

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Bowers-Tripp House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 1040 North Market Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Washington

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina

code NC

county Beaufort

code 013

zip code 27889

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Justin Brown JHPO 2/23/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

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

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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

other. (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Bowers-Tripp House  
Name of Property

Beaufort County, NC  
County and State

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  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic /single dwelling  
Domestic /secondary structure

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic /single dwelling  
Domestic /secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
walls Brick  
Wood  
roof Ceramic Tile  
other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.
- 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.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1921

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Benton and Benton, Architects

Miller Construction Co., Contractors

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:



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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Bowers-Tripp House  
Washington, Beaufort County, NCSUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Bowers-Tripp House, built in 1921, is a well-preserved example of residential Colonial Revival architecture. Located just five blocks north of Washington's Historic District (NR 1979), and ten blocks north of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County, the house is situated on North Market Street -- Washington's main north/south thoroughfare. A wide tree-lined street, North Market Street is part of a neighborhood composed of houses and churches built in the early twentieth century. North Market Street is where many of Washington's prominent businessmen built houses in the early twentieth century. Majestic multi-bay, multi-story houses line the street, hinting at their extravagant details visible upon closer inspection.

The Bowers-Tripp House sits facing east on the corner of Market and Eleventh streets, and is defined by several tall pine trees in the front and other deciduous plantings to the sides and rear. The house has a matching two-car garage with the same tan brick exterior and the same green tile roof. The Bowers-Tripp House is one of several stately brick dwellings on this portion of North Market Street. The esteemed architects Frank and Charles Benton, brothers from Wilson, North Carolina, designed the Bowers-Tripp House. Miller Construction Company, a local firm, was the general contractor.

The two and one-half story house is three bays wide by three bays deep and built of tan ribbon brick. Major features include its green Spanish tile roof, paired columns along the front porch, a soldier course indicating the first story floor, and the two-story sunporch on the south side. A full basement beneath the house is not visible from the front, but the other elevations contain basement-level windows. A red pan-tile hipped roof covers the house.

On the front elevation, a large full-width front porch is supported by paired Doric columns on brick plinths along the front and triplicate columns at the corners. The flat roof of the porch is bordered by a square-in-section balustrade which extends on either side to a sunporch and porte cochere. The composition of the front facade is symmetrical, with four eight-over-one double hung sash windows -- two on each side of the front door downstairs and two on each side of a central window upstairs. The front door is accented by leaded glass sidelights and an elliptical transom. The transom is topped with an arched brick soldier course. The upstairs central window is comprised of four, four-over-one casement windows. The wide overhanging eave is accented with modillion blocks on the soffit and applied molding on the cornice. A wide frieze band completes the classical entablature. Three of the house's six identical gabled dormers with arched three-over-six double hung windows are visible from the front. Two of the house's five attenuated chimneys are also visible from this elevation, one facing south and one facing north.

The north elevation is comprised of a porte cochere topped by a balustrade, which extends one car length off the north side of the house. The porte cochere is supported on one side by a trio of Doric columns at each corner. Again, these columns match the front porch columns, as well as the wooden posts on the upstairs porch.

One dormer and one chimney are located on the side of the roof above the porte cochere. An old iron coal chute, reminiscent of the time when the house was heated by a coal furnace, remains on this elevation.

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Three windows, two six-over-one double hung sash bordering one eight-over-one double hung sash window, illuminate on the north. A door leading from inside the house to the porte cochere has been removed and the doorway has been bricked in. A rowlock course of bricks the same height as the front porch floor surrounds the house on all three secondary elevations. To the west of the porte cochere is a stairway leading to the basement.

The rear of the house now features a wooden deck added in recent years. The overall appearance of this elevation is marked by one dormer and three chimneys facing west. Two gables on the back roof frame a small upstairs porch. This porch is accessed by a door on the second story. The door and three windows, each with a transom, make up the border of the porch. This porch has a wooden balustrade matching those of the upstairs porch on the front of the house. The first story fenestration on the back is symmetrical. The back door has a two-over-four casement window on either side. Sash windows frame the casement windows. The door and the windows are accented by transoms.

On the south elevation visible on the front facade is a sunporch that carries two stories in height. The first story extends about half the distance of the front porch and has a door that provides access to it. The sunporch is delineated by four casement windows, each with a transom. The upstairs of the sunporch has two casement windows, one on each side of a door that provides access to the roof of the front porch. These casement windows are separated by paired engaged Doric pilasters that match the ones on the east elevation of the sunporch. The corners of both stories of the sunporch are accented by tripled engaged Doric columns that match the columns on the corners of the front porch. There is one dormer, as well as the south-facing chimney, on this elevation.

The richly ornamented Colonial Revival exterior readies the visitor to an interior of remarkably detailed period woodwork and fixtures. The interior features a center hall plan with a well-executed Colonial Revival staircase leading to the second story. The center hall gives access, through French doors, to two parlors, a dining room and one of the house's five bedrooms. Some of the most notable features of the interior include the applied plaster moldings creating panels on the walls and parquered floors of quarter-sawn oak with mahogany accents, all original to the house. There are ten fireplaces in the house, nine original and one new. Four of the original fireplaces are in each of the common rooms downstairs, and one is in the downstairs bedroom. The original fireplaces, with the exception of the one in the sunporch, are typical, though well-detailed, Colonial Revival designs rendered with Doric columns supporting mantel shelves, or ornate molded surrounds bordering tiled facings. The fireplace on the sunporch, however, is a simple brick fireplace with a concrete mantel.

The center hall leads directly to the rear enclosed porch, now converted to a kitchen. The original kitchen, located to the north of the back porch, is currently a living room, housing a new fireplace. All doors and windows in the room are original.

On the first floor, a door on the understair leads to the basement. The basement contains small windows on the north, west, and south walls. These windows are barely above ground level. The basement also contains a workshop and the final destination of the laundry chute. A door on the north wall of the basement leads outside to a stairway which leads to the driveway just west of the porte cochere.

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The remaining downstairs rooms are almost completely intact and include most of the original ceiling light fixtures. The fixtures include a six-armed silver-plated chandelier with matching wall sconces in the dining room, and four- and five-armed brass-plated chandeliers in the other downstairs rooms. The sunporch on the first floor has the same terra cotta-tiled floor as the front porch and the former rear porch (now the kitchen). The sunporch has trios of Doric pilasters supporting paneled wainscoting on the southeast and southwest walls. These pilasters match the trios of columns supporting the porte cochere on the opposite end of the house.

The stairway features oak flooring and turned balusters supporting a mahogany handrail. The handrail and turned balusters curve around to the south, providing a view of the stairs and downstairs hallway from above. At the top of the stairway is a laundry chute, also original to the house, which travels from the second story to the basement. To the west of the laundry chute is a doorway leading to the back porch roof. A skylight has been added to this portion of the roof to provide additional light to a downstairs bathroom.

There are four bedrooms on the second floor. Two bedrooms on the eastern end of the house are identical to one another in size and ornamentation, and two on the western end are identical. All four bedrooms contain fireplaces which have classically-inspired mantels with simple tiled surrounds. Bedrooms, as well as the upstairs hallway and the wall going up the staircase have decorative raised panels. There are two bathrooms upstairs which have been remodeled.

The second story sunporch contains access to the roof of the front porch. The room duplicates the downstairs sunporch except for the addition of an old kitchen sink located on its northern wall, an oak floor, and the absence of a fireplace.

There is a door on the second floor that opens to a walk-up attic. The attic contains several rooms, as well as the dormers. The heavy wooden rafters supporting the roof are visible in some parts of the attic.

The Bowers-Tripp House, with the exception of the few changes mentioned, remains virtually intact. The house has had four owners since 1921, and only minor changes were made prior to 1993. After 1993, the changes made have been the kitchen renovation, the removal of a doorway in the front parlor, the addition of the back deck, and the addition of a skylight in the rear porch ceiling. The house sits on tree-lined North Market Street -- a reminder of the early twentieth century expansion of Washington.

**GARAGE. 1921, CONTRIBUTING BUILDING**

The driveway leads to the one outbuilding on the property. The two-car garage located to the northwest of the main house mimics the house in design. It is built of the same tan brick and tile roof. The rails for the old sliding door are still in place and there are three-over-four double hung sash windows on the north and south elevations. The front has modern garage doors framed by original three-over-six arched double-hung sash windows.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Bowers-Tripp House  
Washington, Beaufort County, NCSTATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bowers-Tripp House, an intact Colonial Revival dwelling located at 1040 North Market Street in Washington, is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of an architectural style embraced in the 1920s by architects Benton and Benton of Wilson, North Carolina. The house maintains the prominent identifying features of a high-style Colonial Revival structure, including a front door accentuated by a fanlight and sidelights, a symmetrical facade featuring a prominent full-width porch with Doric columns, and a masonry exterior. The double-hung sash windows and hipped roof, along with the pilasters on the sunporch and the dormers, are among the details that characterize the house as an impeccable representation of Colonial Revival design. Few structural changes have taken place, leaving the Bowers-Tripp House essentially the same today as it was in 1921.

The house serves as a reminder of Washington's early twentieth century prosperity as a chief port on the Pamlico River, an era when small businesses prospered in the community and business owners expanded the city by moving with their families to the outskirts of town. Market Street was one of Washington's most desirable addresses during this period.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1771 farmer James Bonner realized that his plantation, located on the Pamlico River, was a prime area for the development of a town. He laid out sixty half-acre lots to be sold by lottery. Lots not sold in the lottery were to be sold individually for ten British pounds. The first was purchased in 1776 by George Horn.<sup>1</sup> Even before the town was formally established in 1775, the community which became Washington served as a center of commerce. The Pamlico River afforded easy access to the area, making it a natural place for settlement and trade. Washington was founded in 1775.<sup>2</sup>

In 1782 Washington was extended to include a part of a farm owned by Thomas Respass. Soon after, land owned by John Gladden and Hadrianus Van Norden was also encompassed. By 1787, there were about sixty families living within Washington's town limits. In 1790, congress established a customs house and post office in the town.<sup>3</sup>

Throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the town continued to grow. In 1791 a fire department consisting of volunteers using a small hand-pumped engine had been organized. By 1818 the Fowle brothers from New England had established a strong shipbuilding industry in the area. Washington's first sawmill was built in 1831 by Lavendar and Tannyhill. This mill was bought by Benjamin Hanks, who eventually owned eight boats and exported lumber from Washington to Baltimore and Norfolk.<sup>4</sup>

Other export businesses subsequently developed, and turpentine, salt, pork, grain, and bacon became the chief products shipped from the town. A hotel was built on Main Street by Mr. Wiswall to service the increasing traffic through Washington. In 1827, the town's first poorhouse was built; by and large, however, the town was prospering.<sup>5</sup>

Early in the town's history religious groups all worshipped together in the Free Church, which had been established on a centrally-located lot on Main and Bonner donated by Bonner.<sup>6</sup>

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This church provided for the religious services until the Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Catholics built their own sanctuaries. The Baptists kept the Free Church, which became the First Baptist Church of Washington. This building was moved to Market Street from its original location in 1834.<sup>7</sup>

Social life in Washington revolved around hunting for men and tea parties and dancing lessons for women. Washington even saw the occasional duel, such as the one between congressional candidate Henry S. Clark and newspaper editor Henry Dimock. The duels usually ended as a topic of light-hearted conversation at parties, with no injuries to report.<sup>8</sup>

Life was invariably peaceful until 1843 when mosquitoes on a ship from the West Indies invaded the area and spread yellow fever. The four doctors in town, Dr. Norcom, Dr. Freeman, Dr. Allen, and Dr. Telfair, could not keep up with the patient load; many people lost their lives.<sup>9</sup>

During the 1840s men from New England, hearing of the town's thriving social life and business opportunities, flooded the area. These were educated men, graduating from such prominent schools as Yale and Harvard. These men became the town's new doctors, lawyers, teachers, and politicians.<sup>10</sup>

By the 1850s Main Street had an eclectic mixture of houses, both mansions and cottages, and businesses. There were even a few buildings constructed of brick. Two new educational facilities, Mrs. Dimock's School for Girls and Sans Souci Female Boarding School, were established in the 1850s. This era saw wealthy merchants prospering in Washington. Boat and stage coach traffic increased, and the town became known for its active social affairs.<sup>11</sup>

By the Civil War's beginning, Washington had a population of nearly 3,000. Confederate troops abandoned the town in 1862, leaving it open to Federal occupation. Many waterfront homes were destroyed when the town was attacked by the gunboat, *Louisiana*. When Union troops received orders to vacate the town, they pillaged Washington's homes and stores before leaving. The departing soldiers set fires which burned half the town. The main portion of Washington was destroyed.<sup>12</sup>

Only 500 people remained in Washington during Reconstruction. Despite their tragic losses, these people, mostly descendants of Washington's founders, worked to rebuild their town and homes. St. Peter's Episcopal Church was the first structure to be completely rebuilt. It was constructed of brick in 1868 and located on the corner of Bonner and Main Streets. A new city hall was built in 1884. One thousand dollars borrowed from Kate Respass, the only citizen in Washington with any available cash after the war, was used to start the construction of the building. The total cost of the new city hall was \$3,500.<sup>13</sup> Slowly, other churches and homes were rebuilt. It took almost fifteen years for Washington to rebuild from the war's devastation.<sup>14</sup> Many prominent families moved into the area in the early nineteenth century, including the Bragaws, the Myers, and the Tayloes. The Nicholson family moved into the town later in the nineteenth century. The four Nicholson brothers, Dr. Samuel T. Nicholson, Dr. John Thorne Nicholson, Dr. Plummer Alston Nicholson, and Mr. Blake Nicholson, were very active businessmen. They owned Washington's first tobacco warehouse, and a racetrack for horses on Market Street. They were also real estate dealers, and all of North Market Street from Ninth Street to Fifteenth Street was known as Nicholsonville. They subdivided this area and sold lots during the early 1880s.<sup>15</sup>

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In 1879, the town's first railroad came in; the Jamesville and Washington Railroad (J&W), transported lumber from Diamond City, near Jamesville, North Carolina, in adjacent Martin County, to the Pamlico River docks in Washington on West Main Street. Once again, river business was stimulated, and Washington prospered economically.<sup>16</sup>

In 1885, the Southern Telephone Company set up a telephone system with poles and wires along the streets. Residents paid fifteen dollars a year for the use of the phone system. By 1888 Washington had three hotels: the Riverview, the Spencer House, and the DeMille Boarding House. Washington did not have a mayoral position until 1846 when the Intendant of Police position was chartered into the town. The Intendant held all mayoral responsibilities, and in 1889 the title of the position was changed to "Mayor." John H. Small became the first man to officially be called mayor of the town in 1889.<sup>17</sup>

In 1890, the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad built a branch through the town. Bonds were issued in the amount of \$10,000 for the construction of a depot. This depot was completed in 1904, and still stands at the corner of Second and Gladden Streets.<sup>18</sup>

Mayor Small persuaded the citizens to vote in favor of the establishment of the town's first public school in 1897. The town was growing and prospering as it never had before. Washington progressed with the times by contracting for electric street lights to replace the town's gas lamps. New telephones were installed. Washington even built its own electric plant. Also in 1897, the town paved Main Street from Market to Gladden with brick.<sup>19</sup>

In 1900 a fire broke out and burned many of Washington's downtown frame commercial buildings. Once again, the town had to rebuild.<sup>20</sup> The buildings were replaced with brick construction and the old wooden plank sidewalks were removed.<sup>21</sup> Within a few years, downtown economic stability was regained and many merchants established businesses in the downtown area. Wholesalers in the area included E.R. Mixon and Co., Southern Distribution Company, and Fulford Hardware Co. The Hackney brothers from Wilson, North Carolina, ran a buggy manufacturing plant. M.A. Smith ran a shirt factory on North Market Street. Ed Stewart owned and operated an iron foundry for many years. Merchants such as H. Susman Furniture Co., J.F. Buckman and Sons, M.T. Archbell, and Miss Mollie Vines filled the storefronts on Main Street and surrounding streets.<sup>22</sup> A.L. Bowers and his brother B.F. Bowers, who founded Bowers Brothers Department Store, also moved their business to Main Street. The store sold the latest men's and women's fashions, along with furniture, dry goods, and other essential items.<sup>23</sup>

The town had many excellent doctors, especially those from the Tayloe and Nicholson families. Washington also boasted many prominent lawyers, including Hallet Ward, John Mayo, Judge Stephen Bragaw, and Judge George Brown.<sup>24</sup>

Townpeople enjoyed a variety of social activities. Church was the center of social life. The town's theater was owned by C.M. Brown. Shows starring Sam Forbes and Zoph Potts sold out repeatedly. Barnum and Bailey Circus and the John Robinson Circus came to town annually. These events attracted all the townspeople to watch the clowns and costumed animals; on circus days, the streets filled with anxious children and adults watching the tents go up and waiting for the show.<sup>25</sup>

When many successful businessmen began to move their families to the outskirts of town, A.L. Bowers hired the prominent architectural firm of Benton and Benton from Wilson,

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North Carolina, to design a home for him and his family in the new "suburb" of North Market Street, formerly known as Nicholsonville. Bowers, his wife Sally Bette Tayloe Bowers, and their four children moved into the house at 1040 North Market Street in 1921. The Bowers raised their children, Gus Jr., Joe, Mary Grist, and John, along with their nephew, James Bowers, in the house.<sup>26</sup>

In 1930, A.L. Bowers died, leaving the house to his four children. Gus Jr., who married a school teacher named Mildred Doxie, resided there until 1945. Mildred Doxie Bowers conducted a Kindergarten class in the basement of the Bowers-Tripp House for a few years. The couple had one child, a daughter named Mary Llewellyn Bowers, born in 1937.<sup>27</sup>

On April 28, 1945, the Bowers family sold the house to Tom Lewis, a prominent businessman in Washington. Lewis owned the house for only four years. During this time, the house was converted, without structural alteration, into apartments. Several tenants occupied the house during this period.<sup>28</sup>

In 1949 Tom Lewis sold the house to Richard and Leggette Tripp. Richard Tripp was in the United States Navy and had served in World War II. The Tripps moved into the house with their three young children, Richard, Jr., age nine, Sylvia Leggette Tripp, age eight, and Linda Gaynelle Tripp, age one. Two more children were born shortly after the family's move into the house: Patricia Ann Tripp, born in 1950, and Laura Tripp, born in 1951.<sup>29</sup>

In 1960 Leggette Tripp died, and in 1962 Richard Tripp married Evelyn Latham. The Tripps lived overseas for ten years in various places, including Cambodia and Bangkok. They maintained ownership of the house during this time, and rented or leased it out while they were away.<sup>30</sup>

In 1973 the Tripps returned to Washington. In 1975 Richard Tripp was elected Mayor of Washington and served a six-year term. During his time as mayor, Richard Tripp initiated the establishment of the National Register Historic District in Washington.<sup>31</sup>

Washington continued to thrive around the Bowers-Tripp House during these years. The Eureka Lumber Company was sold to the N.C. Pulp Company, which later became Weyerhaeuser Company. The existing company of Hackney and Sons grew to become the world's largest manufacturer of beverage truck bodies. National Spinning Company relocated to Washington and employed many people, as did Flanders Filters, a manufacturer of industrial filters. In the late 1950s Washington became a major medical center for the region when the Beaufort County Hospital was built there. Other health facilities followed the hospital, including the Tideland Mental Health Center. In the 1960s phosphate mining began in the area, spawning such companies as Tidewater Equipment and the Hatteras Industrial Company.<sup>32</sup>

Throughout his forty-four-year ownership of the Bowers-Tripp House, Richard Tripp made no structural changes to the house. On October 29, 1993, the Tripps sold the house to Robert and Nita Byrum, the current owners.<sup>33</sup>

#### ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

After launching a successful and profitable department store, A.L. Bowers hired the regionally esteemed architectural firm of Benton and Benton to design his new home. Brothers

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Frank and Charles Benton, from Wilson, North Carolina, formed a partnership in 1915 that lasted until 1935. During this time they designed many well-known buildings throughout eastern North Carolina. His flair for Colonial Revival style earned Charles Benton, an MIT educated architect, the nickname Charles "Colonial" Benton.<sup>34</sup> Their partnership was dissolved when Frank Benton decided to pursue architecture in Wilson and Charles Benton formed a partnership with his son Henry to do work in the western part of the state.<sup>35</sup>

The firm of Benton and Benton was well-versed in the styles of the period, including the Craftsman bungalow style they employed for the Lloyd and Lillian Turnage House in Ayden, North Carolina. This house was built for a leading mercantile family in Pitt County in 1923. Benton and Benton used the Classical Revival style in designing the impressive Bank of Farmville, located at 129 South Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina. This building currently houses First Union Bank.<sup>36</sup> The Citizens Bank of Edenton, located at 216 South Broad Street in Edenton, North Carolina, is another example of the work of Benton and Benton. In the 1920s the firm also designed the Taylor Theater and the William D. Pruden, Jr. House, also located in Edenton.<sup>37</sup> Benton and Benton designed a Colonial Revival home for the elderly in Halifax County using red brick, as well as Halifax County's Masonic Temple. The brothers designed many banks in eastern North Carolina, including Kinston's Farmers and Merchants Bank and the Bank of Washington building that still stands at 192 West Main Street in Washington, North Carolina.<sup>38</sup>

In 1921 Benton and Benton completed the refined Colonial Revival design for the Bowers-Tripp House. A local firm, Miller Construction Company, served as the contractor.<sup>39</sup> A.L. Bowers' brother and business partner bought a parcel of land on Market Street about a block away from the Bowers-Tripp House. B.F. Bowers, delighted with the Bowers-Tripp House and reluctant to hire an expensive architect, borrowed the plans to the Bowers-Tripp House from his brother. The result was a nearly identical house built at 1001 North Market Street in Washington.<sup>40</sup>

Benton and Benton included a central vacuuming system in the A.L. Bowers house, an extremely modern convenience in the 1920s. Although this central vacuuming system is no longer functional, plugs in the walls show where the system once existed.

The Colonial Revival style is beautifully depicted in this Benton and Benton design. The modern amenities and the classic Colonial Revival details coincide to give this residence a presence that can be felt from anywhere on North Market Street. The green tile roof and the matching accessory building serve to make this already impressive house even more appealing. The splendor exhibited in other Benton and Benton designs, both residential and commercial alike, is further portrayed in this stately mansion. The home, nestled on its corner lot among pines and other deciduous plantings, sheltered from the bustle of North Market Street, is a reminder of the magnificent ornamentation and simple elegance of the period.

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ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Loy, Ursula, and Pauline Worthy. Washington and the Pamlico. (Washington-Beaufort County Bicentennial Commission, Edwards and Broughton Company, Raleigh, NC, 1976), p. 8.
- <sup>2</sup> Reed, Col. C. Wingate. Beaufort County: Two Centuries of its History (Raleigh, NC: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1962), p. 102-106.
- <sup>3</sup> Loy, p. 9-10.
- <sup>4</sup> Loy, p. 10.
- <sup>5</sup> Loy, p. 11.
- <sup>6</sup> Loy, p. 10.
- <sup>7</sup> Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina. (Major Reading Blount Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1976), p. 20.
- <sup>8</sup> Loy, p. 12.
- <sup>9</sup> Loy, p. 12.
- <sup>10</sup> Loy, p. 14.
- <sup>11</sup> Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina, p. 20-21.
- <sup>12</sup> Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina, p. 21.
- <sup>13</sup> Loy, p. 67.
- <sup>14</sup> Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina, p. 22.
- <sup>15</sup> Historical Highlights of Washington and Beaufort County, North Carolina, p. 23.
- <sup>16</sup> Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996), p. 171.
- <sup>17</sup> Loy, p. 68.
- <sup>18</sup> Loy, p. 70.
- <sup>19</sup> Loy, p. 71.
- <sup>20</sup> Bishir, p. 171.
- <sup>21</sup> Loy, p. 72.
- <sup>22</sup> Loy, p. 97-102.
- <sup>23</sup> Washington, North Carolina: Metropolis of the Pamlico, County Seat of Beaufort -- 1915 (Richmond, VA: C.E. Weaver-Central Publishing Company, 1915), p. 14.
- <sup>24</sup> Washington, North Carolina: Metropolis of the Pamlico, County Seat of Beaufort -- 1915, p. 14.
- <sup>25</sup> Loy, p. 100-102.
- <sup>26</sup> Interview with Jarl Bowers, nephew of A.L. Bowers, November 15, 1997.
- <sup>27</sup> Interview with Nita Byrum, January 29, 1998.
- <sup>28</sup> Public Registry of Beaufort County Records, Book 357, Page 308.
- <sup>29</sup> Interview with Richard and Evelyn Tripp, November 15, 1997.
- <sup>30</sup> Interview with Richard and Evelyn Tripp, November 15, 1997.
- <sup>31</sup> Interview with Richard and Evelyn Tripp, November 15, 1997.
- <sup>32</sup> Loy, p. 510-515.
- <sup>33</sup> Public Registry of Beaufort County Records, Book 988, Page 97.

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<sup>34</sup> Bainbridge, Robert C. and Kate Ohno. Wilson Historic Buildings Inventory (Sponsored by City of Wilson and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and the U.S. Department of the Interior, 1980), p. 234.

<sup>35</sup> Ohno, Kate. Wilson County's Architectural Heritage (Sponsored by Wilson County, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, and the United States Department of the Interior, 1981), p.170.

<sup>36</sup> The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina, ed. Scott Power (Pitt County, North Carolina, Pitt County Historical Society, 1991), p. 319, 385, 407.

<sup>37</sup> Butchko, Thomas R. Edenton: An Architectural Portrait (Edenton, NC, Edenton Woman's Club, 1992), p. 55.

<sup>38</sup> Bishir, p. 174, 297, 302, 362.

<sup>39</sup> Bishir, p. 178.

<sup>40</sup> Interview with Jarl Bowers, November 15, 1997.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3406 in Block 01 according to the Tax Map 5686.17 of Washington, Beaufort County, North Carolina.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Bowers-Tripp House.

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All photographs are of:

BOWERS-TRIPP HOUSE  
Washington, Beaufort County, North Carolina  
Christopher Cardelli, Photographer  
Taken November 17, 1997  
Original negatives included with nomination

Photograph #1: Detail of front columns, facing west.

Photograph #2: Detail of pilasters inside sunporch, facing southwest.

Photograph #3: Detail of oak and mahogany floor in parlor, facing southeast.

Photograph #4: View of decorative panels in parlor, facing south.

Photograph #5: View of contributing garage, facing west.

Photograph #6: Overall view of Bowers-Tripp House, facing west.

