

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Church of Christ, Scientist (formerly First Presbyterian Church)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 111 West Ash Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Wayne

CODE

191

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Christian Science Society of Goldsboro

STREET & NUMBER

111 West Ash Street

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27530

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wayne County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Goldsboro

STATE

North Carolina 27530

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Church of Christ, Scientist (formerly the First Presbyterian Church) of Goldsboro is located at the northeastern corner of the intersection of West Ash and James Streets. Situated in a relatively flat, formerly residential area, the church has been affected by the recent encroachments of commercial real estate development. A narrow dirt driveway separates the structure from the North Carolina State Employment Commission office on the east; directly behind the church is a vacant lot which was occupied by the recently demolished McIntyre Memorial Building (1920-1978), once utilized for Presbyterian Sunday School activities.

Across North James Street is a colonial style office complex, and directly across West Ash Street is a filling station. Within a one block radius are located two other historic church structures, namely Temple Oheb Shalom (1886) on James and Oak Streets, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (1857) on James and Mulberry Streets.

Constructed and opened in 1856, by the newly formed Presbyterian congregation, the church stands on a lot 93' x 70' which was donated to the congregation by Willis Hall, a founding member and trustee. In 1953, the church was purchased by the Christian Science Society of Goldsboro.

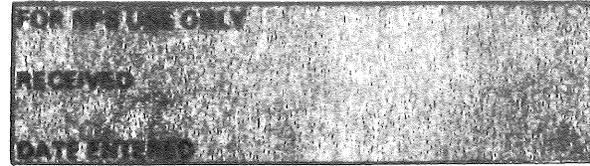
The church plan and exterior style strongly reflect the Greek Revival style of architecture which was widespread in mid-nineteenth century America. A one-story stuccoed structure with simple, classical proportions, the facade has a distyle in antis portico with Tuscan columns. The columns support a monumental pediment and plain boxed cornice. Four pilasters punctuate the facade, and accent each of the corners of the subsequent facades. The cornice line continues on all four sides of the building. The low pitched roof is accentuated by a painted wooden cupola, defined by louvered panels, pilasters, and flat molding.

The rear elevation has a small square apse-like extension with a flat roof. A separate entrance in the rear is on the east side of the church, basically it is a doorway with a shed roof. On the west side is a door with an arched glass panel, leading to the area behind the organ. However, no stairs or means of access to the room exist, which indicates that some minor structural change has occurred at this location. Both the east and west (side) elevations are marked by four large stained glass windows: the inner ones are segmental-arched and the two outer ones are composed of paired round arches.

The interior floor plan is a simple classic temple form with some modifications for nineteenth century ecclesiastical use. Essentially it is a square, one-story room ending in a raised platform framed by an archway. The organ was placed at the rear behind which is a small room, and off to the right is another small room which functioned as a vestry until most recently when it became a reading room. Within the sanctuary, the oak pews have curved backs and are placed at angles to the altar. They are not original to the structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Originally on the west side of the raised platform was a choir stall, which consisted of a stepped area behind the archway. This choir stall was removed in the late twenties to make room for a new organ which entirely filled the space, thereby blocking passage to the small room behind. Still functional, the Estey organ was a memorial gift to the congregation in 1926.

There were two pulpits in the original plan, one on each side of the nave, but these have been replaced by a simple lectern, directly in the center. The interior walls are stuccoed, painted blue, both above and below a heavily molded chair rail. There is no wainscoting. The floors are quite old and appear to be the original random width Southern pine boards. The main door is a double leaf three paneled one, unlike the other two side doors which are six paneled single leaf.

Above the main door is a flush light transom panel. Four stained glass window panels punctuate the east and the west facades. These windows were donated in memoriam and each inscribed appropriately; however, the inscriptions were removed at the sale of the church in 1953. Over the years several glass pieces have been replaced but the windows have remained in good condition.

The memorial windows were presented to the church in the nineteenth century and have remained a testimonial to those prominent Goldsboro citizens who worshipped in that sanctuary:

Octavia A. Marable	(1840-1893)	Lorraine R. Miller	(1880-1892)
John Everitt	(1802-1879)	Willis Hall	(1795-1857)
Henrietta G. McMullen	(1864-1893)	Barbara Miller Isler	(1803-1876)
Benjamin F. Marable	(1831-1892)	Ellerslee Spicer	(1872-1875)
Rachel Everitt	(1811-1889)	Henry Lee Spicer	(1875-1884)
Addie McKinnon Spicer	(1879-1884)		

The ceiling is covered with pressed tin panels which have been painted white. One of the early electrical lighting fixtures remains in the center of the room. The others were removed and replaced by indirect ceiling fixtures in the early fifties. There is no indication as to what type of lighting fixtures predated these electrical ones.

No record indicates the name of an architect or designer responsible for the simple elegance of the Greek Revival church, which probably reflects the influence of pattern-books in the area--Benjamin, Haviland, Lefever, etc.¹ In particular, the front elevation of the First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro closely resembles a rendering by Calvin Pollard of an elevation for a church in Petersburg, Virginia and the West Presbyterian Church, Carmine Street, New York City by Town and Davis.² As Talbot Hamlin notes in his history of the Greek Revival in America, the latter "with its recessed porch and two Greek Doric columns in antis" was a front so often

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

copied "that it became almost a standard church facade."³ Despite the lack of evidence of a builder, the church's ambitious classical design reveals the growing sophistication of antebellum Goldsboro. There are very few surviving full-blown Greek Revival churches in North Carolina. The frame Presbyterian Greek Revival churches of the upper Cape Fear area are the chief examples of the style, with Philadelphus Church, Robeson County, a vernacular rendition of this particular type. No examples are known of this design executed in masonry. Many New England and Virginia churches (such as those in the latter attributed to Robert Dabney) display similar character, but the type is rare in North Carolina.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of Christ, Scientist in Goldsboro is significant as a well-preserved example of a nationally popular, highly academic Greek Revival church design rarely seen (or surviving, at least) in North Carolina. The distyle in antis portico and the bold and heavy Greek Revival forms reveal the influence of mid-nineteenth century pattern books. The church is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture in the state. The Church of Christ, Scientist (formerly the First Presbyterian Church) has been a religious, cultural and architectural landmark for over 122 years. Built in 1856 by the then newly organized Presbyterian congregation, the church became the center of religious endeavor for many of Goldsboro's leading citizens. In 1953 the building was sold to the Christian Science Society who have maintained the architectural integrity of the original design.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the civic growth and cultural development of antebellum Wayne County and the City of Goldsboro; it is one of the very few antebellum buildings surviving in the town. Also associated with the rapid, sudden growth of the Presbyterian denomination in the state in the 1850s.
 - C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of nineteenth century American Greek Revival architecture as expressed in a church design, probably reflecting directly or indirectly the influence of Town and Davis's West Presbyterian Church, New York City (1831) which had this format. It is one of the best of the few surviving Greek Revival churches in the State.
- See Item 7, page 1, for further discussion.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Established in 1847 and designated as county seat in 1850, the town of Goldsboro had become the center for trade and commerce in Wayne County, and was heralded as the "Gateway to Eastern North Carolina." Subsequent growth of the population in turn stimulated the development of religious institutions within all sects. The Presbyterian congregation was founded in Goldsboro on February 17, 1855, having been preceded by congregations in nearby Everittsville and Kenansville.⁴ Impetus for the growth of Presbyterianism had been slow throughout the state, until around 1850, when encouraged by the great religious revival and interest in evangelism, missions and education, it grew until it became the third strongest religion of antebellum North Carolina.⁵

Goldsboro had grown quickly to the extent that many residents of Everittsville had moved there, and their presence fueled the interest in a new church.⁶ A committee from the Fayetteville Presbytery organized the Presbyterian congregation including the following members: Mrs. Margaret Castex, Mrs. Margaret Pittman, Mrs. Esther McMains, Mrs. Nancy Harris, Willis Hall, N. B. Bull, Mrs. Martha Gregory, Mrs. Eliza Bull, Miss Sarah McMains.⁷ The two men, Mr. Hall and Mr. Bull, were elected and ordained the ruling elders.⁸

Willis Hall (1795-1857), also a trustee of the church, donated a lot on February 24, 1855, located on the northeastern corner of West Ash and North James Streets, for construction of the new church building.⁹ It has also been said that he "provided some of the building materials which went into that church. . . ." ¹⁰ Being an extremely civic minded individual, Mr. Hall also donated the lot at Mulberry and James streets, "along with much of the brick for the building of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church."¹¹ Hall, a wealthy landowner previously from Waynesboro and Everittsville, seemed vitally interested in the development of Goldsboro's religious community. Mr. Hall's generosity was part of an impetus which aided "the efforts of the ladies in bazaars, etc., and assistance from various sources, [which] not only built the church but bought a small pipe organ, and kept a regular pastor, who was a very talented preacher and very much beloved."¹²

The church was completed in 1856 and the first service held there was a confirmation. The first trustees were: Dr. Charles F. Dewey, Willis Hall, John Griswold, E. B. Borden, Sr., R. J. Gregory and James A. Washington.¹³

By 1861 the Goldsboro church had made its first recorded report to the Presbytery which indicated that there were eleven communicants, forty-eight members of the Sunday School and \$489 collected for all purposes.¹⁴

A lack of records from 1862 to 1867 suggests that the church may have been closed during the period of the Civil War, and there was no minister assigned during this time.¹⁵ Reverend D. T. Towles had served as the moderator of the first

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

meeting of the Session in 1856 and was an occasional preacher.¹⁶ Among those men who served the congregation was the Reverend Luther McKinnon (1867-1871) who subsequently became president of Davidson College from 1885 until 1888.¹⁷

The requirements of the congregation grew to such an extent that in 1920 the McIntyre Memorial Building was constructed for use as a Sunday School, on an adjoining lot on North James Street.¹⁸

During the period of 1937 until 1943 the need became apparent to either expand the existing facilities or relocate to larger ones. Plans were made by 1949 to build a new complex of buildings on a seven acre plot on Ash Street.¹⁹ In January, 1952, after ninety-six years in the elegant Greek Revival church on West Ash Street the Presbyterian congregation relocated to their new home and placed the old church on the market.²⁰

While the structure remained vacant, William G. Perry, a noted Boston architect, who was in charge of restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and of Tryon Palace in New Bern, took notice.²¹ Passing through Goldsboro on his way to New Bern, Perry was impressed by the church and called it,

One of the finest examples of American Greek Revival Architecture that he had ever seen and that by all means it should be preserved.²²

The fate of the church weighed so heavily on his mind that upon his return to Boston he wrote in a letter to Dr. McChesney, the pastor of the church:

It is greatly to be hoped that the fine old First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro may as a 'thing of beauty' be preserved to be a 'joy forever'. In its balanced classical proportions it well represents the high quality of a designer working in the honored tradition that has decreed over the ages that religious buildings should call forth the best effort of its builders. It is simple; so was the Parthenon; so was also the teaching of the religious revival of its time. It is a lovely example of the typically American Greek Revival that is becoming more and more appreciated and adapted to our everyday life.²³

Furthermore he pleaded for the preservation of the First Presbyterian Church and, as a member of the advisory board of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Department of the Interior, advocated that if

some continuing use can be found for this beautiful building, standing as it does on a convenient corner with both dignity and charm. If so,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

it will be another welcome example of the appreciation of citizens in the culture of their past and another preservation to be added to those that have been accomplished. . . .²⁴

On April 15, 1953, the elegant First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro was sold to the Christian Science Society of Goldsboro.²⁵ Chartered in 1920, at present the Society commands a rather small membership of twelve; however, they make every attempt to retain the historic character of the church.²⁶

Footnotes

¹ Talbot Hamlin, Architecture Ambition and Americans (New York: The Free Press, 1964), p. 138.

² Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Oxford University Press, 1944), plate XLIX; p. 151.

³ Ibid., p. 151.

⁴ Memorial and Archives Committee, A Short Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro, North Carolina, December 31, 1951, pp. 1-2.

⁵ Hugh T. Lefler and Albert R. Newsome, North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1954), p. 417.

⁶ Memorial and Archives Committee, A Short Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro, North Carolina, pp. 1-2.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 2; Wayne County Public Library, Vertical File: City of Goldsboro.

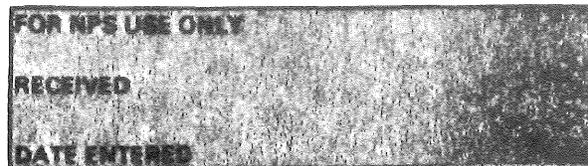
¹¹ Wayne County Public Library, Vertical File: City of Goldsboro.

¹² Memorial and Archives Committee, A Short Historical Sketch of the First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro, North Carolina, p. 13.

¹³ Ibid., p. 2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

¹⁴ Ibid., pp. 2-3.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 3.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 11.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 1A.

²¹ Goldsboro News-Argus, October 5, 1952.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Wooten and Faison Interview, June 8, 1978.

²⁶ Ibid.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1944.

_____. Architecture Through the Ages. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1940.

Johnston, Frances B., and Waterman, Thomas T. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre: the small town lot occupied by the church building.

QUADRANGLE NAME Goldsboro

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 227400 3919825
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Located at the NE corner of West Ash and ~~James~~ Streets on a lot 93' by 70', the church is bounded on the North by a vacant lot, on the east by a dirt drive, on the south by West Ash Street, and on the west by James Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Description and Significance prepared by Barbara Hammond, Consultant, Goldsboro, North Carolina

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

(919) 733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

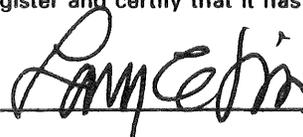
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 8, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

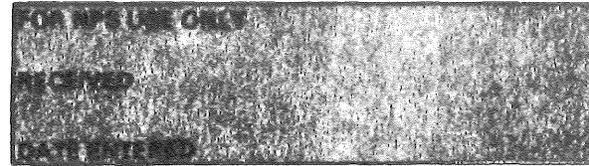
ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Lefler, Hugh T., and Newsome, Albert R. North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1954.

Wayne County Records. Wayne County Courthouse. Goldsboro, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Wayne County Public Library. Vertical File: City of Goldsboro.

Wooten, Sterling and Faison, Florence. Interview, June 8, 1978.

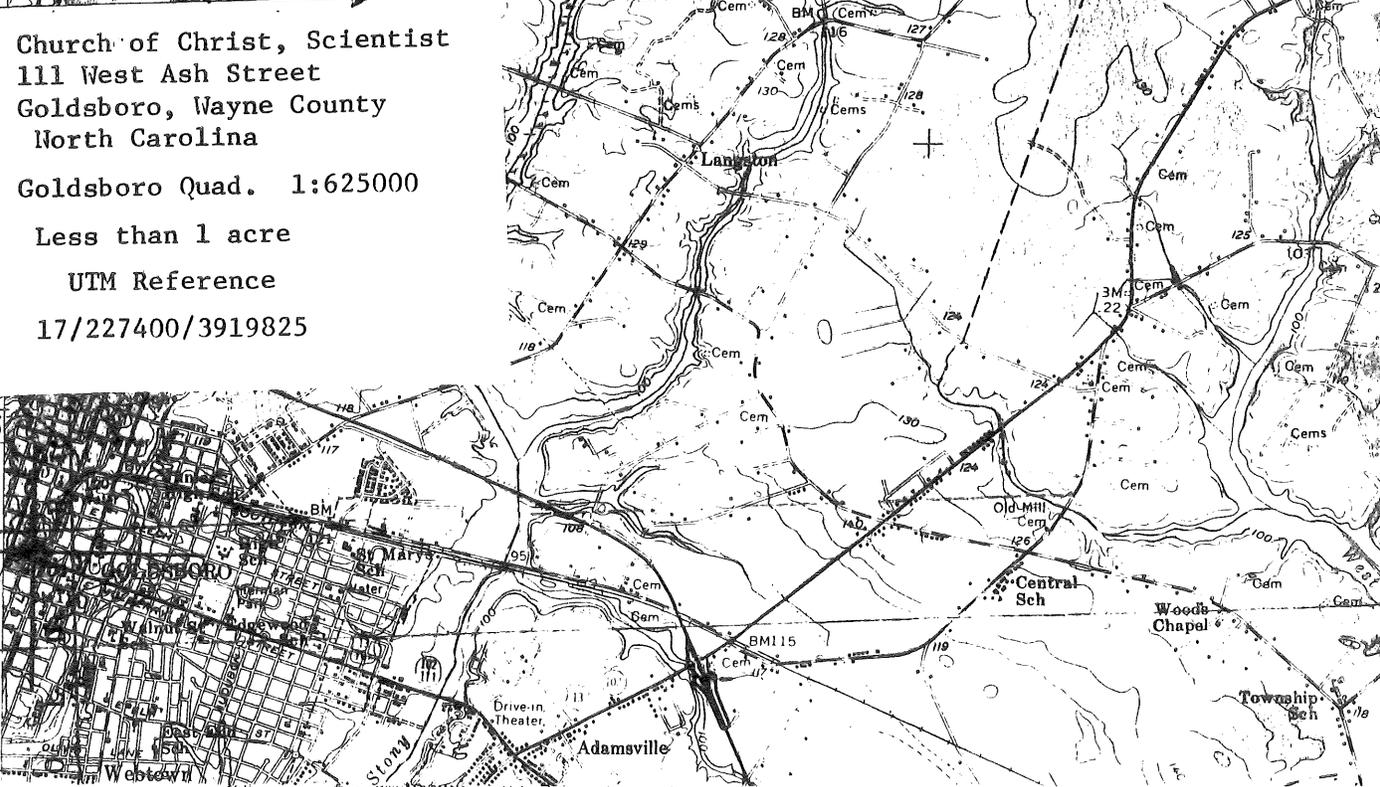
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

78° 00' 232000m.E 55'



3924 Church of Christ, Scientist
111 West Ash Street
Goldsboro, Wayne County
North Carolina

3923^a Goldsboro Quad. 1:625000
Less than 1 acre
UTM Reference
17/227400/3919825



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228

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RALEIGH, N.C.

WALTON, N.C.

17

