupant. Earlier businesses operated here included a livery stable run by Dock and Wilson Oliver (ca. 1920s) and J. W. Starr's dry goods store (ca. 1900-1915).

30a. 105 East Main Street
ca. 1985
NC-Age

Warehouse: Front-gable metal-clad warehouse for former Alexander store (presently, known as Creswell Furniture Store).

31. 107 East Main Street
ca. 1935
C

Davenport's Market: One-story, three-bay concrete block commercial building with a stepped false front parapet concealing a flat sloping roofline, and a one-story frame rear shed extension. The storefront façade has a wood and glass sash door flanked by wide plate glass and metal display windows. There is signage for Coca-Cola, in addition to signage for local businesses such as Maola Dairies.

Davenport's Market is the oldest store continuously operating in town. When Marvin and Emily Davenport bought the business in 1954, a grocery had been operating in this building for at least twenty years prior. The Davenport family continues to run this grocery.

32. 109 East Main Street
ca. 1900
C

Aileen Pritchett Store: Two-story, three bay front-gable turn-of-the-twentieth-century commercial building that has retained its original appearance and character. It has a small extension at its east end, and a rear shed extension. Although the front elevation's foundation was enclosed by brick circa 1935-1940, around the time that a handsome curved concrete step was added, the building retains its upstairs 4:4 double-hung sash windows, weatherboarding and cornerboards, brick flue chimney, and, at the entrance,

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paneled wooden aprons and parts of the wooden storefront bay windows (the original sash windows were replaced with plate glass windows by the 1960s).

This was the dry goods store of Aileen Pritchett from the 1940s until the 1960s. Pritchett was the wife of Harry Pritchett, who operated a grocery store in town during the 1930s.

33. 111 East Main Street
ca. 1915-1920; alt. 1990
C

Bill's Soda Shop: Two-story, three-bay frame front-gable commercial building, now covered by vinyl replacement siding. Two paired entrances, with a storefront bay window on either side, suggest that this building initially had two stores. Original storefront glass transom in place, and wood and plate glass windows in bays (one window is boarded), below which are brick aprons. 1960s Maola (dairy company based in New Bern, N. C.) sign still over entrance.

Bill's Soda Shop, operated by Bill Peal in the 1950s and 1960s, was a popular gathering place for teenagers and adults alike. It was briefly Walt's Soda Shop after Mr. Peal retired.

34. 113 East Main Street
ca. 1900
C

Store: Two-story frame front-gable weatherboarded commercial building with two one-story side shed extensions on either side, the west one apparently another small store. Upstairs windows now boarded but bracketed window hoods and plain surrounds and sills still in place. Other period details include molded eaves, cornerboards, and a standing seam metal roof. The first floor has two large storefront four-pane windows, two sash door entrances, and evidence of the main store having had a shelter or awning. The flanking west and east small storefronts have a false front parapet.

35. 115 East Main Street
ca. 1895-1900
C

Bateman Store: Handsome two-story, three-bay late Italianate style frame front-gable commercial building. Retains a multitude of original exterior features, such as the decorative raking cornice over pronounced gable returns, corner pilasters, prominent molded window hoods with brackets, a bracketed cornice with decorative applied sawnwork over the storefront, projecting bay windows, and paneled window aprons. All windows are presently boarded, but 1974 photographs of this store show that there are 6:6 double-hung sash windows at the second floor, paneled doubleleaf entrance doors and large eight-pane bay display windows. There is a one-story rear shed extension with a screened porch

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and a small one-story extension at the rear of the store's west elevation.

This was a dry goods store from the late nineteenth century, and one of the oldest and most intact stores left in Creswell. Previous owners are unknown, but Eva Bateman, who taught at the Creswell School between 1915 and 1920, ran this store from the 1920s until the 1950s. According to local sources, Bateman had a small grocery and dry goods business but by the end of her career, this building was principally a feed store for cattle and horses. It has been acquired by a local businessman who plans to renovate it in 2002.

[Fifth Street]

36. 201 East Main Street
ca. 1895-1900
C

Store: This two-story, front-gable weatherboarded commercial building, constructed at the same time as the Bateman Store, has a number of features identical with that store, suggesting that these share the same builder. First, there is the raking cornice, the corner pilasters, the storefront cornice, and applied sawnwork decoration at the cornices. Then, although the display windows were not projecting bays, they were nevertheless as large and as prominent as those in the Bateman Store. This commercial building has a one-bay side shed extension which also shares the storefront's cornice. There is a one-story, one-bay gable rear extension that appears to have been built, like the side shed, at the same period the store was originally constructed. Although who ran this store is not known, it is also one of the oldest and most intact stores in town, and is presently being renovated.

West Side, North Seventh Street

37. 102 North Seventh Street
ca. 1900; alt. 1930, 1985
C

Norman Davenport House: The original part of this house, still very discernable, is a one-story, three-bay frame side-gable dwelling, a type traditional to eastern North Carolina, with a one-story rear ell. In the main block, there are 6:6 double-hung sash windows, and a hip roof front porch with paneled wooden post supports; the rear ell retains one 2:2 double-hung sash window. There is a replacement flue chimney and a standing seam metal roof. The weatherboarding is covered by replacement vinyl siding and the porch has screening but the house otherwise appears, at its core, as it did when first built. Sometime in the 1930s the Davenport family expanded the house by adding an upper story to the rear ell, including a shed dormer. The rear ell porch was

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enclosed. Then, in the 1980s, a small gable side extension was added to the house's north elevation; this extension, screened from the road by mature pine and cedar trees, does not adversely affect the house's early twentieth-century character.

This was the home of Charles Norman Davenport, Sr., Creswell's turn-of-the-twentieth century mechanic and undertaker. Davenport's children, one of whom was Mike Davenport, were all active in Creswell's business and civic life.

37a. 102 North Seventh Street
ca. 1910-1920
C

Outbuilding: This front-gable outbuilding, resting on cinder block piers at the rear of the Norman Davenport property, appears to have been an early twentieth-century office for a local doctor or lawyer. The building, which has a standing seam metal roof, is lit by three 6:6 double-hung sash windows, two of which are at its south elevation. The narrow horizontal six-panel doors at its front and rear elevation may be original, as well as the front-gable porch. Although exposed rafter ends are present, it may be a case of the cornice board having been removed.

38. 106 North Seventh Street
ca. 1960-1965
NC-Age

House: A plain one-story brick ranch, this dwelling, which has a rear carport entered via the Creswell Baptist Church's gravel driveway, is the current parsonage for that church.

39. 108 North Seventh Street
ca. 1895-1915; alt. ca. 1980
NC-Alt

Creswell Baptist Church: Queen Anne style L-plan frame church with a bell-cap belfry tower at the intersecting front and side gables, whose doorway is the entrance to the building's vestibule. Documentary photographs from 1974 show the church was not brick veneered at that time, something which may have taken place when the education annex was constructed behind the church circa 1980; due to this recent alteration, the integrity of the building has been substantially compromised, so that it cannot be considered a contributing resource. In spite of its replacement brick veneer, this church has retained nearly all of its original exterior features, and all of the sanctuary's interior elements. Like Christ Episcopal Church on South Sixth Street, nearly all of the windows are paned translucent stained glass, in the Queen Anne style, except for a three-part window at the church's south gable, which has opalescent stained glass. The small apse at the church's north elevation also has a small opalescent three-part stained glass window, flanked by Queen Anne style ones. Behind the church's west gable is a one-and-a-half story gabled extension, the first education/community annex for

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congregants, which was probably built in the 1930s. The annex is very plain and lit by single and paired 6:6 double-hung sash. It connects to the 1980s annex by a gabled cantilevered shelter. Inside the church, which has an auditorium plan, are original four-panel millwork doors, as well as patterned beaded board walls and wainscoting in both the vestibule and sanctuary.

Although there had been rural Baptist churches in the vicinity from the early nineteenth century, including nearby Concord Primitive Baptist Church, the earliest documentation of a Baptist church in Creswell was in 1889, when the Plymouth newspaper described a "handsome missionary Baptist church" under construction. There was also a small Disciples of Christ congregation in Creswell from 1900 until 1911, ministered to by Joseph McCaskey. This may have no connection to the Baptist church, except that this building's auditorium plan with entry through the intersecting belfry tower was a popular plan with Disciples of Christ churches in nearby counties. Possibly, this church may have been built for the Disciples of Christ but acquired by the Baptists after 1912.

39a. 108 North Seventh Street
ca. 1980-1985
NC-Age

Creswell Baptist Church Annex: One-story, brick-veneered side-gable building with exterior flue chimney at its west gable end, and principal entrance, double sash doors, at the east gable, facing the church's 1930s two-story annex. This building, which has 1:1 double-hung sash windows, has an entrance (a metal paneled door) at its south elevation.

East Side, South Sixth Street

40. 301 South Sixth Street
ca. 1895-1900
C

Methodist Church Parsonage: Two-story, three-bay side-gable dwelling with a one-story rear ell. The house rests on brick piers and the plain roof, which has no returned gables or cornice, has standing seam metal covering at the front elevation, and an earlier patterned tin metal covering at the rear elevation. Replacement aluminum siding obscures the original weatherboarding and original details, but the double-hung 6:6 sash windows' muntins are painted black, a common early twentieth-century treatment, and the windows and doors have plain surrounds with drip molding and simple sills. The most decorative features of this house may be limited to the partly replaced hip roof front porch, which retains chamfered wooden post supports, and the central entrance with its paneled sidelights and sash door.

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This dwelling, built at the turn of the twentieth century, served as the Creswell Methodist Protestant Church (No. 43)'s parsonage for nearly one hundred years. It is presently a rental property.

40a. 301 South Sixth Street
ca. 1935-1940
NC

Outbuilding: One-story frame outbuilding (possibly storage shed or workshop) with exposed rafter ends on its flat roof and asbestos siding.

41. 209 South Sixth Street
1893; moved 1922
alt. 1945
C

Creswell Methodist Protestant Church: A Gothic Revival style front-gable, nave plan frame church with a steeple integrated into the front gable's apex, this building, constructed in 1893 by church trustees including businessmen Alfred Alexander, William Willey, and A. E. Davenport, was moved to this spot in 1922 from its original site on the southwest corner of South Sixth and Middle Streets, where it has remained. The church was covered with aluminum siding at roughly the same time a two-story side-gable education annex (rendered in a minimized version of later Colonial Revival style) was constructed at its rear for Sunday Schools, a church office, and social occasions. However, the church retains its original form and exterior elements; the bracketed raking cornices of both the main sanctuary and the vestibule are intact, as are the side elevations' bracketed cornice and the elegant lancet arch stained glass windows, set within bracketed window hoods and molded surrounds. The vestibule entrance, sheltered by a Colonial Revival style front-gable stoop porch with classical square post supports, has a stained glass transom with the signage "Methodist Protestant Church, Est. 1893." Below the transom are four-panel doubleleaf doors. The two-story side-gable extension has, at its rear elevation, 8:8 double-hung sash windows and, at its one-story smaller rear ell, single and three-part 4:4 double-hung sash windows. Entrances at this extension have cantilevered front-gable window hoods. According to local residents, the sanctuary interior remains largely as it was at the turn of the twentieth century; walls and ceilings have patterned beaded board siding and wainscoting, including the apse, and the interior space is still lit by altered carbide lanterns as shown in 1974 documentary photographs.

Founded from the Southern Methodist Church, which split from the northern branch at the onset of the Civil War (and was eventually reunited later in the twentieth century), the Creswell Methodist Protestant Church served this community into the 1980s; it is now apparently a mission church, due to a reduced congregation. Pastors who served at this church included C. E. Forlines (1901-1903), who was briefly the Creswell Academy's headmaster; R. L. Clinton (1905); J. F. Dozier (1911), J. B. Bryan (1912); "Rev. Abernethy" (1915-1918); and R. L. Hathcox (1920).

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42. 205 South Sixth Street
ca. 1880-1910; alt. 1970
C

House: One-and-a-half story, side-gable frame dwelling, its steeply-pitched roof, 4:4 double-hung windows, and hip roof porch and rear ell (now both partly enclosed) exemplary of the no-frills traditional style of rural coastal North Carolina's late nineteenth-century architecture. The roof is now replacement asbestos tile and the weatherboarding is covered by replacement aluminum siding but the house's form, features (such as its simple four-panel front door with narrow sidelights), and surrounding mature cedar trees are characteristic of working-class early twentieth-century coastal North Carolina rural dwellings.

42a. 205 South Sixth Street
ca. 1940-1955
NC

Outbuilding: Dilapidated concrete block and plywood front-gable storage shed, at back of lot.

43. 201 South Sixth Street
ca. 1900-1915; alt. 1945, 1990
C

Hardison-Peal House: Two-story, Colonial Revival style American Foursquare dwelling with two-story hip roof rear and south wing that may indicate this house was built earlier (possibly an 1880s two-story gable-and-wing plan dwelling). The south section of the house's one-story wraparound porch is enclosed, as is the one-story rear ell's north porch, and the house's weatherboards are covered by replacement vinyl siding. In spite of these alterations, which include the 1990s rear two-bay garage at the north elevation, the house maintains its early twentieth-century character from its standing seam metal hip roof and hip dormer and 1:1 double-hung sash windows to the wide hip roof wraparound porch supported by slim wooden posts over brick piers. Plantings surrounding the house are mature cedars, crepe myrtles, dogwood trees, azaleas, oak trees, nandinas, and boxwood.

This was the home of Dr. William H. Hardison, a physician who practiced in the community for nearly sixty years. In 1920, Hardison lived here with his daughter and son-in-law, Myra and W. D. Peal, and Peal's eight year-old son, William, from his previous marriage to Hardison's other daughter, Wilmet Hardison Peal, who had died young. An African American servant and "shofer" (sic.), Isaac Williams, also lived with the Peal-Hardison family and apparently escorted the elderly Dr. Hardison on his house calls. After Hardison's death in 1925, the house remained in the Peal family; the current owner is a granddaughter of Dr. Hardison.

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43a. 201 South Sixth Street
ca. 1920
C

Outbuilding: Front-gable rock-face concrete block utility shed with patterned tin metal roof.

[Middle Street]

44. 115 South Sixth Street
1898-1900; alt. 1970
NC-Alt

Christ Episcopal Church: Imposing Gothic Revival church with steep front-gable and tall corner tower/steeple where a paneled Gothic Revival style surround with an ogival arch transom, below which are doubleleaf paneled doors, leads into the vestibule and sanctuary. Because it was brick veneered in the 1970s, it is not considered a contributing resource; however, the interior is intact and the church is very important to Creswell's history. Other than being brick veneered, its exterior retains all of its original decorative elements from the lancet arch louvered ventilators in the belfry tower and wooden quatrefoil windows and turrets at the steeple to the single and two-part multipaned Queen Anne style stained glass windows at each elevation, in addition to a stained glass bullseye window at the front gable. The small stove flue at the front gable's north end, which once heated the church, is in place as is the patterned tin roof covering and small cross gables at the east end of the south and north elevations. There is a five-sided apse at the rear elevation lit by multipaned Queen Anne style windows. Inside, the church was renovated at the south choir stall after discovering termite damage in the 1990s, but the stall was carefully redesigned to follow what had originally been in place. Other features, such as a hammerbeam ceiling with hanging brackets, and patterned beaded board ceilings and wainscoting, are intact. The church's original furniture, from a Gothic Revival style brass lectern and pulpit, to a wooden bishop's chair, communion shelf, wood chancel rail, cross-shaped hymnal boards, and kneeling bench are all in excellent condition.

Luther A. Eborn, the 1880s rector of St. David's Episcopal Church, is said to have spearheaded the construction of this church. According to local history, some of St. David's parishioners were in favor of building a brick-paved road from Creswell to the country chapel; however, they lost out in favor of the growing town. Eborn was rector of Christ Church until his death in 1911, the year that the church's marble baptismal font was given in his memory. Christ Church also uses the 1850s Gothic Revival style communion plate and chalice designed for St. David's Church. Other rectors that served Christ Church during the early twentieth century include R. B.

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Drane (1912) and J. Johnson (1914-1915). Prominent Creswell parishioners included Dr. William H. Hardison and the Claude T. Spruill family. This church, whose congregation now numbers less than forty, is part of an Episcopal church mission network including nearby churches at Lake Phelps and Columbia.

44a. 115 South Sixth Street
ca. 1980
NC-Age

Christ Episcopal Church Parish House: One-story, front-gable brick-veneered building connected to the church's north elevation by a raised walkway for handicapped parishioners. This parish house, constructed in the 1980s, was designed to be as contextual with the church as possible (comparable front-gable pitch, recessed location, rectangular multipaned stained glass windows at the front elevation similar to the Queen Anne style nave and apse windows). Entry is through a recessed doorway at the building's south elevation. Inside, the building is very plain, with sheetrock walls and vinyl linoleum tile flooring.

45. 111 South Sixth Street
ca. 1920-1930; alt. 1990s
NC-Alt

House: Considerably altered two-story, four-bay frame sidehall plan clipped gable Craftsman style dwelling. Features hinting at this house's former appearance include the Craftsman style stained glass window just below the clipped gable roof.

45a. 111 South Sixth Street
ca. 1980-1990
NC-Age

Outbuilding: L-shaped plywood building with corrugated steel covering used as a workshop and linked to residence by a metal chain link fence.

[Empty lot]

[Holton's Service Station, SEC South Sixth and East Main Streets]

[East Main Street]

46. 103 North Sixth Street
ca. 1900-1903
C

William Willey House: Exceptionally well-maintained and intact, in addition to unusual, example of turn-of-the-twentieth century Queen Anne style dwelling. The weatherboarded two-story house forms a "T" plan, with a projecting center extension, with the house's entrance is at the extension's south side. There is a wide wraparound porch sheltering this extension's three elevations, and it has a turned rail balustrade with Gothic Revival style "keyhole" spandrels, in addition to turned post supports. All of the 1:1 double-hung sash windows have molded window hoods and sills, as well as

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original louvered shutters. The roof, covered with standing seam metal, retains small corbel cap interior chimneys and paneled horseshoe gables, a treatment rarely seen in eastern North Carolina. Tall oaks, pecans, and Norfolk pines shade this lot, along with a gnarled crepe myrtle. One of the most amusing features is at the sidewalk's front stoop, where "WmW" was imprinted in the concrete for the house's first owner, William Willey (1855-1931?)

William Willey (pronounced "Wiley") ran a general merchandise store at the northeast corner of East Main and North Sixth Streets from approximately 1896 until the late 1920s. This building, on the next lot to the north, was Willey's residence until his death in the 1930s, when it was passed to his nephew, William Bateman (1901-1991?), who lived here for several years with his wife Jean. After the Batemans' deaths, the house passed out of the family.

46a. 103 North Sixth Street
ca. 1900-1920
C

Outbuilding: One-story, weatherboarded front-gable building, with one room and 4:4 double-hung sash. Served either as an office or as servants' quarters.

47. 107 North Sixth Street
ca. 1925-1935
C

House: This one-story, front-gable weatherboarded Craftsman bungalow has a number of features identical to the Mike Davenport House (No. 1) at 311 West Main Street. Both houses retain intact knee bracing, exposed rafter ends, and decorative shingles and sawnwork on both their front gables and square wooden porch posts, although this house has a replacement rail balustrade. As with the Mike Davenport House, the original weatherboarding has a projecting course just below the Craftsman style 4:1 double-hung sash windows, below which is wider weatherboarding. This house has a 1980s rear extension incorporating the former rear shed porch, and, overall, is intact and well-maintained.

48. 109 North Sixth Street
ca. 1940-1950; alt. 1970-1990
C

House: Two-story, three-bay side-gable frame Minimal Traditional Colonial Revival style dwelling with aluminum siding and paired and single 6:1 double-hung sash windows. Two-story rear extension and rear open stairway indicate that this now used as apartments.

49. 113 North Sixth Street
ca. 1970-1980
NC-Age

House: One-story, side-gable brick ranch with attached carport. Yard enclosed by a chain link fence.

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49a. 113 North Sixth Street
ca. 1970-1980
NC-Age

Outbuilding: Small plywood front-gable shed with side shed extension at east end of lot.

50. 201 North Sixth Street
1973-1979
NC-Age

St. Mark's A. M. E. Zion Church: This front-gable cinder block church, built over a six-year period in the 1970s, has a brick-veneered front-gable vestibule incorporating an entrance and bathrooms. Decoration ranges from the grand—a giant stone cross over the plate glass and metal double-door entrance—to, in the case of the tiny fiberglass steeple on the roof, the miniscule. A number of salvaged elements from the older church on site, such as stained glass Queen Anne style windows, the old church bell, and even the former building's marble cornerstone, have been either incorporated into the present building or on the site.

This is the only African American church in the historic district, and probably the only African American landmark as such. There was an African Methodist Episcopal Zion congregation in Creswell as early as 1876, and mentions of the town church, whose minister was a Mr. Prindle, were published in the 1890s. This current building was the work of the entire congregation, with two different ministers (J. E. Turner in 1973, and C. Brickhouse in 1979) overseeing progress.

[Palmetto Street]

51. 205 North Sixth Street
1918; alt. 1990
C

Creswell Methodist Episcopal Church: Hip roof frame three-bay former church with an attached hip roof rear extension, where Sunday School classes were taught, and a front-gable portico entrance. All of this rests on brick piers with no infill. The church's weatherboards were covered by replacement vinyl siding circa 1990, but, apart from the asphalt roof and new wooden portico flooring, all elements are original and intact. The church is lit by translucent one- and three-part double-hung sash windows with pointed arch transoms; at the Sunday School wing are regular 4:4 double-hung sash windows. The church's exterior end flue chimneys are still in place, although the flue on the south side no longer has its stack. Inside, the former church retains a patterned beaded board ceiling and beaded board wainscoting.

According to local residents, this church was the Creswell Methodist Episcopal Protestant Church, nearly the same name as the church at 208 South Sixth Street (No. 41). It is not clear why there were two Methodist churches in town, unless

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there was a schism within the congregation. This church, which is on its original site, was built in 1918. At one time, this building was said to be associated with a Pentecostal Holiness congregation. It has been a Ruritan Club and the Womans Club Building since 1964, and is owned by the Town of Creswell.

[empty lot: former site of B. F. Spruill House]

52. 213 North Sixth Street
1915-1930; alt. 1960s
C

Smithson-Chesson House: Considerably altered two-story, two-bay sidehall-plan frame dwelling now covered with aluminum siding. Two replacement chimneys (one small flue in the northeast corner of the front porch, and an exterior side 1940s brick chimney), original 2:2 double-hung sash windows, and an altered one-story rear ell. Bilevel engaged corner porch has a replacement structural post, but the slim turned balustrade at the upper level may be original.

According to current resident Hilton Chesson, this house was constructed during the early twentieth century for Sidney Smithson, a rural mail carrier who eventually moved to Washington, D. C. The Chessons have lived in this house since the 1950s.

52a. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930-1940
NC-Alt

Outbuilding: Dilapidated frame outhouse with replacement plywood siding.

52b. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930-1940
C

Outbuilding: Front-gable shed and side shelter, sided with nailed vertical boards.

52c. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1950
CS

Structure: 1950s grape arbor.

52d. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1940
C

Outbuilding: Small frame shed for storage.

52e. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1940
C

Outbuilding: Shed roof frame animal pen, possibly for a mule or smaller animal. Side storage bay.

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52f. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1990
NC-Age

Gazebo: Constructed of treated wood, not painted.

52g. 213 North Sixth Street
ca. 1945
NC-Alt

Outbuilding: Frame and concrete block one-bay garage.

53: 219 North Sixth Street
ca. 1925-1930
alt. 1945, 1960;
C

Clyde Smithson House: Two-story, two-bay frame Colonial Revival style clip-gable dwelling with Craftsman style features such as the north elevation's exterior side chimney and the hip roof front porch's pier supports. There is a one-story rear ell with an enclosed south porch, and a small low hip-roof extension at the south elevation. Windows are 6:6 double-hung sash, there are louvered ventilators at each gable end, and roofing is standing seam metal. Surrounding the house are 1930s outbuildings, mature oak trees, and azalea and crepe myrtle plantings.

For many years, this was the home of Clyde Smithson, brother of Sidney Smithson, who was a small farmer. Clyde Smithson also worked for the A. B. C. store downtown.

53a. 219 North Sixth Street
ca. 1940
C

Outbuilding: Front-gable utility shed with exposed rafter ends, a plywood hinged door, and replacement aluminum siding.

53b. 219 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930
C

Outbuilding: Side-gable weatherboarded shed, possibly for tool storage, with one 6:6 double-hung sash window at its rear elevation and paired batten door entrances. Replacement corrugated metal roof.

53c. 219 North Sixth Street
ca. 1952
C

Outbuilding: Front-gable open frame shed with standing seam metal siding.

Sixth Street, West Side

54. 400 South Sixth Street
ca. 1960
NC-Age

House: One-story brick ranch with Colonial Revival features (bay window, louvered shutters), but with certain eclectic elements (recessed entrance with shelf sidelights, Chinese fretwork at front elevation bathroom window) that recall 1930s and 1940s ranch houses.

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55. 302 South Sixth Street
ca. 1925-1940; alt. 1990
C

House: One-and-a-half story side-gable frame Craftsman bungalow with wide hip dormer, shed roof bay windows, single, paired, and three-part double-hung Craftsman style sash windows, and a flush exterior end brick chimney at the north elevation. The front porch has square post supports and a replacement balustrade. In spite of the large rear gable extension (the rear is now Creswell Construction Company), the front and side elevations of the house appear little changed, in spite of replacement vinyl siding.

55a. 302 South Sixth Street
ca. 1990
NC-Age

Outbuilding: Front-gable cinder block and plywood garage.

[Creswell High School parking lot]

[Middle Street]

56. 112 South Sixth Street
ca. 1900-1920; alt. 1990
C

Edgar Woodley House: One-story frame traditional weatherboarded side-gable dwelling with rear ell and 1980s side-gable rear extension off the ell. Hip roof front porch has replacement Victorian style balustrade and sawnwork. Windows are replacement 1:1 sash, but drip molding and plain surrounds original to house. Rear ell porch enclosed circa 1965. A shed roof latticework carport is off the rear extension.

This was the home of Edgar Woodley, clerk at the Bank of Creswell, which was founded circa 1910. Some period outbuildings are still on this lot.

56a. 112 South Sixth Street
ca. 1930
C

Outbuilding: Side-gable weatherboarded frame shed with standing seam metal roof that, at the east elevation, extends to form a carport shelter with wood post supports.

56b. 112 South Sixth Street
ca. 1920-1930; alt. 1970
C

Outbuilding: Small weatherboarded, one-bay front-gable barn with a sloping side shed and an overhead loft. This rests on a low brick pier foundation. All doors—the principal door, the loft door, and the shed door—are batten. The standing seam roof covers the front-gable, the shed, and the small plywood lean-to shed constructed by the shed.

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57. 110 South Sixth Street
ca. 1875-1890
NC-Alt
House: Drastically altered one-and-a-half story Gothic Revival dwelling with steep decorative center gable, replacement enclosed shed roof porch, and rear ell now resided with vertical composite siding. Since 1974, the double-hung 6:6 window sash had been mostly enclosed or replaced with smaller double-hung windows. Original features include center gable's sidelit balcony entrance, which retains four-panel door; above this is a pointed arch louvered ventilator.
58. 104 South Sixth Street
ca. 1890-1910; alt. 1980s
C
Dr. Hassell House (Town of Creswell Building): Two-story, three-bay side-gable dwelling altered by replacement vinyl siding, replacement double-hung 6:6 sash windows, and a garage incorporated into former house's two-story rear ell. Front-gable stoop porch is replacement. Inside are intact features from when Dr. James L. Hassell lived here in the early twentieth century, such as tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings, patterned beaded board over the hall entrance to the south parlor, and a plain chamfered newel and simple handrail with square pickets. The Town of Creswell acquired this building in the 1980s, and municipal offices are located here.
- 58a. 104 South Sixth Street
ca. 1995
NC-Age
Outbuilding: Open frame and metal front-gable shed used by Town of Creswell. Located behind Town of Creswell Building.
- 58b. 104 South Sixth Street
ca. 1995
NCO
Memorial Tablet. Granite marker commemorating Creswell soldiers in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.
- 59: 100 South Sixth Street
ca. 1890
C
Hopkins Hotel: Impressive two-story Queen Anne/Italianate dwelling thought to have initially been built as a residence for the Bateman family before W. T. Hopkins and his family converted it into a boarding house and hotel during the 1910s. Although all weatherboarding is covered with replacement vinyl siding, all exterior elements are in place except for the west half of the house's rear south wing, which was moved to the site of the present fire station and used as a store circa 1920-1930 before eventually being demolished. Basic form of multigabled house is an "L" plan with a bilevel porch at the front elevation that wraps to the north side of the house. There is a small cross-wing at the north elevation and two rear gable ells. The half that remains of the south rear gable's extension, which has a sloping shed roof, appears to have been built the same time

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as the rest of the house and has a small shed porch at its rear elevation built after Cecil Godwin moved the other half to West Main Street. Intact exterior features include the gables' brackets and fanlight windows (now enclosed), the 6:6 double-hung sash windows with bracketed hoods, the center bay's diamond pane transom and sidelights on the first and second floor (the second floor's transom is covered by the lowered porch roof), all stained glass, and the spiky decorative sawnwork of the porch's chamfered posts, turned balustrade, and frieze. Inside, the center hall has a curvilinear staircase at its north end, which has a turned newel post, molded handrail, and tongue-and-groove sheathing. The hall's narrow floorboards run at a diagonal. Original plaster is still in place, although under later wallpaper, and original four-panel doors, picture molding, high baseboards, and door and window surrounds with raised molded edges are all intact. The south double parlor retains pocket doors and plaster centerpieces; the two north rooms on the first floor were converted to bedrooms in the mid-twentieth century. The Hopkins Hotel kitchen, once a dining room, retains a simple coffered ceiling and high wainscoting, with an enclosed window serving as a pantry shelf.

The house is said to have been built in 1890 for Thomas Bateman, who owned a nearby grist and sawmill. By 1910, W. T. Hopkins, who worked for the Magnolia Lumber Company near Lake Phelps, had bought the house for his wife, who had always wanted to run a hotel. The Hopkins family owned the building for at least fifteen more years before Cecil Godwin, a barber, bought the house in the 1920s. Godwin detached part of a rear extension and moved it a short distance north to West Main Street, where it served as his barber shop until the 1930s. O. D. "Dock" Hatfield, a merchant in town, bought the house from the Godwin family in the 1930s, and his widow still lives here.

[West Main Street]

60. 104 North Sixth Street
1878; alt. 1940, 1990
C

A. G. Walker House: Two-story, three-bay late Gothic Revival style dwelling with many Italianate style features. House has a large center gable, a one-story hip roof front porch that once had a balcony, and a two-story rear ell whose first floor has been successively expanded, enclosed and altered. Now the oldest house in Creswell, the A. G. Walker House retains considerable integrity within and without. Unfortunately, the original double-hung sash windows have been replaced with thermopane windows in the last nine years but, as most of the

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original windows are stored in the house's spacious attic, they could be reinstated at some future time. Weatherboarding, pointed arch attic windows, bracketed window hoods (some with transoms), the bracketed door hoods with diamond-pane transoms, and the front and south elevations' hip roof porches are all in place. The front porch also retains, in addition to tall chamfered post supports, its decorative slatwork balustrade. Doubleleaf four-panel doors, surrounded by etched stained glass sidelights and a diamond-pane transom, open into A. G. Walker's center hall, which except for electric lighting remains as it was in 1879. The center hall open string staircase has no wellhole, but curves slightly at each landing. Windows have simple paneled aprons and interior doors also have stained glass diamond pane transoms. North and south parlors on either side of the hall have replacement Colonial Revival style overmantels, but one period mantelpiece is at the west wall of the rear south parlor, a wooden mantel with a curvilinear paneled frieze and Italianate style openwork cartouches. Sections of the former pantry, located at the rear of the south first floor ell, retain patterned beaded board wainscoting. The upstairs rooms are plainer with some paneled window aprons and wainscoting.

Augustus Gambol Walker (1847-1931), who came to Creswell by 1876 with his bride, the former Mary Dillon of Tyrrell County, first lived in a small frame dwelling in the west end of his property while this house was under construction. Upon moving into the house, he used the frame building for storage and it stood until 1990. Walker's dry goods business, a short alley away, was in the family until after his death in 1931; his son sold the house and business to the John Barnes family in 1940. The Barnes family moved into the old Walker house where, apart from lowering the first floor ceiling, moving the old kitchen/dining building to a lot on West Main Street, and creating a new kitchen extension, little was done to alter the house. John Barnes' daughter, Margaret Barnes Furlough, inherited the house and, apart from replacement windows and some alterations at the first floor rear, has maintained it.

60a. 104 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930; alt. 1960
C

Outbuilding: Weatherboarded side-gable shed with later screened windows and screen door. Standing seam metal roof with exposed rafter ends. According to the Furlough family, this was originally a generator house that was later used as a chicken house, then a play house for Margaret Barnes Furlough and, in more recent years, a summer kitchen.

60b. 104 North Sixth Street
ca. 1880; alt. 1970

Outbuilding: Tall, front-gable weatherboarded timber frame smokehouse constructed for A. G. Walker. The Furlough family

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C remodeled this building to serve as a summer gazebo in the 1990s, taking out weatherboarding and adding screen windows in their place. This is presently the only smokehouse left in the historic district (and probably the only nineteenth-century smokehouse left in town).

60c. 104 North Sixth Street
ca. 1910
C Outbuilding: Front-gable weatherboarded former dairy or “milk house” now used for storage. Retains standing seam metal roof, batten window shutter, and four-panel door. Interior has raised baseboards, and some remaining shelving.

[vacant lot]

61. 114 North Sixth Street
ca. 1940s; alt. 1960s, 1980
NC-Alt House: Although not a contributing building, this one-and-a-half story Minimal Traditional Tudor Revival brick dwelling nevertheless provides the district with an example of mid-twentieth century eclectic styles, such as the use of permastone and metal casement windows at the enclosed and expanded front porch. The house’s entrance is at this former porch, through a sash door flanked by jalousie windows. Tudor Revival style features include evidence of a curving offset gable once at the front elevation and a small brick buttress at the north end of the front elevation. There is a large 1980s rear extension.

61a. 114 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930
C Outbuilding: Front-gable one-and-a-half story frame barn with aluminum siding and a side shed extension. Batten loft door, batten sliding shed door, and paired batten doors at the side shed. Exposed rafter ends. Appears to have been a tractor and storage barn, possibly beginning as a mule barn; mules were a common sight on Creswell streets as late as the 1950s.

61b. 114 North Sixth Street
ca. 1930
C Office: Front-gable weatherboarded Craftsman style building with front-gable stoop porch. Has 3:1 Craftsman style double-hung sash windows, a Craftsman style sash door, and a brick flue chimney at its south elevation. May have been an office or rental house.

[Palmetto Street]

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62. 200 North Sixth Street
ca. 1945; alt. 1990
C

Bill Peal House: One-story, side-gable weatherboarded Minimal Traditional Colonial style dwelling with a rear extension considerably expanded in the last ten years (includes a garage bay). Front patio/porch intact with concrete floor, replacement rail balustrade, and original broken arch pediment center portico. Craftsman style exterior end chimney at south elevation, paired and single 6:1 double-hung sash. This was the home of Bill Peal, a mechanic, who ran the very popular Bill's Soda Shop on East Main Street from the 1940s until the 1970s.

62a. 200 North Sixth Street
ca. 1945; alt. 1970
C

Outbuilding: One-story, front-gable weatherboarded garage and workshop. Small 2:2 double-hung sash windows, 1950s sash door/ Garage bay enclosed circa 1970.

[vacant lot]

63. 212 North Sixth Street
ca. 1935
C

Dr. Harrell House: Two-story brick Dutch Colonial residence with south elevation sunporch balanced with a north elevation open patio. Front dormer has three 6:1 double-hung sash windows; below, there is a wooden cornice which wraps around the house. From this springs a broken pediment entrance supported by three slim columns, sheltering a sidelit center entrance. On either side are four-part 8-pane windows. Lot includes mature oak trees, small azalea and boxwood plantings. House little altered and well maintained.

This was the home of Dr. Harrell, who practiced in Creswell from the 1930s until the 1960s. Harrell's former office was a small brick building located at the southeast corner of this lot.

63a. 212 North Sixth Street
ca. 1935
CS

Brick Pillars: These two pairs of brick pillars, found at the house's driveway and just beyond the entrance section, were built as part of a scheme for a gated yard. Never completed.

63b. 212 North Sixth Street
ca. 1935
C

Outbuilding: Two-story, weatherboarded clip-gable garage and barn. Apparently the two garage bays had sliding doors, replaced at some point by hinged batten doors. Upstairs has two 6:6 double-hung sash windows. Shaped rafter ends and patterned tin roof.

63c. 212 North Sixth Street
ca. 1935
C

Outbuilding: One-story, one-bay clip-gable shed on raised brick foundation. Has hinged batten door, shaped rafter ends, and patterned tin roof.

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Fifth Street, East Side

64. 308 South Fifth Street
ca. 1890-1900; alt. 1980s
C

George Stillman House: Creswell's earliest known front-gable, sidehall plan house. This two-story, two-bay weatherboarded dwelling, two rooms deep with a one-story rear ell, retains a two-story full-façade hip roof front porch with chamfered posts, above which is a now-enclosed pointed-arch attic window. Entrance's sidelight windows have been painted over, but are still in place. House also retains 6:6 double-hung sash windows, plain surrounds with drip molding, and molded cornerboards. Rear ell porch enclosed and replacement aluminum siding is at its east elevation.

According to locals, this was first the home of the George Stillman family, who owned a store on East Main Street at the turn of the twentieth century. The next longtime occupant was Ardell Phelps, who bought the house in the 1940s and developed the small 1950s neighborhood of ranch houses comprising South Fifth Street to the south and east of this dwelling.

64a. 308 South Fifth Street
ca. 1935
NC

Outbuilding: One-story dilapidated tractor or animal shed with tarpaper siding.

65. 306 South Fifth Street
ca. 1900; alt. 1940, 1950,
1960
NC-Alt

Jake Walker House: Considerably altered one-story side-gable frame dwelling with one-story rear ell. The front porch was enclosed in the 1960s, and other enclosures and extensions occurred at the rear ell and carport area at that time. Brick flue chimneys at the house's exterior ends and ell appear to date from the 1930s. There is now a 1990s carport off the rear ell's north elevation.

The story behind this house's alteration is an interesting one. According to longtime residents, Jake Walker (no relation to A. G. Walker), who worked with the Davenports as an undertaker for some years, lived in this house from the 1940s until the 1980s. Walker, who ran a funeral home in Columbia at that time, worked out an arrangement whereby Creswell decedents would be embalmed in Columbia, then laid out in his dining room for local viewings. His wife, Mary, would prepare food and take care of the mourners during these events. Walker later enclosed the front porch to serve as an office.

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65a. 306 South Fifth Street
ca. 1930
C

Outbuilding: Front-gable, weatherboarded building with overhanging gabled roof shelter supported by Craftsman style brackets. Has standing seam metal roof, small brick interior flue, and 6:6 double-hung sash. Looks like an office or old store, but according to a neighbor this was the old kitchen.

65b. 306 South Fifth Street
ca. 1930
C

Outbuilding: Small one-and-a-half story, front-gable barn with nailed vertical board sheathing. Enclosed bay, batten loft door, standing seam metal roof. In fair to deteriorating condition.

[Middle Street]

Fifth Street, West Side

66. 200 South Fifth Street
1890; alt. 1990
C

Alfred Alexander House: Extremely intact and well-maintained two-story side-gable Victorian dwelling with a two-story rear ell original to the house and a 1940s side shed extension off the rear ell's south elevation. The most impressive exterior feature of the Alexander house is its intact and elaborate full-façade bilevel porch, graced with chamfered post supports, sawnwork frieze, and turned rail balustrade. Other intact exterior features include bracketed window hoods, double-hung 6:6 window sash, bracketed gables, and impressive paneled doubleleaf entrance lit by a wide two-pane transom and sidelights. The house's weatherboards are covered by vinyl siding but other significant features have not been altered.

Alfred Alexander constructed this house in 1890 soon after his marriage to Rennie Alexander; the following year, according to the local paper, he added a "cook and dining room", a detached building that has not survived. Alexander, who owned a sawmill and engaged in a number of businesses from buggy manufacturing to general merchandise, was one of Creswell's most prominent early citizens. His daughter, Matilda Alexander, taught school in Creswell for over fifty years and lived in this house her entire life. The house remains in the Alexander family.

[Middle Street]

66a. 200 South Fifth Street
1980
NC-Age

Garage. Two-bay frame front-gable garage with rear extension

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67. 106 South Fifth Street
ca. 1890 ; alt. 1990
C

Roy Hopkins House: This two-story, T-plan Italianate Victorian style frame dwelling retains its bilevel three-quarter front elevation porch, complete with chamfered posts, millwork frieze, and turned rail balustrade. Although the weatherboards are covered by replacement vinyl siding, the house's exterior, from its bracketed window hoods to its triangular louvered gable vents, retains its late nineteenth-century character. One of the house's most notable features is the projecting front gable's bay window, decorated with applied sawnwork trim, above which is a small balcony with a bell-cast tin roof sheltering a sidelit, four-panel doorway. There is also an original second-story porch at the house's west elevation (the lower porch was enclosed in the 1990s). According to locals, this house was built by Alfred Alexander's brother in 1890. By 1920, Roy Hopkins, the son of W. T. Hopkins, was living here with his mother and family. His wife, Magnolia Robertson Hopkins, taught at the Creswell School from 1915 to the early 1920s. The family took in boarders during the 1920s, some of whom were school teachers.

67a. 106 South Fifth Street
ca. 1930
C

Garage: One-bay frame garage at north side of property.

68. 104 South Fifth Street
2001
NC-Age

Manufactured House

69. 100 South Fifth Street
ca. 1880-1890
C

House: Two-story, three-bay weatherboarded side-gable, stylistically with its plain exterior, hip roof front porch, molded corner boards, and prominently returned gables, a cross between late Greek Revival and stripped-down Victorian. Standing-seam metal roof, 6:6 double-hung sash windows with plain board surrounds, a two-story rear-ell, and a one-story rear shed extension. This rests on a brick pier foundation

69a. 100 South Fifth Street
ca. 1910-1920
C

Garage: One-story, two-bay weatherboarded garage located SW of house.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Creswell Historic District meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the areas of social history and commerce and Criterion C for architecture. The district's period of significance begins in 1874, the year Creswell was incorporated; its earliest surviving building, the A. G. Walker Store, dates from between 1874 to 1877. This period ends in 1952, when significant development within the district ceased.

Creswell's vicinity had been an informal community from 1797, with settlement gradually creeping westward to the town's future site beginning in 1826, when the first post office in the area was established. With incorporation, development accelerated rapidly. Between 1874 and 1915, approximately sixty percent of Creswell's contributing resources were constructed both in the commercial district of Main Street and the residential districts of North Sixth Street, South Sixth Street, and South Fifth Street. The town quickly became a regional hub of commerce and social activity after its incorporation, and its role as such continued into the 1950s; this was enhanced during the first quarter of the twentieth century when a spur of the Norfolk Southern Railroad line was extended to Creswell in 1903.

The district has a particularly strong concentration of turn-of-the-twentieth century commercial frame buildings, whose survival rate has been extremely low throughout eastern North Carolina. These buildings, one- and two-story front-gable weatherboarded structures, have large storefront windows, recessed entrances, and some Italianate style sawnwork decoration. Merchants of these stores constructed their houses, large two-story Gothic Revival and Italianate style dwellings, a short distance away; many of these houses survive intact. Both stores and houses are further distinctive, besides their intact condition, for being built in styles—generally late Greek Revival with elements of Italianate and Downingsque design—that were nearly anachronistic in North Carolina's larger coastal towns at the time of their construction.

As the twentieth century progressed, the town's focal point turned away from the dying river trade and toward a new era of transport by road and railway. The town developed further west, building mid-twentieth century neighborhoods along Sixth, Seventh, and Palmetto Streets. By 1951 when the railroad spur closed, the town of Creswell's development shifted to U. S. Highway 64, approximately a quarter-mile north of the present historic district. The shift preserved exceptional houses and commercial buildings that, otherwise, would be lost today if development had remained focused upon traditional commercial and residential areas. Besides the late nineteenth-century Italianate and Queen Anne buildings, remarkable survivals in themselves, this district also has intact 1920s-1930s Craftsman style bungalows, early and mid-century Colonial Revival dwellings, and Minimal Traditional houses. Together, these buildings comprise the older village of Creswell, little changed from the mid-twentieth century.

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Historical Background: Commerce and Social History

Located in eastern Washington County's Scuppernong Township, Creswell's official founding in 1874 and previous loose confederation as the community of Cool Spring from 1826 was rooted in nineteenth-century agricultural trade along the small Scuppernong River. A creek at its source near Mount Tabor Church, the Scuppernong River (with some man-made assistance) was wide enough for barges and small vessels some six miles east at Spruill's Landing, the wharf that served this rural community in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Scuppernong widens further still eight miles east of present-day Creswell near Columbia, North Carolina, where just north of Columbia it meets the Albemarle Sound at River Neck. For nineteenth-century farmers in this part of eastern Washington County, with the impenetrable East Dismal Swamp to the west, a flat landscape punctuated by canals, and few existing roads often difficult to traverse due to flooding, the humble Scuppernong was a lifeline to civilization. This small body of water led to the regional markets of Plymouth, Edenton, Elizabeth City, and Norfolk, where local produce—cotton, potatoes, peas, and lumber—could be sold and supplies could, in turn, be shipped back down to Spruill's Landing.

Although just outside the district, Charles Pettigrew (1744-1807)'s plantation, Belgrade, is the area's earliest surviving building, along with St. David's Episcopal Church. Belgrade stands approximately a quarter-mile northwest of Spruill's Landing; St. David's, an early nineteenth-century frame chapel faces Belgrade on the south side of SR 1158. Born in Pennsylvania, Pettigrew, who lived in North Carolina from the age of sixteen, became an Anglican priest in 1774 and served as rector of St. Paul's, Edenton, during the Revolutionary War. Following the war Pettigrew, though never officially consecrated as such, acted as Bishop-elect of the fledgling Episcopal Church's North Carolina Diocese until his death. After his first wife died, Pettigrew moved from Perquimans County to western Tyrrell County in 1789 where he began Bonarva, his first plantation in the area. Pettigrew maintained Bonarva, eventually turning it over to his son Ebenezer in 1803, but decided to move nine miles west in 1797 when he bought a sixty-acre tract from James Dillon. On this new plantation, Belgrade (part of a new county two years later when western Tyrrell was incorporated as Washington County), he erected an unassuming story-and-a-half frame dwelling, described by family members as a more elegant and comfortable house than any he had lived in before, which still stands. Despite Pettigrew's ill health, he worked tirelessly on temporal and spiritual matters; he cleared the swampy lands of his Tyrrell and Washington County farms, planted rice, corn, and wheat, sold his lumber, and built a church. In 1803, he wrote fellow rector Nathaniel Blount that he was building a chapel near his home. This chapel, known as St. David's Episcopal Church since its official 1857 consecration, was willed to the small local congregation around Belgrade when Pettigrew died in 1807.⁷

By 1826 residency, including St. David's congregants, had increased to the extent that a post office was

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requested and obtained. The post office, known as Cool Spring, possibly took its name from the artesian wells west of the river. Located in Scuppernong Township, Cool Spring was three-quarters of a mile from the west bank of the Scuppernong River, a short distance east of present-day Creswell. Early postmasters included local farmers like Joshua Phelps (1837) and Hardy Hardison (1843), a doctor who was said to have tended to slaves and planters alike.⁸ Antebellum farmers clearing and planting along what would become Creswell's Main Street included the Woodley family and Hardy Phelps.⁹ In the late 1860s, Cool Spring did not appear in area directories but its residents, such as Dr. H. Hardison and Joseph B. Davenport, were listed as living in Scuppernong.¹⁰

In April 1872 William Atkinson applied for a post office to be opened "half a mile from [Spruill's Landing]" on the north side" (actually north-northwest of the landing) to serve an area population of 1,000 between Scuppernong Town and Columbia.¹¹ Atkinson stated in his application that the new post office was to be called Creswell for the Postmaster General, John A. J. Creswell. Two years later, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation incorporating Creswell as a town, only the Assembly spelled it "Cressville". This misspelling, not reflected in early local documents such as censuses, was eventually corrected in 1885.¹²

Newcomers to the new town included Augustus Gambol Walker (1847-1931) and his bride, the former Mary Alice Dillon, who were married by St. David's rector Luther Eborn in 1874. Before moving to Creswell Walker, born in Tyrrell County, had worked as a plantation overseer at Weston near Lake Phelps after serving in the Confederate Army. Upon moving to Creswell in the mid-1870s, Walker built a log house for his family to live in while his general store to the south of his lot and a handsome two-story frame dwelling to the east of his lot were under construction. According to family history, house and store were completed by 1878 but business directories list Walker's store as operational by 1877. The A. G. Walker Store (No. 9), a two-story weatherboarded front-gable frame building built directly on the ground, still stands at the northwest corner of West Main and North Sixth streets, south of his spacious two-story dwelling which fronts on North Sixth Street. Walker's store quickly became a focal point of the new town, and the post office was located there for a time.¹³ Other businesses in Creswell in 1877 included nine other general stores, such as William Atkinson's and N. O. Eborn's. There was also H. H. Page, a shingle dealer, suggesting that the nearby forests were being timbered.¹⁴ In that year William H. Hardison, son of the antebellum Dr. Hardison, practiced medicine in Creswell along with Dr. E. B. Haughton.¹⁵

In 1880 there were ten white families and eighteen black families in Creswell proper, totalling 141 residents. Some streets had been partially laid out, such as Main, Palmetto, and Second through Seventh streets; the white families lived along Main Street and the black families lived at the far ends of Main Street and along the other streets listed. The fact that Jesse A. Cahoon, a teacher, roomed with the A. G. Walker family, indicates that local white children were being educated some years before the 1890s founding of Creswell

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Academy. Six of the white families, including A. G. Walker, operated general stores in town; W. A. Alexander, who ran a general store as well, also operated a grist mill. There is no indication from 1880 census documentation that the lumber industry had any major role in Creswell's development. Among Creswell's African American residents were Ransom Bennett, a farmer who was the town's first constable in 1874, three "preachers", and Harvey Ishmal, a shoemaker.¹⁶ By 1884 there were fourteen merchants in town, a saloon, and H. H. Page's small lumber business, in addition to another doctor, H. H. Norman.¹⁷

Creswell in 1889 was a vibrant, busy place enjoying brisk trade in town and along the river. Spruill's Landing was on the route of steamboat *Thomas Newton*, which took Creswell products to Elizabeth City and Norfolk and returned with provisions from those cities.¹⁸ Although streets existed in town by 1880, there was apparently a feeling that they could be more defined; the county sheriff summoned citizens A. G. Walker, Johnson W. Spruill, William Willey, Alfred Alexander, and Dr. J. L. Hassell to lay out streets in town properly.¹⁹ An article in the Plymouth newspaper described Creswell as "one of the most progressive little towns in North Carolina" with steamboats showing up four times a week, eight stores, and churches and houses under construction. The article also praised the town for having "one of the handsomest and best equipped academies in East Carolina," the Creswell Academy on the southwest corner of Middle and Sixth Streets, the founders of which included local businessman Alfred Alexander.²⁰ Later that year, Creswell's local correspondent wrote the *Washington Gazette* that "our town is on the move". Town policeman Henry C. Spruill was building a house on Middle Street, Alfred Alexander's two-story frame house on the corner of Middle and Fifth Streets was just completed, and local merchant Claude T. Spruill had just obtained lumber to build a dwelling and large general store on his East Main Street lot near Fifth Street. Spruill's house and store, a two-story frame building housing a post office, general store, and his wife Lula's millinery shop, was finished by August 1890, during which time Alfred Alexander was adding "a nice cook and dining room" to his new house.²¹

The 1890s continued to be a time of growth and progress for Creswell, whose population swelled to 300 residents. Thomas B. Bateman, said to be the first owner of the two-story Italianate weatherboarded residence later known as Hopkins Hotel at the southwest corner of Main and Sixth Streets, operated a steam saw and grist mill on the edge of town, and Alfred Alexander owned and operated a steam saw mill, indicating the volume of construction.²² In 1893, land was given to build the Methodist Protestant Church on South Sixth Street.²³ There was also a Missionary Baptist Church in town, as well as an A. M. E. Zion church whose minister, a Mr. Prindle, also preached in Roper, located fifteen miles west.²⁴ Finally, the pull of a growing town was too much for the old chapel at Belgrade; over the objection of some of St. David's parishioners, a new Episcopal church was built in Creswell for the increased congregation. Located at the northeast corner of Sixth and Middle Streets, the frame Gothic Revival style Christ Episcopal Church, decorated in the latest style of beaded board wainscoting and patterned manufactured beaded board ceilings, was a soaring space compared to the simple country church.²⁵

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At the turn of the twentieth century 221 people lived within Creswell's town limits. Residents received their mail by horse and buggy from the Mackey's depot on Albemarle Sound, but freight and supplies continued to be obtained and shipped to Spruill's Landing. James Stokes, an African American in Creswell hired by the steamboat company, was usually on hand to put out any fires at the landing. By this time, the landing had a swing bridge that facilitated ground traffic into Creswell, yet did not impede small barges progressing on to the small settlement of Cherry.²⁶ In town, fifteen African Americans were working for the local sawmills, Ransom Bennett had turned from farming to carpentry, and John Jones, a white bricklayer, was a resident. C. N. Davenport, Sr., had established a business manufacturing carts and buggies for townspeople. There was even an architect, Paul Bungfort, living on Sixth Street with his wife and three children.²⁷ On the darker side of progress, the town had two saloons, operated respectively by G. D. Swain and Sanford Sexton.²⁸ Residences along Main Street west of Sixth Street included C. N. Davenport's small frame house at Seventh Street and James W. Starr's two-story dwelling a short distance west.

It is during this period between 1900 and 1915 that the majority of Creswell's surviving commercial buildings are thought to have been built. There were nine general merchandise stores in 1903, of which at least three, including Claude Spruill's at the northeast corner of Fifth and East Main and William Willey's at the northeast corner of Sixth and East Main, were torn down in the twentieth century.

Between 1906 and 1911 the town grew again to a population of 300. The Bank of Creswell, a small one-story brick building located on East Main Street, was founded by Thomas Blount and Daniel Edgar Woodley. Industry increased; there were eight cotton gins in the Creswell vicinity, one of which, run by Levi S. Spruill, was located on the west side of town. Two sawmills, one owned by William T. Phelps and the other by Alfred Alexander, were also in town. The number of "drummers", or traveling salesmen, coming to town to seek orders made the concept of a hotel or boarding house a pragmatic one. A. G. Walker is listed as operating a hotel by 1903, as did Claude T. Spruill; it is possible that they boarded salesmen in their spacious homes on North Sixth Street and East Main Street.²⁹ The best-known hotel in town, Hopkins Hotel, still stands at the southwest corner of Sixth and Main Streets. It was initially built as a dwelling in the late 1880s but converted to a hotel in 1912 by Thomas Hopkins, overseer of the Magnolia Lumber Company near Lake Phelps, for his wife who had entrepreneurial ambitions.³⁰ Drummers and residents alike found transportation to the outside world much easier when the town depot, a spur on the Norfolk Southern Railroad line, opened in 1903. This station, demolished in the 1950s, was at the north edge of town, roughly where present-day Chesson Street, which intersects with North Sixth Street below U. S. Highway 64, is today. Claude T. Spruill was the town railroad agent, as well as postmaster, until J. C. Gatling, a Perquimans County native who moved to Creswell in 1891, became agent in 1911.³¹ By this time the automobile was beginning to appear in the Creswell vicinity, first in 1906 when the Albemarle Sound froze and mail had to be brought by car. Even so, longtime residents recall seeing more mules and wagons than automobiles until the Second World War.³²

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In 1920 Creswell, whose population had increased to 395 people, had a stable and extensive economy. There were twelve men listed as merchants, six men who worked in blacksmithing or as mechanics, three men in the railroad business, five engaged in the building trade, two bankers, two salesmen, two doctors, a butcher, a barber, and a soft drink dealer. A. G. Walker, 72 years old, ran his general store with his son Henry. Another longtime resident, Dr. W. H. Hardison, was 74 years old but still practiced medicine; the other town doctor, J. L. Hassell, was only twelve years younger than Hardison. Of the seven teachers in town, four taught at the new brick school thought to have been designed by architect Burett H. Stephens.³³ The other three teachers were African American women who taught at the small black school then near the northwest junction of Fifth and East Main Streets.³⁴ Although there were still two sawmills in town, it is not clear how lucrative the lumber business was for the townspeople; ten Creswell men, all African Americans, were working in the lumber business, some of whom described their trade as “juniper cutting” but there are no white or black contractors listed in the area.³⁵ A set of town ordinances passed in 1924 sought to smooth what rough edges remained of the town’s frontier past, or frontier citizens. In addition to clamping down on the practice of free-ranging livestock, fines were leveled for unsanitary privies, spitting on sidewalks or in public buildings, disorderly yards and dilapidated houses, obstructing town ditches, and cutting down or injuring the trees planted along the town’s principal streets.³⁶

By the middle 1920s the heart of Creswell’s industry had shifted from Spruill’s Landing on the Scuppernong to the west and northwest side of town, the area of Sixth and Seventh Streets where the railroad depot, sawmills, and cotton gins were located.³⁷ The shift, a gradual one from the turn of the century, was partly due to increasingly better roads and more extensive railroad transport, such as the trestle bridge Norfolk Southern built across the Albemarle Sound to Mackeys in 1910.³⁸ The Great Depression, which brought privation to all, especially spelled doom to comparatively slower and less efficient commerce by water. Adults who were children in the 1930s recalled some steamboat trade, such as shipments of oysters around Christmas time, and following the lucky bearer and his barrel home for a treat.³⁹ Individuals tied to the river trade were also beginning to vanish. A. G. Walker, having run his business in Creswell for fifty-seven years, died in 1931 and his heirs eventually sold his house and store to the Barnes family; one longtime resident of the town remarked, “The river hasn’t been clean since the Walkers lived here.”⁴⁰ After Claude Spruill’s death, his nephew Walter Peal detached the front-gable store projecting from the west elevation of his house in 1934, and moved the house a short distance east from the northeast intersection of East Main and Fifth Streets.⁴¹ At approximately the same time, William Willey’s two-story general store was torn down and a handsome Mission Revival service station constructed in its place.

Creswell, in time, shed itself of its riparian heritage, although African Americans who worked at Tommie Holmes’ sawmill continued to fish the Scuppernong for herring in winter months. Nevertheless, the town continued to serve as a social center for townspeople and the more rural communities of Travis, Woodley, Cherry, and Scuppernong into the 1940s and 1950s. During that time Main Street on a Saturday would be

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full of cars and people from morning until 11:30 at night, some of whom would discreetly indulge in a bucket of local corn liquor before heading home. Creswell High School was torn down and built anew between 1936 and 1939. Other physicians, such as Doctors Phelps and Webb, replaced Dr. Hardison and Dr. Hassell; Phelps practiced in Creswell until his death in 1962.⁴² Newer merchants inhabited the older stores along Main Street and Willie Phelps' two-section brick commercial building on the north side of the street was constructed. Eva Bateman, who had taught at Creswell Academy in the 1910s, left the world of education to run her family's store, which she did into the 1950s. In the 1930s James Walter Starr's one-story general store at 105 East Main Street became Lucy Alexander's dry goods store where local women bought their cloth for nearly forty years. Across the street, O. D. Hatfield's one-story weatherboarded shop sold a variety of goods from canned vegetables and potted meat to shoes and some clothes. By the 1950s Bill Peal's Soda Shop at 111 East Main Street was a major draw to area teenagers. And in 1954 Emily and Earl Davenport bought the concrete block grocery store at 107 East Main Street and set up their own business; in 2001, having operated the grocery for forty-seven years, they are now the oldest establishment still in operation on the street.⁴³

After the Second World War, the town's commercial center shifted away from Main Street north to U. S. Highway 64, a thoroughfare for traffic to and from the Outer Banks. Earl Davenport's drive-in theater and landing strip, Miss Donnie Smith's Restaurant, an IGA supermarket, and a number of other longtime businesses were located along the highway. One casualty of the 1950s love affair with the automobile was the rural railroad system. The Creswell depot, which had seen railcars laden with potatoes or peas en route to Mackeys on the Albemarle Sound, or local baseball players traveling to Columbia for a game, closed its doors during this time.⁴⁴

Creswell, its population of 426 one soul greater than in 1960, is today a quiet village; few who travel on U. S. 64 are aware that a whole townscape exists beyond the small strip mall, ABC store, and Copper Kettle Restaurant. A 1967 article for a state publication confirmed that Creswell and its environs were enjoying agricultural prosperity, stating, "The farmers are all building new brick homes, investing in more land, and they are buying expensive farm equipment. Each year they trade in their car and pick-up [truck], and the area is booming." On the down side, "The canal where you caught catfish and herring with a piece of wire from the chicken house is now fouled and polluted water where they dump trash, and even garbage."⁴⁵ Past machinations to develop the area—a methanol plant, a medical waste facility—were not achieved. Conversely, the town's lack of success in attracting big business to locate there has preserved its remarkable early twentieth-century physical character. Creswell's commercial streetscape in the old center of town retains an unusually high number of turn-of-the-twentieth century stores, framed by the complementary Italianate and Queen Anne style dwellings their merchants built.⁴⁶

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Architectural Context

Creswell's position as a commercial center for eastern Washington County and parts of western Tyrrell County, given its relatively high elevation, artesian springs and proximity to Scuppernon River trade, spurred its quick growth during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Historically, the town's early commercial focal point was the A. G. Walker Store (No. 9, ca. 1874-1877), the first dry goods business known to have been established in town. Its deep storage space, handsome bracketed cornices, and large hooded sash windows set the stage for other Italianate style emporiums in town, including the late Claude T. Spruill Store (ca. 1890), a two-story weatherboarded commercial building whose wide storefront windows, bracketed shelter and cornice, and transomed doubleleaf doors graced East Main Street until its 1980s demolition. In this first period of building, merchants' houses were either directly behind or attached to their stores, the former being the case for the A. G. Walker's handsome Gothic Revival-Italianate style dwelling (No. 60) and the latter being the case for Claude T. Spruill's comparable, but less ornate, home (No. 21).

Surviving Creswell residences, also constructed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, were handsome frame dwellings not just for local dry goods merchants but also for buggy manufacturers like Alfred Alexander (No. 66) and sawmill owner and operators like Thomas Bateman (No. 59). Their houses, both weatherboarded buildings enlivened by cross gables, a profusion of windows, and decorative two-story porches embellished with Italianate style sawnwork, were admired both in their day and ours. These houses, as well as Roy Hopkins (No. 67) and Claude Spruill's (No. 21) houses, were spacious enough to take on boarders—teachers, ministers, employees of timber companies, and drummers. Bateman's multigabled Queen Anne-Italianate style residence became the Hopkins Hotel by 1911.

It is probable that most, if not all, of these residences were constructed by the same group of builders. In addition to the exterior similarities of the A. G. Walker House and the Claude T. Spruill House, both built twelve years apart, they share a common interior feature with the Hopkins Hotel (ca. 1890), that of a prominent center hall with a curvilinear—and slightly awkward—staircase. All three houses' staircases, their tongue-and-groove boarding hardly concealed, share a similar awkward positioning of the newel post; rather than incorporation into the bottom step, all three newels are positioned at least six inches away from the staircase. It is possible that this builder, or team of builders, had apprenticed in a larger city and, though familiar with basic prescriptive plans and millwork, lacked finesse in final assembly.

The A. G. Walker House, however, has many smoothly executed exterior and interior details, such as diamond-paned transoms at the wide doubleleaf entrance, and over many of the first floor doorways. Then, there is the Italianate mantelpiece in the west parlor, with its applied curvilinear molding and incised cartouche, as well as plain paneled window aprons. In the former pantry, patterned beaded board suggests that walls in the service

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rooms were much livelier than the plastered and papered walls in the house's grander parts. Only fragments of this treatment have been seen in earlier Creswell houses, one being Dr. Hassell's former office (No. 58) where patterned beaded board still sheathes the downstairs wall and stair. The Hopkins Hotel (No. 59) has a comparably elaborate façade, from colored diamond transom panes and sidelights to intact turned millwork frieze and balustrade. Inside, parts of the flooring are laid out diagonally in the front hall and the former dining room has a coffered ceiling and raised wainscot paneling.

Creswell is unique in that it continued to construct Italianate and Gothic Revival style dwellings for decades after their vogue had passed in larger regional cities. For example, a dwelling such as Claude T. Spruill's 1890 two-story, side-gable house with its large center gable, with flat Italianate style transomed windows, was not being constructed in nearby Elizabeth City at that time; instead, that town was building multigabled Queen Anne and Eastlake style houses. Actually, the Spruill House replicated the 1877 A. G. Walker House in its form—a two-story Italianate/Downingesque style residence with a large center gable, transomed windows and doors, and a shed porch with chamfered posts—but, as a replication, lacking the vigor of its inspiration. However, that the Spruill House's replication is so identifiably faithful makes it remarkable. The Alfred Alexander House (No. 66)'s two-tiered façade porch and overhanging false gable is in the fashion of contemporary dwellings, such as Edenton's John R. Wheeler House, constructed ca. 1901. But the house's side-gable and two-story rear ell form, in addition to its bracketed window hoods and the imposing doubleleaf entrance, differs little from its neighbors and would not have been cutting edge for its time (as it was in Creswell) in Edenton, Elizabeth City, or Plymouth.

Between 1900 and 1915, the bulk of Creswell's surviving commercial buildings were constructed, one of which was the Bateman Store (No.35) at 115 East Main Street. A handsome two-story, three-bay late Italianate style frame front-gable commercial building, the Bateman Store retains a multitude of original exterior features, from the decorative cornice over pronounced gable returns, corner pilasters, and prominent molded window hoods with brackets, to projecting bay windows, and paneled window aprons. Across Fifth Street from the Bateman Store is 201 East Main Street (No. 36), a two-story, front-gable weatherboarded commercial building, constructed at the same time as the Bateman Store, and nearly identical in form and decoration; aside from that its display windows do not project and that it has a one-bay side shed extension sharing the storefront's cornice. Again, these two stores were looking to a reliable local prototype, in this case the ca. 1874-1877 A. G. Walker Store (No. 9), but there are differences. First, the two stores continue the display of Italianate style decoration, but windows are wide six-over-six double-hung sash, instead of the elongated nine-over-six sash seen at the Walker Store. Also, the gable roof pitch of the 1890s stores is wider, and the newer buildings are wider and not quite as deep as the Walker Store. There are few 1890s frame commercial buildings of this caliber left in northeastern North Carolina; comparable examples range from the Winfall Post Office in Perquimans County to Harrellsville's Mason & Son Store in Hertford County.

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These former dry goods and grocery stores, with their plainer front-gable one- and two-story frame counterparts along East Main Street's north and south streetscape, are the type of commercial buildings constructed in eastern North Carolina towns circa 1875-1895. However in nearby towns such as Plymouth, Washington's county seat, and Columbia in Tyrrell County these sorts of frame buildings were quickly being replaced with brick edifices at the turn of the twentieth century. And yet Creswell continued to construct its stores in a late nineteenth-century fashion into the 1910s and 1920s, as the comparatively plain O. D. Hatfield Store (No. 12) exhibits. Contrary to Plymouth and Columbia (which does retain some weatherboarded 1900-1910 commercial buildings), brick was rarely employed in Creswell as a building material (other than for chimneys, porch piers, or foundation piers) before 1940, and, except for the former Bank of Creswell (No. 11), there are no brick commercial buildings constructed before 1945.

Although store operators lived over their shops into the 1940s, the new generation of merchants—James Walter Starr, George Stillman, and Edgar Woodley—were choosing to live a little farther from the commercial district in their residences along Middle, Fifth, and West Main streets by 1910. This trend of detachment from residence and business continued into the 1940s and 1950s as Creswell residents spread farther west, north, and south. North Sixth Street, with its Craftsman style dwellings and outbuildings, in addition to Dr. Harrell's impressive Dutch Colonial brick residence (No. 63), is a good example of Creswell's expansion. Citizens at these fringes continued to operate small farming operations, as the outbuildings at Clyde Smithson's North Sixth Street house (No. 53) and Jake Walker's South Fifth Street house (No. 65) attest. African Americans, who primarily settled west of town and along Palmetto Street, which runs parallel to West Main Street east of North Sixth Street, built a number of Craftsman style dwellings in these neighborhoods between 1920 and 1940, most of which have been substantially altered.

Today, Creswell has a remarkably high number of turn-of-the-twentieth century and early twentieth-century commercial buildings and dwellings. Its retention of significant 1870s, 1880s, 1890s and 1900s buildings is considerably greater than in the nearby towns of Columbia and Roper. Comparably intact towns in this region include Plymouth and Roper in Washington County, Columbia in Tyrrell County, which also retains much of its early twentieth-century commercial district, and Fairfield in Hyde County. However, Columbia lacks Creswell's high concentration of late nineteenth-century frame commercial and residential buildings. Fairfield, although possessing considerably intact buildings from the turn of the twentieth century, was never a rural mercantile powerhouse on the scale of this western Washington County town, nor does it have Creswell's range of architecture, reaching from 1870s Italianate to 1930s Craftsman style. The one characteristic Plymouth, Columbia, and Creswell all share are the large number of Craftsman style houses and bungalows constructed between 1920 and 1940. Given Plymouth's position as a regional lumber center and the coming of the railroad to this area by the first quarter of the twentieth century, it is probable that Creswell obtained prefabricated Craftsman style building elements directly from Plymouth via rail, breaking its long tradition of retardataire architecture.

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¹ Bill Sharpe, *A New Geography of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1961), Volume III, p. 1630; 1900 Federal Census, Creswell Population Schedule; also Jones and Phelps, p. 245, and Creswell Revitalization Meeting videotape notes, April 2001..

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¹ Jones and Phelps, pp. 247-248.

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6	374060	3969860
7	373880	3969875
8	373860	3969960
9	373860	3970280

Verbal Boundary Description

The Creswell Historic District's boundaries are as shown by the solid line on the attached Creswell HD map (Scale: one inch equals 100 feet).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Creswell Historic District have been configured to include the densest concentration of contributing residential, commercial, and ecclesiastical resources dating from between 1874 to 1952. Concentration of these resources is primarily clustered along Creswell's main east-west thoroughfare, Main Street, and its central north-south streets, Seventh, Sixth, and Fifth Streets. Its easternmost boundary, 208 East Main Street, is the location of the 1890 Claude T. Spruill House, and the westernmost boundary is 310 West Main Street, the ca. 1930 Mike Davenport House; beyond these two buildings are vacant lots and later twentieth-century infill development. The southernmost boundary, at 302 and 400 South Sixth Street, along with the northern boundary at 219 North Sixth Street, are respectively the north and south ends of Creswell's early-to-mid-twentieth-century development, which expanded from the original 1870s-1890s town clustered around the intersections of Main Street with Fifth and Sixth streets.

Immediately west and southwest of the district is the 1990s Creswell School, located at the southwest corner of Middle and Sixth Streets; its northernmost boundaries run along the lot lines of the J. W. Starr House and the H. H. Norman House. The east side of North Seventh Street and the south and north sides of 100 West Palmetto Street, composed of 1960s-1980s ranch houses, were at one time open fields and then, between 1920 and 1960, part of Creswell's early-to-mid twentieth century industrial area. However, the buildings now in these tracts are neither architecturally nor historically significant at this time.



Creswell Historic District
Washington County, North Carolina

Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

-  Contributing Resource
-  Noncontributing Resource
-  Historic District Boundary



NORTH

