



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Claudia R. Brown, Acting Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

January 25, 2011

The Honorable Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor of High Point
P. O. Box 230
High Point NC 27261

RE: Notification of Entry in the National Register of Historic Places:
Washington Street Historic District, High Point, Guilford County
Listed: December 28, 2010

Dear Mayor Smothers:

I am pleased to inform you that the above-referenced district has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. You are most fortunate to own and preserve property in a district that justly deserves this honor.

The National Register has been called "a roll call of the tangible reminders of the history of the United States." It is, therefore, a pleasure for the Division of Archives and History to participate in this program and thereby make our nation aware of North Carolina's rich cultural heritage.

In order that we may keep our records up to date, it would be very helpful if you would notify us of any changes in ownership or if any major alteration of the property, including moving, destruction, remodeling, or restoration. We appreciate your cooperation in preserving the best of our past for posterity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey J. Crow".

Jeffrey J. Crow
State Historic Preservation Officer

JJC/jct

cc: The Honorable Kay Hagan
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Melvin Watt
The Honorable Rebecca R. Smothers, Mayor
The Honorable Melvin L. Alston, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Heather Fearnbach, consultant

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 Washington Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Portions of eight blocks on Washington, Centennial, Fourth, and Hobson streets, Eccles Place, and Gaylord Court

N/A not for publication

city or town High Point

N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27260

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
36	7	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
37	8	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
3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
- FUNERARY: Funeral Home
- DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
- COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
- FUNERARY: Funeral Home
- DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
- DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commercial Style
- Modern Movement
- Art Moderne
- Classical Revival
- Colonial Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Queen Anne
- Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls BRICK
- CONCRETE
- WOOD: Weatherboard
- roof ASPHALT
- RUBBER
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1906-1963

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Conner, Robert W., architect
Schute, Leon, architect
Voorhees and Everhart, architects

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: High Point Public Library; High Point Museum; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh

Washington Street Historic District
Name of Property

Guilford County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 29 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>590010</u>	<u>3980060</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>591760</u>	<u>3980200</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>590020</u>	<u>3980280</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>591620</u>	<u>3980340</u>

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 Heather Fearnbach
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 7/1/2010
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name See attached list
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

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Washington Street Historic District
Guilford County, NC

Section 6. Function or Use (continued)

Historic Function

DOMESTIC: Hotel
EDUCATION: School
EDUCATION: Library
HEALTH CARE: Medical Office
RECREATION/CULTURE: Sports Facility
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater
RELIGION: Religious Facility
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

Current Function

EDUCATION: School
RELIGION: Religious Facility
RECREATION/CULTURE: Sports Facility
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
TRANSPORTATION: Road-related
LANDSCAPE: Parking Lot
WORK IN PROGRESS
VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7. Description (continued)

Materials

Walls SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
WOOD: Plywood

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Washington Street Historic District
Guilford County, NC

Section 7. Narrative Description

The Washington Street Historic District contains the most cohesive, intact collection of early- to mid-twentieth-century commercial, institutional, ecclesiastical, and residential buildings associated with High Point's African American community. The largely linear district encompasses forty-one primary resources situated on approximately twenty-nine acres bordering Washington Street from Centennial Street on the west to the Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 on the east. Three properties within the district—the Kilby Hotel, First Baptist Church, and William Penn High School—are individually listed in the National Register.

High Point, population 102,161, is North Carolina's eighth-largest city.¹ The metropolitan area, located in the western piedmont south of Interstate 40 and west of Interstate 85, occupies Guilford County's southwest corner. U. S. Highway 311 Business/Main Street runs north-south through the city's center. Commercial development, much of which is related to High Point's furniture industry and associated trade shows, fills the four blocks between Main and Centennial streets. Washington Street was originally called Jamestown Road and once served as a primary connector between downtown and points east, but most through traffic now utilizes Kivett Drive, a parallel four-lane road. Kivett Drive becomes a one-way pair with English Road west of Centennial Street, and Washington Street terminates less than one block west of Centennial Street at a parking lot between Centennial Street and English Road.

The city renamed East Washington Street as part of the Kivett Drive realignment project and a citywide street renaming program in the late 1960s, calling it East Washington Drive.² The road name reverted to Washington Street in 2010, and "East" was dropped in order to avoid confusion with East Washington Street in Greensboro. For the purposes of this nomination, Washington Street is used in the inventory list addresses and current property location references, but East Washington Street appears in historic address mentions.

The district is bounded by a depressed railroad corridor and Kivett Drive to the south, Centennial Street to the west, early- to mid-twentieth century residential neighborhoods including the Moon Lands and Griffin Park subdivisions and the 1942 Daniel Brooks Homes (High Point's first African American public housing project) to the north, and an unpaved alley east of the Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 to the east. Intersecting north-south roads include Fourth Street near the western end, followed by Hobson Street, Gaylord Court, Eccles Place, Underhill Street, and Downing Street to the east. The railroad tracks and Kivett Drive create a distinct separation between the Washington Street community and neighborhoods to the south. Pedestrian and vehicular bridges provided connectivity between these areas for much of the twentieth century, but the only intact historic bridge within the district, a Moderne-style structure that carried Downing Street over the railroad

¹ City of High Point, Planning and Development Department, "2010 Population Estimate for the City of High Point," April 7, 2010, <http://www.high-point.net/plan/populationest.pdf>.

² City Council meeting minutes, March 21, 1968, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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to Kivett Drive, has been closed to traffic. Recently constructed pedestrian bridges provide safe passage over the railroad tracks and Kivett Drive south of the Penn-Griffin School for the Arts campus.

Downtown High Point's topography is generally flat, but the elevation gradually rises in the Washington Street Historic District's eastern section. This grade change is natural for the most part. The William Penn High School, now incorporated into the approximately 35-acre Penn-Griffin School for the Arts campus, occupies a prominent site north of Washington Street on a hill above a creek near the district's center. Earlier campus buildings stood closer to Washington Street, but the school now has a deep setback and curving roads lined with parking spaces occupy the areas to the south and east. A vacant lot, once the site of Piedmont Hosiery Mill No. 2 (which became Adams-Millis Mill No. 3, also a hosiery plant), is west of the high school. The former Griffin Elementary School, which currently houses Penn-Griffin's middle school students, is north of the former William Penn High School complex at the base of the hill.

The Morgan Apartments, Hoover's Funeral Home, and the Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 at the district's east end are also at a higher elevation than the core commercial area at the west end. However, the City of High Point elevated the Washington Street road bed section near Hoover's Funeral Home in 1937 to facilitate the railroad's depression and the construction of the Kivett Drive Bridge.

Building rhythm and massing is more regular in the district's western section, where most edifices are brick, one or two stories in height, and situated close to concrete sidewalks. Two of the district's pivotal buildings—the Odd Fellows Hall and the Kilby Hotel (NR 1982)—stand three-stories tall. Quite a few of the commercial buildings and dwellings that once lined Washington Street have been demolished, leaving vacant lots, some of which now serve as parking areas. One infill building, Becky's and Mary's Restaurant, was erected at 731 Washington Street in 1996.

The majority of the district's commercial buildings have a standard form and austere appearance, although some exhibit stylistic influences ranging from Art Moderne to Modernist. Edifices such as the Odd Fellows Hall, the Kilby Hotel, and the one-story building at 213 Hobson Street display decorative elements such as corbelled cornices, sawtooth brick bands, and arched window surrounds commonly seen in early-twentieth-century commercial architecture. The buildings that served as Whitten Clinic and Dr. Murray B. Davis's office are among High Point's few extant examples of Art Moderne-style architecture. Both one-story brick edifices have streamlined façades with curved corners and originally featured glass-block windows.

Most of the buildings erected in the Washington Street Historic District from the late 1940s through the early 1960s display elements of the Modernist style, thus manifesting the optimistic and progressive attitude of the post-World War II recovery period and the civil rights era. The Yarborough Law Building and the Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library utilize colored spandrel panels in combination with brick to add visual interest, while the brick Haizlip Funeral Home features a concrete-masonry-unit façade pierced by tall, narrow windows containing colored-glass panes. The William Penn High School gymnasium, the Carl Chavis

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YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA, and Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 employ clerestory windows as part of their Modernist design.

The Washington Street Historic District includes four African American sanctuaries erected over the course of the twentieth century. The oldest two—First Baptist Church (1907) and St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church (1908)—occupy prominent locations on Washington Street's north side and reflect the influence of the Gothic Revival style in their corner towers and pointed-arched windows. Both churches were expanded and remodeled several times by the 1950s. The former Second Presbyterian Church, completed in 1952, features classical elements such as a pedimented front-gable roof, a pedimented portico supported by grouped Tuscan columns, a double-leaf entrance surmounted by a stained-glass transom, and arched window openings. The one-story, brick-veneered Pearson Memorial A. M. E. Church, erected in 1976 on the site of two earlier sanctuaries, presents a Modernist front-gable façade with a central stuccoed panel flanked by two projecting brick pilasters to Washington Street.

The William Penn High School and gymnasium at 825 Washington Street are classic examples of educational buildings constructed from the 1930s through the 1950s. The 1930 auditorium and classroom building is an imposing two-story brick edifice intended to evoke a sense of tradition and permanence. The building features a pedimented front-gable roof, robust molded cornices, and large double-hung windows which have round-arched surrounds with cast-stone keystones and fanlights at the second-story level. The 1930 building stands between a 1949 classroom addition to the east and the 2001 John Coltrane Hall of Music and Dance to the west. The east wing extends north to the 1955 gymnasium, a one-story, brick, mid-century Modernist building designed by Raleigh architects William Henley Deitrick and John C. Knight. The gymnasium, like many of the district's buildings, emphatically breaks with tradition and embraces the progressiveness of the postwar era.

The district also encompasses nine residential buildings that represent the area's development from the early twentieth century through the 1960s. As proprietors, professionals, employees, and laborers lived within walking distance of Washington Street businesses, offices, and institutions, the residences in the historic district range from owner-occupied homes to rentals for working-class tenants. The oldest extant single-family dwellings—the Dr. C. J. H. and Sallie Gaylord House (1906) and the Robinson House (1907)—were erected near Washington Street's west end and exhibit elements of the Queen Anne style. Two foursquares (hip-roofed, two-story residences)—one of which has served as Hoover's Funeral Home since 1932—display Craftsmen-style features such as truncated porch posts on piers. Two front-gable duplexes, a modest front-gable house, and two two-story brick apartment buildings still provide rental housing in the neighborhood. Similar dwellings once lined Washington Street, but these are the only survivors.

The Washington Street Historic District encompasses forty-three buildings and two structures. Although some of the historic properties have been altered by the installation of modern windows and synthetic siding and two buildings post-dating the period of significance have been constructed, the relationships among the district's extant resources have not changed since the period of significance. Vacant lots and buildings that do not contribute to the district's historic character due to age or loss of integrity were excluded from the district

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Washington Street Historic District
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whenever possible, resulting in an irregular boundary that conforms to the property lines of contributing buildings and streetscapes. The Washington Street Historic District retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to qualify for listing in the National Register.

Inventory List

Properties are arranged alphabetically by street name. Street addresses are listed in ascending order. Vacant and parking lots are noted and illustrated on the district map.

Each historic property in the inventory is assigned a name, where possible, based on the first-known and/or a long-term occupant. Most information about these early tenants comes from the High Point *City Directories* (1908-1965) located at the High Point Public Library and the Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill. The 1908 city directory is the first to include listings by street address. The date or approximate date of construction and the date or dates of any major alterations or additions follow the property name. Dates of construction are based on Sanborn Map Company fire insurance maps (the first map that shows the Washington Street Historic District area was published in 1911; the company issued updates in 1917, 1924, 1950, and 1956), historic photographs, Guilford County property record cards, interviews with local informants, city directory research, newspaper articles, previous architectural surveys by Peter Kaplan and Benjamin Briggs, and the buildings' style and form.

Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the district's historic significance and integrity. The evaluations are based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings constructed in or before 1963 are considered contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity from the period of significance. Contributing resources must retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Noncontributing buildings postdate 1963 or were built before 1963 and have been heavily altered, and therefore have lost their architectural and historical integrity. With eighty-three percent of its forty-one primary resources categorized as contributing, the Washington Street Historic District retains a good degree of integrity.

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North Centennial Street, East Side

A & P Grocery Store
220 N. Centennial Street

1959

Contributing Building

This one-story brick-veneered building, originally an A & P grocery store, faces west toward Centennial Street. The store has two distinct parts: a slightly taller and narrower western (front) main block with a pyramidal hip roof and an eastern (rear) section with a low hip roof. Shallow, flat-roofed bays project from the north and south elevations.

Colonial Revival-style features include a central gable above the main entrance and a cupola with a large square base, a pyramidal hip roof, a weathervane, and a metal balustrade. A taller metal balustrade extends along the roof ridge, with five sections on either side of the cupola base.

The central entrance encompasses two single-leaf aluminum-framed doors with plate-glass sidelights and transoms. Three of the façade's four large plate-glass display windows have been covered with siding. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by metal posts wraps around the façade and side elevations.

George Huntington Hartford and George Gilman established a New York-based mail order tea, coffee, and spice business in 1859. The enterprise, renamed the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company in 1869 in honor of the transcontinental railroad, expanded exponentially over the next few decades. The first A & P Economy Store opened in 1912, and in 1936 the chain erected their first supermarket in Braddock, Pennsylvania. Three years later, A & P operated 1,100 supermarkets and thousands of economy stores nationally. A & P was the dominant grocery store chain in High Point in the 1920s and early 1930s, with ten stores in downtown and suburban areas. The economic depression resulted in store consolidation and closure, leaving only two stores open through most of the 1940s. A & P began replacing outdated stores in the early 1950s, erecting new buildings on South Main Street in 1953 and North Main Street in 1955.³

A & P developed a brick-veneered, Colonial Revival-style store prototype with a central cupola to commemorate the company's one-hundredth anniversary in 1959. They opened 227 Colonial Revival-style stores nationally in 1958, and erected or remodeled 3,900 of their 4,700 stores to reflect the centennial theme between 1962 and 1967.⁴ The company constructed their centennial anniversary prototype on North Centennial Street in 1959, which was, coincidentally, the centennial of High Point's founding.

³ "A & P's History," <http://www.aptea.com/history.asp>; "A & P History," <http://www.grocertia.com>.

⁴ Walt Waholek, A & P Historical Society president, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010.

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North Downing Street

Kivett Drive Bridge **1937** **Contributing Structure**
North Downing Street south of Washington Street over railroad tracks

This rolled steel stringer bridge carried Normal Street, which later became North Downing Street, over the Southern Railway tracks that run parallel to Washington Street. The bridge was executed in the same Moderne aesthetic as two office buildings constructed on Washington Street in the 1940s. Curved concrete abutments with stepped edges and horizontal fluting anchor the bridge's north and south ends, which are spanned by tubular metal railings with incremental concrete posts ornamented with vertical fluting at the upper edge. The bridge, which has a concrete deck and a reinforced concrete bent substructure, is now closed to vehicular traffic but the Washington Street Drive District Plan includes a proposal to reopen the bridge for pedestrian use.

The Kivett Drive Bridge, so called as it connected Washington Street to Kivett Drive, was erected as part of a 1.5-million-dollar railroad crossing improvement campaign funded by the City of High Point, the State Highway Commission, the federal government's Works Progress Administration, and the Southern Railway. The project entailed depressing, raising, and relocating railroad tracks, creating underpasses and overpasses in an attempt to reduce accidents and eliminate traffic congestion. Three African American workmen lost their lives over the course of the construction project.⁵

New bridges were erected at Oak, Willowbrook, Elm, Main, Wrenn, Hamilton, Beamon, Perry, and Dalton streets between 1937 and 1947. These bridges, which manifested the same Art Moderne aesthetic as the Kivett Drive Bridge, have all been replaced with higher structures in compliance with new railroad regulations.⁶ The Dalton Street Bridge was determined eligible for the National Register in 2000 before its demolition around 2006. Litchenstein Consulting Engineers found that the state highway commission used Modern-style elements and rolled steel stringer construction in standard and custom-designed bridges erected from the late 1920s through the 1950s.⁷

⁵"Elimination of Railroad Grade Crossings," in High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City* (High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1947), 86-87; Blackwell P. Robinson and Alexander R. Stoesen, *The History of Guilford County, U. S. A. to 1980 A. D.* (Greensboro: The Guilford County Bicentennial Commission, 1980), 183; Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2008), 78.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Litchenstein Consulting Engineers, Inc., "Bridge No. 400386: Dalton Street Bridge," Historic Bridge Inventory Report, prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2000.

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Washington Street Historic District
Guilford County, NC

Eccles Place, West Side

Pearson Memorial A. M. E. Church
105 Eccles Place

1976

Noncontributing Building

This one-story, brick-veneered, Modernist church, which stands on the site of two earlier African Methodist Episcopal (A. M. E.) sanctuaries, presents a front-gable façade with a central stuccoed panel flanked by two projecting brick pilasters to Washington Street. A pyramidal spire rises from the roof. A double brick stair shielded by a brick end wall leads to the primary entrance's double-leaf doors at the building's northeast corner, facing Eccles Place. Sidelights and a transom surround the main entrance. Concrete steps with a metal railing provide access to the single-leaf auxiliary entrance at the southeast corner. A concrete handicapped ramp extends from the west elevation's entrance. Textured, colored glass windows illuminate the interior.

Sarah Waddell sold a small tract of land at the northwest corner of Reed and a new unnamed street to A. M. E. Church trustees Dr. G. A. Garren, John Kilby, W. M. Raeford, Nannie Kilby, and Robert Dark on May 15, 1903 for \$100, the day after she purchased the same property from L. J. and Mina P. Ingram for \$75. The trustees and Pastor V. M. Worth secured a \$500 loan from People's Building and Loan in June 1904, presumably to erect a church at that location.⁸ Upon its completion, founding members Dr. and Marie Gerran donated the steeple bell in honor of their children.⁹

The 1908-09 High Point city directory lists an African Methodist congregation on Leonard Street near Reed, and the 1910 and 1913 city directories give the church address as 226 Leonard Street, but the 1917 Sanborn map illustrates a dwelling and store at that location. An African American Lutheran church stands several blocks to the north at the corner of Leonard and Myrtle Streets. The 1919, 1921-22, and 1923-24 city directories lists St. Stephen A. M. E. Zion, Brooks Memorial Methodist Episcopal, and Morris Chapel Methodist Episcopal, but not an African Methodist Episcopal congregation, so the congregation's worship location during this period is unknown.

Marie Gerran attended an African Methodist Episcopal Missionary conference in Asheboro and obtained a \$300 donation for the purchase of the Washington Street property upon which a new church was constructed.¹⁰ City directories list Women's Memorial A. M. E. Church at 905 East Washington Street from 1930 through 1949, although newspaper articles indicate that the congregation changed their name to Pearson Memorial A. M. E. Church in late 1941 under the leadership of Reverend A. M. Jones. The 1950 and 1956 Sanborn maps illustrate

⁸ One-quarter of lot number 15 in Section 2 of the Perry Addition to High Point, Deed Book 150, pages 682-684; Deed Book 156, page 38; Deed Book 179, page 597.

⁹ High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "The African Methodist Episcopal Church," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950* (High Point: Creative Print Shop, ca. 1950), 29.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 29-30.

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the original sanctuary footprint. A 1957 fire destroyed that building, but the congregation was able to construct a new classical-revival style church the following year. Bishop Frank Madison Reid of the Second Episcopal District presided at the sanctuary's dedication on April 27, 1958.¹¹

After almost two decades in their new sanctuary the Pearson Memorial A. M. E. congregation purchased additional land—formerly part of the William Penn High School campus—from the City of High Point in 1975, demolished their existing building, and erected the current sanctuary, which was completed in 1976.¹² As was the case with many religious buildings erected during this period, the church reflects Modernist tenets, perhaps as a means of demonstrating an egalitarian world view.

Fourth Street, East Side

Haizlip Funeral Home
206 Fourth Street

1961

Contributing Building

Architect Leon Schute designed the one-story, flat-roofed, Modernist Haizlip Funeral Home, which was constructed on the east side of Fourth Street in 1961 opposite the Washington Street Branch Library and the Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA, both completed in 1958. The funeral home's facade has three distinct parts. The large southern section features a taupe-colored concrete-masonry-unit façade pierced by four tall, narrow windows, each containing four colored-glass panes. Each window's two upper panes are taller than the lower two. The red brick-veneered north and south elevation are blind. A flat-roofed metal canopy supported by round metal posts shelters an auxiliary entrance on the south elevation.

The shorter and slightly recessed central entrance bay encompasses a double-leaf plate-glass door flanked by a plate-glass transom and sidelights at its west end and a stuccoed panel on its east end. The western bay presents a blind red brick-veneered wall to the street. A flat-roofed porte cochere projects to the north, and is supported by a brick-veneered wall that rises to the same height as the funeral home. A large four-bay garage extends to the east and has been updated with vinyl siding and replacement roll-up garage doors.

H. A. Phipps and Son served as the general contractors in 1960-1961, coordinating the work of local mason J. C. Burton, concrete installer W. E. Linthicum and Son, the Turpin Electric Company, and Welborn Plumbing

¹¹ Rev. A. M. Jones Returned to High Point," *High Point Enterprise*, November 17, 1941, p. 5; "Pearson Memorial Church," *High Point Enterprise*, January 24, 1942, p. 10; "Early Morning Fire Destroys Church on East Washington Street," *High Point Enterprise*, January 8, 1957; Pete Jones, "Congregation Rebuilds Burned Church," *High Point Enterprise*, February 23, 1958. The original sanctuary date is unclear. Newspaper articles assert that the congregation held a ground-breaking ceremony on September 5, 1938, but the City of High Point's building inspector issued a \$1,000 permit for a new sanctuary in July 1944. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 103. Another High Point church with a similar name, Woman's Memorial Lutheran, was a white congregation that worshipped in a sanctuary on English Street near Elm Street.

¹² "High Point Enterprise, October 10, 1975, p. 2B; "Businesses Register for Building Permits," *High Point Enterprise*, June 11, 1976, p. 12B.

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and Heating. Southland Supply provided the building materials. The 4,500-square foot building originally encompassed a 125-seat chapel, an expansive receiving room, offices, and staff living quarters.¹³ The interior space has been slightly reconfigured since the 1960s.

Forsyth County, North Carolina native Louis B. Haizlip (born August 29, 1898) graduated from the Askin College of Embalming in Indianapolis (which was later absorbed by Indiana State University) in 1921 and worked for an Indianapolis funeral home for several years before returning to his home state. He established a funeral home in High Point in 1924, first operating out of a small frame building on Taylor Street. Mr. Haizlip remodeled a dwelling at 711 Fairview Street to serve as a funeral home in 1935, relocated to 612 East Washington Street in 1941, and, in 1957, purchased the Fourth Street lot upon which this building was erected. Haizlip's Funeral Home is said to be the first building in High Point constructed specifically to function as a funeral home. Staff at the time of the 1961 opening included assistant embalmer and funeral director Campe E. Friende, secretary and embalmer Lois C. Haizlip (the founder's eldest daughter who had joined the company in 1953), burial insurance manager A. B. Tyson, and ambulance attendant and general assistant Donald Lindsey.¹⁴ Haizlip's Funeral Home provided ambulance service for many years, but was one of seven High Point funeral homes that discontinued this practice in 1966.¹⁵

Mr. Haizlip was active in a variety of professional and civic organizations, serving as president of the North Carolina Funeral Directors and Morticians' Association and the High Point Chapter of the NAACP, and as a member of the Carl Chavis YMCA, the High Point Chamber of Commerce, the Furniture City Elks Lodge, the Toussaint L'Ouverture Masonic Lodge, the Grand Rapids Lodge, the Knights of Pythias, and the Professional Men's Club. He campaigned for a High Point City Council seat in 1959 and, although he was not elected, his attempt made an important statement during the civil rights era. Mr. Haizlip, his wife Mattie, and his three daughters—Lois, Bernice, and Jacquelyn—attended Brooks Memorial Church.¹⁶

After Mr. Haizlip's death in 1978, his family continued to operate the funeral home. Lois Haizlip Powell established the Washington Drive Resource and Enrichment Center in 1990, perpetuating the family's community service legacy. She retired from the funeral home in 2005. Her youngest sister Jacquelyn L. Haizlip joined the Haizlip Funeral Home staff in 1994 and still works for the company, which is currently owned by James F. Johnson.¹⁷

¹³ "New Funeral Home Under Construction," *High Point Enterprise*, August 21, 1960, 10D; "Haizlip Funeral Home in Move," *High Point Enterprise*, February 5, 1961, 5C.

¹⁴ Ibid.; "Haizlip Funeral Home Remodeled," *High Point Enterprise*, September 8, 1935; "Daughter Joins Father in Business Here," *High Point Enterprise*, August 27, 1953; Braxton Younts, "Busy Funeral Director Finds Time for Church, Civic Work," *High Point Enterprise*, January 15, 1978, p. 5A.

¹⁵ "Local Funeral Home Give Notice of Canceling Ambulance Service," *High Point Enterprise*, June 2, 1966, p. 1C.

¹⁶ Glenn R. Chavis, "Haizlip's bid for office paved the way for others," *Greensboro News and Record*, April 18, 2004.

¹⁷ "Staff," Haizlip's Funeral Home, [HTTP://WWW.WEBFH.COM/FH/HOME](http://www.webfh.com/fh/home), 2010; Lois Haizlip Powell, conversations with Heather Fearnbach, 2010.

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Second Presbyterian Church 210 Fourth Street

1952

Contributing Building

This one-story, brick-veneered, Classical Revival-style church features classical elements such as a pedimented front-gable roof, a pedimented portico supported by grouped fluted columns, a double-leaf entrance surmounted by a stained-glass transom, and round-arched window openings. Paired, lancet-arched, stained-glass windows illuminate the sanctuary interior; metal casements light the basement fellowship hall. Short gabled wings containing auxiliary entrances flank the sanctuary's east (rear) end. A concrete handicapped ramp with a metal railing provides access to the north wing; brick and concrete steps lead to the south wing's entrance. A tall stovepipe chimney rises from the east elevation.

Guilford County property record cards indicate that this church's construction began in 1950. The building cornerstone reflects the 1952 completion date. The sanctuary does not appear on the 1950 Sanborn map, but is illustrated on the 1956 map. The congregation undertook interior and exterior building improvements between 1973 and 1975 including installing central air-conditioning and purchasing a new organ. Following a donation of Mt. Airy granite, T. Bynum erected an outdoor kiosk, or "bulletin board," in front of the church. The City of High Point constructed the handicapped ramp in 1975. During 1985 and 1986, the congregation renovated the foyer and fellowship hall and painted the sanctuary.¹⁸

Presbyterian pastor L. D. Twine of Thomasville led services for a small group of High Point worshippers beginning in August 1904, initially meeting at the Perry Street School and on the High Point Normal and Industrial School campus. The congregation's founding members included elders Henry A. Donnell, A. R. Graham, and J. Hall, and deacons D. N. Moore, William Brown, and John Little. C. W. Robinson, his wife Jessie, Mattie Phifer, and Lucy Phifer joined the church in 1905. The congregation was known as Second Presbyterian Church by 1906, when Jennie N. Campbell sold the church trustees a lot near the northeast corner of what is now East Avenue and Downing Street (just north of Washington Street) in the Moon Lands subdivision for ninety dollars. H. A. Donnell constructed a small frame Presbyterian mission church that year and C. W. Robinson organized a Sunday School.¹⁹

The 1911 Sanborn map and the 1913 Bird's Eye view do not extend far enough east to show this area, but the 1917 Sanborn map illustrates that the East Avenue church was no longer standing at that time. D. N. Moore purchased the lot from the Second Presbyterian Church trustees for three hundred dollars in 1919.²⁰

The congregation continued to grow under the leadership of pastors J. C. Phifer, William Burton, J. C. James, and J. H. Clement, and, in 1919, they erected a granite cross-gable-roofed sanctuary on Cherry Street (now

¹⁸ "Synoptic Chronology of Saint Paul Presbyterian Church," compiled by church members for annual bulletin, 2004.

¹⁹ Deed Book 293, page 525; "Cherry Street Presbyterian Church," circa 1930s historical sketch in the files of St. Paul Presbyterian Church; "Churches," *High Point Enterprise*, January 25, 1985, Section VI, p. 14.

²⁰ Deed Book 327, page 470.

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Centennial Drive). The national Presbyterian Church Board loaned the Second Presbyterian Church trustees \$1,450 in 1920 to assist with the construction cost. The congregation was subsequently renamed Cherry Street Presbyterian to reflect their new location.²¹

Johnson C. Smith graduate C. A. Washington became the church's first full-time pastor in 1923. Reverend Washington established a Vatican Bible School, the Brotherhood, the Home Church League, the Benevolence Commission, and two women's missionary circles during his six-year tenure at Cherry Street Presbyterian Church. Reverend C. H. C. White served the congregation from 1929 until 1942.²²

The congregation purchased property on Fourth Street upon which they began erecting a new sanctuary in 1950. Upon its completion in 1952, they changed their name back to Second Presbyterian Church. The sanctuary dedication took place on November 25, 1956. Records as to the contractors involved in the construction project do not exist, but it is possible that architectural draftsman Fred Lander, who lived nearby on Underhill Street and was a church member and trustee, contributed to the new church's design.²³

Mrs. V. D. Maddox operated a day care in the church basement during the 1960s. In late 1963 or early 1964, under Reverend John Pharr's leadership, the congregation became St. Paul United Presbyterian Church. Edisto, South Carolina native James W. Brown served as the church's pastor from 1965 until 1971. Robert A. Massey led the congregation from 1972 until his death in 1980.²⁴

Soon after Reverend Elijah B. Freeman Jr. was called to serve as pastor in 1987, the church name changed once again, to St. Paul Presbyterian Church. The congregation encompassed only twenty members in 1987, but grew to around one hundred by the time St. Paul moved to a new location--a renovated house on 7.3 acres at 309 Summit Road--in 2001. They sold the Fourth Street sanctuary on June 3, 2001 and soon raised funds to erect a fellowship hall, the first building in a new worship center complex, which was completed in 2004.²⁵

²¹ Deed Book 356, page 72-74; "Cherry Street Presbyterian Church," circa 1930s historical sketch.

²² "Cherry Street Presbyterian Church," circa 1930s historical sketch.

²³ "Lander Funeral Set Thursday," *High Point Enterprise*, February 10, 1965. Sanctuary dedication date courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*.

²⁴ "Synoptic Chronology of Saint Paul Presbyterian Church," 2004.

²⁵ *Ibid.*; Justin Cord Hayes, "99-year-old St. Paul Presbyterian Church poised for rebirth," *Greensboro News and Record*, March 23, 2003.

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Fourth Street, West Side

Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library 1958 Contributing Building **201 Fourth Street**

High Point architect Robert W. Conner designed this one-story, flat-roofed, H-shaped, Modernist public library, which stands at the northwest corner of Washington and Fourth streets. The buff-colored concrete-masonry-unit building, which faces east toward Fourth Street, features high bands of aluminum-framed windows surmounted by pale green porcelain-enameled steel panels on the south elevations and aluminum-framed glass curtain walls with dark green porcelain-enameled steel base panels on the north elevations and facing the two central courtyards.

A metal canopy frames the landscaped eastern courtyard, where a tree rises through the canopy's large rectangular opening. Pale green porcelain-enameled steel panels sheath the canopy's outer edges and slender steel posts support the canopy's north section, which extends to cover the sidewalk leading to the main entrance.

The Washington Street Branch Library, erected at a cost of \$35,000, replaced a much smaller facility that had been located in the Williard Building at 603-605 E. Washington Street since 1949. The new 5,000-square-foot, air-conditioned building encompassed a large circulation area, a children's reading room, an audiovisual room, offices, and greatly expanded library stack space. Neil Austin and Mozelle Landers continued to serve as the branch's head librarian and assistant librarian, respectively. The library opened on September 21, 1958, shortly after the new Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA was completed to the north.²⁶

High Point's public libraries were integrated in 1959 after the NAACP's local chapter protested the central library branch's exclusion of African American patrons, but the Washington Street Branch remained open until 1996.²⁷ The City of High Point still owns the building, which currently houses the Weed and Seed program.

High Point's first publicly-organized library for African American patrons was the Anderson Community Library, named in honor of Myrtle B. Anderson and sponsored by Fairview Street School's Parent-Teacher Association. The library opened on Fairview Street in early June 1933 with a collection of more than three hundred books, newspapers, and periodicals. Reverend J. E. Melton and other African American community leaders served on the executive committee.²⁸

The High Point Altrusa Club, a white civic organization, sponsored a public library for High Point's African

²⁶ Dick Rigby, "New Branch Library Completed," *High Point Enterprise*, September 21, 1958, p. 10D.

²⁷ "Access to Library Voted for Negroes," *High Point Enterprise*, April 23, 1959.

²⁸ "Colored Library Recently Opened Has Good Showing," *High Point Enterprise*, June 13, 1933.

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American residents that opened on May 22, 1934 in the building that had previously functioned as the manual trades classroom on the William Penn High School campus. Local residents contributed books, magazines, and supplies to stock the library shelves and Margaret Johnson Simmons became the first librarian. It appears that the City of High Point began operating the library within a few years, as City Council meeting minutes state that municipal funds were allocated to replace the library's floor in 1937 and for building repairs in 1941. In 1944, the city moved the library from the William Penn campus to the commercial building at 616 East Washington Street that had once functioned as the Dixieland Theater. In 1949, the library moved into the newly completed Williard Building, where the city rented space for \$80 per month.²⁹

Parking Lot

Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA 1958 Contributing Building **215 Fourth Street**

This important brick-veneered community building, which faces east toward Fourth Street, shares a parking lot with the former Washington Street Branch Library to the south. The former Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA features a tall flat-roofed gymnasium originally illuminated by clerestory windows. One-story flat-roofed sections that encompassed offices, classrooms, and meeting spaces extend to the north, east, and south.

Deep eaves shelter the recessed central entrance and the large steel-framed plate-glass windows on the southern section's east elevation. The northern bays of the one-story east wall, originally identical to the southern bays, have been enclosed with brick veneer and narrow windows. The south elevation contains two large, centrally-located, steel-framed plate-glass windows and an auxiliary entrance near the southeast corner.

The northeast addition, which is slightly taller than the other one-story sections, has blind east and west parapeted walls. Tall, deep cornices shelter the north elevation's central entrance and the flanking tall, narrow windows as well as the double-leaf entrance on the west elevation. Two auxiliary entrances provide access to the original one-story northern section, which is illuminated by steel-framed plate-glass windows. Brick and concrete steps lead to those entrances as well as an entrance at the gymnasium's northwest corner.

The building is substantially intact, although a low-pitched roof now protects the gymnasium and vinyl siding covers its clerestory windows.

Quaker Meeting annual reports indicate that High Point Normal and Industrial School students attended meetings of the Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations (YMCA and YWCA) on their campus

²⁹; Glenn R. Chavis, "First library for black High Point residents came along in 1934," *Greensboro News and Record*, 2004; Glenn R. Chavis, "Washington Street Branch Library," *Greensboro News and Record*, August 20, 2006; City Council meeting minutes, May 25, 1944 and May 17, 1949, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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beginning in the late nineteenth century. The YMCA had thirty members in 1899 and numbers increased over the next twenty years.³⁰ It appears that association meetings may have either diminished or ceased after High Point Normal and Industrial School became a public high school in 1923, but experienced a resurgence when community leaders organized a new African American YMCA chapter at Reverend Saulter's home on May 23, 1931.³¹

A group of young women, many of whom graduated from William Penn High School, founded the Girls' Civic Club, an Adams Memorial YWCA branch, in October 1941. On August 11, 1943, the North Carolina Secretary of State incorporated the "Robbins and Saunders Memorial YWCA Club of High Point," an organization intended to create an African American YWCA. Just over a year later, Maybelle Nixon led the effort to launch the Mary McLeod Bethune Branch of the YWCA, donating \$1.50 toward the cause at an organizational meeting in December 1944 at St. Mark Methodist Church. The YWCA operated out of a dwelling at 730 East Washington Street before moving to rooms in the Williard Building, erected in 1949.³²

A two-story dwelling with a wraparound front porch that stood at 722 East Washington Street near the YWCA housed High Point's African American YMCA, which was named in memory of local star athlete Carl H. Chavis when it opened in 1945. William Penn High School teacher C. E. Yokely chaired the Chavis YMCA's membership campaign, which recruited 775 charter members by March 1945.³³

High Point industrialist J. Ed Millis initiated a campaign to erect a new YMCA/YWCA to serve the African American community in May 1957. Carl Chavis YMCA Board president O. H. Leak and other prominent citizens led the fundraising effort. Architect Leon Schute of William F. Freeman Engineers designed the facility and R. K. Stewart and Son began constructing it in November of 1957. Contractors and building suppliers donated some of their time and materials so that the project stayed within budget and the African American community raised almost \$7,000 to furnish the interior.³⁴

The new facility at 215 Fourth Street, completed in 1958, functioned as an important community center and recreational complex for almost forty years. The north end served as the Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA until 1976, when the YWCA moved out. The Carl Chavis YMCA was subsequently renovated in 1977 and

³⁰ Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting*, 1899-1920, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

³¹ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960* (High Point, NC: High Point Historical Society, 2010), 54.

³² "Girls' Circle Club to Meet," *High Point Enterprise*, October 19, 1941, p. 10B. YWCA incorporation, organization meeting location, and founder information courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*. See Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 146-147.

³³ "YMCA named for former Pennite," *The Students' Pen*, William Penn High School, February 28, 1945; "Posthumous Presentation of Bronze Star Medal," *High Point Enterprise*, September 2, 1945; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 148.

³⁴ "Dedication of Branch YM-YWCA Today," *High Point Enterprise*, October 12, 1958, p. 2D; "Branch Y Formal Opening Today," *High Point Enterprise*, June 22, 1958, p. 10D.

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expanded and remodeled in 1987, but the building was still not large enough to meet the YMCA's programming needs. The long-vacant William Penn High School campus was thus renovated to serve as the new Carl Chavis YMCA branch, which opened in June 1995.³⁵ The branch relocated to Granville Street in April 2004 after the Penn-Griffin School for the Arts opened in 2003.³⁶

Carl H. Chavis was born in Cullowhee, North Carolina, on November 11, 1921. His family moved to High Point when he was a child, and Carl attended Leonard Street School and William Penn High School, where he was an outstanding student and athlete, serving as captain of the football and basketball teams and winning many Golden Glove boxing tournaments. Chavis was one of the first lifeguards at the Washington Terrace Park swimming pool. He earned a football scholarship to Morgan State University and was a starting fullback before enlisting in the U. S. Army in 1943. Tragically, Chavis was killed in France, becoming High Point's first World War II casualty. The army recognized his heroism by posthumously awarding him with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.³⁷

Gaylord Court, West Side

House	late 1920s	Noncontributing Building
103 Gaylord Court		

This one-story, front-gable-roofed, frame house has a front-gable entrance porch with square replacement posts, replacement one-over-one sash windows, a brick interior stovepipe chimney, a stuccoed foundation, and German vinyl siding. A wooden balustrade has been added to the west entrance porch; a metal handrail serves the east porch. The shed-roofed rear addition, which has concrete block steps with a metal railing, was constructed after 1956.

The building was not photographed during previous architectural surveys, but was likely almost identical in appearance to the duplex just to the south at 769-771 Washington Street, which retained original features including five-over-one sash windows on the façade, three-over-one sash windows on the side elevations, German siding, and exposed rafter ends in 1984 but had been remodeled by 2000.

This house was erected on the site of an earlier dwelling, which faced east toward what was originally Washington Lane (now Gaylord Court), an unpaved drive that led to Piedmont Hosiery Mill No. 2 (which became Adams-Millis Mill No. 3, also a hosiery plant). The earlier dwelling was still standing in 1924. This house was probably constructed in the late 1920s and first appears on the 1950 Sanborn map. Mount Zion Baptist Church currently owns the building.

³⁵ Jimmy Tomlin, "YMCA Branch gets set for relocation," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

³⁶ Carlvena Foster, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, July 26, 2010.

³⁷ Jimmy Tomlin, "More than a name, Carl H. Chavis left legacy of sportsmanship, heroism," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

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Hobson Street, West Side

Commercial Building/Anita Apartments **ca. 1940, 1960** **Contributing Building**
213 Hobson Street

This one-story, brick commercial building features corbelled cornices above each of the two storefronts and two sawtooth brick bands in the parapet. The southern storefront's door and transom have been covered with plywood and the window infilled with glass block. The northern storefront's window and transom have also been covered with plywood and the door replaced, but the façade's original configuration (central entrances flanked by windows) is still intact.

Around 1960, a two-story apartment building was erected on the west end of the commercial building's north elevation. The north and side walls project past the façade to support the second-story balcony, which is reinforced by two slender square posts and sheltered by a pent roof. The horizontally-sliding windows appear to be replacements. Two first-story façade entrances provide access to the interior. Metal "tile" coping caps the parapet walls of both buildings.

Although this commercial building is similar in appearance to others constructed Washington Street during the first quarter of the twentieth century, it is not illustrated on Sanborn maps until 1950. The Byrd & Mclean Beauty Shop and the Hobson Street grocery occupied the building in 1954. By 1960, the grocery store moved across the street and the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall occupied the 213 ½ storefront. By 1965, the beauty shop utilized the entire building and the Anita Apartments had been constructed. Austin Springs and Carlton Bell were in residence at that time.

Washington Street, North Side

Commercial Building **1951** **Contributing Building**
601 Washington Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, concrete block commercial building is veneered with common bond brick and has large plate-glass windows on the façade and west elevation. The single-leaf entrance at the southwest corner is angled to face the intersection of Washington and Fourth streets. Three additional entrances provide interior access from the Fourth Street (west) elevation, which encompasses two storefronts near the north end. Most of the window openings and the transoms above the entrances have been boarded up. Metal "tile" coping caps the parapet walls.

Although Guilford County property record cards indicate that this building was constructed in 1951, the address is first listed in the 1954 city directory, when Stadiem's Store, which sold general merchandise, occupied this location. The 1956 Sanborn map illustrates the building. The business name changed to Bernie's, Inc. in 1963,

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but the store continued to provide general merchandise.

Williard Building

603-605 Washington Street

1949

Contributing Building

The Williard Building, constructed in 1949 as indicated by the cast-stone plaque at the parapet's center, was one of the first commercial structures erected on East Washington Street in the post-World War II era. The two-story, brick-veneered edifice has two recessed storefronts with canted, three-part, plate-glass windows angled away from the building's center toward single-leaf entrances surmounted by transoms. A third door at the façade's east end provides access to the upstairs rooms, which are illuminated by two large, four-section, metal casement windows. The rear elevation's window openings have been enclosed with concrete block. An exterior metal stair leads to a second-story rear entrance. Metal "tile" coping caps the parapet walls.

This building appears on the 1950 and 1956 Sanborn maps. From 1949 until 1958, the western section (603) housed the local public library branch, the Sanitary Seafood Market occupied the eastern section's first floor (605) and the Mary McLeod Bethune Branch of the YWCA utilized the eastern section's second floor (605 1/2). After the new library and YMCA/YWCA facilities were erected on Fourth Street in 1958, the 603 storefront was vacant for a year and the Patrician Club occupied 605 1/2. In 1960 and 1961, Club Fantasy Restaurant operated from 603 and the Sanitary Seafood Market remained at 605. The 603 storefront was vacant in 1962 and occupied by Gnato's Children's Clothing Center, Gnato's Janitorial Services, and Gnato's Enterprises in 1963. Dante's Discount House, a clothing store, had moved into 605, and the Simmons Roscoe Conklin Lodge, a social hall, rented the space at 605 1/2. In 1965, a North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company office occupied the building's eastern section (605), and it remained in that location for many years.

Washington Street community leader C. W. Robinson, a Tuskegee graduate and Spanish-American War veteran, began selling real estate as well as insurance in 1927 and eventually became the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company's district manager. Robinson moved from Asheville to High Point in 1905, opening a store with two other partners. According to a 1966 biographical sketch, he subsequently published a weekly newspaper, *The High Point News*, for several years in the 1920s, but had to give up that endeavor to focus on other business pursuits. Robinson attended St. Paul Presbyterian Church and volunteered at the Carl Chavis YMCA. He resided at 110 Downing Street.³⁸

Entrepreneur Fletcher N. Waden Jr. graduated from William Penn High School in 1946 and attended the American Business Institute in Chicago before enlisting in the United States Army in 1948. He returned to High Point after his honorable discharge from the military in 1951, and subsequently owned Washington Street businesses including Gnato's Children's Clothing Center, Gnato's Janitorial Services, and Gnato's Enterprises, Gnato's Construction Company, the Ritz Loan Company, Waden Supply Company, and National Financial and Business Consultants, Inc. Mr. Waden still operates his last two businesses, both established in 1979, from a

³⁸ Robert Marks, "C. W. Robinson," *High Point Enterprise*, June 12, 1966, p. 5A.

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Winston-Salem office.³⁹

High Point industrialist Coy O. Williard, Sr. erected the building that bears his family name. After his untimely death in 1954, his wife Patty M. Williard took over the property's management. Their son, Coy O. Williard, Jr. inherited the building in 1989.⁴⁰ Coy Williard Sr. was a partner in the Thomasville Bedding Company and secretary of the Carolina Upholstery Company at the time of his death.⁴¹

Commercial Building
607-609 Washington Street

1950

Contributing Building

This one-story, brick-veneered building features Modernist elements such as bands of slightly recessed bricks on the façade parapet and a deep setback that creates a small courtyard. A flat-roofed canopy wraps around the western storefront's east elevation and the eastern storefront's south elevation, sheltering two entrances and the large metal casement windows that illuminate the interior. Aluminum coping caps the front parapet and canopy; metal "tile" coping the side walls.

The west storefront had been enclosed with brick by the time that Peter Kaplan photographed it in 1984 and was embellished with a mural celebrating African American history after the building began to function as the Washington Drive Resource and Enrichment Center, incorporated by Lois H. Powell on October 1, 1990.

This building was erected in 1950 according to Guilford County property records and is listed with a 607 East Washington address in the 1954 city directory, when it was occupied by Haithcock Friendly Market, a grocery store. The establishment's name changed to Columbia Food Market in 1955, but was back to Haithcock Friendly Market from 1956 until 1961. The building appears on the 1956 Sanborn map with a 609 East Washington Street address, but that address does not appear in city directories. This edifice had a 611 East Washington Street address and was occupied by Sanitary Seafood and Market beginning in 1962.

Commercial Building
613 Washington Street

1949, 1975, 2010

Contributing Building

This one-story brick-veneered commercial building's original front (south) section appears on the 1950 and 1956 Sanborn maps with a 611 East Washington Street address. According to Guilford County property records, the building was altered in 1975, which may have been the date that the concrete block rear addition was constructed. The original section has a large two-part plate-glass window and a single-leaf entrance on the façade and three window openings on the side elevation. The northernmost side window opening was infilled

³⁹ Fletcher N. Waden Jr., telephone conversations and correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, July and August 2010.

⁴⁰ Coy O. Williard Jr., survey form for National Register nomination, 2009.

⁴¹ "Coy O. Williard," *High Point Enterprise*, February 24, 1954, p. 9A; "Industrial Leader Passes," *High Point Enterprise*, February 22, 1954, p. 14.

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with concrete block for many years, but the block was removed as part of the 2010 renovation. The side entrance, located in the rear addition, has a brick-veneered surround that creates visual continuity between the building's two sections. Metal "tile" coping caps the parapet walls.

The Washington Street Seafood Market occupied this building in 1950, but the store was vacant from 1951 until 1960, when Benjamin J. Worrell utilized the space. Quality Shoe Shop operated at this location in 1961 and moved next door in 1962. The street addresses changed at that time, and Monk Development and Realty Company owner George Monk Jr. and attorney John Langford opened the L & M Restaurant in the building, which then had a 613 East Washington Street address. H. H. LeMon owned the property in the 1960s. Langford purchased Monk's interest in the business in December 1962 and continued to operate the restaurant.⁴²

Parking Lot

Vacant Lot

Kilby Building
621-623 Washington Street

ca. 1920

Contributing Building

Individually listed in the National Register with the Kilby Hotel.

This two-story, three-bay, brick commercial building and the adjacent three-story, three-bay, brick commercial building are two of Washington Street's most imposing edifices. A shallow bracketed hood shelters the altered storefronts, each of which is surmounted by a multi-paned transom. Paired windows with round-arched, corbelled hoods illuminate the upper floor. It appears that the fanlights above each window may be intact beneath plywood panels. The large square plate-glass window at the façade's second-story center appears to be a later modification. A slightly-projecting brick border outlines the panel in the façade parapet's center, which likely once held the building's sign. A corbelled cornice embellishes the parapet, wrapping around the façade, east, and west elevations. The west elevation's first-story is blind, as a one-story commercial building stood at that location for much of the twentieth century. Corbelled stovepipe chimneys pierce the roof. A metal fire escape on the rear elevation leads to the second floor.

The Kilby Building's original commercial tenants are unknown. The 1919 city directory states that 511 East Washington Street—which appears to have been a small, frame, one-story commercial building—had been demolished and lists the three-story Kilby Hotel with a 513 ½-517 East Washington Street address. The two-story Kilby Building had not yet been constructed. The 1921-1922 city directory lists 511 as vacant, indicating that the Kilby Building had been erected by that time. The Kilby Hotel's address was 513-515 that year, and tenants included Meeks Grocery Store at 513 and the Peoples Café at 515 East Washington Street. In 1923, the

⁴² "Notice of Dissolution of L & M Restaurant," *High Point Enterprise*; December 14, 1962, p. 7B; City Council meeting minutes, June 1, 1961, May 1, 1964, March 30, 1965, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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Holt Grocery Company occupied the Kilby Building. The 1924 Sanborn map illustrates the three-story Kilby Hotel on the corner with an address of 515-519 and the adjacent two-story Kilby Building with an address of 511-513.⁴³

By 1930, the two-story building's address had changed to 621-623 and the Washington Street Billiard Hall occupied the entire first floor. In 1935, the establishment was known as Club Carolina. The space was vacant in 1940. On April 15, 1941 city building inspector E.K. Ingram condemned the Kilby Arcade due to structural defects including leaning walls and a sagging second-story floor, perhaps a result of the large gatherings hosted by local social clubs in that venue.⁴⁴ The problems were soon remedied, however, as the 623 storefront housed a shoe repair shop from 1941 until 1946. The Kilby Club operated at that location from 1947 until 1948. The space was vacant until 1961, when the Tar Heel Cosmetic Company occupied the building. Beginning in 1963, the Gardenia Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Mt. Herman Masonic Lodge utilized the second floor.

Kilby Hotel
625-627 Washington Street

1917

Contributing Building

Individually listed in the National Register with the Kilby Building.

This three-story, three-bay, brick commercial building and the adjacent two-story, three-bay, brick commercial building are two of Washington Street's most imposing edifices. A shallow bracketed hood shelters the storefronts and the central entrance, each of which is surmounted by a diamond-paned transom. Paired windows with round-arched, corbelled hoods illuminate the upper two floors. Only a few of the diamond-paned fanlights above each window are exposed, but it appears that the rest may be intact beneath plywood panels. A slightly-projecting brick border outlines the panel in the façade parapet's center, which likely once held the building's sign. A corbelled cornice embellishes the parapet, wrapping around the façade, east, and west elevations. Corbelled stovepipe chimneys pierce the roof.

A recessed bay on the east elevation, which fronts Hobson Street, provides access to additional commercial space illuminated by double-hung windows and diamond-paned transoms. Matching sidelights flank the first-floor doors and a door at the second-story level that may have originally served a second-story balcony. The segmental-arched window and door openings on the north (rear) elevation are devoid of corbelling. A metal fire escape leads to the upper floors.

Although the Kilby Hotel cornerstone indicates that the buildings were erected from 1910 to 1913, they do not appear on the April 1911 Sanborn map, the 1913 Bird's Eye view, or the July 1917 Sanborn map. John and Nannie Kilby purchased three tracts on the northwest corner of Washington and Hobson streets in 1908 and

⁴³ Deed Book 587, page 417.

⁴⁴ City Council meeting minutes, April 15, 1941, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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1913. On October 14, 1913, blacksmith Lane Sechrest and his wife Rose sold Nannie Kilby a lot including "three little buildings," likely the same three structures illustrated on the 1911 Sanborn map: a diminutive one-story building with a front porch that faced Washington Street and two hip-roofed buildings to the north, one of which abutted Hobson Street. A three-story brick building stood on the lot by December 1, 1917, when Nannie Kilby used the property as collateral for a \$2000 loan from the High Point Perpetual Building and Loan Association.⁴⁵

The Kilby Hotel appears in the 1919 city directory with a 513 1/2 East Washington Street address. Hair dresser Eunice Baldwin and physician C. J. H. Gaylord rented space to operate their businesses at that time; the storefronts at 515 and 517 were vacant. The 1921-1922 city directory lists the building as the "Kirby" Hotel, with Meeks Grocery Store at 513 and proprietor James Meeks living above the store. The People's Café occupied 515. In 1923, John Kilby and the Martins leased the western storefront to James Johnson and John Karas, who operated the National Café for three years. Simmons Pressing Club, a dry cleaners, utilized one storefront. The Holt Grocery Company occupied the eastern storefront (511) of the adjacent building, also owned by the Kilbys, during that time. The 1924 Sanborn map illustrates the three-story Kilby Hotel on the corner with an address of 515-519 and the adjacent two-story building with an address of 511-513. C.N. Bambalis rented the Kilby Hotel's western storefront in 1926 and his lease was amended to encompass that space and the storefront to the west in 1928, when he signed a six-year rental agreement.⁴⁶

By 1930, the Kilby Hotel's address had changed to 625 1/2 East Washington Street, J. S. Hall operated a grocery store in the western storefront, and the eastern storefront was vacant. In 1935 the hotel had a 627 1/2 East Washington Street address, Mamie Mitchell's Beauty Shop was in the western storefront, and Blue Ribbon Taxi Service was housed in the eastern storefront. Entrepreneurs occupying the first-floor rear commercial space included photographer Leo Dubose and beautician Hattie Leach. A series of beauty shops, with the Ritz-Anne Beauty Salon (1940-1946) and the Square Deal Barber Shop (1948-1957) having the longest tenure, utilized the 627 storefront through the 1960s. Dr. Joseph Martin occupied 625 from 1940 until 1958, when he erected a new office building across the street. Dr. Otis Tillman opened a medical practice at 625 in 1960.⁴⁷

Alamance County natives John Kilby and Nannie Pinnix married and moved to High Point in the 1890s, where they labored for years to save enough money to erect a complex that encompassed retail space, offices, twenty-one hotel rooms, and an entertainment hall. John was employed as a packer in a furniture factory and by the Southern Railway. Nannie worked as a hairdresser and a practical nurse in addition to selling fish and firewood. The Kilbys purchased a lot on the south side of Washington Street (which later had a 608 E. Washington Street address) in 1900 and continued to invest in real estate, eventually owning numerous

⁴⁵ Deed Book 205, page 612; Deed Book 252, page 623; Deed Book 255, page 56; Deed Book 301, page 241.

⁴⁶ Deed Book 427, page 335; Deed Book 541, page 81; Deed Book 587, page 417.

⁴⁷ High Point City Directories. See also Glenn R. Chavis, "Meet High Point's first black doctors," *Greensboro News and Record*, March 8, 2009; Glenn R. Chavis, "First Black photographer in High Point found," *Greensboro News and Record*, August 30, 2009; Glenn R. Chavis, "Black doctors' offices now history," *Greensboro News and Record*, October 18, 2009; Glenn R. Chavis, "Bits of history; better understanding," *Greensboro News and Record*, June 15, 2010.

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properties in the vicinity of Washington and Leonard streets. They were active in many civic and fraternal organizations and founding members of High Point's A. M. E. congregation. Nannie Kilby, who *High Point Enterprise* reporter Thomas B. Smith noted was "the hardest working woman in the city...everything she touched turned to money," owned and operated the Kilby Hotel. After she succumbed to cancer in 1921, her daughter Ora Martin managed the building. John Kilby passed away in 1940, and, in 1941 the City of High Point sold thirteen of the Kilby's properties in order to satisfy approximately \$4,500 in property tax debt.⁴⁸

Ora Kilby Martin, John and Nannie Kilby's only surviving child, attended High Point Normal and Industrial School and Shaw University in Raleigh. After receiving her teaching certification, she was employed in a Burlington school for two years. In 1914, Ora married Winston-Salem native Joseph Martin Jr., who attended Orangeburg, South Carolina State College, Shaw University in Raleigh, and the Howard University Medical School before establishing a High Point medical practice in 1925. Dr. Martin had an office at 203 Hobson Street before moving his practice into the Kilby Building, where the couple also resided for many years. Dr. Martin constructed a freestanding office building at 624 East Washington Street (south of the Kilby Hotel) in 1958.⁴⁹

The Martins attended St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church, where Dr. Martin served as treasurer and Mrs. Martin was active in Circle 2 and the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was also a proponent of civic activities including the Alpha Art Club, the Helping Hand Community Club, the Flower Garden Club, the High Point Normal and Industrial Alumnae Club, the Pinochle Social Club, and the YWCA. Dr. Martin was a member of the Professional Men's Club and the North State Medical Society.⁵⁰

The Martins had two daughters, Marion Burnie McElrath and Josephine Marzella Smith, both of whom are deceased. Marion's children--William Joseph, known as "Joe;" Walter Alfred; and Burnie Marzella--began operating the hotel in 1985 when she became ill. After Walter was killed outside the hotel in a drug-related incident, Joe returned to High Point from Seattle and eradicated the drug problem that plagued the hotel. Joe and Burnie McElrath are the Kilby Building's current owners.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Nannie Kilby, Well Known Negro, Dead," *High Point Enterprise*, April 25, 1921, p. 1; "Funeral Services for John Kilby This Afternoon," *High Point Enterprise*, March 8, 1940, p. 5; Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement;" High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "John Kilby" and "Mrs. Nannie Phenix Kilby," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950*, 38-39; L. W. Cates, "Notable Families of High Point--John and Nannie (Pinnix) Kilby," 9/22/2008, from the "Kilby" vertical file in the North Carolina Collection at High Point Public Library; Deed Book 948, page 25. Nannie Kilby's maiden name is spelled a variety of ways in secondary sources, but "Pinnix" appears to be the correct spelling.

⁴⁹ L. W. Cates, "Notable Families of High Point--John and Nannie (Pinnix) Kilby," pp. 4-5.

⁵⁰ Ibid.; "Mrs. J. A. Martin dies in Hospital," *High Point Enterprise*, February 15, 1972, p. 5A; "Death Takes Dr. Martin," *High Point Enterprise*, April 10, 1976, p. 3A.

⁵¹ L. W. Cates, "Notable Families of High Point--John and Nannie (Pinnix) Kilby," pp. 5-6; Ronald Jordan, "Landmark Under Siege," *High Point Enterprise*, July 11, 1993, p. 1B.

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First Baptist Church 701 Washington Street

1907, 1916, late 1940s, early 1950s

Contributing Building

First Baptist Church, which is individually listed in the National Register, is one of the oldest and most prominent buildings in the Washington Street Historic District. The 1907 Romanesque-style brick sanctuary, updated with a Gothic Revival-style façade in the early 1950s, stands near the commercial area's west end. The façade is symmetrical, with two square crenellated towers flanking the front-gable main block. Cast-stone pyramidal finials top the tower parapets' corners. Both towers feature corbelled cornices, double-leaf paneled doors surmounted by stained-glass transoms on the façade, and rounded-arch, double-hung, stained-glass windows on the side elevations.

A belltower with a pyramidal copper roof, a pointed spire, and round-arched vent openings rises from the roof at the façade's center. A stained-glass oculus window pierces the gable above the façade's central feature: a large, pointed-arch window opening containing three smaller pointed-arch windows and three diamond-shaped sections, all filled with stained glass. Two rounded-arch, double-hung, stained-glass windows flank the central window. A concrete step provides access to the west entrance and a short concrete handicapped ramp with a metal railing leads to the east entrance. A brick water table encircles the building.

The sanctuary's side elevations are three bays deep with central front-gable sections encompassing large rounded-arch windows flanked by shorter rounded-arch windows, all filled with stained glass. This fenestration is repeated in the smaller windows in each elevation's northern and southern bays. The west elevation was remodeled at the same time as the façade, but the east elevation retains its 1907 appearance. The brick is different in texture and color than the later wire-cut brick on the other elevations. The slightly-projecting central bay, corbelled cornice, and the windows' granite keystones, impost blocks, and sills are all original. The tall brick stovepipe chimney that rises from the central bay's north end is a later addition.

The 1916 classroom and office annex extends from the north (rear) elevation. The addition has a flat roof with a central hexagonal clerestory that contains circular windows with frosted-glass panes set in square frames. Round-arched, one-over-one sash windows, most of which are grouped in pairs, illuminate the annex. A hip-roofed hood shelters the annex's primary entrance on the west elevation and full-height brick pilasters flank the entrance bay. The north elevation's basement windows have been bricked-up and a tinted plate-glass window and door added near the east end. A concrete handicapped ramp and steps descend from the sidewalk to the below-grade basement entrance.

Reverend Harry Cowan led the congregation that became First Baptist Church when they began holding worship services in the Freedman's School on Perry Street in 1871, alternating Sundays with the Methodist Episcopal congregation. Albert Miller, Peter Gray, Dock Carr, and Willis Hinton served as the first deacons. On July 25, 1873, church trustees Peter Gray, Harry Hargrove, and Willis Hinton paid Thomas A. and Lydia

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Sechrest forty dollars for a tract of land near the school, upon which the congregation erected a frame church in 1875. J. B. Richardson, pastor of High Point's predominantly white First Baptist Church, facilitated the purchase of lumber used for the sanctuary. Reverend Richardson's forty-member congregation included three African Americans in 1870 and "quite a goodly number were added to the membership both by letter and by baptism" under his leadership. Richardson left First Baptist in 1873, and the congregation's African American members may have also departed at that time and participated in the formation of High Point's black Baptist church.⁵²

Reverend Anthony Welborne led the African American Baptist congregation from 1874 until 1900. By 1890, membership growth necessitated the church's expansion and new frame wing was erected that year, creating a T-shaped building. The congregation soon began planning for a more permanent building, and, in 1899, purchased a quarter-acre lot on the north side of Washington Street (then called Jamestown Road) from church trustee Anderson Graves for \$275. E. T. Corbit loaned the trustees \$125 of this amount.⁵³

The congregation became known as First Baptist around the turn of the twentieth century. Reverend David S. Saulter pastored the church for about two years before organizing Mt. Vernon Baptist Church on August 28, 1902. Some prominent members of the First Baptist congregation, including Willis Hinton and Anderson Graves, departed with Saulter and served as deacons of the new church.⁵⁴

Reverend Oscar S. Bullock came to First Baptist in 1906, and during his tenure a new sanctuary, parsonage, and Sunday School annex were erected. In January 1906, the *High Point Enterprise* reported that a building permit for the construction of the First Baptist sanctuary, valued at \$6,000, had been issued.⁵⁵ Fundraising efforts took several years, but contractor A. W. Council completed the new sanctuary in 1907. A two-story frame parsonage was built east of the sanctuary about the same time. Church trustees executed a mortgage agreement with Mr. Council on October 14, 1908, using their former sanctuary and lot and the Washington Street property as collateral for the \$1,644.89 they still owed him. Church member Mathew A. Hoover purchased the original frame church and lot from the congregation for \$1,500 on October 26, 1910, allowing the trustees to satisfy the terms of their land acquisition loan on October 31, 1910. They repaid the construction loan in full on January 2, 1912. By 1916, the congregation was "anxious to build a Sunday School" annex and received a \$4,000 loan from the High Point Building and Loan Association to fund the construction project.⁵⁶

The church interior was remodeled in the late 1940s and the exterior was given its current appearance in the

⁵² "A Condensed History of First Baptist Church of High Point, N. C.," in High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City*; High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950*, 12.

⁵³ Deed Book 116, pages 139-143; Deed Book 117, 576-578.

⁵⁴ High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950*, 12-15.

⁵⁵ Glenn R. Chavis, "List of Blacks Building Homes, 1903-1907," extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*.

⁵⁶ Deed Book 207, pages 125-127; Deed Book 224, page 274; Deed Book 287, pages 144-145.

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early 1950s. The new interior furnishing and windows were dedicated in a week-long celebration beginning on February 26, 1951.⁵⁷ Christian Builders, Inc. of Brentwood, Tennessee refurbished the sanctuary interior in 1980.

Vacant Lot

Ritz Theater/Commercial Building
711 Washington Street

1939

Contributing Building

This two-story brick commercial building once encompassed retail space on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and a movie theater in the rear section. Three ocular attic vents pierce the variegated brick veneer façade above the six second-story, one-over-one, metal-sash replacement windows. The storefront consists of a central recessed entrance bay with two single-leaf doors flanked by two large replacement plate-glass windows with new red brick kneewalls. An entrance at the façade's west end leads to the second-story office space, as does the exterior metal stair on the east elevation. A central double-leaf entrance sheltered by a gabled hood supported by metal posts and a shed-roofed entrance near the building's northeast corner provide access to the theater space. Brick buttresses with cast-stone caps provide additional support for the theater walls. Cast stone coping caps the front parapet; metal "tile" coping the side walls.

This building appears on the 1950 and the 1956 Sanborn maps with three street addresses—709, 711, and 713; one for each retail space and one for the theater. The 1956 Sanborn shows a shallow projection—perhaps a marquee—at the building's entrance. Two stores flanked a central corridor, which opened into a larger foyer outside of the theater.

Max Zager, the Ritz Theater's first manager, selected the movie "State Police" for the grand opening show on August 30, 1939.⁵⁸ Realtor and insurance salesman C. W. Robinson, attorney Walter G. Hamilton, dentist Jerome J. Wilson, Byrd & McLean's Beauty Shop, the Ritz Tailoring Shop, and the Ritz Sweet Shop occupied the offices and storefronts in the newly-constructed commercial space in front of the theater in 1940. Hamilton, Wilson, and Byrd & McLean's remained in 1945, along with tailor William W. Wright and confectioner C. R. Gaddy. Beatrice Hayes operated the confectionary shop in 1950 and Ritz Tailoring and Sports Shop and the Record Bar occupied the other storefronts. Professionals occupying the second-story office space included architect Otis D. Clements Jr., a Hampton and University of Chicago graduate, who established a High Point firm in February 1952 but only remained in town for a short time.⁵⁹

Dr. Wilson was the only original occupant in 1954, when Ossie E. Davis provided notary services at his office

⁵⁷ "Dedicational Services," *High Point Enterprise*, February 27, 1951, p. 2; 1956 Sanborn Map; Beth Keane, "First Baptist Church," National Register of Historic Places nomination, July 2008.

⁵⁸ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 110.

⁵⁹ "Architect Opening Office Here," *High Point Enterprise*, February 3, 1952, p. 8A.

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for the city's Commission for Boys at 709 East Washington Street. Attorney John W. Langford and The Bostic Record Bar also utilized commercial space at that time. Langford, Wilson, and the Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company had second-floor offices in 1960, when Gnato's Children's Clothing Center and Washington Street Television Sales and Service rented the storefronts. Dr. Wilson's office, the Ritz Beauty Nook, and the Ritz Theater were at this location in 1965. The City of High Point and Central Savings Bank assisted with the former theater's rehabilitation in the 1980s to serve as a flea market, restaurant, and barber shop.⁶⁰

Norfolk, Virginia native Jerome J. Wilson attended Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, before moving to High Point in 1927 to start a dental practice. Dr. Wilson was active in civic affairs, serving on the executive committees and boards of the Old North State Dental Association, High Point's Business and Professional Men's Club, the YMCA, and the NAACP. He was a leader in the Boy Scout District Committee and at First Baptist Church, where he superintended the Sunday School and chaired the board of trustees, in addition to other duties.⁶¹

Montgomery, Alabama native John W. Langford graduated from Clark University in Atlanta and attended law school at what is now North Carolina Central University in Durham before being drafted for military service during World War II. He returned to North Carolina Central after completing his tour of duty and graduated in February 1947. After passing the North Carolina bar in March 1947, he established a High Point law practice. Mr. Langford was active in civic organizations and attended St. Mark Methodist Church. He was a proponent of civil rights throughout his career, serving as a member of High Point's Biracial Committee in the 1960s, the High Point Black Caucus, the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, and the High Point City Council.⁶²

Parking Lot

Becky's and Mary's Restaurant
731 Washington Street

1996

Noncontributing Building

This one-story, front-gable-roofed commercial building is executed in red rusticated concrete block with two courses of grey concrete block encircling the building at each elevation's center. A single grey concrete block course extends across the façade's western section above three narrow plate-glass windows. The front-gabled entrance vestibule that projects from the façade's east side has grey concrete block courses on the upper half of each wall.

⁶⁰ "City, Central Savings Bank Join Forces to Fund Rehabilitation of Ritz Theater," *High Point Enterprise*, June 3, 1982.

⁶¹ "Dr. Wilson Heads Professional Club 3rd Time," *High Point Enterprise*, November 16, 1941; "Dr. Wilson Heads Dentists," *High Point Enterprise*, June 8, 1958; "Club Elects Dr. Wilson President," *High Point Enterprise*, September 17, 1967; "Wilson," *High Point Enterprise*, November 4, 1981, p. 8C.

⁶² "To Practice Law," *High Point Enterprise*, June 1, 1947; Eric Ries, "Outspoken Attorney Has Had Strong Impact On High Point," *High Point Enterprise*, February 14, 1988; Owen Covington, "Friends remember Langford as man of integrity, grit," *High Point Enterprise*, February 2, 2000, p. 1B.

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Vacant Lot

Whitten Clinic/Commercial Building
745-751 Washington Street

1949

Contributing Building

This one-story brick commercial building, which stands just west of what is now Mount Zion Baptist Church, and the small office building east of the church at 761 Washington Street are two of High Point's few extant examples of the Art Moderne style. Both edifices have streamlined façades with curved corners and originally featured glass block windows.

Three single-leaf entrances punctuate the 745-751 Washington Street façade, which is topped with a stepped parapet with cast-stone coping. Two large plate-glass windows with transoms illuminate the eastern two commercial spaces, while a curved, glass-block, corner window and five original metal casement windows pierce the west elevation. The building is executed in five-to-one common bond with a band of basketweave-patterned brick surmounting the storefronts and soldier course lintels above the office windows. The western office section is slightly deeper than the commercial spaces. All three units have back entrances; a flat-roofed metal canopy shelters the eastern section's rear elevation.

Dr. Clifford Thomas Whitten erected this building to house his medical practice and occupied the western section (745) from 1950 until his retirement in 1971. A native of Bristol, Tennessee, Whitten attended Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina in Greensboro and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. Following his 1927 graduation, he interned at St. Agnes Hospital in Raleigh, was a resident physician at Roger's Hospital in Bluefield, West Virginia, and pursued post-doctoral studies at Lincoln Hospital and Duke University in Durham, St. Philip Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and Provident Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Whitten established a medical office in Kingsport, Tennessee, and moved his practice to High Point in 1929, renting second-floor office space in the commercial building at what is now 500 E. Washington Street for almost twenty years.⁶³

Dr. Whitten became the first African American physician to operate at High Point Memorial Hospital and served as the first president of High Point's African American medical council, organized in July 1937. He conducted screenings for the Selective Service from 1941 until 1946, receiving seven presidential citations for his work, and was appointed to serve as the Imperial Life Insurance Company's medical examiner in 1950. Although Dr. Whitten was a general practitioner, he specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. He was active in fraternal organizations including the Elks Club, the Masons, the Professional Men's Club, and the Ki Delta Mu Honorary Medical Society. Dr. Whitten and his wife, Winston-Salem native Terah Walser, attended St. Mark United Methodist Church. Dr. Whitten announced his retirement on April 4, 1971 and passed away a few

⁶³ "Doctor Ends Long Practice," *High Point Enterprise*, April 4, 1971, p3A; "Death Claims Dr. Whitten," *High Point Enterprise*, April 28, 1971, p5C.

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weeks later, on April 26th.⁶⁴

A two-story dwelling was removed from this site to allow for the Whitten Clinic's construction. Businesses that utilized the eastern two storefronts include K & S Modern Barber Shop/Beauty Salon (747, 1951-1958; 749, 1960-1965); Guilford Mercantile, a home furnishings store (749; 1954); Oliver Business College (749; 1955); Fashionette Shop, women's clothes (749; 1957); Mae's Beauty Salon (747; 1959) (City Directories, 1950-1965). Brother Archie's Barber Shop now occupies the 747 storefront.

St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church 1908, 1928, 1943 Contributing Building **755 Washington Street**

St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church, which has served as Mt. Zion Baptist Church since 1982, is one of the oldest and most prominent buildings in the Washington Street Historic District. The Gothic Revival-style brick sanctuary stands at the commercial area's east end. The façade is asymmetrical, with two square crenellated towers flanking the front-gable main block. The larger tower, at the southeast corner, has three stages, while the southwest tower has only two levels. Both towers feature pointed-arch stained-glass windows accented by granite sills and lintels at the first story and all-header brick panels with soldier-course borders at the second story. The southeast tower's third story encompasses large rectangular openings infilled with vinyl siding and louvered vents.

Soldier-course bands frame the façade's central feature: a large, pointed-arch, second-story window opening containing three smaller pointed-arch windows and three diamond-shaped sections, all filled with stained glass. Two double-hung stained-glass windows with pointed-arch transoms flank the central window. All-header spandrel panels separate the first and second-story windows. A group of three central, double-hung, rectangular, stained-glass windows with a granite lintel illuminate the entrance foyer. Brick and concrete steps with metal railings lead to two double-leaf glass doors surmounted by stained-glass transoms.

Salient buttresses rise at the corners of the towers and on the sanctuary's side elevations. The front gable's central oculus has been covered with vinyl siding. A granite watertable encircles the façade and towers.

The sanctuary's side (east and west) elevations feature central front-gable sections encompassing large pointed-arch windows flanked by smaller, pointed-arch windows, all filled with colored glass. Sanborn maps and J. J. Farris's 1913 Bird's Eye view of High Point illustrate that the front-gable bays originally projected from the main block, but the church expansion and remodeling in 1928 involved extending the areas to the north and south so that the side walls were flush with the exception of the buttresses. The original 1908 brick is different in texture and color than the 1928 brick. A shallow addition with two

⁶⁴ Ibid.; Dr. C. T. Whitten, "High Point Enterprise, July 25, 1937; "Appointed Medical Examiner," *High Point Enterprise*, December 24, 1950.

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projecting shed-roofed bays extends from the north (rear) elevation. One-over-one sash windows illuminate the annex and metal steps provide access to an auxiliary entrance on the west elevation.

The sanctuary's interior features a vaulted ceiling, beadboard wainscoting, plaster walls, a wood-paneled partition wall separating the altar from the choir and organ loft, and wooden pews.

The congregation that became St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church began meeting in members' homes in 1871 and subsequently held worship services in the Freedman's School on Perry Street, alternating Sundays with High Point's African American Baptist congregation. Daniel Brooks served as the pastor from 1874 until 1876. On January 27, 1877, Methodist Episcopal church trustees Henry Booker, Charles Albright, B. C. Bunting, J. J. Morehead, and Anderson Nelson entered into a mortgage agreement with D. W. C. Benbow, purchasing an approximately one-acre tract of land for \$477.18. William Henry Smith led the fellowship beginning that same year, and the congregation soon erected a frame church that was named Smith Chapel in his honor. They were able to satisfy the terms of their loan on October 2, 1880.⁶⁵

The congregation's continued growth necessitated the construction of larger sanctuary in the late 1890s under the leadership of Dr. J. P. Morris, whom they recognized by renaming the church Morris Chapel. After a fire destroyed the sanctuary and many other East Washington Street buildings on March 27, 1907, the congregation met in High Point Normal and Industrial Institute while planning and raising funds for a new sanctuary, which was erected within a year. The church trustees secured construction loans from the High Point Perpetual Building and Loan Association, Snow Lumber Company, and the Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Home Missions and Church Extension between 1907 and 1910, and repaid them by 1916.⁶⁶

The 1911 Sanborn map and the 1913 Bird's Eye view of High Point illustrate the new brick sanctuary's cross-gable roof and southeast corner tower, which was topped by a tall spire. After the church was expanded by the construction of a rear addition and the façade was remodeled at a cost of \$50,000 in 1928, the congregation changed their name to St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church to reflect their new beginning. In the late 1930s, the congregation became St. Mark Methodist Church.⁶⁷

Reverend W. S. McLeod became the congregation's pastor in 1941, and the parsonage (which stood east of the

⁶⁵ Deed Book 54, pages 200-201; Deed Book 76, page 44; Mrs. E. E. Curtright, "Brief History of St. Mark M. E. Church," program for October 19-29, 1928 services in the High Point Museum's vertical file; Junior Stewards of St. Mark Methodist Church, "Historical Sketch of St. Mark Methodist Church," photocopy of circa 1950s pamphlet in the High Point Museum's vertical file; "St. Mark Church Story: Heartbreak and Fruition," *High Point Enterprise*, January 16, 1971, p. 6).

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*; Glenn R. Chavis, "Church able to bounce back from great loss," *Greensboro News and Record*, August 29, 2004; Deed Book 190, pages 280 and 332; Deed Book 207, pages 205 and 206; Deed Book 218, pages 11 and 12.

⁶⁷ Junior Stewards of St. Mark Methodist Church, "Historical Sketch of St. Mark Methodist Church;" J. J. Farris, "Bird's Eye View of High Point," 1913, enlarged Washington Street image courtesy of the High Point Museum. Fred Lander, an African American architectural draftsman who resided in Griffin Park, purportedly designed the additions. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 44.

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church) and the sanctuary were updated in 1942 and 1943, respectively. Other pastor's who served the church from the 1940s through the 1960s include R. B. McRae, J. J. Patterson, J. E. Brower, J. B. Jowers, O. W. Burwick, R. C. Sharpe, and Liston Sellars Jr.⁶⁸

The church served as an important community center throughout its history. In May 1933, St. Mark hosted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) meeting where fifty-five High Point citizens chartered a local chapter.⁶⁹ During the civil rights era, the Washington Street community gathered at St. Mark as well as other churches, schools, and the Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA for organizational meetings and rallies.

The Brooks Memorial United Methodist and St. Mark Methodist Church congregations merged in 1972 to create Memorial United Methodist Church. Reverend Daniel Brooks served as the first pastor of Brooks Memorial Church, organized in 1904. The congregation erected a church on Fairview Street in 1907 and, in 1949, constructed a new sanctuary. Louis Haizlip chaired the fourteen-member committee that mediated the Brooks Memorial Methodist and St. Mark Methodist consolidation. Reverend Clarence Strickland led worship services at the former Brooks Memorial Church until a new sanctuary was erected in 1979.⁷⁰

Reverend Emmanuel T. Rucker organized the Mt. Zion Baptist Church congregation in 1982 and served as pastor until his death in 1991. The fellowship hall in the church basement was remodeled and dedicated in his memory on February 7, 2010.⁷¹

Parking Lot

Dr. Murray Brooks Davis Office
761 Washington Street

ca. 1943

Contributing Building

Although this one-story brick building is diminutive in size, it has great historical significance, as it appears to be the first free-standing medical office constructed in High Point for an African American physician.⁷² Dr. Murray Davis began practicing medicine in High Point around 1935 and continued until his untimely death in 1963. His office, which has a streamlined façade with curved corners and originally featured glass block windows, is one of High Point's few extant examples of the Art Moderne style.⁷³

The building is executed in five-to-one common bond with a projecting western section that steps back to a

⁶⁸ Robert Robbins, Lola Curtright, and Dorothy Rice, "History of St. Mark United Methodist Church," circa 1971.

⁶⁹ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 63.

⁷⁰ Nathanael S. Morehead, Ruth Chavis, Ann Dixon, Lois Powell, Faye Ashe, and Gwen Davis, "125th Anniversary History, 1871-1996," photocopy of circa 1996 Memorial United Methodist Church program in the High Point Museum's vertical file.

⁷¹ Reverend Frank Thomas, conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 20, 2010.

⁷² Glenn R. Chavis, "Black doctors' offices now history," *Greensboro News and Record*, October 18, 2009.

⁷³ Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, p. 157.

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southeastern corner entrance sheltered by a flat-roofed metal canopy. Paired one-over-one sash windows have replaced the two large glass-block windows on the façade. The metal casement windows that originally illuminated the rest of the building have also been replaced.

Murray Brooks Davis was born on East Washington Street on November 1, 1907 to Ossie E. and Sara Brooks Davis, whose residence stood just east of the location upon which he eventually erected his office.⁷⁴ He graduated from William Penn High School in 1926, Howard University in 1930, and Howard University's Medical School in 1934. Davis interned at the Kansas City General Hospital in Missouri in 1934-35. He returned to High Point in the fall of 1935 to practice for a few years before continuing his medical studies in New York in 1938. Dr. Davis worked at the City of High Point Health Department from around 1939 until 1943, when he established a private medical practice. He also became a staff member at High Point Memorial Hospital.⁷⁵

Dr. Davis married Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina graduate and William Penn High School science teacher Gwendolyn Peterson in 1944. He was involved with a wide variety of organizations in High Point and throughout the state, serving as president of the Old North State Medical Society and as a member of the High Point Committee for Better Schools, Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina's Board of Trustees, the State Prison Commission, and the North Carolina Civil Rights Commission in the 1950s and early 1960s. Dr. Davis was one of eighteen African American physicians selected by the National Medical Association to travel to Africa in the fall of 1961 to assess medical conditions and make suggestions for improvement. The community suffered the loss of this prominent leader on January 14, 1963, when Dr. Davis had a heart attack while driving to his office. His car plunged into High Point Lake, where he drowned.⁷⁶

City directories indicate Dr. Edgar A. Proctor subsequently operated Dr. Davis's practice for a short time. Mount Zion Baptist Church currently owns this building, which has functioned as commercial/retail space for many years.

Duplex
769-771 Washington Street

late 1920s

Noncontributing Building

This one-story, front-gable-roofed, frame duplex has two front-gable entrance porches with square replacement posts, replacement one-over-one sash windows, three brick interior stovepipe chimneys, a stuccoed foundation, and vinyl siding that also wraps the triangular eave brackets. A wooden balustrade has been added to the west

⁷⁴ Ossie and Sara Davis purchased the lot between the St. Mark United Methodist Church parsonage and their home, upon which Dr. Davis erected his office from Ina Day McGirk on December 21, 1939, perhaps as a gift for their son. Deed Book 897, page 509.

⁷⁵ "Dr. Davis," *The Students Pen*, William Penn High School, November 14, 1940.

⁷⁶ Frank Warren, "Dr. Murray Davis," *High Point Enterprise*, July 30, 1961, p. 5C; "Doctor Suffered Heart Attack," *High Point Enterprise*, January 16, 1963.

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entrance porch; a metal handrail serves the east porch. The shed-roofed rear porch has been reconstructed, and a new wooden handicapped ramp provides access from the concrete parking pad to its east side.

The building retained original features including five-over-one sash windows on the façade, three-over-one sash windows on the side elevations, German siding, and exposed rafter ends in 1984 but had been remodeled by 2000.

This duplex was erected on the site of an earlier dwelling, which stood just west of what was originally Washington Lane (now Gaylord Court), an unpaved drive that led to Piedmont Hosiery Mill No. 2 (which became Adams-Millis Mill No. 3, also a hosiery plant). The earlier dwelling was still standing in 1924. The duplex was probably constructed in the late 1920s and first appears on the 1950 Sanborn map. Laborer Wade McMurry and his wife Orrie occupied 769 in 1930; the other unit was vacant. Globe Taxicab Service operated out of the building in 1935. By 1940, Austin A. Springs, a stoker for Duke Power Company, and his wife Alma resided in 769. Curtis Chavis, a Burris Memorial Hospital orderly, and his wife Nellie, who worked as a transferor at the Adams-Millis plant, occupied 771. The families remained in residence through 1965 (the last year that city directory information was gathered for this nomination). Mount Zion Baptist Church currently owns this building.

William Penn High School
825 Washington Street

1930, 1949, 1955, 2001

Contributing Building

The 1930 William Penn High School auditorium and classroom building and the 1949 addition are listed in the National Register. It does not appear that the 1955 gymnasium was included within the 1978 National Register boundaries. Two early-twentieth-century buildings that stood on the campus's west side within the 1978 National Register boundaries have since been demolished. The one-story, frame, gable-roofed industrial skills workshop, which had a formed concrete foundation and corrugated metal siding, was illuminated by large eight-over-eight wood sash and a central roof monitor with clerestory windows. A one-story brick building with a low-pitched roof and deep bracketed eaves featured large paired six-over-six sash surmounted by six-light transoms.

The oldest extant edifice on what is now the Penn-Griffin School for the Arts campus is the 1930 William Penn High School auditorium and classroom building, named in memory of long-time principal Samuel E. Burford when the facility reopened as a Guilford County magnet school in 2003.⁷⁷ The two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style building, which faces Washington Street, stands between a 1949 classroom addition to the east and the 2001 John Coltrane Hall of Music and Dance to the west. The east wing extends north to the 1955 gymnasium. A flat-roofed metal breezeway shelters the sidewalk leading from the gym's northeast corner down the hill to the former Griffin Elementary School, which currently houses Penn-Griffin's middle school students.

⁷⁷ The 1930 auditorium was originally named in memory of John R. Taber. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 58.

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Architect Fred B. Klein designed the 1930 auditorium.⁷⁸ The building's main block and projecting entrance bay feature pedimented front-gable roofs, robust molded cornices, and large double-hung windows, most of which contain nine-over-nine or twelve-over-twelve sash. An oculus window pierces the entrance bay's gable above the arched, slightly-recessed brick panel that frames the central second-story window. Cast-stone panels surmount the two flanking windows, which, like the doors below them, have cast-stone keystones in their flat-arch lintels. Plain pilasters delineate the façade's second-story window bays. The majority of the side elevation's second-story windows have round-arched surrounds with cast-stone keystones above fanlights.

A central, pedimented, double-leaf entrance surmounted by a seven-light transom and two flanking single-leaf doors provide access to the building's first floor entrance hall. Two flat-roofed stair halls extend from the entrance bay's east and west elevations, leading to the second-floor auditorium. A cupola rises from the center of the auditorium's roof and a projecting belt course encircles the building.

Classrooms occupy the 1930 building's first floor and side-gable-roofed rear wing. Four large windows on the rear wing's north elevation have been enclosed with brick and the basement windows covered with louvered panels, but the metal casement windows that illuminate the second floor are intact, as are the arched central windows and two flanking oculus windows in each gable end. A tall brick smokestack rises from the rear (north) wall.

The building's 2001 renovation retained the original interior floor plan, brick and plaster wall surfaces, wood window and door surrounds, baseboards, and some bulletin boards and black boards. The hall doors, which have wooden panels below nine glazed lights, are surmounted by multi-pane transoms. Vinyl floor tiles, acoustical tile ceilings, and fluorescent lighting were added in the halls and classrooms.

The auditorium features beadboard sheathing on the stage kneewall, decoratively-painted paneled pilasters with classical capitals above brick kneewalls on the side elevations, double-leaf entrances with classical surrounds, and two ornate cast-iron grilles flanking the entrance on the south (rear) elevation. The replacement hardwood floor slopes to the north, providing a clear view of the stage. Commercial carpeting has been installed in the aisles and at the entrances and the wood and metal auditorium seating replicate the original chairs.

High Point architects Louis F. Voorhees and Eccles D. Everhart designed the two-story, brick, L-shaped east wing in 1949. The addition encompassed seven classrooms, a woodworking shop, a drafting studio, a courtyard, an auxiliary entrance, and restrooms.⁷⁹ Although the interior is substantially intact, the exterior appearance was first altered when the Guilford County School system renovated the building in the late 1970s

⁷⁸ Ibid., 50.

⁷⁹ Carl Jobe, Guilford County Schools Facility Services Department, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010; "Additions to William Penn High School, High Point, N. C., Washington Street Elevation," July 28, 1949, revised August 30, 1949, renderings in the Alumni Room, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts.

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per the plans of architect Aaron Allred to provide additional classroom space for the adjacent Griffin Elementary School.⁸⁰ It appears that the stuccoed panels that enclose most of the original window openings on the long rear wing's east and west elevations were added at that time. A high band of tinted windows illuminates the second floor and tall, narrow, tinted windows light the first floor. A tall stuccoed cornice wraps around the building. The Carl Chavis YMCA remodeled the building in 1995 to serve as their new branch location, but the Guilford County School System removed most of the exterior changes from that renovation in 2001.⁸¹ The south entrance's concrete surround is original to the building as it appeared in 1949, but the doors, transoms, and the three plate-glass windows above them are 2001 replacements. The remaining windows on the south elevation have been infilled with brick.

Raleigh architects William Henley Deitrick and John C. Knight designed the red brick, mid-century Modernist gymnasium erected in 1955.⁸² The building has two distinct parts: the gymnasium and a flat-roofed, one-story wing that includes a lobby with a central ticket booth, restrooms, locker rooms, and offices. The wing's east elevation is blind, with recessed entrance bays at the façade's center and northeast corner and a tall stuccoed cornice, which was a later addition, most likely part of the late 1970s remodeling. Metal casement windows pierce the north elevation. The interior retains terrazzo floors, brick and concrete block walls, and original doors with chrome hardware and room identification plaques.

The gymnasium features collapsible stadium seating, exposed steel roof trusses, and an original hardwood floor. Clerestory windows illuminate the interior. Flat-roofed canopies supported by round posts shelter two sets of double-leaf metal doors on the gymnasium's rear (west) elevation. Concrete coping contributes to the building's streamlined, modern appearance. The gymnasium reflects the statewide trend toward modern, hygienic, well-lit athletic facilities for North Carolina students during the 1950s.

The Guilford County School System erected the two-story John Coltrane Hall of Music and Dance on the 1930 building's west elevation in 2001. Large plate-glass windows illuminate the halls and studios, but most of the red brick exterior walls are blind. The project architect was Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce of Winston-Salem. Sutton-Kennerly of Greensboro and Davis Martin Powell of High Point provided the engineering plans.⁸³ The new building replaced a one-story classroom wing addition.

The New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) of the Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, advanced educational opportunities for High Point's African American residents by moving their Asheboro mission school to High Point in 1891. High Point's proximity to the railroad and sizable African American population provided the impetus for the relocation. The Quakers initially utilized an existing two-room frame Freedmen's

⁸⁰ Lee Mortimer, "Penn Renovation to Benefit Griffin," *High Point Enterprise*, April 22, 1977, p. 1B.

⁸¹ Jimmy Tomlin, "YMCA Branch gets set for relocation," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

⁸² Carl Jobe, Guilford County Schools Facility Services Department, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 207.

⁸³ *Ibid.*

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school to house their classes, but the building's small size and poor condition prompted them to purchase five acres from James and S. L. Day on March 17, 1893 upon which to erect a new facility. After soliciting donations from local white and African American citizens and Northern benefactors, the Quaker trustees commissioned the construction of a frame classroom building in 1894 at a cost of \$2,900.⁸⁴

The High Point Normal and Industrial School offered children and adults vocational, academic, and spiritual instruction—a much broader range of classes than the public schools that educated High Point residents in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Enrollment climbed to 174 pupils by 1896, when industrial trades students participated in the construction of a frame barn, carpentry shop, and teachers' residence on campus. Quaker teachers managed the school until 1897, at which time the NYYM trustees hired St. Augustine College graduate Alfred James Griffin to serve as principal. Griffin immediately reorganized the course of study and recruited additional African American faculty. The trustees purchased eighty-one acres from J. C. and Mary F. Welch in 1898 to serve as the school's farm, where students tended livestock and cultivated crops, learning agricultural skills in addition to providing much of the food they consumed.⁸⁵

Most students were local and resided with their families, but by 1903 enrollment numbered 303, including 53 pupils who paid \$8.00 for room and board (\$5.00 in cash and \$3.00 in labor) in addition to \$1.50 for tuition every month. Masonry and carpentry students assisted in the construction of new campus facilities including Congdon Hall, an expansive brick classroom and girls' dormitory building named in honor of its benefactor, New York Quaker Ellen L. Congdon, and completed in 1901; a frame blacksmith shop, erected in 1904; a frame carpentry shop, built in 1906; and a frame boys' dormitory, finished in 1908. Students also constructed foundations, chimneys, and buildings throughout High Point. After a January 26, 1909 fire destroyed the 1894 school, four new brick edifices including classrooms and a boys' dormitory, two frame buildings, and a barn were erected utilizing student labor. Pupils built brick blacksmith and masonry shops in 1913.⁸⁶

Enrollment surged to a high of 724 students, 118 of whom lived on campus, in 1914, and averaged around 600 pupils a year through 1919 before dropping to 417 students in 1920. The NYYM annual report reflected the institution's financial difficulties in 1921, and a year later, after the City of High Point School Board withdrew their annual funding assistance (which had amounted to \$6,000 in 1920), the Quaker trustees sold eighteen acres of the farm tract to pay their debts and finance the year's operations. Enrollment decreased dramatically,

⁸⁴ Jerry L. Cross and H. McKeldon Smith, "William Penn High School," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1978; Deed Book 91, page 267; Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting*, 1885-1894, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania. The Society of Friends' *Annual Reports* refer to their Washington Street campus as the High Point Normal and Industrial School from the time it opened until 1923, when the Quakers sold the property to the High Point Board of Education after the spring semester. Publications such as school brochures and catalogs, as well as other secondary sources, also refer to the school as the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute. Both names are therefore used in the context of this nomination.

⁸⁵ Deed Book 113, page 256; Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting*, 1896-1898.

⁸⁶ Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting*, 1900-1910; *Annual Catalogue of the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute*, 1910-1913.

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numbering only 112 students in 1922, and the trustees made the difficult decision to sell the campus to the High Point Board of Education in 1923. The last class graduated from the Quaker-owned school in the spring of that year. Between 1897 and 1922, 8,750 students enrolled at the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute, with 131 pupils attaining high school diplomas and hundreds of students completing vocational and industrial training.⁸⁷

Alfred Griffin, who served as principal from 1897 until 1923, remained at the school as an English and history instructor and his wife Ophelia continued to teach home economics. Atlanta University graduate Edward E. Curtright, who had been employed at High Point Normal and Industrial Institute since 1902, became the public school's first principal in 1923 and began to shift the school's focus from vocational education to college preparation. The institution was known as "Normal High School" until the name was changed to William Penn High School around 1929, and in 1930 Curtright supervised ten teachers with degrees from Shaw, St. Augustine, Wilberforce, and Fisk universities. The Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States added William Penn High School to their roster of fully accredited schools in 1932, making it one of only five African American public schools in North Carolina that had achieved this recognition.⁸⁸

William Penn High School also functioned as a social and cultural center for the Washington Street area, hosting countless speakers, musical and theatrical performances, association meetings, civic group activities, and community events over the years. Internationally-renowned poets James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes read their work to capacity crowds and many other notable speakers educated and entertained the community.⁸⁹ The construction of a spacious auditorium in 1930 facilitated the campus's ability to accommodate large groups. Architect Fred B. Klein drafted the plans executed by general contractor J. O. Connor & Son, Red Rowe Plumbing & Heating, and Clinard Electric at a cost of approximately \$56,000. According to newspaper accounts, the Rosenwald Fund contributed a portion of the cost.⁹⁰

Edward Curtright passed away in 1933, and Lynchburg, Virginia, native Samuel Burford was appointed

⁸⁷ Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting*, 1921-1923.

⁸⁸ "William Penn High," High School Principal's Preliminary Report, form completed for the Division of School Inspection, Raleigh, N. C., September 12, 1930, on file at the State Archives in Raleigh; "William Penn School is Approved as Fully Accredited High School," *High Point Enterprise*, January 7, 1932, p. 14; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 33.

⁸⁹ "Langston Hughes to Give Reading on Monday, Dec. 7," *High Point Enterprise*, November 29, 1931, p. 7; "Famed Negro Poet Draws Full House," *High Point Enterprise*, February 3, 1947; Glenn R. Chavis, "Schools well-used after hours," *Greensboro News and Record*, September 30 and October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2007.

⁹⁰ "Two Architects named in school project," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1930; "High Point Firm Awarded Contract," *High Point Enterprise*, May 21, 1930; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 49-50, 52. The newspaper mention that the Rosewald Fund contributed to the cost of William Penn High School's 1930 auditorium construction needs to be verified, as the William Penn project is not listed in the Fisk University's Rosenwald Fund database, nor is it mentioned in Tom Hanchett's article about North Carolina Rosenwald schools or other secondary sources. However, the project does fit with the Rosenwald Fund's shift in philosophy after 1928, moving from a focus solely on constructing rural schools to providing assistance to high schools and colleges.

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principal that year, a position he held until the school's closure in 1968. The institution continued to expand academic and vocational course offerings, enrolling 337 students who attended classes in the five brick buildings on campus in 1940-1941. Clarence Yokely updated the building trades program to provide training in drafting, electrical wiring, carpentry, painting, wallpaper-hanging, window glazing, plastering, and cement and masonry construction in 1940.⁹¹ It appears that the agricultural training program was defunct by that time.

Eleven teachers instructed 286 pupils under Burford's supervision during the 1946-1947 school year. Most course offerings were standard academic subjects, but home economics and business administration and bookkeeping classes were popular. Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina graduate James E. Reid administered the building trades (vocational shop) and industrial arts program, which enrolled 18 and 69 students, respectively.⁹²

Enrollment and faculty increased through the 1950s, numbering 404 pupils and 17 instructors in 1955 and 509 students and 28 teachers in 1960.⁹³ Campus improvements during this period encompassed the construction of new recreational facilities including a gymnasium, an outdoor basketball court, and two tennis courts north of the school. Greensboro general contractor L. B. Gallimore Construction Company supervised the gymnasium's subcontractors S. P. Kinney (High Point; plumbing), Turpin Electric (High Point), and Allred-Gardner, Inc. (Greensboro; heating). The overall project cost was approximately \$159,000.⁹⁴

The school was in need of renovation by the early 1960s, but the High Point Board of Education elected to defer repairs as they explored school integration plans. After years of debate, the board decided to close William Penn High School in 1968 and appointed Burford to serve as the principal of the newly-constructed, integrated T. Wingate Andrews High School that year, overruling Superintendent Dean Pruette's recommendation of W. E. Rogers for the job. Burford thus became the first African American principal of a predominantly white high school in North Carolina.⁹⁵ William Penn High School's last class graduated in 1968. Penn-Griffin's School for the Arts' first high school class graduated in June 2010.

Parking Lot

⁹¹ "William Penn Will Present Improved Vocational Courses," *High Point Enterprise*, September 1, 1940.

⁹² "William Penn," High School Principal's Annual Report, form completed for the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, N. C., June 1948, on file at the State Archives in Raleigh.

⁹³ "William Penn," High School Principal's Annual Reports, forms completed for the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh, N. C., June 1955 and June 1960, on file at the State Archives in Raleigh.

⁹⁴ *High Point Enterprise*, February 1954; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 207. Information regarding outdoor basketball courts and tennis courts courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes.

⁹⁵ Burford retired in 1971 and was elected to the High Point City Council for three terms between 1971 and 1979. He passed away in 1985 (Duke Conover, "Principal move opened door to integration," *High Point Enterprise*, February 8, 1998, pp. 1C and 4C).

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Morgan Apartments
1015 Washington Street

1939

Contributing Building

This two-story, brick, four-unit apartment building's façade parapet has a crenellated central bay flanked by two pent-roofed sections. Three sets of concrete steps and stoops lead to the apartment entrances. An arched opening surrounds the two central doors, which are slightly recessed and angled toward the building's center beneath a pent-roofed hood. Brick pilasters frame the all-header brick panel at the central bay's second-story level. Double-tier porches supported by metal posts shelter the two corner entrances and create balconies for the upstairs apartments. Replacement one-over-one sash windows, paired in some locations, illuminate the interior. Brick interior chimneys serve the apartments.

It appears that the rear porch configuration was originally identical to the front porches, but now consists of an almost-full-width shed-roofed porch on the second story level with replacement wood posts, a wood railing, and a wood exterior stair. A stone retaining wall runs north-south on the rear yard's west end. A concrete sidewalk leads from the parking lot on the building's west side to the rear entrances.

Sanborn maps illustrate that four modest one- and two-story dwellings stood on the north side of East Washington Street between Eccles Place and what was originally called Normal Street (now North Downing Street) in 1917. Underhill Street was created when the Griffin Park subdivision was developed in 1922, splitting the long block in half. This apartment building replaced the one-story dwelling at what was then 605 East Washington Street, and, by 1956, was the only remaining property facing East Washington Street in the block between Eccles Place and Underhill Street.

Dentist J. C. Morgan erected these apartments at about the same time he and his wife Ophelia Robinson built a home just a few hundred yards to the north at 121 Underhill Street in 1941. Guilford County property tax records indicate that the building was constructed in 1939, but it is first listed in the 1941-42 city directory, when John Eccles, Ennis Smith, John W. Weston, Richard A. Leak were tenants. Although the units were rentals, most tenants were in residence for many years. Eccles, Leak, and their families resided in units A and D, respectively, until at least 1965 (the last year city directory information was gathered for this National Register nomination). Ida Staton moved into unit B in 1945 and remained in residence through 1965. John H. Harris occupied unit C from 1946 until 1959.

Dr. J. C. and Ophelia Morgan's daughter Geraldine Morgan Hawkins inherited this property on February 12, 1974.⁹⁶

Vacant Lot (west of Underhill Street)

Parking Lot (east of Underhill Street)

⁹⁶ "Realty Transfers," *High Point Enterprise*, March 10, 1974, p. 15C.

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Hoover's Funeral Home 1113 Washington Street

ca. 1915, 1940s

Contributing Building

This two-story, hip-roofed dwelling has a front porch with stuccoed posts on brick piers, round-metal-pole railings, a concrete floor and steps, and robust, curved, stuccoed stair end walls. Decorative gables surmount the central entrance and the porte cochere at the porch's west end. The porch once wrapped around the west elevation, but its northwest section has been enclosed as a sunroom.

A hip-roofed dormer with two small square windows pierces the front roof slope. The house retains some original windows, including the rectangular sash with a clear glass central pane bordered by yellow and green textured-glass panes on the façade east of the main entrance.

The 1917 Sanborn map illustrates the one-story hip-roofed rear wing. The long flat-roofed rear mortuary addition, likely constructed in the 1940s, appears on the 1950 Sanborn map. The house was first sheathed with rolled asphalt siding and then covered with aluminum siding before 1984.

Although the property record card gives a construction date of 1921, this residence appears on the 1917 Sanborn map with an address of 617 East Broad Street. The address is not listed in the 1910 or 1913 city directory, but does appear in 1919, when Lillian Ford was in residence. Lee Flakes, who sold soft drinks, occupied the dwelling in 1930.

W. E. Newsom and Walter Poteat established a funeral service in 1910 with the financial assistance of Mary Holiday Hoover. After Mr. Newsom's death in 1914, Mr. Poteat and Will Hoke purchased his interest in the company. Mr. Hoke sold his share in 1921, and Mr. Poteat followed suit in 1923, making Mrs. Hoover the company's sole proprietor. When her son Walter, a newly-licensed funeral director and embalmer, began running the business in 1925, the company became known as Hoover's Funeral Home. The funeral home was initially located at 731 East Washington Street and moved to the corner of Beamon and High streets before relocating to what is now 1113 Washington Street in 1932.⁹⁷

Walter Whitted Hoover had a long and distinguished professional career, serving as High Point's first African American Justice of the Peace and operating an African American theater, the Dixieland, on East Washington Street for a short time beginning in 1929. Mr. Hoover asserted that he established North Carolina's first African American burial association and owned the state's largest funeral home chain at one time. He was an active Mason, a member of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, and attended First Baptist Church from 1916 until he passed away on July 7, 2004 at the age of 100. Mr. Hoover's wife Rebekah continues to manage the funeral

⁹⁷ "Walter Hoover," *High Point Enterprise*, July 10, 2004, p. 6B; Eric Swenson, "Walter Hoover, funeral home owner, dies," *Greensboro News and Record*, July 9, 2004; Ronda Cranford, "Colleagues recall funeral director," *High Point Enterprise*, July 9, 2004; W. W. Hoover, interview with High Point Museum staff, January 24, 1996 at Hoover's Funeral Home.

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home, which has been a vital part of the Washington Street community for almost eighty years.⁹⁸

Hoover's Funeral Home provided ambulance service for many years, but was one of seven High Point funeral homes that discontinued this practice in 1966.⁹⁹

Garage

ca. 1940s

Contributing Building

This one-story, two-bay, concrete-block garage has two roll-up doors and aluminum-sided gables. The building is illustrated on the 1950 Sanborn map.

Vacant Lot (west side of Downing Street)

Parking Lot (east side of Downing Street)

Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524
1215 Washington Street

1963

Contributing Building

This two-story, flat-roofed, rectilinear building is executed in running bond with randomly projecting decorative headers adding visual interest. As with many other Modernist edifices, the building's form is paramount and conceals its function. The façade (south) and rear (north) walls project slightly farther than the side walls and the end bricks are laid in a pattern of alternating recessed and flush bricks. The primary entrance is recessed at the façade's center and consists of an aluminum-framed double-leaf door and sidelights sheltered by a flat-roofed, metal-frame canopy with an opaque green plastic roof. A T-shaped metal staircase leads to the entrance, which is at the second-story level.

The roof overhang shelters the clerestory windows that line the top edge of the east and west elevations. Three metal doors provide access to the first story from the west elevation. Metal stairs lead to the rear second-story entrance.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina granted High Point's Toussaint L'Ouverture Masonic Lodge No. 524 a charter on December 14, 1916. Worshipful Master Jessie Edmondson, Senior Warden S. R. Cole, and Junior Warden John Henley became the first lodge officers. The fraternal organization initially met in a house on High Street, but soon moved to the Odd Fellows Hall on Washington Street. African American community leaders including Dr. Gaylord, Ed Wheeler, Fred Lander, Will Sanders, Robert Beatty, Adam Brown, T. W. White, Ellis Cornelius, and Paul Wright served as Worshipful Masters.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ "Local Funeral Home Give Notice of Canceling Ambulance Service," *High Point Enterprise*, June 2, 1966, p. 1C.

¹⁰⁰ Daniel Bell, "The history of Toussaint L'Ouverture Masonic Lodge No. 524," unpublished document compiled by lodge historian, July 2010.

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The lodge met in Pythian Hall on Centennial Street from 1946 until 1963, when their new building on East Washington Street was completed under the leadership of Worshipful Master Aaron Lightner. William J. Burton and Thomas Fuller co-chaired the Building Committee and the Board of Trustees during this period. Local realtor George Monk orchestrated the construction process, and the Order of the Eastern Star's White Rose Chapter No. 157 (a fraternal organization consisting of women and men related to masons) made the first mortgage payment and continues to meet in the building. Lodge No. 524 had forty-two members in January 2010.¹⁰¹

Picnic Shelter

ca. 1980s

Noncontributing Structure

This one-story, side-gable-roofed picnic shelter has a concrete floor and bracketed square wood posts.

Washington Street, South Side

Commercial Building 500 Washington Street

ca. 1915, ca. 1920, 2006

Contributing Building

This two-story, four-bay, brick commercial building has a corbelled cornice, segmental-arched second-story windows, and a slightly recessed storefront enclosed with T-111 paneling. The long stuccoed panel above the storefront was likely once the location of a transom. The flat-roofed metal canopy that sheltered the storefront for much of the twentieth century has been removed since 2000, the side and rear elevations have been stuccoed, and the entire building, including the two-over-two sash windows on the façade's second story, painted bright red in keeping with the Asian exterior decoration. Two faux, arched, double-leaf doors; a three-part entrance; and chinoiserie sculpture ornament the west elevation, which fronts North Centennial Street. The sculpture continues across the one-story addition's rear elevation. The addition had been constructed by 1924, probably at the same time the adjacent two-story commercial building was erected.

This two-story brick building appears on the 1917 Sanborn map as a grocery store. A one-story, T-plan dwelling occupied this approximate location, facing what was then Cherry Street (now Centennial), in 1911. The lot also encompassed a one-story duplex at its southeast corner and a one-story "pressing club" (dry cleaners) at its northeast corner in 1911. It appears that the T-plan dwelling was moved east toward the duplex to allow for the grocery store's construction around 1915.

This building, which originally had a 400 East Washington Street address, had a vacant first floor in 1919, when John J. Parks, William Keeble, hair dresser Louella Chavis, and the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company utilized the second-story space. By 1921, the Washington Street Grocery occupied the first floor and second-floor tenants included the Piedmont Pressing Club, Reverent J. B. Bennett, insurance salesman M. B. Byrd and William Guy in addition to Chavis and North Carolina Mutual. In 1923, Joseph Levine operated the grocery and attorney T. F. Sanders, dentist J. C. Morgan, Ms. Chavis, North Carolina Mutual, and Winston

¹⁰¹ Ibid.; Building cornerstone; Paul B. Johnson, "Haiti Hits Home," *High Point Enterprise*, January 19, 2010, p. 2A.

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Mutual Life Insurance Company rented second-floor offices. By 1930, Overcash Grocery occupied the first floor and Dr. Morgan and the Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company had second-floor offices. In 1935, the grocery was called Hylton's Cash Store and physician Clifford T. Whitten shared the second floor with Dr. Morgan. The two medical practices remained at that location through 1949, during which time the store was named Malpass Cash Grocery and the Washington Street Grocery. In 1954, the first-floor commercial space was vacant and Dr. Morgan's office remained upstairs. C. W. Robinson and the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company also occupied second-story offices, where they remained through 1960, when Specialty Food Products Company, a baked goods wholesaler, utilized the first floor. In 1965, the Bargain Center, a used clothes store, occupied the first floor and Dr. Morgan's office the second floor.

Jamaica, West Indies native James Christopher Morgan graduated from Howard University and established his High Point dental practice in 1921, serving African American and white clients. Dr. Morgan married Ophelia Robinson, whose family residence was located only a few hundred yards north of his Washington Street office. The couple built a home at 121 Underhill Street in the Griffin Park subdivision in 1941. Dr. Morgan also erected several commercial investment properties on East Washington Street, including the Morgan Apartments southwest of his home and the Yarborough Law Building near his office. Dr. Morgan's many civic leadership roles included his tenure as City Municipal Park chairman, Federal Housing Authority Board commissioner, High Point Professional Men's Club president, Citizen's Advisory Committee member, and Chamber of Commerce All-American City Committee member. The Morgans attended St. Paul United Presbyterian Church.¹⁰²

John Yeh purchased the commercial block containing 500-510 Washington Street in 2006 and it served as the American Lighting Showroom for several years.¹⁰³

Griffin Building
502-506 Washington Street

ca. 1920

Contributing Building

This two-story brick commercial building has three storefronts enclosed with T-111 paneling, brick pilasters separating the second story into eight bays, and pent roofs with modillion cornices at the first- and second-story levels. The second-story window openings contain paired one-over-one sash windows below six-pane transoms. The shed-roofed canopy that sheltered the storefronts for much of the twentieth century had been removed and the storefronts enclosed by 2000. The building, including the windows on the façade's second story, has been painted bright red since that time. A one-story section extends across the rear elevation.

This building and the one-story rear section appear on the 1924 Sanborn map. According to oral tradition, High Point Normal and Industrial Institute principal A. J. Griffin funded the building's construction. The 1923-1924

¹⁰² "Dr. J. C. Morgan Dies in Hospital," *High Point Enterprise*, May 18, 1973, p. 1B.

¹⁰³ City of High Point, Planning and Development Department, *High Point, North Carolina: Washington Drive District Plan*, October 10, 2008.

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city directory lists the Cut Rate Motor Company and watchmaker F. P. Coble as the tenants in 402 and confectioner F. L. Montgomery in 404. Local historian Glenn R. Chavis's research collection includes a 1927 advertisement for the Griffin Casino, which appears to have operated at this location. By 1930, the street addresses had changed, and Washington Furniture Store occupied 502, the St. Louis Café 504, and W. M. James operated a shoe repair shop at 506. In 1935, 502 was vacant, the café was still in operation, and Isaac Rose managed the shoe repair shop. By 1940, Bruce H. Atkins was using 502 as storage for his hardware and furniture store at 506 and Williams Dining Room had opened at 504. Atkins continued to sell used furniture in 1945, when 504 housed the Haygood Dining Room. Saunders Furniture occupied the building's commercial space from 1947 until 1965, when Ralph's TV & Appliance Center utilized the 506 storefront.

John Yeh purchased the commercial block containing 500-510 Washington Street in 2006 and it served as the American Lighting Showroom for several years.

Commercial Building
508-510 Washington Street

ca. 1940

Contributing Building

This austere two-story brick commercial building has two storefronts enclosed with T-111 paneling, plain pilasters flanking the façade, six-over-six sash windows at the second-story, and a flat parapet. The storefronts had been enclosed by 2000 and most of the side and rear elevation's windows and doors boarded-up. The facade, including the windows, has been painted bright red since that time. A one-story shed once extended across the rear elevation, but is now approximately half of its original size.

This building and the one-story rear shed appear on the 1950 Sanborn map. Johnson's Poultry occupied the building in the early 1940s and it was vacant in 1945. Pointer Real Estate occupied 508 in 1947 and City Stove Works and City Radio Service rented the storefronts in 1948 and 1949. In 1950 and 1951, A. L. Candler and Son utilized the building as storage for their plumbing and heating company. In 1952, Saunder's Furniture took over the first floor and used it as storage for their furniture store, which operated in the adjacent building from 1947 until 1965. The building's second-floor apartment had two long-term tenants—Postel McIntosh and Dennis Nick—during the 1950s and 1960s.

John Yeh purchased the commercial block containing 500-510 Washington Street in 2006 and it served as the American Lighting Showroom for several years.

Duplex
512-512 1/2 Washington Street

1957

Noncontributing Building

This one-story, front-gable-roofed duplex has been extensively altered since 2000 by the replacement of the original metal casement windows with six-over-six sash, the installation of vinyl siding over the concrete block walls and the shingled front gable, the removal of the metal awning and posts that sheltered the east entrance, and the construction of wooden railings around the concrete entrance stoops. A curved, Y-shaped, concrete

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sidewalk leads to the entrances and a chain-link fence surrounds the yard.

The duplex does not appear on the 1956 Sanborn map. Guilford County property records indicate that it was constructed in 1957. The first city directory listing is in 1959, when James K. Royal and James K. Royal Jr. occupied the dwelling. Rebecca Ingram and Janice E. Moore were in residence in 1965.

Vacant Lot

Dr. C. J. H. and Sallie Gaylord House **1906** **Noncontributing Building**
600 Washington Street

This one-story Queen Anne cottage has a hipped roof with a central front gable and projecting gabled bays with cornice returns. The hip-roofed front porch had been enclosed as a sunporch and the house sheathed with rolled asphalt siding when Peter Kaplan surveyed it in 1982. Fibrous wood panels had been installed on the exterior walls and the foundation covered with rough stucco and painted by 2000. As the house retains some original two-over-two sash windows and the façade weatherboards are visible inside the sunporch, this dwelling could become a contributing building in the district if the later siding materials were removed and porch alterations reversed.

Dr. C. J. H. Gaylord and his wife Sallie Holmes were early owners and occupants of this dwelling, which appears on the 1911 Sanborn map with a 500 E. Washington Street address. Roper, North Carolina, native Dr. Gaylord graduated from Shaw University's Leonard Medical College in 1905 and interned at Howard University before establishing his High Point medical practice, which he operated from 1907 until his retirement in 1960. He rented office space in the newly-erected Kilby Hotel in 1919, but saw patients in his home office during most of his career. The Gaylords attended First Baptist Church, where Dr. Gaylord served on the Board of Trustees. His professional and fraternal memberships included the Furniture City Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Association, the Toussaint L'Ouverture Masonic Lodge, the Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias. The Gaylords resided in their Washington Street home until their deaths.¹⁰⁴

The Gaylords are listed in the 1908 City Directory between Reverend Daniel Brooks at what was then 410 E. Washington Street and George G. Gray, a laborer, at 500 E. Washington Street. It is possible that they rented rooms from the Brooks family at that time. Dr. Gaylord's office was located at 220 Hobson Street in 1910, but his residential address is not listed that year. The Gaylords resided at 500 E. Washington Street in 1913, after they purchased George and Priscilla Gray's home for \$1,000 at a foreclosure auction on February 24, 1913. Gray paid \$650 for the half-acre lot east of Daniel Brooks' property on April 5, 1906 that was previously part of the John L. and Lou J. Kraber "homeplace" and received a building permit to construct a one-story, five-room

¹⁰⁴ "Dr. Gaylord is Dead at 84," *High Point Enterprise*, April 5, 1965, p. 3A.

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dwelling valued at \$600 that year.¹⁰⁵

Robinson House
606 Washington Street

1907

Contributing Building

This early-twentieth-century, two-story, weatherboarded dwelling is the largest and most intact extant residence on Washington Street, which was once lined with comparable homes erected by successful African American entrepreneurs and professionals. The house manifests elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical massing, hip roof, and the projecting, full-height, cutaway bay with a shaped bargeboard and corner pendants on the east elevation. Original two-over-two sash windows, larger on the first story than the second story, illuminate the interior. The hip-roofed dormer on the front roof slope has three small square windows.

The projecting hip-roofed bay on the façade's east side encompasses a small second-story porch that shelters a single-leaf door surmounted by a six-pane transom. The truncated Tuscan column on a paneled plinth and wood railing appear to be original, as do the Tuscan columns and wood railing on the wraparound front porch. Eight-pane sidelights and a three-part, fourteen-light transom surround the main entrance.

Four Tuscan columns on a concrete block wall support the porte cochere that extends west from the wraparound porch. A one-story gabled ell and a series of hip-roofed wings project from the rear elevation. This house originally had a 502 East Washington Street address. The 1911 and 1917 Sanborn maps illustrate the one-story wraparound porch and a rear porch. By 1924, the rear porch had been enclosed. Sometime before 1950, most likely in the late 1920s or the 1930s, the porte cochere and a small hip-roofed rear addition were constructed.

This house was built for brick mason John Robinson, who was one of High Point's most successful African American businessmen during the late nineteenth century. Robinson once owned an entire block of Wrenn Street and erected many of High Point's reconstruction-era brick buildings.¹⁰⁶ He purchased an approximately one-third-acre lot from High Point Bargain House proprietor Nathan H. Silver for \$975 on January 22, 1907 and erected a home soon after, as his family is listed in the 1908 city directory at this location.¹⁰⁷

John Robinson and his wife Celia had five children: Walter, Ava, Raeford, Ophelia, and Gladys. Ophelia married dentist J. C. Morgan, and their daughter Elaine has researched the Robinson family's business investments, which included rental property ownership throughout south and east High Point.¹⁰⁸ After John

¹⁰⁵ DB 245, page 164; DB 188, page 34; Glenn R. Chavis, "List of Blacks Building Homes, 1903-1907," extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*. The George Gray permit information appeared in a January 1907 listing. The 1911 Sanborn map does not show 220 Hobson Street, but the 1917 map illustrates a two-story dwelling at that address, so Dr. Gaylord likely lived and worked at the same location.

¹⁰⁶ Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement;" Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, p. 154

¹⁰⁷ DB 206, page 579.

¹⁰⁸ Glenn R. Chavis, "Robinson Home was one of the city's finest," *Greensboro News and Record*, April 9, 2006.

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Robinson's death, his two surviving daughters, Ophelia and Gladys, inherited the property. Dr. Morgan and Ophelia built a home at 121 Underhill Street in the Griffin Park subdivision in 1941. City directories list various family members as the head of the 606 East Washington Street household over the years, but Gladys Robinson had the longest tenure, occupying the house from around 1940 until her death in 1968. She conveyed the family home to her nieces Geraldine Morgan Hawkins and Sarah Elaine Morgan Jones and their husbands, who in turn sold the property to the current owner, Acey G. Spencer, on May 8, 1979.¹⁰⁹

Shed - general storage

ca. 1920

Contributing Building

This one-story, German-sided shed has a double-leaf entrance on its west elevation and a board-and-batten door in the shed addition on its south elevation. Wood panels cover some of the original siding. Sanborn maps indicate that the building was constructed between 1917 and 1924.

Outbuilding – undetermined function

ca. 1940s

Contributing Building

One-story, shed-roofed, masonry outbuilding constructed primarily of concrete block with variegated brick courses. Small one-over-one sash windows illuminate the interior, which is accessed by a single-leaf door on the north elevation.

Vacant Lot

Dixieland Theater/Restaurant 614 Washington Street

ca. 1920, ca. 1930, 1950s

Contributing Building

This one-story commercial building was constructed in two phases, with the slightly taller eastern section appearing as a theater on the 1924 Sanborn map. The western section originally served as a restaurant and was built by 1930. The façade treatment is identical, and may thus have been constructed when the western section was added. The side and rear walls are executed in five-to-one common bond.

Plain pilasters flank the storefronts and brick panels with soldier course borders surmount them. Although the building has been painted, making it difficult to discern changes, it appears that some of the brick inside the panel area may be later infill. The panels may have originally contained signage.

Both plate-glass storefronts have been enclosed with brick and the transoms covered with wood or metal siding for many years. A double-leaf door provides access to the eastern building and a small, square, central section of the transom is open. The western storefront, which appears to have been modified in the 1950s, encompasses a central single-leaf entrance beneath a jalousie window flanked by two long, horizontal windows.

¹⁰⁹.DB 2998, page 996.

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Peter Kaplan photographed the interior in 1982, when the western section served as a pool hall. Intact interior features included a pressed-tin ceiling, rough plaster walls, and a patterned maroon-and-white hexagonal tile floor.

One of High Point's first African American theaters--the Dixieland, later known as the Eagle--operated at this location. The address does not appear in the 1919 city directory. In May of that year F. K. Watkins, William Holt, and W. S. Smith applied for a license to operate a movie theater at 504 East Washington Street, but City Council denied their petition.¹¹⁰ The 1921-1922 and 1923-1924 city directories list the Dixieland Theater at 506 East Washington Street.

W. W. Hoover operated the Dixieland Theater for several years beginning in 1929. He hired vaudeville performers for week-long engagements.¹¹¹ In 1930, Mamie Cureton ran the eating house in the building's west section (614) and the theater (616) name had changed to the Eagle. Both storefronts were vacant in 1935, and 614 remained empty in 1940, when confectioner Elijah Johnson occupied 616. The City of High Point leased the former theater building at 616 E. Washington Street from R. B. Gannt for \$35 a month beginning on June 1, 1944, and subsequently moved the African American public library branch from the William Penn High School campus to that location.¹¹² In 1945, Garfield Campbell operated the restaurant in 614. By 1954, East End Lunch occupied 614 and 616 was vacant. In 1960, 614 was vacant and the United House of Prayer was utilizing 616. By 1965, Dante's Fine Food Restaurant and Nelson's Record Shop occupied 614 and the East Washington Street laundromat had opened at 616.

Yarborough Law Building 622 Washington Street

1958

Contributing Building

This distinctive, flat-roofed, Modernist, two-story office building is executed in thin red Roman brick with projecting corner pilasters and a deep concrete cornice. The full-height, aluminum-framed curtain wall on the façade's west side contains three rows of blue spandrel panels above, between, and below the one-over-one aluminum-frame windows. A flat canopy shelters the two single-leaf plate glass doors on the façade. Raised aluminum letters above the canopy spell out the edifice's name: "Yarborough Law Building." One-over-one aluminum-frame windows pierce the side and rear elevations. A metal exterior stair, covered by a metal awning, provides access to the second story from the rear elevation.

Local African American contractor Joseph Hutton erected this building to serve as an investment property for Dr. J. C. Morgan. Guilford County property records indicate that the building was constructed in 1958. The first city directory listing is in 1963, when B & C Associates, a public relations firm; attorney Sammie Chess Jr.; and George Monk Realty Company rented office space. In 1965, Big Brush Paint Company had replaced

¹¹⁰ May 1919 City Council meeting minutes transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

¹¹¹ W. W. Hoover, interview with High Point Museum staff, January 24, 1996 at Hoover's Funeral Home.

¹¹² City Council meeting minutes, May 25, 1944, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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Sammie Chess, but the other tenants remained the same.

Sammie Chess Jr. attended William Penn High School, matriculated at N. C. Central University in Durham as an undergraduate and a law student, and served in the army before moving back to High Point to open a law practice in 1960. Chess soon became a leading civil rights attorney, advocating for school desegregation as he advanced in the justice system. In 1971, Governor Robert Scott appointed him to the North Carolina Superior Court, making Chess, according to the *Greensboro News and Record*, the first African American judge named to a southern Superior Court during the twentieth century. He returned to private practice in High Point in 1975 after serving one term on the Superior Court circuit and retired in 2007.¹¹³

Office Building
624 Washington Street

1958

Contributing Building

This austere two-story office building is executed in thin red Roman brick with canted pilasters separating the façade's first story into two bays. A shed-roofed canopy shelters the single-leaf plate glass door and the large multi-pane storefront window on the façade's west side. Aluminum-framed windows with horizontal panes illuminate the building. A metal exterior stair, covered by a metal awning, provides access to the two second-story rear entrances. A metal awning also covers the rear elevation's first-story entrance.

Local African American contractor Joseph Hutton erected this building to serve as physician Joseph A. Martin's office. Dr. Martin had an office in the Kilby Building, which belonged to his wife, Ora Kilby's family, for many years before moving across the street to his new office, which is first listed in the 1959 city directory. In 1962, attorney Sammie Chess Jr. and Vera J. Cureton rented second-floor office space. In 1963, James E. Borders replaced Ms. Cureton, and Bobby L. Lewis replaced Mr. Chess in 1965.

Little Dental Office
628 Washington Street

1957

Contributing Building

This two-story Modernist dental office was the first of three professional buildings erected in a row on East Washington Street's south side during 1957 and 1958. Local African American contractor Joseph Hutton constructed the edifice, which has a storefront veneered in thin red Roman brick with matching canted pilasters separating the façade's first story into three bays. The outer pilasters, which are taller and more robust, extend above the first story to serve as the second-story balcony's end walls and to anchor the metal balustrade. A flat-roofed canopy supported by metal posts covers the balcony and the two plate-glass sliding doors at the second-story level. Aluminum siding sheathes the façade's second story.

¹¹³ Frank Warren, "Assignment Plan Target of Motion," *High Point Enterprise*, July 18, 1963, p. 1C; Ray Hubbard, "School Board Faces Certain Lawsuit Over 4 All-Negro Schools," *High Point Enterprise*, December 20, 1968, p. 1B; "Chess to Open Law Office," *High Point Enterprise*, June 24, 1975, p.1B; Bob Burchette, "Chess is giving up job but taking new challenge," *Greensboro News and Record*, October 28, 2007; City of High Point and the High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau, "Sam Chess," *African American Heritage Guide*, no date.

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A concave canopy shelters the two central first-story entrances and the bay window on the façade's east side, which has replaced the original canted plate-glass window since 2000. The west bay also originally contained a canted plate-glass window, but most of the window opening has been covered with T-111 siding and a small horizontal window installed. The west door opening was enclosed with T-111 siding and the east door replaced at the same time.

Aluminum-framed windows originally illuminated the interior, but most of the first-floor windows have been replaced with vinyl-clad windows with horizontally-sliding sash. The side elevations are executed in five-to-one common bond red brick at the first story level and variegated brick at the second story level, indicating that the second story was erected after the first story had been completed. A flat-roofed metal canopy with metal posts shelters the rear elevation's first-story entrance. The rear elevation's second story has been sheathed in vinyl siding.

African American community leader Dr. Perry Little established an office above the Washington Street Pharmacy in the early 1950s and subsequently erected this building to house his dental practice and a second-story apartment. His son, Dr. Carl P. Little, took over the practice upon his father's retirement.

Dr. Perry Little graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, and was a World War II veteran. After moving to High Point in the early 1950s, he became an active community leader as well as a respected dentist. Dr. Little opened his first High Point office, which was located above the Washington Street Pharmacy, in August 1952. He subsequently became the first African American oral surgeon to practice at High Point Memorial Hospital. In 1959, he was among the men who escorted Brenda Jean and Miriam Lynn Fountain (his cousins) to their classes when the girls became the first African American students to integrate High Point's public schools. Dr. Little also led in the effort to integrate local hotels, restaurants, golf courses, and other businesses. He made a bid for a High Point City Council seat in 1961 and, although he was not elected, his campaign made an important statement during the civil rights era. He served on the High Point Board of Education (1961-1972) and the Mayor's Committee on Human Relations, as a director on the boards of the Carl Chavis YMCA and the Red Cross, and as a First Baptist Church trustee. Dr. Little married Mildred Harris of North Wilkesboro.¹¹⁴

Parking Lot

Club Carolina
710 Washington Street

1947, 1990s

Contributing Building

¹¹⁴ "Dr. Little, Culler Enter Council Race," *High Point Enterprise*, March 5, 1961, D1 and 12; "Little Resigns Post on School Board," *High Point Enterprise*, December 9, 1972; Sean Olson, "Noted civic leader dies," *High Point Enterprise*, April 8, 2003, p. B1; Eric Swenson, "Civil rights activist, dentist, dead at 76," *Greensboro News and Record*, April 9, 2003, p. B4; Barbara Taylor, "Dr. Perry P. Little, Sr., Civil Rights Leader," February 21, 2005, document in the vertical file at the High Point Public Library; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 190.

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This two-story commercial building was erected in front of a two-story, L-shaped dwelling that stood at this location from around the turn of the twentieth century until at least the 1950s. The concrete block building has a brick-veneered façade with two entrances at the first story's west end, a large central picture window, and eight-over-eight sash windows sheltered by fabric awnings on the second story. The slightly projecting header course that extends across the façade just below the second story windows is the building's only exterior embellishment.

The first story's fenestration originally consisted of a central glass block window flanked by two wide doors surmounted by transoms and wide doors near each of the façade's corners. The two east entrances were enclosed with brick, the glass block window replaced with plate glass, and the two western entrances closest to the center altered by the installation of a narrower door and the partial enclosure of that bay. The west corner door has been replaced and a small square window added on its east side since that time. Despite the changes, the western two-thirds of the storefront retains a functional configuration that is similar to the original fenestration.

Guilford County Property Tax records indicate that this building was constructed in 1947. It is first listed in the 1949 city directory, when it housed Club Carolina, a billiard parlor that was originally located in the two-story Kilby Building. The establishment operated at this location through the 1960s. Beverage license applications state that D. N. Moore Jr. of Moore & Ingram owned the building.¹¹⁵

David S. and Martha Saulter House **late 1920s** **Contributing Building**
716 Washington Street

This two-story, two-bay, hip-roofed, frame dwelling has a hip-roofed front porch supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers spanned by a metal railing. A hip-roofed dormer with two small, square, three-pane windows pierces the front roof slope. A full-height, hip-roofed bay projects from the west elevation's center and one-story shed-roofed rooms flank the main block's south end. The first-story windows and doors have been covered with plywood to protect them, as the dwelling is currently vacant, but some original three-over-one sash windows illuminate the second floor. Two stuccoed interior chimneys serve the house, which has been sheathed with vinyl siding.

This residence does not appear on the 1924 Sanborn map. Based on its form and appearance, it was most likely constructed in the late 1920s or the early 1930s. The house replaced an earlier one-story residence occupied by the Saulters at what was then 606 East Washington Street.

Tarboro native and Shaw University graduate David S. Saulter began his career pastoring the Martin Street Baptist and First Baptist congregations in Raleigh, where he married Mississippi native Martha Ann Birdsell in

¹¹⁵ City Council meeting minutes, May 6, 1952, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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1883. The Saulters moved to High Point in 1900 and Reverend Saulter served at First Baptist Church for about two years before organizing Mt. Vernon Baptist Church at his home on August 28, 1902. He left a few months later to lead a Virginia congregation and ministered to a variety of other North Carolina and Virginia congregations before his 1932 retirement, but the family retained their Washington Street home. Reverend Saulter passed away in 1937 and was survived by his wife and ten children.¹¹⁶

The Saulter's daughter Gertrude, a nurse, occupied the family home for many years. Gertrude's sister Sadie Irene Saulter was the last family member to live in the home during the district's period of significance. Sadie was born in Raleigh in 1890 and graduated from High Point Normal and Industrial Institute and St. Augustine in Raleigh. She became a teacher at the Fleming Street School in Greenville, North Carolina, in 1924 and served as principal from 1942 until her retirement in 1963. The replacement school, erected in 1967, was named in her honor and still bears her name. Ms. Saulter retired after a 52 year-career as an educator and resided in her family's High Point home, where she hosted events such as meetings of the Blue Iris Garden Club and the Daughters of Dorcas until her death in 1969. Four of her siblings were living at that time: Charlotte Saunders Inwood of Long Island, New York; Reverend Charles L. Saulter of Chicago, Illinois; and Annie E. L. Smith and Thomas Saulter of High Point.¹¹⁷

Vacant Lot

Service Station 724 Washington Street	1954	Contributing Building
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This one-story, flat-roofed, concrete block building has two garage bays sheltered by a flat-roofed metal canopy at the east end and an office with a single-leaf entrance and two tall narrow windows on the west end. A concrete block stovepipe chimney pierces the roof.

The building housed Gray's Richfield Service Station in 1955, Leach's Gas & Fuel Oil Service Station in 1960, Carver Enterprises and Ebony Cab in 1965, and Robertson's Service Station by the 1970s. The building originally had a more streamlined Modern appearance, as the plate-glass office window wrapped around its northwest corner. The metal canopy had been added and the gas pumps removed by 2000 and the building has functioned as Rock Body Shop since at least that time.

This lot was residential during the first decades of the twentieth century, with the 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps illustrating a two-story dwelling with a front porch and a one-story rear wing at this location. The house had been demolished by 1950.

¹¹⁶ "Funeral Services for Rev. D. S. Saulter," *High Point Enterprise*, April 6, 1937, p. 11; High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "Mount Vernon Baptist Church," and "Historical Sketch of the First Baptist Church," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950*, 12-15.

¹¹⁷ "Miss Sadie Saulter," *High Point Enterprise*, May 22, 1969, p. 7D; J. H. Rose, "A Tribute to Miss Sadie Saulter," *High Point Enterprise*, May 31, 1969, p. 4A.

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Commercial Building 734 Washington Street

ca. 1915

Noncontributing Building

This narrow, one-story, brick commercial building has been sheathed in vinyl siding, which covers the sawtooth brick in the parapet and required the removal of the molded cornice above the wooden storefront. The storefront fenestration is roughly the same as it was originally—a central door flanked by plate-glass windows below a transom with five large square panes—but the door has been replaced and the window openings appear to be slightly smaller. This dwelling could become a contributing building in the district if the vinyl siding materials was removed and the storefront alterations reversed.

This building was constructed after 1911 and before 1917, when it first appears on a Sanborn map and functioned as a store. The 1919 city directory lists the Guy & Young Barber Shop at this location, which had a 612 1/2 East Washington Street address. An early-twentieth-century, two-story dwelling stood to the west and the three-story Odd Fellows Hall to the east. By 1924, the no-longer-extant two-story Henry Davis Building had replaced the dwelling to the west. The barber shop moved to the Odd Fellows Building's east side in 1923, and the Stepping Stone Shoe Shop occupied 612 1/2. The street address changed to 734 by 1930, and subsequent tenants included the Opal Smoke Shop (1930); the Dixie Café (1935), which became the New Dixie Café by 1940 and moved next door to 732 in 1941; the city's commission for African American boys, likely an office associated with the city's juvenile probation program managed by Ossie Davis (1945); Parr's Self-Serve Laundry (1950); White's Self Service Laundry (1955); and Ideal Beauty Shop (1960-1965). A small section of the Davis Building's façade was left standing to hold the mail box for what is now the Full Gospel Church of Jesus Christ.

Odd Fellows Hall 736 Washington Street

1907

Contributing Building

This three-story brick building features arched windows with stone sills and a flat parapet with a course of alternating slightly projecting and recessed bricks and a band of sawtooth bricks above a corbelled cornice. The façade was parged with a skim coat of stucco and a thicker layer of stucco was applied to the side and rear elevations by the mid-twentieth century. Fanlights surmount the façade's three third-story windows, which also have stone keys and impost blocks. The storefront had been altered to its current configuration—three single-leaf entrances and two plate-glass windows separated by infill brick—and most of the transoms covered with plywood by 2000. The molded wooden cornice that extended across the façade above the storefront has been removed since that time.

Most of the original two-over-two wood sash windows were intact in 1982, but the window openings had been boarded-up by 2000. The east elevation's first story is blind, as a one-story commercial building stood at that location during the first half of the twentieth century. An exterior metal stair provides access to the rear (south) elevation's second- and third-story entrances.

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This building is one of High Point's oldest edifices constructed to house a fraternal organization and is the earliest commercial structure remaining on Washington Street. In January 2006, the *High Point Enterprise* reported that a building permit for the construction of the Odd Fellows Hall and store, valued at \$2,000, had been issued.¹¹⁸ The cornerstone reads: "God of the Morning Lodge No. 2281, G. U. O. of O. F., Inst. Nov. 14, 1881, Erec. Oct. 28, 1907." Three interlocking rings are carved in the cornerstone's center.

The Odd Fellows Building initially had a 614-616 East Washington Street address. The Odd Fellows utilized the building's upper floors for most of the twentieth century, while a number of businesses operated out of the two commercial spaces on the first floor. In 1910, Patterson's Drug Store occupied 614 and Guy & Hoskins grocery rented the 616 storefront. In 1913, Mary Gray, who resided in a two-story dwelling at 615 East Washington Street, ran an "eating house" in 614, and barber Rufus Williams and dry cleaner James Morrison utilized 616. Ramsey Drug Company occupied 614 in 1919 and 1921, when O. E. Simmons operated a dry cleaners at 616. In 1923, the Guy & Young Barber Shop moved from their 612 1/2 East Washington Street location to 616. By 1930, the street address had changed to 738 A & B, with A. Blackwelder's Barbeque Lunch operating out of the building's west side and Dixie Café out of the east. By 1935, the Dixie Café moved to the one-story building just west of the Odd Fellows Building, which then had an address of 736-738. Henry Eccles, a confectioner, occupied 736 and the Beatty and Martin Pressing Club (dry cleaners) 738. By 1940, the building's address was 736, with Robert Beatty's dry cleaners, United Cab Service, and White's School of Beauty Culture sharing the commercial space. In 1945, Van S. Gibson operated the dry cleaners and Connie Tyson a beauty shop, which remained at that location through the 1960s.

Parking Lot

¹¹⁸ Glenn R. Chavis, "List of Blacks Building Homes, 1903-1907," extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*.

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Washington Street Historic District contains the most cohesive, intact collection of early- to mid-twentieth-century commercial, institutional, ecclesiastical, and residential buildings associated with High Point's African American community and meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Architecture. The largely linear district encompasses forty-one primary resources situated on approximately twenty-nine acres. Given the politics of the Jim Crow South, which mandated racial separation, High Point's African American citizens erected dwellings, offices, shops, restaurants, churches, and entertainment venues in the Washington Street vicinity beginning in the late nineteenth century, creating a thriving mixed-use community that prospered for much of the twentieth century. Social and economic disparities had little impact on development patterns, as African American entrepreneurs, craftsman, professionals, laborers, and their families lived, worked, studied, worshipped, and recreated together.

The High Point Normal and Industrial Institute campus, established by the New York Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, has served as a vital component of the Washington Street community since the school began offering African American children and adults vocational, academic, and spiritual instruction in 1893. Many new commercial, residential, and religious buildings were erected soon after a 1907 fire destroyed the modest frame edifices lining Washington Street west of the school, and the area's development continued to escalate during the 1910s and 1920s. High Point's economy boomed during this period, and architecture reflected the social and economic changes occurring as industrial production increased exponentially, providing unprecedented opportunities for African American citizens.

Little construction occurred during the Great Depression, but the Washington Street Historic District includes an architecturally-significant 1937 Art Moderne-style bridge, the sole surviving structure erected by the City of High Point as part of a \$1.5-million railroad crossing improvement campaign. Buildings in the district represent architectural styles including Queen Anne, Craftsman, Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, Art Moderne, and Modernist; and forms such as the foursquare that were common in High Point and throughout North Carolina from the early twentieth century through the early 1960s. Most of the district's extant edifices were constructed from the 1940s through the early 1960s. Commercial and institutional buildings dating from the late 1950s and early 1960s embody elements of the Modernist style, manifesting the optimistic and progressive attitude of the post-World War II recovery period and the early civil rights era. Given that these buildings represent a continuum of modern architectural design, Criteria Consideration G is not being claimed for the post-1960 buildings. With eighty-three percent of its resources categorized as contributing, the district retains a good degree of integrity.

The locally-significant Washington Street Historic District's period of significance begins in 1906, at which time the district's three oldest standing buildings—the Gothic Revival-style First Baptist Church, the three-story brick Odd Fellows Hall, and the one-story frame Dr. C. J. H. and Sallie Gaylord House—were under construction, and ends in 1963, the year the Modernist Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 was erected. Although the district's businesses, institutions, and churches continued to operate after 1963,

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repercussions of integration victories dramatically reshaped the Washington Street community. New malls and shopping centers enticed former Washington Street customers, and the once vibrant area slowly began to deteriorate. Only a few new buildings have been constructed since 1963, and the activities and architecture associated with the district since that time are not of exceptional significance.

Historic Background and Ethnic Heritage and Commerce Context

Guilford County's development escalated in the mid-nineteenth century with the construction of improved transportation routes through the region. The Fayetteville and Western Plank Road linked Salem to Wilmington in 1852, greatly facilitating travel and trade between the Piedmont and the coast. The North Carolina Railroad soon followed, connecting Charlotte to Raleigh and points east in 1855. Surveyors determined that a site near the transportation arteries' intersection in southwestern Guilford County had the highest elevation along the railroad corridor and indicated it as such on their maps. The locale thus became known as "High Point."¹¹⁹

Entrepreneurs seized upon the opportunity to purchase land, construct homes, and establish businesses in the crossroads vicinity. Thomas Sechrest, Solomon Kendall, and Nathan Johnson sold acreage near High Point's center to investors including William Welch and Salem industrialist Francis Fries, who promptly launched new commercial ventures including land subdivision and sales. The community burgeoned after the railroad line opened, and, in 1857, encompassed 441 white residents, 70 slaves, and 14 free blacks. The North Carolina General Assembly incorporated the new town in 1859.¹²⁰

The Civil War's onset dramatically slowed High Point's growth, but, with the exception of a Union raid that destroyed the frame depot and a cotton warehouse near the war's end in 1865, the young municipality was largely spared from destruction. As the economy began to recover, industrialists W. H. Snow (a Vermont native and former Union officer), A. A. Barker, J. Elwood Cox, and H. R. Welborn opened tobacco factories, textile mill apparatus manufactories, lumber yards, and millwork plants, providing myriad employment prospects for laborers including newly emancipated African Americans who moved to town from rural areas. Banks, construction companies, restaurants, and retail outlets followed these primary economic engines, resulting in a population increase from 591 residents in 1870 to approximately 1000 occupants in 1880.¹²¹

The last decades of the nineteenth century brought even more significant growth. Ernest A. Snow (Captain

¹¹⁹ Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, 27-28; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern. *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 341.

¹²⁰ Ibid., 27; Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement," *High Point Enterprise*, January 20, 1935. High Point's population was not quantified separately in official government records until 1900. Various sources give different numbers for the population upon incorporation in 1859, varying from 525 residents according to Eli Denny (Greensboro Patriot, July 1857) to 596 inhabitants according to Robert F. Hicks Jr., *The Spirit of Enterprise: The History of High Point's Formative Period: 1851-1926* (High Point: Robert Franklin Hicks, 1989), 15.

¹²¹ Again, estimated population numbers vary. High Point's 1880 statistics range from 991 according to High Point historian Mary Lib Clark Joyce to about 1000 in Robert F. Hicks Jr., *The Spirit of Enterprise*, 53.

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Snow's son), John H. Tate, and Thomas F. Wrenn opened High Point's first furniture factory in 1889 and many others soon followed. High Point's population quadrupled to 4,163 residents in 1900.¹²²

The population influx fueled a need for additional housing, and builders erected dwellings for both the elite and working classes near the central business district. Merchants, tradesmen, industrialists, bankers, doctors, dentists, and lawyers resided in elaborate Queen Anne-style homes that lined Main, Hamilton, High, and Washington streets. Mill and factory workers occupied modest shotguns, L-plan houses, and hip-roofed cottages in villages adjacent to manufacturing complexes south of downtown. Although most laborers rented their homes, Captain Snow "personally supervised the savings of his employees," many of whom were African American, and encouraged them to invest in real estate.¹²³

Brick makers Albert Miller and Mose Nailor and brick masons John and Bill Robinson were among the African American craftsmen who facilitated the construction of these new residences as well as downtown commercial buildings, factories, mills, offices, churches, and schools in High Point during the reconstruction era. Another ambitious African American entrepreneur, Willis Hinton, who was Albert Miller's brother, moved to High Point in 1868 and worked at the freight depot and in Captain Snow's factory before opening a café on South Main Street in 1883. He subsequently built a hotel on Jamestown Road (Washington Street) and was also a fish vendor until his death in 1922.¹²⁴

Other notable early African American residents include George "Major" Gray, who provided public conveyance in his wagon during the 1870s; confederate army veteran and minister Daniel Brooks, who came to High Point in 1872 to lead the Methodist Episcopal congregation and founded Brooks Memorial Methodist Church in 1907; and Chatham County native and stagecoach driver Henry Clay Davis, who frequently stopped in High Point on his trips between Fayetteville and Salem on the plank road and eventually settled in town. Davis worked as a porter for Manliff Jarrell at the Jarrell Hotel for many years and later became the first African American employee of the High Point post office, where he was a custodian and special delivery carrier from 1898 until he passed away in 1915.¹²⁵

These men and many other prominent members of High Point's African American community purchased land on or near Jamestown Road from white property owners including the Sechrest, Kraber, and Benbow families beginning in the 1870s. Black and white citizens lived and worked in the blocks adjacent to Centennial Street through the first decades of the twentieth century, but, starting around Hobson Street, two blocks east of

¹²² Leon E. Truesdell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part A, Number of Inhabitants* (Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1942), 772.

¹²³ Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement."

¹²⁴ Ibid.; Jerry L. Cross, "Washington Street Historic District," September 23, 1982; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 32.

¹²⁵ Colonel W. A. Blair, "Characters, Incidents and Stories of Half a Century," and "Henry Davis, Coachman," *High Point Enterprise*, January 20, 1935; Ethel Griffin Hughes, "Black People Have Contributed Much to the Development of High Point," in Holt McPherson, *High Pointers of High Point* (High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1976), 90.

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Centennial, the neighborhood became predominantly African American. As social, economic, and political pressures to racially segregate neighborhoods, businesses, churches, schools, institutions, parks, and other facilities escalated in the late nineteenth century, early residents including Willis and Fannie Hinton and Nannie and John Kilby subdivided their property and sold building lots.¹²⁶ James Day and S. L. Day conveyed five acres to the New York Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, commonly known as Quakers, in March 1893, to serve as the site of a new school which would offer African American children and adults vocational, academic, and spiritual instruction.¹²⁷

By the turn of the twentieth century, one- and two-story frame dwellings, commercial buildings, and the 1877 Smith Chapel Methodist Episcopal church flanked the road leading east to the High Point Normal and Industrial School. Many of Washington Street's first commercial buildings, including Willis Hinton's hotel, were simply-finished, one- or two-story, weatherboarded structures with full-width front porches. Jamestown Road became Washington Street around 1900, just before several large and elaborately-detailed residences were erected near Centennial Street. On the street's south side, Reverend Daniel Brooks and his family occupied a triple-A-roofed I-house, so called due to its side-gable roof with an ornamental central gable on the front roof slope; two-story, one-room-deep form; and center-hall plan. The house, located at what is now 514 Washington Street, featured sawnwork eave brackets; ornamental millwork on the hip-roofed front porch, which was supported by turned posts; and interior mantels with applied decoration.¹²⁸

George Gray, a laborer, paid \$650 for the half-acre lot east of Daniel Brooks' property in April 1906 that was previously part of the John and Lou Kraber "homeplace" and received a building permit to construct a one-story, five-room dwelling valued at \$600 that year. Brick mason John Robinson, who once owned an entire block of Wrenn Street, purchased an approximately one-third-acre lot east of Gray's property from Nathan Silver for \$975 on in January 1907 and erected a two-story residence soon after. Dr. C. J. H. Gaylord, who established his High Point medical practice in 1907, acquired the Gray home for \$1,000 at a foreclosure auction in February 1913 and resided there until his death in 1965.¹²⁹ The Gaylord and Robinson houses are the oldest

¹²⁶ High Point's regulations regarding segregation were officially codified in an ordinance passed by City Council on March 8, 1915. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 27.

¹²⁷ Jerry L. Cross and H. McKeldon Smith, "William Penn High School," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1978; Deed Book 91, page 267; Society of Friends, *Annual Reports of the New York Yearly Meeting, 1885-1894*, The Quaker Collection, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

¹²⁸ This dwelling appears on the 1911 Sanborn map with a 410 East Washington Street address and had been demolished by 2000. Cleveland County native Daniel Brooks pursued his calling to become a minister in 1872, when he joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He led congregations in Oxford, Greensboro, and Oberlin Village (near Raleigh) while attending schools sponsored by the Freedman's Aid Bureau. Reverend Brooks then moved to High Point, where he was an active proponent of African American education, serving on the committee that negotiated the sale of land to establish the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute. He retired from the ministry in 1909 due to failing health and passed away in 1933 at the age of ninety-five. Sara Alderman, "Daniel Brooks, Old Negro Elder, has Been Preaching Gospel Over Half Century and Is Still At It," *High Point Enterprise*, October 25, 1925; "Colorful Negro Minister Dies; Was Well Liked," *High Point Enterprise*, May 14, 1933, p. 13; "Influence for Good on His People is Tribute Paid Daniel Brooks," *High Point Enterprise*, June 7, 1942, p. 7B.

¹²⁹ Deed Book 211, page 602; Deed Book 206, page 579; Deed Book 245-164; Glenn R. Chavis, "List of Blacks Building

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extant dwellings in the Washington Street Historic District.

Greensboro native Garland Alfonso Gerran paid Willis and Fannie Hinton \$500 for a quarter-acre lot on the north side of East Washington Street in January 1901 and commissioned the construction of a two-story, triple-A-roofed, frame residence with a two-tier front porch. Dr. Gerran moved to High Point shortly after graduating from Shaw University's Leonard Medical School in 1897, becoming the city's first African American physician. He saw patients in his home, and, in addition to operating his medical practice, served as the High Point Normal and Industrial School's physician and as a health and hygiene lecturer at the campus.¹³⁰

The aforementioned dwellings were erected in close proximity to established commercial endeavors that continued to operate through the first decades of the twentieth century. The Hintons's house and eleven-room hotel stood east of the Gerran residence. Neighboring white tradesmen and merchants included blacksmith Lane Sechrest, shoemaker Winfield S. Brittain, and two grocers: the McCloud brothers and Fred D. Burchfield, who also sold firewood. The Sechrest and Brittain families lived beside their Washington Street shops; the grocery store owners resided elsewhere in High Point.¹³¹

The African American Baptist congregation's physical presence in the Washington Street community became more prominent when they acquired a quarter-acre lot at the northeast corner of Washington and Hobson streets (just west of Dr. Gerran's residence) in 1899. The congregation continued to worship in their frame sanctuary located south of Daniel Brooks' property during the fundraising effort and the new church's construction. Contractor A. W. Council completed the new brick Gothic Revival-style sanctuary and a two-story frame parsonage to the east in 1907.¹³²

African American entrepreneurs John and Nannie Kilby purchased three tracts west of First Baptist Church (on the northwest corner of Washington and Hobson streets) in 1908 and 1913. In October 1913, Lane Sechrest and his wife Rose sold Nannie Kilby a lot including "three little buildings," likely the same three structures illustrated on the 1911 Sanborn map: a diminutive one-story building with a front porch that faced Washington Street and two hip-roofed buildings to the north, one of which abutted Hobson Street. Washington Street's second three-story brick commercial building, the Kilby Hotel, stood on the property by December 1917, and the Kilbys erected the adjacent two-story brick building within a few years to provide additional commercial

Homes, 1903-1907," extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*. The George Gray permit information appeared in a January 1907 building permit listing. Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement," Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, p. 154.

¹³⁰ Deed Book 128, pages 631 and 632; "Annual Catalogue of the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute, 1910-1911." The residence is listed in the 1980-09 city directory and appears on the 1911 Sanborn map with a 603 East Washington Street address, which later became 707 E. Washington Street. Dr. Gerran passed away in 1928 at the age of fifty-nine. His widow Marie still occupied their home in 1930, but soon moved. She resided at 1309 East Washington Street at the time of her death in 1950.

¹³¹ High Point city directories and Sanborn maps, 1908-1924.

¹³² Deed Book 116, pages 139-143; Deed Book 117, 576-578; Deed Book 207, pages 125-127; Deed Book 224, page 274; Deed Book 287, pages 144-145.

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space and an entertainment venue.¹³³

The Odd Fellows Hall, completed in 1907, was the only three-story commercial building on East Washington Street before the Kilby Hotel was constructed. The edifice stood southwest of the growing High Point Normal and Industrial School campus and was surrounded by unassuming residences and a few one-story commercial buildings for most of the twentieth century. Henry Clay Davis's property, where he had erected a two-story frame house for his wife Carrie and their children, was west of the school and Odd Fellows Hall on the south side of Washington Street.

A March 27, 1907 fire destroyed the Morris Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and many other East Washington Street buildings.¹³⁴ The Methodist Episcopal congregation erected a new brick Gothic Revival-style sanctuary within a year, and other property owners also replaced damaged frame buildings with more permanent brick structures. By 1911, entrepreneurs had constructed grocery and general merchandise stores, cafes, a blacksmith shop, and a "pressing club," or dry cleaners, along Washington Street east of Centennial Street. Even given the risk of fire, several of these new buildings were modest, one-story, frame structures, and such edifices continued to be erected through the 1920s.¹³⁵

High Point's population doubled during the twentieth century's first decade, and subdivision development in the Washington Street vicinity provided opportunities for African American residents to purchase lots upon which to build homes. Widow Jennie N. Campbell, High Point mayor and High Point Furniture Company owner M. J. Wrenn, and the James Day family owned much of the land immediately north of Washington Street in the early twentieth century. Jennie Campbell developed her property on the east and west edges of the Washington Street Historic District in 1906. The eastern subdivision was called "Moon Lands" and encompassed a small area with a grid plan. Mrs. Campbell sold the Second Presbyterian Church trustees a lot near the northeast corner of what is now East Avenue and Downing Street (just north of Washington Street) for ninety dollars and H. A. Donnell soon constructed a small frame mission church.¹³⁶

Campbell's land at the district's west end was bounded by Centennial, Dewey (now Fourth), Poplin, and Richardson streets. The 1911 Sanborn map and the 1913 Bird's-Eye view show that the street grid had been laid out per the 1906 plat and modest frame houses stood on Campbell's property and in the adjacent area to the

¹³³ Deed Book 205, page 612; Deed Book 252, page 623; Deed Book 255, page 56; Deed Book 301, page 241.

¹³⁴ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 21; Glenn R. Chavis, "Church able to bounce back from great loss," *Greensboro News and Record*, August 29, 2004.

¹³⁵ A front-gable-roofed, German-sided structure initially utilized as a cobbler's shop stood at 737 East Washington Street through the 1980s. Three similar buildings were located to the east on the same side of the street in 1924, but they had been demolished by 1950.

¹³⁶ The building was no longer standing in 1917, when the Sanborn map was extended to illustrate the one- and two-story frame dwellings that lined the subdivision's streets, but long-time church member C. W. Robinson lived at what is now 110 Downing Street for decades. Deed Book 293, page 525; "Cherry Street Presbyterian Church," circa 1930s historical sketch in the files of St. Paul Presbyterian Church; "Churches," *High Point Enterprise*, January 25, 1985, Section VI, p. 14.

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east, which was owned by M. J. Wrenn at that time. Wrenn's property extended from Fourth Street on the west to Cedar on the east, Barbee on the north, and Washington on the south.¹³⁷

Although many Washington Street residents were property owners, others rented humble homes. By 1911, a series of six connected, shotgun-style, frame flats with continuous front and back porches stood east of the Odd Fellows Hall across from the Methodist Episcopal church. Other rental dwellings lined unpaved alleys on Washington Street's north and south sides. The area south of what is now the 500 block of Washington Street was called "Baptist Bottom" as it encompassed small houses lining Baptist Street, which extended east from Cherry Street to Hobson Alley north of the Freedmen's School and the frame 1875 African American Baptist church. An alley located approximately halfway between the Baptist and Methodist Episcopal churches led north from Washington Street to Troy Place, a group of one-story dwellings.

The 1913 Bird's Eye view and the 1917 Sanborn map illustrate rows of gable-roofed dwellings lining Eccles Street, which was east of High Point Normal and Industrial School, and Washington Lane (now Gaylord Court), to the west. Industrialists John Hampton Adams and James Henry Millis built their second Piedmont Hosiery plant on Washington Lane's west side around 1915, providing African American laborers with new employment prospects. The few adjacent residences provided some mill employee housing and additional accommodations were soon erected. By 1924, a row of twenty connected shotgun dwellings known as the Bencini Flats had been constructed on the west side of Narrow Street (later called Booker Alley), which was between the campus and Eccles Street. City directories indicate that most of the occupants of these three-room dwellings worked in furniture factories, textile mills, Washington Street businesses such as the dry cleaners and the barber shop, or as day laborers for local contractors.¹³⁸

The booming 1920s economy provided unprecedented opportunities for High Point's citizens. Commercial and industrial expansion and city infrastructure improvements created thousands of new jobs, resulting in the population more than doubling during the decade—increasing from 14,302 inhabitants in 1920 to 36,745

¹³⁷ This area wasn't heavily built out until 1944, when R. B. Gantt and George L. Hundley owned and developed the property.

¹³⁸ Eccles Street was likely named in honor of High Point native P. L. Eccles, an educator, Odd Fellow, and Morris Chapel Methodist Church superintendent. High Point Normal and Industrial Club, "Prof. and Mrs. P. L. Eccles," *History of the Negro in High Point, North Carolina, 1867-1950*, 30-31. Lewis Hine, who documented the appalling child labor conditions in textile mills during the early twentieth century, photographed mill and factory worker housing in High Point in 1936-37. His archived descriptions don't include specific location information, but comparison of the High Point images and Sanborn maps, in combination with oral history, indicates that several photographs may depict the shotgun flats on the west side of Booker Alley and the side-gable-roofed dwellings on Eccles Street. The 1924 Sanborn map matches Lewis Hine's photograph number 518533/Local Identifier 69-RP-260 almost exactly, with a two-story house on the east side of the alley north of the flats and a one-story dwelling at the flats' south end. The two-story house illustrated on the Sanborn map has a slightly different footprint (a projecting bay at the facade's west end) than the house in the photograph, but that may have just been the map maker's error. See photographs ARC 518533/Local Identifier 69-RP-260 and ARC 518532/Local Identifier 69-RP-259 (same caption) "Housing. Row of shacks occupied by colored textile and furniture workers - High Point, North Carolina. Last Xmas [sic] a fire destroyed some of the homes but the others are still occupied, 1936-1937;" and ARC 518530/Local Identifier 69-RP-257, "Housing. Row of hovels occupied by colored workers from furniture and cotton mills - High Point, North Carolina," Still Picture Records Section, National Archives, College Park, Maryland.

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residents in 1930. R. G. Lassiter directed a street paving campaign that employed approximately eight hundred African American laborers, many of whom moved to High Point from Georgia and South Carolina.¹³⁹ A large section of Washington Street had already been paved, as property owners including Morris Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and the Odd Fellows trustees successfully petitioned the city to create a hard-surfaced road from Centennial Street to the Southern Railroad crossing in 1916.¹⁴⁰

Building permit issuance reached an all-time high—just over four million dollars—in 1926 as residential developers struggled to match housing needs.¹⁴¹ High Point attorney J. Allen Austin, who owned vacant land north of East Washington Street and west of Moon Lands, capitalized on housing demands by platting the Griffin Park subdivision in 1922. Only a few houses at the neighborhood's north end are listed in the 1923-24 city directory, but multiple addresses appear on Underhill Street in 1925-26 and the subdivision eventually wrapped around Moon Lands' north and west sides. The City of High Point constructed a pumping station with a three-million-gallon water reservoir on Washington Street's north side (east of the Moon Lands neighborhood), by 1924 to serve the area.

James C. Hill and W. F. Smith were among the African American builders who erected homes in Griffin Park. On March 3, 1927, Moses Leach commissioned the men to construct a five-room dwelling with front and back porches, two plastered rooms, double-hung windows, a French door, and an asphalt-shingle roof at a cost of \$1,530.75.¹⁴² The house still stands at 205 Underhill Street.

Washington Street business owners and professionals, in addition to many other African American residents, occupied the new houses in Griffin Park. Architectural draftsman Fred Lander, who moved to High Point in the 1920s and designed St. Stephen A. M. E. Zion Church's brick Gothic Revival-style sanctuary, was an early Underhill Street homeowner.¹⁴³ Over the years, Griffin Park residents included physicians H. Craft, J. C. Morgan, C. T. Whitten, and Murray B. Davis; attorney T. F. Sanders; school principals C. Yokley and O. Hudson; grocery and hotel owner J. Henly; Ritz theater manager T. Bennett; police captain O. H. Leak; ministers J. J. Patterson and F. Miller; beauticians Hattie Leach, M. Boss, and Mrs. Nelson; teachers Ann Johnson, Mrs. Smoot, and Mrs. Ingram; United Cab Company owner Leon Sharpe; bondsman and Ingram Billiard's owner D. Ingram; tailor and dry cleaner's owner S. Deberry; brick mason Tom Bynum; mortician W. W. Hoover; and plumber Jessie Staton.¹⁴⁴

Ambitious African American entrepreneurs replaced some East Washington Street dwellings with new commercial buildings during the 1920s and early 1930s. Although many of these edifices—such as the Davis

¹³⁹ Thomas B. Smith, "Negroes of City Have Won and Retain Respect for Splendid Achievement."

¹⁴⁰ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 27.

¹⁴¹ High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City*, 78, 85.

¹⁴² "Moses Leach, James C. Hill, and W. F. Smith contract," March 3, 1927, from the collection of Glenn R. Chavis. The house in question was constructed for Mayfield and Hattie Leach, Mr. Chavis's grandparents.

¹⁴³ "Lander Funeral Set Thursday," *High Point Enterprise*, February 10, 1965.

¹⁴⁴ Glenn R. Chavis, "Recalling Underhill in its prime," *Greensboro News and Record*, July 27, 2003, p. 1R.

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Building and the Bullock Building on Washington Street's south side and a series of brick commercial buildings including the Washington Street Pharmacy on the north side—are no longer standing, significant edifices such as the commercial block at the southeast corner of Centennial and Washington streets, the Kilby Building, and the Dixieland Theater continue to tell the story of the area's development during this period.

Ossie Davis erected an austere, two-story, brick commercial building on the former site of his parents' home at 730 East Washington Street around 1925. He operated a pool room on one side of the first floor and rented the other storefront, which was initially a grocery store, as well as the second floor office space. Ossie and his wife Sara Brooks Davis (Methodist minister Daniel Brooks' daughter) resided in a one-story, early-twentieth-century, triple-A-roofed house with a hip-roofed front porch that stood to the east at 767 East Washington Street. Mr. Davis graduated from the High Point Normal and Industrial Institute in 1907 and attended Winston-Salem Teacher's College, the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina, Shaw University, and Hampton Institute before returning to High Point, where he served the community in a variety of ways during his long and illustrious career as an educator and advocate for African American youth.¹⁴⁵

E. S. McLeod's grocery store and the Piedmont Barber Shop were among the first occupants of the two-story brick Bullock Building, erected nearby at 700-702 East Washington Street around 1930. A central entrance led to the second-story rooms rented by William McDonald, Robert Bracey, C. C. Morrison, dentist Eva M. Zeigler, and hairdresser Anna Hairston.¹⁴⁶ The more elaborately finished one-story, brick, circa 1930 commercial building that stood at 619 East Washington Street (just west of the Kilby Building), featured a raised, basketweave-patterned, brick panel at the parapet's center and originally housed the Mid-City Café, followed by restaurants operated by Sadie Jones, Effie Able, and their families through the early 1960s. Various family members resided in the adjacent bungalow at 617 East Washington Street.

A series of two-story, brick commercial buildings was constructed on the north side of East Washington Street during this period. A corbelled cornice and stepped parapet side walls distinguished the circa 1930 building at 721-723 E. Washington Street, where McCallum & Barnhill Barber Shop and G. A. Smith's ice cream parlor utilized the storefronts and Daisy Williams resided upstairs in 1930. The late 1920s commercial building at 727-729 E. Washington Street was similar in appearance, with a corbelled cornice and a decorative basketweave brick panel above the second story façade windows' continuous soldier-course lintel. W. M. Guy operated an eating house at 729 in 1930 and Dr. J. J. Wilson, a dentist, had an office on the second floor.

One of the community's most iconic buildings, the Washington Street Pharmacy, stood at 731 E. Washington Street. The late 1920s building had a corbelled cornice above six decorative brick courses laid in Flemish bond with projecting headers. Soldier-course lintels surmounted the cast-stone plaque inscribed with "Drug Store" that was inset at the façade's center. A diminutive one-story building that housed the Broadway Shoe Shine

¹⁴⁵ Barbara Taylor, "High Point had its own Ossie Davis," *Greensboro News and Record*, February 13, 2005.

¹⁴⁶ African American dentist Eva M. Zeigler became High Point's first female dentist in 1924. Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 36.

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Parlor from the late 1930s through the early 1940s stood just east of the pharmacy until the early 1950s, when a one-story commercial building with two narrow storefronts, a brick-veneered façade, and a stuccoed east elevation was erected at that location (733-735 East Washington Street).¹⁴⁷

John C. Henly constructed a two-story frame commercial building on the northeast corner of Washington and Underhill streets in the late 1920s. The edifice, which was known as the Henly Hotel, encompassed two storefronts facing Underhill Street, two fronting Washington Street, and second-story hotel rooms. Henly operated a grocery store in the eastern Washington Street storefront, while Drake's Place, a confectionary shop, occupied the western storefront for many years.¹⁴⁸ A post office substation opened in the grocery store in April 1937.¹⁴⁹

Standing buildings from this period include the commercial block at the southeast corner of Centennial and Washington streets. The first section—the two-story, four-bay, brick building at what is now 500 Washington Street—was constructed around 1915 to serve as a grocery store with second-floor offices. Tenants including John J. Parks, William Keeble, hair dresser Louella Chavis, and the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company utilized the second-story space in 1919. In 1923, attorney T. F. Sanders, dentist J. C. Morgan, Ms. Chavis, North Carolina Mutual, and Winston Mutual Life Insurance Company rented second-floor offices.

High Point Normal and Industrial Institute principal A. J. Griffin funded the construction of the adjacent two-story brick commercial building in the early 1920s. The 1923-1924 city directory lists the Cut Rate Motor Company, watchmaker F. P. Coble, and confectioner F. L. Montgomery as the tenants. Local historian Glenn R. Chavis's research collection includes a 1927 advertisement for the Griffin Casino, which appears to have operated at this location. By 1930, the Washington Furniture Store, the St. Louis Café, and shoe repair shop operator W. M. James, occupied the building.

The one-story commercial building at what is now 614 Washington Street was also constructed in phases, beginning around 1920 with the slightly taller eastern section that initially served as the Dixieland Theater. W. W. Hoover managed the theater for several years beginning in 1929, hiring vaudeville performers for week-long engagements.¹⁵⁰ The western section, where Mamie Cureton ran an eating house, was erected by 1930. The theater name changed to the Eagle at that time.

Mr. Hoover's primary business was the operation of the funeral service that W. E. Newsom and Walter Poteat established in 1910 with the financial assistance of Mary Holiday Hoover (W. W. Hoover's mother). Mrs.

¹⁴⁷ Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina graduate and U. S. Army veteran George Monk Jr. opened a High Point real estate and development company in 1960, operating out of 735 East Washington Street office for many years. "New Firm," *High Point Enterprise*, February 2, 1960, p. 6A.

¹⁴⁸ It appears that the second-floor hotel rooms were converted into thirteen apartments in 1948, which is the first year the city directory lists second-floor occupants.

¹⁴⁹ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 95.

¹⁵⁰ W. W. Hoover, interview with High Point Museum staff, January 24, 1996 at Hoover's Funeral Home.

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Hoover became the company's sole proprietor in 1923, and Walter, a newly-licensed funeral director and embalmer, began running the business in 1925. The funeral home was initially located at 731 East Washington Street and moved to the corner of Beamon and High streets before relocating to a two-story, hip-roofed, frame dwelling at what is now 1113 Washington Street in 1932, where it remains.¹⁵¹

The stock market crash of October 1929 and the subsequent economic depression slowed High Point's rapid growth. Building permits plummeted to approximately \$118,000 in 1932 from \$1.1 million in 1929, reflecting that only a small number of projects financed before the economic downturn, such as the construction of a new auditorium and classroom building at William Penn High School in 1930, were completed.¹⁵² Many businesses did not survive the depression, and High Point's furniture industry experienced significant hardship, but most factories remained open. Some textile mills actually increased production, as the national market for woven goods remained strong.

The North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA) attempted to mitigate the impact of economic hardship in High Point in the early 1930s by funding civic projects such as repairing City Hall, remodeling the public library, improving city parks, constructing Blair municipal golf course, landscaping the city cemetery, road improvements, water and sewer line installation, mosquito control, surplus commodity distribution, school maintenance and repair, privy construction, landscaping, and crop harvesting.¹⁵³ The NCERA and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) reduced food preservation costs by erecting facilities where residents could bring their own food and tins and collaborate on the canning process.¹⁵⁴

One of High Point's largest WPA-funded projects was the construction of a \$100,000 park for the city's African American residents. The facility, advertised as one of "the finest for colored people in the south," encompassed tennis, basketball, baseball, and softball courts; picnic grounds; a swimming pool; a circular wading pool; and a bath house with showers, dressing rooms, the park's administrative offices, and a second-story entertainment pavilion. Dr. J. A. Martin presided at the park's June 10, 1938 dedication, when district WPA supervisor E. W. Cole formally presented the facility to the city. Dr. J. C. Morgan, who, along with educator Alfred J. Griffin and others formed the citizen's committee that began advocating for the African American park in 1935, accepted the recreational facility on the community's behalf.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹ Ibid.; "Walter Hoover," *High Point Enterprise*, July 10, 2004, p. 6B; Eric Swenson, "Walter Hoover, funeral home owner, dies," *Greensboro News and Record*, July 9, 2004; Ronda Cranford, "Colleagues recall funeral director," *High Point Enterprise*, July 9, 2004.

¹⁵² High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City*, 85.

¹⁵³ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, ed., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1936), 476.

¹⁵⁴ Anita Price Davis; *North Carolina During the Great Depression: A Documentary Portrait of a Decade* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, Inc, Publishers, 2003), 104.

¹⁵⁵ "Expansion of Public Parks: Negro Park Will Prove Big Boon for Residents," *High Point Enterprise*, November 14, 1937; "Dedication is Held at High Point Park," June 11, 1938 newspaper clipping from the Washington Terrace Park vertical file at the High Point Public Library; "Negro Citizen's Want Recreation Park Here," *High Point Enterprise*, March 20, 1935; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 102, 199. The park, originally called the "High Point

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Another project that received WPA funding was the City of High Point's \$1.5-million railroad crossing improvement campaign, undertaken in conjunction with the State Highway Commission and the Southern Railway. The endeavor, which began in 1937, entailed depressing, raising, and relocating railroad tracks, creating underpasses and overpasses in an attempt to reduce accidents and eliminate traffic congestion. The Kivett Drive Bridge, so called as it connected East Washington Street to Kivett Drive, was completed in the program's first year. New bridges were erected at Oak, Willowbrook, Elm, Main, Wrenn, Hamilton, Beamon, Perry, and Dalton streets by 1947. Three African American workmen lost their lives over the course of the construction project.¹⁵⁶

The new bridges were intended for vehicular traffic, and, in the case of the Washington Street area, pedestrians initially had to utilize rickety wooden steps to access and cross the railroad tracks. After Moon Street resident Rufus McCain was injured in a fall at the Beamon Street crossing south of William Penn High School in December 1938 and sued the City of High Point for damages, the city's public works director designed a pedestrian bridge to span the tracks. R. K. Stewart & Son erected the wooden structure in February 1939.¹⁵⁷

The railroad track depression and Kivett Drive bridge construction project required adjacent sections of Washington Street to be elevated, which made it difficult for residents including Mrs. L. B. Curtright, whose property at the northwest corner of what is now Washington and Downing streets was "left in a hole, with high embankments," to access their homes. Mrs. Curtright sued the City of High Point for \$2,500 in damages in October 1939, and it is likely that the city constructed the concrete steps that still lead to those lots soon after.¹⁵⁸

Several private-sector endeavors provided new recreational opportunities for the Washington Street community during the 1930s. The High Point Altrusa Club, a white civic organization, sponsored a public library for High Point's African American citizens that opened in May 1934 in the building that had previously functioned as the manual trades classroom on the William Penn High School campus. Local residents contributed books, magazines, and supplies to stock the library shelves and Margaret Johnson Simmons became the first librarian.¹⁵⁹ The Pioneer Tennis Club, founded by Ossie Davis, erected lighted tennis courts at the northwest corner of Washington and Fourth streets (the future Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library

Colored Park," became officially known as Washington Terrace Park in December 1953 and is located at 1899 Brooks Avenue (east of the Washington Street Historic District). The City of High Point completely refurbished the facility in 1999.

¹⁵⁶"Elimination of Railroad Grade Crossings," in High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City* (High Point: Hall Printing Company, 1947), 86-87; Blackwell P. Robinson and Alexander R. Stoesen, *The History of Guilford County, U. S. A. to 1980 A. D.* (Greensboro: The Guilford County Bicentennial Commission, 1980), 183; Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point, North Carolina* (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2008), 78.

¹⁵⁷ City Council meeting minutes, January 18, 26 and February 8, 1939, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis; Glenn R. Chavis, "Some not-so-fond memories of old walking bridge," *Greensboro News and Record*, December 2, 2007.

¹⁵⁸ City Council meeting minutes, October 3, 1939, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

¹⁵⁹; Glenn R. Chavis, "First library for black High Point residents came along in 1934," *Greensboro News and Record*, 2004; Glenn R. Chavis, "Washington Street Branch Library," *Greensboro News and Record*, August 20, 2006; City Council meeting minutes, May 25, 1944 and May 17, 1949, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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location) that same year.¹⁶⁰

When the economy started to recover in the late 1930s, home sales and property development resumed. Reflecting the frugality of the period, the J. C. Henley Corporation purchased houses to remodel and resell rather than constructing new dwellings. Ina Day McGirk commissioned the survey of a small unnamed residential subdivision property north and west of the William Penn High School campus in 1939, and followed with a neighborhood called William Penn Village, platted in 1940, but most lots remained unsold until the late 1940s.¹⁶¹

High Point experienced negligible population growth during the 1930s—only gaining 1,750 occupants over the course of the decade—but industrial production increased exponentially. In 1939, the city contained North Carolina's second-largest number of manufacturing establishments, with 115 factories and mills employing 11,187 residents, almost a third of the population. Another 1,856 citizens worked in High Point's 470 stores, including those on East Washington Street, which prospered during this period.¹⁶²

Dentist J. C. Morgan capitalized on this growth, erecting a two-story, brick, four-unit apartment building at 1015 Washington Street in 1939, only a few years before he and his wife Ophelia Robinson built a home just a few hundred yards to the north at 121 Underhill Street in the Griffin Park subdivision. Although the units were rentals, most tenants were in residence for many years.

The construction of the Ritz Theater—a two-story brick commercial building at 711 Washington Street that encompassed retail space on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and a movie theater in the rear section—manifested both optimism in the economy's recovery given its expansive size and frugality in terms of its austere design. Max Zager, the theater's first manager, selected the movie "State Police" for the grand opening show on August 30, 1939.¹⁶³ Realtor and insurance salesman C. W. Robinson, attorney Walter G. Hamilton, dentist Jerome J. Wilson, Byrd & McLean's Beauty Shop, the Ritz Tailoring Shop, and the Ritz Sweet Shop occupied the offices and storefronts in 1940.

¹⁶⁰ "Intra-City Tennis Tournament," *High Point Enterprise*, 1934, information courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes.

¹⁶¹ October 1938 J. C. Henley Corporation information courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*. James Day and his wife sold five acres to the New York Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends in 1893 upon which to erect a new facility that became the High Point Normal and Industrial School. The Day family still owned the adjacent property in the late 1930s.

¹⁶² Leon E. Truesdell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Census of Population, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part A, Number of Inhabitants* (Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1942), 772; Fred A. Gosnell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Census of Business, Volume I, Retail Trade: 1939, Part 3, Kinds of Business by Areas, States, Counties, and Cities* (Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1941), 743; Thomas J. Fitzgerald, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Manufactures: 1939, Volume 3, Reports for States and Outlying Areas* (Washington, D. C. Government Printing Office, 1942), 745.

¹⁶³ Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 110.

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The two-story brick commercial building erected at 508-510 Washington Street around 1940 has an even simpler design, perhaps as it initially housed Johnson's Poultry in the early 1940s and then served as a warehouse for most of its history. By 1940, the seven blocks of Washington Street east of Centennial Street encompassed numerous professional offices and businesses including a pharmacy, grocery stores, restaurants, beauty salons, barber shops, funeral homes, theaters, pool halls, hotels, and cab companies interspersed with residences, churches, a post office substation, and a public library branch.

The 1940s brought some movement toward civic equality for High Point's African American residents. Mayor Arnold Koonce appointed a "Negro Citizen's Advisory Commission" in 1943 in order to address the community's concerns about adequate representation in city government. The committee, whose first members were Reverend John E. Melton (chairman), H. I. Keno, Louis B. Haizlip, Reverend William S. McLeod, Dr. James C. Morgan, J. C. Crawford, and Walter W. Hoover, met frequently for several years and then, after a period of inactivity, Mayor Bill Bailey disbanded the group in June 1949.¹⁶⁴ The City of High Point also hired its first two African American officers—O. H. Leak and B. A. Steel—in 1943. The two men patrolled High Point's black neighborhoods on foot until 1948, when two additional African American officers joined the police force and the department assigned them a squad car. O. H. Leak had strong connections to the Washington Street community, as he resided in Griffin Park, was a First Baptist Church Deacon, and served as a director on the Carl Chavis YMCA, Red Cross, Cancer Society, and United Fund boards.¹⁶⁵ He was also one of the founding members and the second president of the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, formed in Durham in May 1952 to advance educational and professional opportunities for minority law enforcement personnel.¹⁶⁶ The O.H. Leak Law Enforcement Center on Leonard Avenue in High Point is named in his memory.

Many High Point residents served in World War II, and those left behind were occupied with the war effort in a variety of ways, from filling vacant positions in mills and factories to participating in bond drives and other volunteer activities. William Penn High School principal Samuel Burford, Dr. Murray Brooks Davis, and other Washington Street community leaders led an African American membership drive for the Red Cross beginning in 1939, and this initiative continued during the war years.¹⁶⁷ Employees at the Adam-Millis Company's Washington Street plant (originally known as Piedmont Hosiery Mill No. 2) donated a portion of their wages to the Red Cross War Fund.¹⁶⁸ William Penn High School students were among the youth who joined the Junior Red Cross and solicited donations. The Red Cross trained local women to roll surgical dressings and set up a workroom in the Daniel Brooks Homes to facilitate the project. Dr. Clifford T. Whitten, who was the first black

¹⁶⁴ "Negro Advisory Board," *High Point Enterprise*, November 28, 1943; "Negro Civic Group Dies Natural Death," *High Point Enterprise*, June 22, 1949, p. 16; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 140.

¹⁶⁵ Don Follmer, "O. H. Leak," *High Point Enterprise*, July 4, 1965, p. 5A.

¹⁶⁶ "North State Law Enforcement Officers Association History," <http://northstateofficers.com/history.html>.

¹⁶⁷ Glenn R. Chavis, "Charities segregated divisions in times past," *Greensboro News and Record*, January 13, 2008, pp. 6 and 15.

¹⁶⁸ "Adam-Millis Employees Will Donate to War Fund," *High Point Enterprise*, January 23, 1942, p. 12.

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physician to operate at High Point Memorial Hospital and had a Washington Street office, chaired High Point's African American Red Cross chapter and conducted screenings for the Selective Service from 1941 until 1946, receiving seven presidential citations for his work.¹⁶⁹

The Washington Street community lost an illustrious young man to the war effort when William Penn High School graduate Carl H. Chavis was killed in France, becoming High Point's first African American World War II casualty. The United States Army recognized his heroism by posthumously awarding him with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. High Point's African American YMCA, initially housed in a two-story dwelling with a wraparound front porch that stood at 722 East Washington Street, was named in Chavis's memory when it opened in 1945.¹⁷⁰

An African American YWCA branch was also organized during this period. On August 11, 1943, the North Carolina Secretary of State incorporated the "Robbins and Saunders Memorial YWCA Club of High Point," an organization intended to create an African American YWCA. Just over a year later, Maybelle Nixon led the effort to found the Mary McLeod Bethune Branch of the YWCA, donating \$1.50 toward the cause at an organizational meeting in December 1944 at St. Mark Methodist Church. The YWCA operated out of a Washington Street dwelling near the YMCA before moving to rooms in the Williard Building upon its completion in 1949.¹⁷¹

Some notable edifices were constructed on and near Washington Street in the 1940s. High Point's first African American public housing project, erected north of East Washington Street in 1942, was named in memory of Reverend Daniel Brooks. The two-hundred-unit superblock development, which contains densely concentrated buildings of similar appearance with common green space, was a vast improvement over the area's early-twentieth-century tenement housing.¹⁷² Dr. Murray Brooks Davis erected a streamlined Art Moderne-style office, though to be the first freestanding medical office constructed for an African American physician in High Point, between the St. Mark Methodist Church parsonage and his parent's home around 1943.¹⁷³

High Point's development increased as building materials became more readily available at the end of World War II. The city issued 919 permits for new construction valued at approximately \$2.4 million in 1946, a

¹⁶⁹ Glenn R. Chavis; "War effort not limited to just one community," *Greensboro News and Record*, January 20, 2008; "Appointed Medical Examiner," *High Point Enterprise*, December 24, 1950.

¹⁷⁰ Carl H. Chavis earned a football scholarship to Morgan State University and was a starting fullback before enlisting in the U. S. Army in 1943. Jimmy Tomlin, "More than a name, Carl H. Chavis left legacy of sportsmanship, heroism," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D; "YMCA named for former Pennite," *The Students' Pen*, William Penn High School, February 28, 1945; "Posthumous Presentation of Bronze Star Medal," *High Point Enterprise*, September 2, 1945.

¹⁷¹ "Girls' Circle Club to Meet," *High Point Enterprise*, October 19, 1941, p. 10B; YWCA incorporation, organization meeting location, and founder information courtesy of Glenn R. Chavis, from his research notes extracted from the *High Point Enterprise*.

¹⁷² "Influence for Good on His People is Tribute Paid Daniel Brooks," *High Point Enterprise*, June 7, 1942, p. 7B;

¹⁷³ Glenn R. Chavis, "Black doctors' offices now history," *Greensboro News and Record*, October 18, 2009.

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dramatic increase from \$330,000 per year average from 1942 until 1944.¹⁷⁴ Washington Street's commercial district was expanded by the construction of several new buildings in the late 1940s. Dr. Whitten replaced a two-story dwelling that stood west of St. Mark Methodist Church with an Art Moderne-style clinic and commercial building that was similar in appearance to Dr. Murray Brooks Davis's office. The austere two-story concrete block commercial building erected at 710 Washington Street in 1947 housed Club Carolina (a billiard parlor that was originally located in the two-story Kilby Building) by 1949. Coy O. Williard Sr. constructed a two-story, brick building at 603-605 Washington Street—the first in the new commercial block erected at the northeast corner of Washington and Fourth streets—in 1949. This building housed various establishments including the local public library branch, the Sanitary Seafood Market, the Mary McLeod Bethune Branch of the YWCA, the Patrician Club, Club Fantasy Restaurant, Gnato's Children's Clothing Center, Gnato's Janitorial Services, Gnato's Enterprises, Dante's Discount House, the Simmons Roscoe Conklin Lodge (a social hall), and the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company through 1965.

High Point's population expanded by over a third during the 1950s, from 39,973 at the decade's beginning to 62,063 in 1960.¹⁷⁵ In order to accommodate growing numbers of children, the City of High Point utilized funds from a school bond issue to improve the William Penn High School campus and to erect the new Alfred J. Griffin Elementary School to the north. Local architects Louis F. Voorhees and Eccles D. Everhart designed the two-story, brick, L-shaped wing that extends from William Penn High School's 1930 auditorium and classroom building's east elevation. The 1949 addition encompassed seven classrooms, a woodworking shop, a drafting studio, a courtyard, an auxiliary entrance, and restrooms. The south entrance's concrete surround is original to the building as it appeared at the time of its construction.¹⁷⁶ The addition extends north to the 1955 gymnasium, a one-story, brick, mid-century Modernist building designed by Raleigh architects William Henley Deitrick and John C. Knight.

Alfred J. Griffin Elementary School opened in the fall of 1953, accommodating two hundred students from the overcrowded Leonard Street Elementary School and about seventy-five seventh graders from the adjacent William Penn High School due to classroom shortages. The flat-roofed, brick, L-shaped building, which was similar in appearance to the 1951 Charles F. Tomlinson School, contained nine classrooms, a library, offices, and a "cafetorium," a multipurpose space that contained folding benches and a small stage in addition to the

¹⁷⁴ High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City*, 85; "Building in '46 Approaches All-Time High," *High Point Enterprise*, January 5, 1947, p. 1.

¹⁷⁵ "Population Statistics: Guilford County and the City of High Point," 1790-1990, document in the "population" vertical file in the North Carolina Collection at the High Point Public Library.

¹⁷⁶ Although the interior is substantially intact, the exterior appearance was first altered when the Guilford County School system renovated the building in the late 1970s per the plans of architect Aaron Allred to provide additional classroom space for the adjacent Griffin Elementary School. The Carl Chavis YMCA subsequently remodeled the building in 1995 to serve as their new branch location, but the Guilford County School System removed most of the exterior changes from that renovation in 2001. Carl Jobe, Guilford County Schools Facility Services Department, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010; "Additions to William Penn High School, High Point, N. C., Washington Street Elevation," July 28, 1949, revised August 30, 1949, renderings in the Alumni Room, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts Lee Mortimer, "Penn Renovation to Benefit Griffin," *High Point Enterprise*, April 22, 1977, p. 1B; Jimmy Tomlin, "YMCA Branch gets set for relocation," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

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cafeteria.¹⁷⁷

Griffin Elementary School's original plan was intended to facilitate later additions. High Point architects Voorhees and Everhart designed the first expansion, which encompassed ten classrooms, in 1956. High Point architect Robert W. Conner and Watson Engineering of Greensboro drew the plans for an approximately 36,000-square-foot gymnasium and classroom wing addition in 1959. Although the interior is substantially intact, the late 1970s renovation obscured the original red brick veneer exterior and large steel-frame casement windows and the building has thus been excluded from the proposed district's boundaries.¹⁷⁸

High Point's economy remained strong during the 1950s. Textile mill and furniture factory owners upgraded and expanded their operations and facilities, reflecting High Point's standing as one of North Carolina's largest industrial centers during this period. In 1954, High Point's 219 manufacturing establishments employed 17,056 laborers who produced merchandise valued at \$92,561,000. The Adams-Millis Company closed their outdated circa 1915 Washington Street knitting and finishing mill between 1950 and 1956, but continued to utilize the circa 1920 warehouse at that location to store finished goods.¹⁷⁹

The company maintained a strong connection with the Washington Street community, however, as co-owner J. Ed Millis initiated the campaign to erect a new YMCA/YWCA to serve High Point's African American residents in May 1957. Carl Chavis YMCA Board president O. H. Leak and other prominent citizens led the fundraising effort. Architect Leon Schute of William F. Freeman Engineers designed the facility and R. K. Stewart and Son began constructing it in November of 1957. Contractors and building suppliers donated some of their time and materials so that the project stayed within budget and the African American community raised almost \$7,000 to furnish the interior.¹⁸⁰

The new facility at 215 Fourth Street, completed in 1958, functioned as an important community center and recreational complex for almost forty years. The north end served as the Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA until 1976, when the YWCA moved elsewhere. The Carl Chavis YMCA was subsequently renovated in 1977 and expanded and remodeled in 1987, but the building was still not large enough to meet the YMCA's programming needs. The long-vacant William Penn High School campus was thus renovated to serve as the new Carl Chavis YMCA branch, which opened in June 1995.¹⁸¹ The branch relocated to Granville Street in April 2004 after the

¹⁷⁷ Tom Alston, "Negro School to Relieve Overcrowded Classrooms," *High Point Enterprise*, February 8, 1952; Forrest Cates, "New Alfred J. Griffin School Has Most Modern Plant in City," *High Point Enterprise*, March 14, 1954, p. 5C.

¹⁷⁸ Carl Jobe, Guilford County Schools Facility Services Department, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010; Lee Mortimer, "Griffin to Retain Both Its Gymnasiums," *High Point Enterprise*, May 20, 1977, p. 1B; Glenn R. Chavis, *Our Roots, Our Branches, Our Fruit: High Point's Black History, 1859-1960*, 229.

¹⁷⁹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, *U. S. Census of Manufactures: 1958, Volume III, Area Statistics* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1961), 32-7.

¹⁸⁰ "Dedication of Branch YM-YWCA Today," *High Point Enterprise*, October 12, 1958, p. 2D; "Branch Y Formal Opening Today," *High Point Enterprise*, June 22, 1958, p. 10D.

¹⁸¹ Jimmy Tomlin, "YMCA Branch gets set for relocation," *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

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Penn-Griffin School for the Arts opened in 2003.¹⁸²

Another significant resource for the Washington Street community—a new building to house the African American public library branch—opened on September 21, 1958, shortly after the YMCA/YWCA was completed to the north.¹⁸³ High Point architect Robert W. Conner designed the H-shaped, Modernist edifice, erected at a cost of \$35,000. The new 5,000-square-foot, air-conditioned building encompassed a large circulation area, a children's reading room, an audiovisual room, offices, and greatly expanded library stack space. High Point's public libraries were integrated in 1959 after the NAACP's local chapter protested the central library branch's exclusion of African American patrons, but the Washington Street Branch remained open until 1996.¹⁸⁴

The development of the block containing the library and YMCA/YWCA continued with the construction of a new A & P grocery. The A & P chain developed a brick-veneered, Colonial Revival-style store prototype with a central cupola to commemorate the company's one-hundredth anniversary, and constructed one of the new designs facing North Centennial Street on the YMCA/YWCA's west side in 1959. Although the grocery store's ownership has changed several times since its construction, it is still in operation.

African American community leaders built two significant edifices within the Washington Street Historic District in the midst of early 1960s civil rights struggles. Louis B. Haizlip erected a funeral home, thought to be the first High Point building constructed specifically to function as such, opposite the new library and YMCA/YWCA on Fourth Street in 1961. The Toussaint L'Ouverture Masonic Lodge No. 524 built an East Washington Street meeting hall in 1963 during the tenure of Worshipful Master Aaron Lightner.

The new buildings erected in the Washington Street neighborhood during the 1950s and early 1960s manifested the African American community's optimistic attitude as civil rights activism in High Point escalated with positive results. Blair Park Golf Course's 1956 integration was particularly notable, as the facility became one of North Carolina's first golf clubs to desegregate. In 1959, when Brenda Jean and Miriam Lynn Fountain became the first African American students to attend High Point's predominantly white public schools, Washington Street leaders including dentist Perry Little and Reverend J. Elton Cox escorted them to their classes.¹⁸⁵

Another key event in High Point's civil rights movement occurred on February 11, 1960, when twenty-six William Penn High School students marched from campus to the Woolworth's on South Main Street after school. They proceeded to study at the lunch counter, which had been closed upon their arrival. The students left peaceably when the store closed early that evening. The demonstration was one of many in High Point

¹⁸² Carlvena Foster, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, July 26, 2010.

¹⁸³ Dick Rigby, "New Branch Library Completed," *High Point Enterprise*, September 21, 1958, p. 10D.

¹⁸⁴ "Access to Library Voted for Negroes," *High Point Enterprise*, April 23, 1959.

¹⁸⁵ "Key points in High Point-area race relations from 1949 to 1966," *High Point Enterprise*, September 18, 1995, p. 5A;

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during the 1960s, but is said to be one of the nation's first documented sit-in orchestrated by high school students.¹⁸⁶

By 1963, High Point was North Carolina six-largest city, with a population of 66,543, approximately seventeen percent of whom were African American. The National Civic League designated the municipality as an "All-American City" that year after a series of visits. *Look Magazine* correspondent David Maxey interviewed African American residents including attorney Sammie Chess Jr., major league baseball player Dick Culler, and dentists J. C. Morgan and J. J. Wilson, all of whom testified that while race relations in High Point were imperfect, they were better than in many places. Dr. Morgan reported, as an example, that he treated more white than African American patients.¹⁸⁷

The All-American City recognition came at a particularly volatile time, as High Point's African American residents continued to advocate for civil rights. The Washington Street community gathered at churches, schools, and the Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA for organizational meetings and rallies. Demonstrations involved thousands of protestors and spectators from May until September 1963, culminating with events such as the arrest of a group of student protestors from William Penn High School on September 13, 1963 after the group refused police orders to disband outside the A & W Root Beer, a North Main Street restaurant. Physician Otis Tillman, who took a short break from his work to express his support, was arrested and jailed with the students.¹⁸⁸

Mayor Floyd D. Mehan had appointed a temporary "Biracial Committee" in May 1963, which became the Human Relations Commission in September, to ameliorate tensions. Local Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapters demanded desegregation of city departments, programs, and venues including hospitals, schools, recreational facilities, and privately-owned concerns such as stores, restaurants, and hotels/motels. The commission was successful in many instances as they encouraged local business owners and service providers to integrate facilities and hire African American employees, reporting that most of the city's public and many private establishments were desegregated by the end of 1963.¹⁸⁹ The Civil Rights Act of 1964 codified these mandates at the federal level.

¹⁸⁶ Jimmy Tomlin, "High-schoolers made history at first sit-in," *High Point Enterprise*, February 11, 2005, pp. 1-2C; "Key points in High Point-area race relations from 1949 to 1966," *High Point Enterprise*, September 18, 1995, p. 5A.

¹⁸⁷ "We're All-America," *High Point Enterprise*, March 18, 1963, p. 1A; Holt McPherson, "Good Afternoon," *High Point Enterprise*, December 18, 1962, p. 4A.

¹⁸⁸ Erica Kinnaird, "Reliving black history: Doctor's scrapbooks filled with articles, photos chronicling fight for freedom," *High Point Enterprise*, February 27, 2005, p. 1-2E.

¹⁸⁹ Capus M. Waynick, John C. Brooks, and Elsie Pitts, ed. *North Carolina and the Negro* (Raleigh: North Carolina Mayors' Co-operating Committee, 1964), 107-113. Former *High Point Enterprise* editor and state adjutant general Capus M. Waynick was well-regarded for his work in racial mediation.

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The High Point Board of Education purchased the Adams-Millis's Washington Street plant for \$25,000 in May 1965 as they explored renovation possibilities for the William Penn High School campus.¹⁹⁰ However, after years of debate, the board decided to close the high school as part of their school integration program. With the graduation of William Penn's last class in the spring of 1968, Washington Street lost one of its most venerable institutions. The school board appointed William Penn's principal Samuel Burford to serve the same role at the newly-constructed T. Wingate Andrews High School, and Burford became the first African American principal of a predominantly white high school in North Carolina.¹⁹¹

Integration victories had social, economic, and political repercussions that dramatically reshaped the Washington Street community. As High Point's public and private establishments were desegregated, patronage of Washington Street's businesses declined. New malls and shopping centers enticed former Washington Street customers, and the once vibrant area slowly began to deteriorate. Vacant buildings fell into disrepair and were demolished, and crime became a problem.

Road realignment in the late 1960s further isolated East Washington Street. In order to move traffic around, rather than through, the neighborhood, the city terminated Washington Street at its intersection with English Street and renamed the road Washington Drive.¹⁹² The road name reverted to Washington Street in 2010, and the City of High Point recently recognized years of community efforts to revitalize the neighborhood by developing a master plan for the area.

The Guilford County School system renovated a neighborhood landmark—the former William Penn High School and Alfred J. Griffin Elementary School campus—in 2001 to serve as a magnet school, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, which opened in 2003. These remodeled buildings continue their legacy of serving High Point's African American children. Developers are currently exploring options for the rehabilitation of other Washington Street buildings, which will hopefully breathe new life into this very significant African American historic district.

Architecture Context

Commercial/Institutional

By the early twentieth century, some Washington Street business owners advertised their success and attempted to attract customers by constructing substantial masonry structures with ornamental brickwork and expansive plate-glass storefronts. Edifices such as the Odd Fellows Hall, the Kilby Hotel and the adjacent Kilby Building, the two-story structure at 500 East Washington Street, and the one-story building at 213 Hobson Street feature

¹⁹⁰ Jim Hawkins, "County Subdivision Rules Draw Support at Hearing," *High Point Enterprise*, May 7, 1965, p. 7B.

¹⁹¹ Duke Conover, "Principal move opened door to integration," *High Point Enterprise*, February 8, 1998, pp. 1C and 4C.

¹⁹² City Council meeting minutes, March 21, 1968, transcribed by Glenn R. Chavis.

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decorative elements including corbelled cornices, sawtooth brick bands, and arched window surrounds commonly seen in early-twentieth-century commercial architecture.

The Odd Fellows Hall is one of High Point's oldest buildings constructed to house a fraternal organization and the earliest commercial structure remaining on Washington Street. The three-story stuccoed brick building features arched windows with stone sills and a flat parapet with a course of alternating slightly projecting and recessed bricks and a band of sawtooth bricks above a corbelled cornice. Classical Revival-style features include the fanlights surmounting the façade's three third-story windows, as well as the stone keys and impost blocks in the window surrounds.

The Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission has designated the three-story Kilby Hotel, erected in 1917, and the adjacent two-story commercial building constructed by the Kilbys around 1920 as historic landmarks. A shallow bracketed hood shelters the buildings' storefronts and entrances, each of which is surmounted by a transom. Paired windows with round-arched, corbelled hoods and fanlights illuminate the upper floors. These buildings, which project an image of prosperity and permanence, reflect the influence of the Romanesque Revival style.

Many brick commercial buildings were erected on Washington Street during High Point's 1920s construction boom. A few of the new edifices were executed in the same manner as those built earlier, but most were much simpler in design. The Commercial Style represented a complete departure from ornate Victorian-era architectural styles. Patterned masonry; sparingly-used tile, concrete, stone, or terra cotta insets; shaped parapets; and bands of large rectangular windows—all relatively inexpensive ways to enliven a façade—distinguish these otherwise austere commercial buildings.

Only a few of the district's extant commercial buildings date to this period. According to oral tradition, High Point Normal and Industrial Institute principal A. J. Griffin funded the construction of the two-story, three-part, brick building at 502-506 E. Washington Street around 1920. The structure features brick pilasters separating the second story into eight bays, pent roofs with modillion cornices above the first and second stories, and paired second-story windows surmounted by transoms. The one-story commercial building to the east at 614 Washington Street was constructed in two phases, with the slightly taller, circa 1920 eastern section appearing as a theater on the 1924 Sanborn map. The western section originally served as a restaurant and was built by 1930. Plain pilasters flank the storefronts and brick panels with soldier course borders surmount them. The side and rear walls are executed in five-to-one common bond.

By the late 1930s, as the nation started to recover from the great depression, American buildings began to reflect European design tenets in their streamlined modern forms. The early-twentieth-century Italian Futurist movement, which completely rejected historical precedents and celebrated progress, inspired edifices that embodied a machine aesthetic. The resulting architectural style, known as Art Moderne, reflects the speed, energy, and power of automobiles, trains, steamships, and factories in buildings with horizontal lines,

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asymmetrical facades, flat roofs, and curved corners.¹⁹³

The Washington Street Historic District's earliest example of the Art Moderne style is a 1937 bridge erected by the City of High Point as part of a railroad crossing improvement campaign. The bridge once connected Washington Street to Kivett Drive, allowing for safe vehicular passage between the two areas. Curved concrete abutments with stepped edges and horizontal fluting anchor the bridge's north and south ends, which are spanned by tubular metal railings with incremental concrete posts ornamented with vertical fluting at the upper edge. The bridge has a concrete deck and a reinforced concrete bent substructure. The other High Point bridges constructed in this campaign were replaced with higher structures in compliance with new railroad regulations, making the Kivett Drive Bridge an extremely significant survival.

Most of the commercial buildings erected in the Washington Street Historic District in the late 1930s display standard forms and austere appearances. The 1939 Ritz Theater at 711 Washington Street and the circa 1940 commercial building at 508-510 Washington Street—both two-story brick edifices—reflect the economical design sensibilities and construction practices of that time. The three ocular attic vents that pierce the variegated brick veneer façade above the Ritz Theater's second-story windows serve as the building's only adornment. The edifice constructed at the end of the commercial block at the southeast corner of Washington Street and Centennial Street has an even simpler design, with plain pilasters flanking the two façade storefronts.

Given World War II materials shortages, only a few commercial buildings—predominantly projects underway before the war's onset—were constructed on East Washington Street during the early 1940s. The one-story brick buildings that served as the Whitten Clinic and Dr. Murray B. Davis's office are particularly noteworthy, as they are among High Point's few extant examples of Art Moderne architecture. Dr. Davis erected his office at 761 Washington Street around 1943 and Dr. Whitten followed with his clinic and commercial building at 745-751 Washington Street in 1949. Both edifices alluded to modern technological advances through their streamlined, curved façades and glass block windows.

Washington Street's development in the post-World War II period rivaled that of the 1920s building boom. Most structures erected in the district in late 1940s, like those constructed earlier in the decade, exhibit functional design with minimal ornamentation. Club Carolina, a two-story concrete block building at 710 Washington Street completed in 1947, serves as a good example of this trend, as the slightly projecting header course that extends across the brick-veneered façade just below the second story windows is the streamlined building's only exterior embellishment.

¹⁹³ Mark Gelernter. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context* (Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 2001), 227-228; Peter Gossel and Gabriele Leuthauser. *Architecture in the Twentieth Century* (Koln, Slovenia: Taschen, 2001), 319; Antonio Sant'Elia, *Manifesto of Futurist Architecture*, <http://www.unknown.nu/futurism/architecture.html>. French architect Le Corbusier also equated streamlined building appearance with modern technological advances. Sara Allaback, "Essays on Modern Architecture for the National Historic Landmark Program," Unpublished draft, April 2, 2003, page 74.

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By the late 1940s, East Washington Street experienced a dramatic transformation. High Point architects were undoubtedly influenced by the Modernist principles espoused by leaders of the International Style movement, so called given its European genesis and subsequent diffusion throughout the world. Architects including Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe of Germany, Le Corbusier of France, and J. J. P. Oud of Holland designed buildings distinguished by planar surfaces and cubic volumes rather than mass, regularity rather than symmetry (in structure and fenestration), and architectural detail rather than applied ornament.¹⁹⁴ The International Style proved more popular in commercial than residential applications in the United States, as flat roofs, sleek surfaces, and angular lines were often perceived as being impersonal and harsh.

It was not until 1948, when University of Oklahoma architecture program head Henry Kamphoefner was appointed the first dean of the School of Design at North Carolina State College in Raleigh, that Modernism really arrived in the state. Kamphoefner, drawn by North Carolina's progressive reputation, recruited George Matsumoto, James Walter Fitzgibbon, Edward W. Waugh, and several other University of Oklahoma-Norman faculty members and students to move to Raleigh with him. School of Design professors and visiting lecturers including Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, and Mies van der Rohe had a significant impact on North Carolina's mid-century built environment, both through the buildings they designed and the students they trained.¹⁹⁵

Eleven of the fourteen commercial and institutional buildings that were erected in the Washington Street Historic District between 1949 and 1963 were Modernist in style, reflecting the progressive thinking and optimism of the era in their use of new materials, construction techniques, and spatial arrangements. These Washington Street buildings display sleek lines, smooth facades, and the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows, doors, and curtain walls that characterize the Modernist design aesthetic. Storefronts featured asymmetrical entrances, angled or cantilevered display windows and side walls, flat-roofed canopies, and neon or aluminum-lettered signage in an effort to project an up-to-date image and attract customers. Materials including structural and spandrel glass, glass block, porcelain-enameled steel, anodized aluminum, natural and cast stone, wood, textured concrete masonry units, and long, thin Roman brick were used to embellish facades on Washington Street and throughout the nation during this period.¹⁹⁶

The commercial block at the northeast corner of Washington and Fourth streets is an excellent example of this trend. The two-story, brick Williard Building at 603-605 Washington Street and the neighboring one-story brick building at what is now 613 Washington Street were erected in 1949 as the first two structures in the newly-developed block. The Williard Building features two recessed storefronts with canted, three-part, plate-glass windows angled away from the building's center toward single-leaf entrances surmounted by transoms. A

¹⁹⁴ Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr. and Philip Johnson. *The International Style: Architecture since 1922* (New York, W. W. Norton & Company, 1932), 20.

¹⁹⁵ Ernest H. Wood III, "The Opportunities are Unlimited: Architects and Builders since 1945," in Bishir, Catherine, et al. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1990), 361-363.

¹⁹⁶ Carol J. Dyson, "How to Work with Storefronts of the Mid-Twentieth Century," presentation for the National Main Streets Conference, Philadelphia, April 2, 2008, <http://www.illinois-history.gov/ps/midcentury.htm>.

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third door at the façade's east end provides access to the upstairs rooms, which are illuminated by two large, four-section, metal casement windows. The one-story building at 613 Washington Street's façade is devoid of ornamentation, encompassing a large two-part plate-glass window and a single-leaf entrance. A one-story brick commercial building (607-609 Washington Street) filled the space between the block's first two buildings in 1950. The edifice features Modernist elements such as bands of slightly recessed bricks on the façade parapet and a deep setback that creates a small courtyard. A flat-roofed canopy wraps around the western storefront's east elevation and the eastern storefront's south elevation, sheltering two entrances and the large metal casement windows that illuminate the interior. The one-story brick commercial building erected at 601 Washington Street in 1951 has large plate-glass windows on the façade and west elevation and an angled corner entrance.

Edifices such as the Yarborough Law Building at 622 Washington Street (1958; architect unknown) and the Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library at 201 Fourth Street (1958; designed by High Point architect Robert W. Conner) exemplify a more high-style Modernist aesthetic, as their embellishment—colored panels used in combination with brick to add visual interest—is also a functional component of their curtain walls' structure. These edifices manifest Mies van der Rohe's minimalist philosophy, with the buildings' exposed structures serving as their primary design element. His aphorism "less is more" came to define Modernist architecture.¹⁹⁷

The Yarborough Law Building, which was an investment property for dentist J. C. Morgan, was the most distinctive professional building erected by local African American contractor Joseph Hutton, who also constructed the two buildings to the east to house the practices of dentist Perry Little and physician Joseph A. Martin. The flat-roofed two-story Yarborough Law Building is executed in thin red Roman brick with projecting corner pilasters and a deep concrete cornice. The full-height, aluminum-framed curtain wall on the façade's west side contains three rows of blue spandrel panels above, between, and below the one-over-one aluminum-frame windows. A flat canopy shelters the two single-leaf plate glass doors on the façade. Raised aluminum letters above the canopy spell out the edifice's name: "Yarborough Law Building."

Dr. Little's office (1957) at 628 Washington Street also employs mid-twentieth-century design principles and materials, as it is veneered in thin red Roman brick with canted pilasters separating the façade's first story into three bays. The outer pilasters, which are taller and more robust, extend above the first story to serve as the second-story balcony's end walls and to anchor the metal balustrade. A flat-roofed canopy supported by metal posts covers the balcony and a concave canopy shelters the two central first-story entrances. Dr. Martin's austere two-story office building (1958) at 624 Washington Street, executed in thin red Roman brick with canted pilasters separating the façade's first story into two bays, is quite similar in feeling and design.

High Point architect Robert W. Conner designed the one-story, flat-roofed, H-shaped, Modernist Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library erected at 201 Fourth Street in 1958. The buff-colored concrete-masonry-unit building, which faces east toward Fourth Street, features high bands of aluminum-framed

¹⁹⁷ Gossel and Leuthauser, *Architecture in the Twentieth Century*, 426.

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windows surmounted by pale green porcelain-enameled steel panels on the south elevations and aluminum-framed glass curtain walls with dark green porcelain-enameled steel base panels on the north elevations facing the two central courtyards. A metal canopy frames the landscaped eastern courtyard, where a tree rises through the canopy's large rectangular opening. Pale green porcelain-enameled steel panels sheath the canopy's outer edges and slender steel posts support the canopy's north section, which extends to cover the sidewalk leading to the main entrance.

The Washington Street library, like many other mid-twentieth-century buildings, expressed the Modernist aesthetic of connectivity between indoor and outdoor spaces through the glass curtain wall and courtyard arrangement. The flexible interior spaces were intended to efficiently accommodate library collections, meet the needs of employees and patrons, and to allow for future modifications.

Local architect Leon Schute's design for the one-story flat-roofed Haizlip Funeral Home erected at 206 Fourth Street in 1961 differs from the district's other Modernist buildings in its form, massing, and materials. The funeral home's façade has three distinct parts. The large southern section features a taupe-colored concrete-masonry-unit façade pierced by four tall, narrow windows, each containing four colored-glass panes. Each window's two upper panes are taller than the lower two. The red brick-veneered north and south elevation are blind.

Schute also designed the neighboring Carl Chavis YMCA/Mary McLeod Bethune YWCA (1958) at 215 Fourth Street, which, like the William Penn High School gymnasium (1955), and the Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 (1963) employed clerestory windows as part of its Modernist design. This important brick-veneered community building features a tall flat-roofed gymnasium originally illuminated by clerestory windows. One-story flat-roofed sections that encompassed offices, classrooms, and meeting spaces extend to the north, east, and south. Deep eaves shelter the recessed central entrance and the large steel-framed plate-glass windows on the southern section's east elevation. The northeast addition, which is slightly taller than the other one-story sections, has blind east and west parapeted walls. Tall, deep cornices shelter the north elevation's central entrance and the flanking tall, narrow windows as well as the double-leaf entrance on the west elevation.

The two-story, flat-roofed, rectilinear Toussaint L'Ouverture Lodge No. 524 is executed in running bond with randomly projecting decorative headers adding visual interest. As with many other Modernist edifices, the building's form is paramount and conceals its function. The façade (south) and rear (north) walls project slightly farther than the side walls and the end bricks are laid in a pattern of alternating recessed and flush bricks. The primary entrance is recessed at the façade's center and consists of an aluminum-framed double-leaf door and sidelights sheltered by a flat-roofed, metal-frame canopy with an opaque green plastic roof. A T-shaped metal staircase leads to the entrance, which is at the second-story level. The roof overhang shelters the clerestory windows that line the top edge of the east and west elevations.

In marked contrast to the Washington Street community leaders who embraced progressive new architectural trends in the buildings they commissioned during this period, the A & P grocery store chain celebrated their

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long history, commemorating the company's one-hundredth anniversary by developing a brick-veneered Colonial Revival-style store prototype. They opened 227 such stores nationally in 1958, and erected or remodeled 3,900 of their 4,700 stores to reflect the centennial theme between 1962 and 1967.¹⁹⁸

A & P constructed a hip-roofed example of their anniversary store on North Centennial Street in 1959. The overall building design is very planar, with the central gable above the main entrance and a cupola with a large square base, a pyramidal roof, a weathervane, and a metal balustrade providing symbolic historical references. Although most of the surrounding buildings erected about the same time were Modernist in style, the Classical Revival-style Second Presbyterian Church, built just to the east at 210 Fourth Street in 1952, also manifests a traditional design. Architectural historian Richard Guy Wilson's definition of the Colonial Revival as "the United States most popular and characteristic expression" applies to both buildings. He goes on to state that "Neither a formal style or a movement, Colonial Revival embodies an attitude that looks to the American past for inspiration and selects forms, motifs, and symbols for replication and reuse."¹⁹⁹

Religious

The Washington Street Historic District includes three African American sanctuaries erected during the district's period of significance. The oldest two—First Baptist Church (1907 with an early 1950s façade; NR 2009) at 701 Washington Street and St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church (1908, 1928) at 755 Washington Street—occupy prominent locations on Washington Street's north side. Like many African American churches constructed in small towns and rural areas throughout the country from the late nineteenth century through the first few decades of the twentieth century, these two High Point sanctuaries manifest elements of the late Gothic Revival style including steeply-pitched gable roofs, pointed-arched windows, castellated towers, and patterned masonry. Church interiors often utilized white plaster walls as a foil for dark, robust woodwork. St. Mark's sanctuary exemplifies this trend, with dark beadboard wainscoting and a wood-paneled partition wall separating the altar from the choir and organ loft. First Baptist Church and St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church were both expanded and remodeled with the district's period of significance, but retain their character-defining features.

Religious institutions experienced widespread growth in the mid-twentieth century, perhaps, as author Carole Rifkind suggests, in reaction to fears of rampant materialism, atomic warfare, and communism.²⁰⁰ Many sanctuaries erected during this period, including Second Presbyterian Church, constructed at 210 Fourth Street in 1952, looked to the past for design inspiration. Second Presbyterian features classical elements such as a pedimented front-gable roof, a pedimented portico supported by grouped Tuscan columns, a double-leaf entrance surmounted by a stained-glass transom, and arched window openings.

¹⁹⁸ Walt Waholek, A & P Historical Society president, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010.

¹⁹⁹ Richard Guy Wilson, *The Colonial Revival House* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004), 6.

²⁰⁰ Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture* (New York, Penguin Putnam, Inc., 1998), 189-193, 206.

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Educational

Consolidated schools constructed throughout North Carolina during the 1920s reflected new design standards intended to result in buildings that were commanding in appearance as well as fireproof and hygienic. The Division of Schoolhouse Planning in the Department of Public Instruction provided standardized plans and specifications to city and county school boards, who then hired architects to design the schools, which were often imposing brick, concrete, or stone edifices with Classical Revival or Gothic Revival-style features. Floor plans allowed for wide bands of windows to illuminate classrooms, libraries, auditoriums and gymnasiums. The new buildings also encompassed central heating plants, multiple bathrooms, and cafeterias; amenities that were not present in earlier one- and two-room frame schools.

The schools constructed to serve High Point students between 1920 and 1931 reflected these statewide trends. The school board erected new brick facilities designed by a variety of architects on eleven campuses—Fairview, Emma Blair, Ray Street, Leonard Street, Cloverdale, Johnson Street, Oak Hill, High Point High, Ferndale Junior High, William Penn, and Brentwood—during this period. Most displayed Classical Revival-style features, a popular choice since the turn of the twentieth century for buildings intended to symbolize “democratic ideals, inspire patriotism, and elevate public taste.” Greensboro architect Harry Barton’s Collegiate Gothic design for the expansive High Point High School campus was the most elaborate.²⁰¹

The two-story brick auditorium and classroom building erected at William Penn High School in 1930 manifests classical architectural elements that evoke a sense of tradition and permanence. The imposing edifice features a pedimented front-gable roof, robust molded cornices, and large double-hung windows which have round-arched surrounds with cast-stone keystones and fanlights at the second-story level. The new building replaced some of the campus’s earlier brick and frame structures that had been constructed by students in the High Point Normal and Industrial School’s building trades program.

North Carolina school design changed dramatically in the late 1940s, when the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction evaluated educational buildings statewide and found that the 1920s consolidated schools and austere depression-era facilities were in many cases functionally inadequate given rapid postwar population growth and suburban development. In 1949, the General Assembly allocated fifty million dollars and local bond issues made an additional seventy-five million dollars available for school construction. The desire for a fresh, progressive image for the new campuses led to consultation with North Carolina State College’s newly created School of Design faculty, all strong proponents of Modernism. The School of Design and the Office of School Construction advocated contemporary architecture at workshops for

²⁰¹ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 457.; Benjamin Briggs, *The Architecture of High Point*, 58-59; Michael G. Pierce, *History of the High Point Public Schools* (Charlotte: Delmar Printing, 1993), 66-80; High Point Chamber of Commerce, ed., *The Building and the Builders of a City*, 79.

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local officials and architects in 1949 and 1950, and professor Edward W. Waugh took a leave of absence in 1949 to develop design standards for the Office of School House Planning.²⁰²

Waugh called the new approach to school design “organic” in the sense that both the physical and psychological needs of children at different ages were considered. He recommended centrally locating communal spaces such as the administrative offices, library, cafeteria, and auditorium-gym and arranging classrooms in outlying wings as “a series of beads strung on a main string of circulation.” Acknowledging that learning does not solely take place indoors, the standards suggested that each classroom should have an exterior door to facilitate connectivity with the “outside classroom.” School designs were to be well-integrated into their sites and allow for flexible use and future expansion.²⁰³

The William Penn High School additions (1949), Tomlinson Elementary School (1951), and Griffin Elementary School (1953) were the first High Point schools to manifest these new trends. Local architects Louis F. Voorhees and Eccles D. Everhart designed the two-story, brick, L-shaped wing that extends from William Penn High School’s 1930 auditorium and classroom building’s east elevation. The addition encompassed seven classrooms, a woodworking shop, a drafting studio, a courtyard, an auxiliary entrance, and restrooms. Although the interior is substantially intact, the exterior appearance was first altered when the Guilford County School system renovated the building in the late 1970s per the plans of architect Aaron Allred to provide additional classroom space for the adjacent Griffin Elementary School. The Carl Chavis YMCA subsequently remodeled the building in 1995 to serve as their new branch location, but the Guilford County School System removed most of the exterior changes from that renovation in 2001. The south entrance's concrete surround is original to the building as it appeared in 1949.²⁰⁴

The east wing extends north to the 1955 gymnasium, a one-story, brick, mid-century Modernist building designed by Raleigh architects William Henley Deitrick and John C. Knight. The building has two distinct parts: the gymnasium and a flat-roofed, one-story wing that includes a lobby with a central ticket booth, restrooms, locker rooms, and offices. The interior retains terrazzo floors, brick and concrete block walls, and original doors with chrome hardware and room identification plaques. The gymnasium features collapsible stadium seating, exposed steel roof trusses, and an original hardwood floor. The gymnasium reflects the statewide trend toward modern, hygienic, well-lit athletic facilities for North Carolina students during the 1950s.

²⁰² Edward Waugh and Elizabeth Waugh, *The South Builds: New Architecture in the Old South* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1960), preface, 8; David R. Black, “Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1994, E15-16.

²⁰³ Waugh and Waugh, *The South Builds*, 43-44.

²⁰⁴ Carl Jobe, Guilford County Schools Facility Services Department, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2010; “Additions to William Penn High School, High Point, N. C., Washington Street Elevation,” July 28, 1949, revised August 30, 1949, renderings in the Alumni Room, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts Lee Mortimer, “Penn Renovation to Benefit Griffin,” *High Point Enterprise*, April 22, 1977, p. 1B; Jimmy Tomlin, “YMCA Branch gets set for relocation,” *High Point Enterprise*, February 12, 1995, p. 1D.

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Residential

As High Point's population grew, landowners near downtown took advantage of the opportunity to profit from the subdivision of their large parcels of land into smaller residential lots. This push outward from the center of town translated into the construction of houses on streets only one or two blocks beyond main transportation arteries and commercial and industrial areas. During the first decades of the twentieth century, it was common for professionals and workers to live in close proximity to their work places and each other. The differences in the two groups' income and social standing were made clear by the size of their houses and the lots they occupied.

This disparity is still apparent in the Washington Street Historic District, but was more pronounced when more housing stock was intact. The district currently includes nine residential buildings that manifest the area's development from the early twentieth century through the 1960s. The oldest extant single-family dwellings—the Dr. C. J. H. and Sallie Gaylord House (1906) and the Robinson House (1907)—stand near Washington Street's west end and reflect the influence of the Queen Anne style. The 1911 Sanborn map, which appears to be the earliest published rendering of the area, illustrates one- and two-story frame dwellings with front porches lining Washington Street from Cherry Street (now Centennial Street) to the Methodist Episcopal Church, where the map ends.

Most of these dwellings were undoubtedly modest frame houses with minimal ornamentation, but some reflected the increasingly elaborate architectural expression made possible by the industrial advances of the late nineteenth century. Steam-powered factories produced vast quantities of dimensional lumber and inexpensive millwork which was sold locally and moved by rail throughout the country.²⁰⁵ High Point manufacturers such as Snow Lumber Company, located near Washington Street at the corner of Commerce and Hamilton streets, supplied contractors with construction materials including window sash, doors, shutters, porch elements, and eave brackets.

The Queen Anne style, which became popular in the 1880s, utilized these mass-produced components to exemplify the most up-to-date design sensibilities. Queen Anne-influenced buildings were characterized by irregular massing, manifested on the exterior by features such as projecting bays, wings, towers, gables, dormers, and balconies, and on the interior by asymmetrical plans. Tall hipped roofs often sheltered these dwellings, and porches wrapped around facades and side elevations, sometimes encompassing corner towers or pavilions. Contrasting siding materials including various weatherboard styles, wood shingles, brick, stucco, faux half-timbering, and pebbledash were employed to add decorative interest, as were sawnwork porch elements, eave brackets, and gable ornament. Windows of different shapes, sizes, and sash configurations

²⁰⁵ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 328.

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illuminated interior spaces. Local and regional builders quickly incorporated these elements into their repertoires.²⁰⁶

The Gaylord House, erected in 1906 at what is now 600 Washington Street, is a modest Queen Anne cottage—a one-story, hip-roofed dwelling with a central front gable and side gables with cornice returns. The hip-roofed front porch likely originally featured turned posts and sawnwork brackets. The porch has been enclosed as a sunporch and the original weatherboards covered with later siding, but the house retains some original two-over-two sash windows and the façade weatherboards are visible inside the sunporch. Washington Street was once lined with comparable homes.

The adjacent two-story, weatherboarded, 1907 Robinson House at 606 Washington Street is the neighborhood's largest and most intact extant residence. The house manifests elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical massing, hip roof, and the projecting, full-height, cutaway bay with a shaped bargeboard and corner pendants on the east elevation. Tuscan columns support the wraparound front porch and the porte cochere that extends from the west elevation. The projecting hip-roofed bay on the façade's east side encompasses a small second-story porch that shelters a single-leaf door surmounted by a six-pane transom. Both the Robinson and Gaylord houses use scale and massing rather than an abundance of architectural ornament to convey the wealth and social status of their early owners.

Building forms that rejected the extravagance of late-nineteenth-century eclectic architecture began to exert a greater influence on High Point's residential design by the 1910s. Two-story, square plan, gable- or hip-roofed dwellings, known as "foursquares" given their form, were inherently cost-effective to construct and remained popular through the 1920s. These houses usually had open first floor plans with corner staircases and three or four second-floor bedrooms and a bathroom.²⁰⁷

The Craftsman style also became prevalent during this period. American stonemason, furniture maker, and metalworker Gustav Stickley visited England in 1898 and, upon his return home, promoted the tenets of the English Arts and Crafts movement—a reaction against the loss of manual skills and traditional crafts due to the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution—through his magazine, *The Craftsman* (1901-1916). The publication emphasized the use of natural, handcrafted materials and low, horizontal massing to allow for harmony between a house and its surrounding environment. Henry H. Saylor's 1911 book, *Bungalows*, guided the consumer through the process of planning, designing, and building informal, cozy homes. Building plans for these houses, with their wide overhanging eaves, open arrangement of rooms, and inviting porches, appeared in national magazines such as *House Beautiful* and *The Ladies Home Journal*. Stickley, Radford, Sears, Montgomery Ward, Aladdin, and others sold bungalow plans by mail.²⁰⁸

²⁰⁶ Ibid., 329, 402-403.

²⁰⁷ Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House Type in the United States," In Camille Wells, ed., *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, I* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1982), 51-53.

²⁰⁸ Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home* (New York: The Penguin Group, 1995), 2, 7-8, 14-15.

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Such promotion resulted in the Craftsman bungalow's national popularity during the 1910s and 1920s and the construction of typically scaled-down versions of the form throughout North Carolina into the early 1940s. Bungalows were inexpensive, easy to build, and appealed to families' desires for modern, efficient houses. Foursquares often incorporate Craftsman features including the combination of natural siding materials such as weatherboards and wood shingles, triangular eave brackets, and tapered or square paneled posts on brick piers supporting front porches.

Although many bungalows once stood on Washington Street, only a few dwellings that manifest Craftsman-style elements remain with the district. The foursquare erected at 1113 Washington Street around 1915, which has served as Hoover's Funeral Home since 1932, features stuccoed porch posts on brick piers and robust, curved, stuccoed stair end walls. Decorative gables surmount the central entrance and the porte cochere at the porch's west end. A hip-roofed dormer with two small square windows pierces the front roof slope. The house retains some original windows, including the rectangular sash with a clear glass central pane bordered by yellow and green textured-glass panes on the façade east of the main entrance.

The David S. and Martha Saulter House, constructed in the late 1920s at 716 Washington Street, is similar in form but less elaborately detailed. The foursquare retains original features including the hip-roofed front porch supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers and a hip-roofed dormer with two small, square, three-pane windows.

The two extant dwellings in the Washington Street Historic District erected to provide housing for High Point's blue-collar workers are even simpler in form and finish and are located on the opposite (east) side of the commercial area. A front-gable duplex stands at 769-771 Washington Street and the modest front-gable house directly behind it faces what was originally Washington Lane (now Gaylord Court), an unpaved drive that led to Piedmont Hosiery Mill No. 2 (which became Adams-Millis Mill No. 3, also a hosiery plant). Both houses were constructed on the sites of earlier dwellings which still stood just west of Gaylord Court in 1924. The new residences, probably built in the late 1920s, reflected the influence of the Craftsman style in their five-over-one and three-over-one sash windows, German siding, and exposed rafter ends, but both have been updated with vinyl siding and replacement windows and porch posts.

Other rental properties include a two-story, brick, four-unit apartment building southwest of Griffin Park at what is now 1015 Washington Street. Dentist J. C. Morgan commissioned the building's construction in 1939. The Eclectic-style edifice, which features a crenellated, central façade parapet bay flanked by two pent-roofed sections, appears to be the most elaborately executed apartment building that stood within the Washington Street Historic District. The round-arched central entrance surround surmounted by a patterned brick header panel and the soldier-course lintels above the two flanking paired windows serve as the building's primary decoration. Although the units were rentals, most tenants were in residence for many years.

The district's newest multi-family dwelling is the austere, two-story, Modernist brick Anita apartment building,

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erected round 1960 on the one-story commercial building at 213 Hobson Street's north elevation. The north and side walls project past the façade to support a second-story balcony, which is supported by two slender square posts and sheltered by a pent roof. Two first-story façade entrances provide access to the interior.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References

- 5. Zone 17 591960 Easting 3980380 Northing
- 6. Zone 17 591120 Easting 3980360 Northing
- 7. Zone 17 591160 Easting 3980260 Northing
- 8. Zone 17 591640 Easting 3980020 Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Washington Street Historic District are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

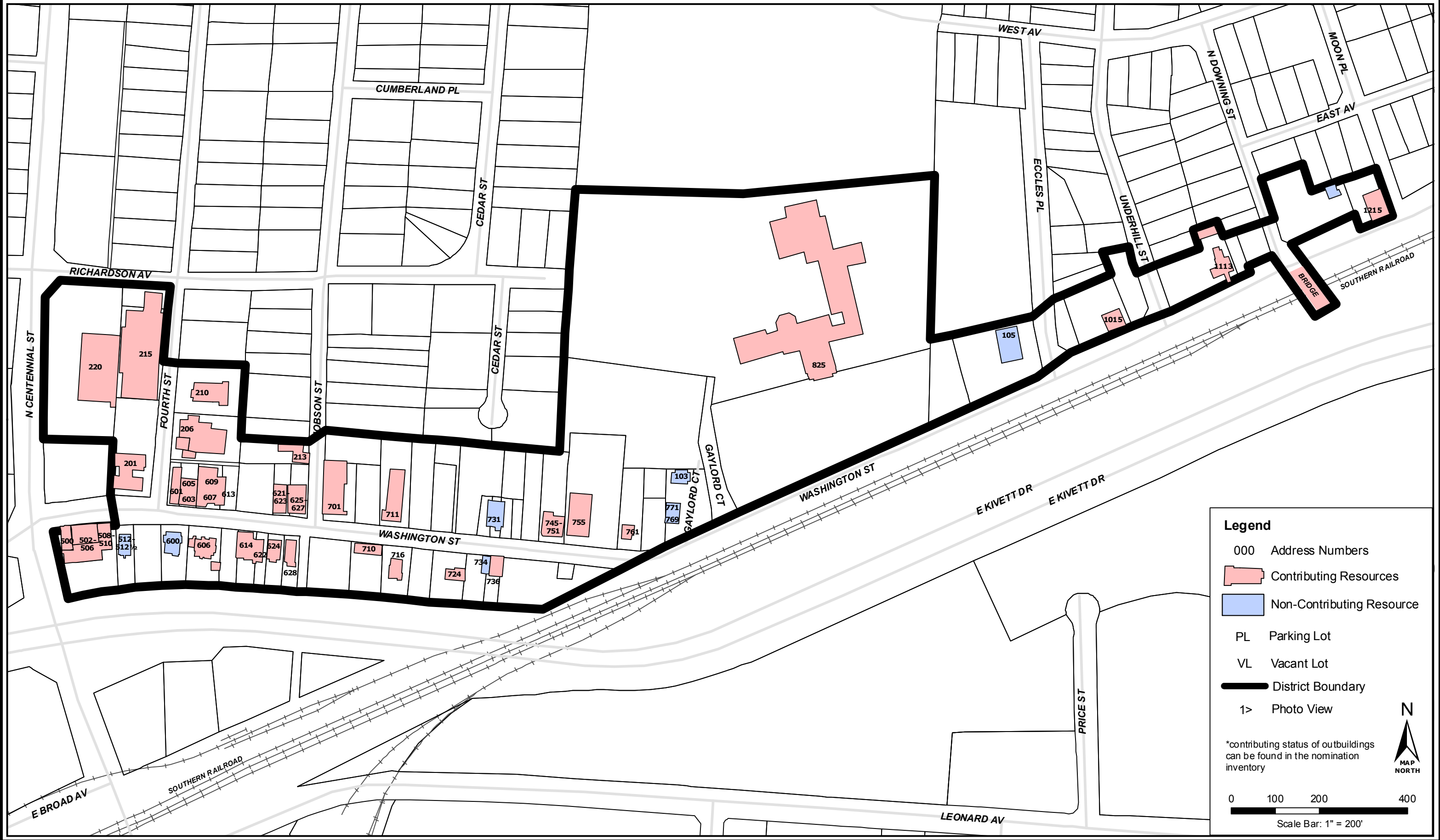
The boundaries of the Washington Street Historic District are drawn to encompass the greatest concentration of historic commercial and industrial buildings in the downtown area constructed during the period of significance—1906 to 1963—that contribute to the district's historic and architectural character. The area immediately outside the district is characterized by residential and later commercial development.

Photograph Catalog

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in January and May 2010. Digital images located at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

1. Morgan Apartments, 1015 Washington Street, façade
2. Yarborough Law Building (foreground), 622 Washington Street and Dixieland Theater/Commercial Building, 614 Washington Street, looking southwest
3. Commercial Block at northeast corner of Washington and Fourth streets, 613 (foreground) to 601 Washington Street, looking northwest
4. Dr. C. J. H. and Sallie Gaylord House, 600 Washington Street, northwest oblique
5. Robinson House, 606 Washington Street, façade
6. St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church, 755 Washington Street, façade
7. Washington Street Branch of the High Point Public Library, 201 Fourth Street, facade
8. Second Presbyterian Church, 210 Fourth Street, northwest oblique
9. Kivett Drive Bridge, North Downing Street south of Washington Street over railroad tracks, looking southwest

WASHINGTON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, HIGH POINT, GUILFORD COUNTY, NC



Legend

- 000 Address Numbers
- Contributing Resources
- Non-Contributing Resource
- PL Parking Lot
- VL Vacant Lot
- District Boundary
- 1> Photo View

*contributing status of outbuildings can be found in the nomination inventory

0 100 200 400
Scale Bar: 1" = 200'

N
MAP NORTH