

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Falls Road Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

Street & number the 500-600 blocks of Avent Street, 100 block of Braswell Street, a portion of the 200 block of Braswell Street, 100 block of Earl Street, 500-700 blocks of Falls Road, a portion of the 400 block of Falls Road, 500 block of Peachtree Street, East side of the 600 block of Peachtree Street and the 100 block of Wilkinson Street.  
city or town Rocky Mount vicinity N/A state North Carolina code NC  
county Nash code 127 zip code 27802 N/A not for publication

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally statewide X locally.

( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD \_\_\_\_\_ 10/5/99  
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper                      Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>74</u>	<u>24</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>75</u>	<u>25</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling, multiple dwelling; EDUCATION/school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC/single dwelling, multiple dwelling; EDUCATION/school; COMMERCE/TRADE/business

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, Foursquare, Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial  
Revival, Bungalow/Craftsman, Prairie style, Tudor Revival, Moderne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls brick

other weatherboard

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

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past

50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Community Development  
Architecture

Period of Significance circa 1900-1950

Significant Dates 1923

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Stout, John C.; Herman, Thomas; Benton & Benton; Rose and Son, D.J.; Toler, Sam; Lee, Duncan; Derby, E.S.

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately 24 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>18</u>	<u>247360</u>	<u>3982040</u>	2	<u>18</u>	<u>247740</u>	<u>3982240</u>
3	<u>18</u>	<u>247960</u>	<u>3981840</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>247580</u>	<u>3981620</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 Michelle T. Kullen  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 1, 1999  
street & number 1210-207 Westview Lane telephone (919) 832-5104  
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605  
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12. Additional Documentation  
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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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 1  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

**Section 7: Description**

The Falls Road Historic District stands northwest of the business district of the city of Rocky Mount in eastern Nash County. Irregular in shape, the Falls Road Historic District spans approximately twenty-four acres and is composed of all or portions of sixteen blockfaces. The district, an intact residential area adjacent to the city center, contains single and multi-family dwellings and one school ranging in date from the early 1900s to 1950. The Falls Road Historic District is roughly bounded by Earl Street on the northwest, the east side of Avent Street on the northeast, N. Grace Street on the southeast and the west side of Peachtree Street on the southwest. The blockfaces included in the district are the 500 and 600 blocks of Avent Street, the 100 and 200 blocks of Braswell Street, the 100 block of Earl Street, the property at 437 Falls Road, the 500 to 700 blocks of Falls Road, the 500 block of Peachtree Street, the 600 block of the east side of Peachtree Street, and the 100 block of Wilkinson Street.

Falls Road, the main thoroughfare through the historic district, is essentially an extension of Main Street running northwest from downtown Rocky Mount to the Tar River, passing through the Rocky Mount Mills Village (NR 1999). The wide, two-lane, one-way road with wide shoulders is lined with sidewalks and mature oak trees. Peachtree Street running along the western boundary of the historic district, travels southeastward from the Tar River to the business district. All other streets in the district are two-way residential streets lined with sidewalks.

The Falls Road Historic District contains a total of fifty-six principal resources and forty-five secondary resources. Seventy-four buildings and one structure, or seventy-five percent, of the total one-hundred resources are counted as contributing. These are made up of forty-nine buildings, primarily houses, one brick wall, and twenty-five garages and sheds. None of the buildings in the district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic district encompasses substantial residences sited on spacious lots with mature shade trees erected by some of the city's wealthy businessmen and professionals in the early twentieth century. Smaller, yet stylish, residences were built for moderately affluent salesmen, railroad agents, and managers along neighboring streets. The houses in the district epitomize nationally popular architectural styles of the early twentieth century.

The Queen Anne style was the style of choice in the early development of the Falls Road area. The Lyon-Looney House at 521 Falls Road reflects this first stage of residential growth. Built by local contractor, Albert S. Lyon, circa 1908, the asymmetrical house displays decorative sawnwork, classical porch columns, a turned balustrade, and a pediment with sunburst pattern over the porch entry. The most impressive example is the T.B. Bunn House built circa 1905 at the northeast corner of Falls Road and N. Grace Street. Built for T.B. Bunn, secretary and treasurer of Rocky Mount Mills, the lovely two-story Queen Anne style dwelling is said to have been selected from a plan in *Ladies Home Journal* and built by local contractor John C. Stout. Irregular in shape, the house exhibits a corner turret, bracketed eaves, and unique diamond-pane windows. Two smaller examples of the style originally stood at 528 and 534 Falls Road. Both one-story Queen Anne cottages were moved in the early 1920s to 540 and 536 Avent Street, respectively, when larger brick homes were erected on Falls Road. Other Victorian-era cottages are found in the district along Earl and Avent Streets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 2  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

Many of Rocky Mount's leading businessmen chose the Neoclassical Revival style for their residences in the early 1900s. The earliest example in the district is the charming Thorpe-Gay House, a Neoclassical Revival cottage built for a merchant in the early 1900s. The one-story dwelling with cross-gable roof treated with lunettes is accented by richly carved double doors illustrating the application of ornate millwork by many middle-class homeowners during the period. The later phase of the Neoclassical Revival style from about 1925 to the 1950s is exemplified by the Dozier-Wilkinson House at 600 Falls Road. Built circa 1929, the house features a side-gabled roof with modillioned eaves, a Flemish bond brick veneer, and a two-story pedimented portico over a one-story curved entry porch with a wrought-iron balcony. A contemporaneous, brick, two-car garage stands behind the house reflecting this popular addition to residences in the 1920s.

The Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival styles appear in the Falls Road Historic District as early as 1914 and continued in popularity into the 1950s. An early example of the Colonial Revival style is the William E. Fenner House at 437 Falls Road. Built for a leading tobacconist circa 1914, the Fenner House is the only frame example of the style in the district. It exhibits a pedimented entry with leaded glass sidelights and fanlight and colonnaded porches on the side elevations. The circa 1917 Thomas E. Marshall House at 700 Falls Road reveals hallmarks of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in the district. The brick veneered dwelling includes a high gambrel roof with full-facade shed dormers and an engaged porch with Doric columns. The 1920s reflected a surge in the style when a row of handsome brick Colonial Revival houses were erected for physicians associated with the nearby Park View Hospital (now demolished). The Whitehead House at 517 Falls Road was built by prominent contractor D. J. Rose for Dr. J. P. Whitehead in 1923. The two-story, brick Colonial Revival style house has an array of stylistic elements including an entrance portico, gabled dormers with arched windows and a side porch and porte-cochere to balance the facade. Another fine example is the two-story, five bay, brick house built for Dr. Edmund S. Boice at 534 Falls Road. Designed by Richmond architect, W. Duncan Lee, the Colonial Revival style house was erected by local contractor Sam Toler and exhibits a side-gable roof, hipped dormers, a dentil cornice and a pedimented stoop with thick Doric columns.

The largest house in the district is a prestigious, architect-designed dwelling built for R. H. Gregory in 1950. Standing on a 1.2 acre lot at 110 Braswell Street, the two-story brick Georgian Revival style dwelling features a side-gable roof, flanking exterior chimneys with corbeled caps, hipped dormers, a dentil cornice, one-story hipped side wings, and a pedimented stoop supported by fluted square posts and paneled railing.

Craftsman and Period Revival style dwellings were built by many of the upper-middle and middle-class residents in the district, especially along Avent Street. Built before 1917, the Moore House at 524 Avent Street is an intact pyramidal hipped roof bungalow with plain siding, a hipped dormer and an engaged porch with thick posts and railing. Another well-executed example is the house at 554 Avent Street. Built for William E. Spruill, a manager with Carolina Building Supply, in the 1920s, the one-and-a-half story, brick veneered bungalow features a hipped roof and a front gabled porch with brick posts and a semi-circular gable vent. The 1921 Alcocke House at 624 Falls Road is the only example of the Prairie style in the district. The two-story brick house features wide bracketed eaves, Craftsman style sash and a one-story porch and porte-cochere with thick brick posts accented by

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 3  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

iron diamonds. In the early 1930s, R. H. Gregory Jr., an executive with the Commercial Building and Loan Association, built a brick Tudor Revival style house with a front exterior chimney at 122 Braswell Street.

One historic school stands in the southwestern section of the historic district in the 500 block of Peachtree Street. Designed by Benton and Benton, the Wilkinson School was built by contractor E.S. Derby in 1923. The two-story school features a Flemish bond brick veneer, a flat roof, bands of windows and two projecting entrance bays with triangular parapets, narrow vertical windows and flared pilasters with concrete caps.

**Historic District Inventory**

**Notes:**

Properties are organized alphabetically by street name and numerically by street number. The east side of north-south streets and the north side of east-west streets are listed first. Dates are estimated using design and style, the 1912, 1917, 1923, 1954 and 1956 Sanborn Maps (SM), the 1908-09, 1912-13, 1914-15, 1920, 1925, 1930, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1945, 1948 and 1950 Rocky Mount City Directories (CD); and secondary sources such as Richard Mattson's *History and Architecture of Nash County* (Mattson), the *Central City Historic Buildings Inventory* for Rocky Mount (Mearns), and oral histories collected by Ms. Laura E. Boice (interview).

Houses are either dated by the earliest Sanborn Map that they appear on and/or by the earliest city directory listing. Most of the houses are dated circa 1912, circa 1917 or circa 1923 as these are the earliest Sanborn Maps of the district. The 1930 city directory is the first directory available which lists the occupants by street address. This directory was used to establish an occupant which was then traced backward to previous city directories in an effort to establish the earliest known occupant. The name given to the houses in the district is based on the earliest known occupant, not necessarily the original builder. Owner or tenant occupancy is not distinguished until the 1940 city directory.

All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria: Any building built after the end of the period of significance, in 1950, is noncontributing due to its age (NC-age). Buildings built before 1950 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their original character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-alt.). Examples of this are complete window, door, and porch replacements; artificial siding that obscures the original door, window, wall and eave detailing; and extensive post-1950 additions. Artificial siding such as aluminum, vinyl or asbestos shingles does not automatically render a building noncontributing as long as the application of the siding does not obscure the decorative finish of the openings and the eaves.

**500 block Avent  
Street, East side**

507 Avent St.  
C

**Harper House.** The frame, one-story, hipped roof late Queen Anne style cottage features a hipped cut-away bay, two brick interior chimneys with corbeled caps, a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 4  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

ca. 1923 standing seam tin roof, two-over-two sash windows, a glazed and paneled door with two-light transom, and a hipped roof porch with Doric columns with fluted caps and plain railing. The house is covered with aluminum siding.

a. NC (ST) Pool ca. 1960. Rectangular, concrete, below ground pool.

The house was built between 1917 and 1923. Walter G. Harper, a salesman with Burnette Motor Company, was the occupant in 1925. (CD, SM-1923)

511 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**McGee House.** The frame, three-bay, one-story Colonial Revival cottage with a clipped side gable on hipped roof features an engaged pedimented porch supported by paired Doric columnettes, an exterior end brick chimney and a Craftsman style glazed and paneled door. Alterations include vinyl siding and replacement sash windows.

a. NC Other House. ca. 1955 One-story, side gabled dwelling three bays wide with recessed entrance, paired six-over-six sash windows and vinyl siding.

The house was built between 1917 and 1923. Kenly H. McGee, a manager with the China-American Tobacco and Trading Company, was the occupant in 1925. (CD, SM-1923)

515 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Lawrence House.** The frame, one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow with side gable roof features an engaged full-facade porch with replacement chamfered posts, six-over-six sash and multi-paned fixed windows, a shed dormer with six-over-six casement windows, a tin roof, knee braces, and an interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. The house is covered with aluminum siding and has a replacement front door.

a. NC Garage. ca. 1960. Frame, front gable two-story garage covered with aluminum siding.

The house was built before 1917. James B. Lawrence was the occupant in 1930. (SM-1917, CD)

519 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Whitaker House.** One-story, frame, gable and wing dwelling with six-over-six sash windows, tin roof, an exterior end brick chimney, and plain siding. A metal roofed porch with scrolled iron rails is added to the front of the house. The front gable has been extended with a segmental arched sloped entrance stoop.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 5  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

a. C Garage. ca. 1917. Frame, front gable one-car garage with shed extension. Features plain and vertical board siding, exposed rafters and tin roof.

The house was built before 1917. Harry Whitaker, a meter reader with the City Public Utilities Office, was the occupant in 1934. (SM-1917, CD)

523 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Hunley House.** One-story, frame, gable and wing dwelling features an interior brick chimney, two-over-two sash windows, a classical and Victorian door surround and a shed roof porch with replacement posts. Vinyl siding is presently being put on the exterior. Other alterations include vinyl trim and replacement six-over-six sash windows.

a. C Garage. ca. 1917. Frame, front gable one-car garage with plain siding, exposed rafter tails and double vertical board hinged doors. (SM)

b. NC Shed. ca. 1980. Frame, shed roof shed with plywood exterior siding and six-paneled vinyl door.

c. NC Playhouse. ca. 1960. Frame, side-gable play house with shed roof porch and plain siding. All windows and doors are missing.

The house was built before 1917. Ernest L. Hunley, an engineer with J.J. Wells, was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1917)

527 Avent St.  
C  
late 1920s

**Williford House.** Frame, one-and-a-half story Tudor Revival style dwelling with front gable roof, wide plain siding with cottage corners, an exterior front brick chimney, and an enclosed side porch entrance. Fenestration includes single and paired six-over-six sash windows and a segmental arched window in the upper gable.

The house was built between 1925 and 1930. Hugh A. Williford, a salesman, was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1954)

529 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Thorp House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, hipped roof bungalow features a hipped three-bay dormer, a tin roof, two interior brick chimneys, a glazed and paneled Craftsman style door, and a hipped roof porch with battered posts on brick bases. Alterations include vinyl siding and replacement six-over-one sash windows.

a. NC Shed. ca. 1990. Frame shed with vertical board siding.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 6  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

The house was built between 1917 and 1923. The earliest known occupants of the house are Lewis S. Thorp, a manager in the rental department of Simmons & Kling Company, and Dr. Adam Thorp in 1925. (CD, SM-1923)

533 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Sibley House.** The frame, two-story, Craftsman style Foursquare features a pyramidal hipped roof, exposed rafter tails, an interior brick chimney, plain siding, and a one-story hipped roof porch supported by battered posts on brick bases with a plain railing. The second story extends over the porch about three feet. Fenestration includes a glazed door with transom and nine-over-one sash windows.

The house was built between 1917 and 1923. Clinton G. Sibley, a district superintendent with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1923)

543 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1930

**Dr. Adam T. Thorp House.** The frame, one-story, hipped roof dwelling features exposed rafter tails, an interior brick chimney, a front pedimented porch with a horseshoe-shaped vent supported by Doric columns. Fenestration includes large eight-over-eight, paired six-over-six sash windows, and six-paned casements. The front entrance consists of a glazed and paneled door with transom. A one-story hipped roof addition with similar detailing was added to the right side sometime after 1956. The exterior is covered with vinyl.

a. C Garage. 1930s. Frame, front-gable two-car garage with German siding and exposed rafter tails.

Dr. Adam T. Thorp apparently had the house built between 1925 and 1930. (CD, SM-1954)

**500 block Avent  
Street, W side**

516 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Warren House.** The one-story, hipped roof Queen Anne cottage features a pedimented gable wing with cut-away corners, a glazed door, an exterior end and an interior brick chimney, two-over-two sash windows, a tin roof, and a hipped stoop with turned posts. The house is covered with vinyl siding.

a. C Other House/Garage. ca. 1923. Frame, side-gable garage with loft with board and batten siding, tin roof and vertical board doors. The building is identified on the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 7  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

1923 Sanborn Map as a dwelling (516 ½) with an attached auto garage. (SM)

The house was built before 1917. Frederick A. Warren, a factory manager for Thorpe and Ricks, Inc., was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1917)

524 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Moore House.** The one-story pyramidal hipped roof Craftsman bungalow features plain siding, a hipped dormer, exposed rafter tails, and an engaged full-facade porch with square plain sided posts and railing. Fenestration consists of a glazed door, eight-over-one sash windows, and four-paned casements.

a. C Garage. ca. 1923. Frame, pyramidal roofed one-car garage with plain siding and exposed rafter tails.

The house was built before 1917. Harry B. Moore, a city plumbing inspector, was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1917)

530 Avent St.  
NC-age  
ca. 1980

**House.** Contemporary, frame, one-story, L-plan house with vertical board siding, a low gable roof and an attached two-car garage.

536 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1912

**Parrish House.** The frame, one-story hipped roof Queen Anne cottage features multiple front gables, a three-bay facade, a tin roof, plain siding, four-over-four and two-over-two sash windows, and a full-facade hipped roof porch with slender battered posts and a plain railing. Small four-paned windows highlight the three front gable ends.

Built before 1912, the house originally stood at 534 Falls Road. Dr. Edmund Boice had the house moved to its current location in 1924 to make room for the construction of a new residence. Zachariah A. Parrish, a special claims agent with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, lived in the house at its Falls Road location in 1915. Mrs. Annie Anderson was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1912, interview)

540 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1912

**Dubois House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, cottage with rear ell features a side-gable roof, plain siding, six-over-six sash windows, a six-paneled door with transom and sidelights, a tin roof, and a three-quarter length hipped roof porch with Doric columns and turned railing. The flanking exterior end brick chimneys appear to be replacements.

a. NC Garage. ca. 1969. Steeply pitched front gable, frame one-car garage with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 8**  
**Falls Road Historic District**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**

vinyl siding.

Built before 1912, the house originally stood at 528 Falls Road. L.Lee Gravely, a tobacconist, had the house moved to its current location in 1924 to make room for the construction of his residence. Bernard A. Dubois was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1912, interview)

544 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Parrish House II.** The frame, three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, steeply pitched side gable bungalow features a two-bay shed dormer, a tin roof, two interior brick chimneys, six-over-one sash windows, a front entrance with sidelights and transom, and an engaged full-facade porch with paired and triple Doric posts. The house is covered with vinyl siding.

The house was built circa 1917. Zachariah A. Parrish, a special claims agent with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, was the occupant in 1920. (CD, SM-1917)

554 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1930

**William E. Spruill House.** The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay brick veneered bungalow with a hipped roof features a hipped dormer and a frame, front gabled porch with a semi-circular vent and brick posts. Fenestration consists of a glazed door and paired and triple nine-over-one sash windows.

a. C Garage. 1930s. Brick, hipped roof, two-car garage with exposed rafter tails. The building appears to have been remodeled into a house or shed. The garage bays are now frame with six-over-six sash windows flanking a pair of plywood doors.

The house was built between 1923 and 1930. William E. Spruill, a sales manager with Carolina Building Supply Company, was the occupant in 1930. (CD, SM-1954)

558 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1948

**Eatman House.** The frame, one story, three-bay Colonial Revival cottage features a side-gable roof, three gabled dormers, an exterior end brick chimney and a one-story side screened-porch with dentil cornice. Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows and a six-panel door with classical surround. The exterior is covered with vinyl siding.

a. C Garage. ca.1948. Frame, front-gable one-car garage with German siding, and glazed and paneled roll-up door.

The house was built between 1945 and 1948. Edward Eatman was the occupant in 1948. (CD, SM-1954)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 9  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

562 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Wagoner House.** The one-story, frame bungalow with hipped roof features a hipped dormer, single and paired nine-over-one sash windows, a glazed door with transom, and an engaged full-facade porch with vinyl covered battered posts on brick bases with a plain railing. The house is covered with vinyl siding and the dormer windows are covered with paint.

The house was built before 1917. Thomas A. Wagoner, a manager with G.R. Kernney Company, was the occupant in 1930. (SM-1917, CD)

**600 block Avent  
Street, E side**

609 Avent St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Ezzell House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, hipped roof bungalow with gable wings features a tin roof, two interior brick chimneys, Craftsman style eight-over-one sash windows, a Craftsman style glazed door, and a one-story hipped roof porch with battered posts on brick bases with a plain railing. The exterior is covered with vinyl siding.

a. NC Shed. 1960s. Frame, front gable shed with vinyl siding and six-over-six sash windows.

The house was built between 1917 and 1923. Hill L. Ezzell, a carpenter, was the occupant in 1925. (SM-1923, CD)

**100 block Braswell  
Street, N side**

110 Braswell St.  
C  
1950

**R. Henry Gregory House.** The two-and-a-half story, brick Georgian Revival dwelling with flanking exterior brick chimneys with corbeled caps and one-story wings was designed by Wilson, N.C. architect Thomas B. Herman in 1950. The eleven-bay house features three hipped dormers, a dentil cornice, a projecting stretcher row beltcourse, and a pedimented stoop supported by fluted square posts and paneled railing. The main entrance consists of paneled doubleleaf doors with narrow sidelights crowned by a dentil cornice. The one-story hipped wings intersect with the main block by small gabled sections. Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows in the upper story and one-story wings and six-over-nine sash windows in the first story. All windows have flat splayed arches, shutters, and molded wooden sills. The carved mantle in the living room is a copy from the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 10  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

Governor's Palace in Williamsburg, Virginia. The house is surrounded by a three foot brick wall and sits on 1.2 acres which was originally landscaped by Greensboro landscape architect Hugh Harris.

a. NC Maid's Quarters and Garage. ca. 1956. A one-story, hipped roof building with vertical board siding and six-over-six sash windows attached to a two-car porte-cochere supported by heavy brick posts. (SM)

b. C (ST) Brick wall. 1950. Three foot high Flemish bond brick wall capped by curved stretchers. (SM)

Mr. and Mrs. R. Henry Gregory, co-founder of Wimberly and Gregory Co., had this house built in 1950. Maniken Brick Manufacturing Company of Richmond, the brick supplier for the house closed before the last shipment of brick was made. Mr. Gregory purchased the failing brick company in order to receive the remainder of the brick. The First Presbyterian Church acquired the property as a gift in 1983 and received full ownership at the death of Mrs. Gregory in 1997. It was acquired a year later by the present owner, Andre Knight. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

122 Braswell St.  
C  
early 1930s

**R. Henry Gregory Jr. House.** The one-and-a-half-story, brick Tudor Revival style house with cross gable roof features a front exterior chimney, Flemish bond brick veneer, and a projecting gabled entrance with a Tudor style wood door. Other features include single and paired six-over-one sash windows with header row sills and stretcher lintels, a rear shed dormer, and a large scrolled tie rod on the front chimney.

R. Henry Gregory Jr., secretary-treasurer of Commercial Building & Loan Association, apparently built the house between 1930 and 1934. (CD, SM-1954)

**200 Braswell Street, N  
side**

200-212 Braswell St.  
NC-age  
ca. 1954

**Apartment Building.** One-story, red brick, hipped roof, U-shaped six-unit apartment building with middle courtyard. Features include two-over-two horizontal metal windows, glazed and paneled doors, and metal hipped roof stoops with decorative brackets. (SM-1954, CD)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 11  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

**100 block Earl Street,  
N side**

116 Earl St.  
C  
late 1920s

**Denson House.** Frame, three-bay, one-story Craftsman bungalow with side gable roof features plain siding, eight-over-one Craftsman sash, knee braces, a glazed and paneled door, and an engaged front gable porch with battered posts on brick bases.

The house was built between 1923 and 1930. John W. Denson was the occupant in 1930. (SM-1954, CD)

120 Earl St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Ellis House.** Frame, three-bay, one-story, side-gable bungalow with tin roof, two-over-two sash windows, plain siding, and a full-facade hipped roof porch with Craftsman style posts. A metal awning is attached to the front porch.

The house was built before 1917 probably as a rental. This house and the one at 124 Earl Street appear with another identical house on a large lot on the 1917 Sanborn Map. Knox J. Ellis, who ran a lunchroom at 833 Falls Road, occupied the house in 1925. (SM-1917, CD)

124 Earl St.  
C  
ca. 1917

**House.** Frame, three-bay, one-story, side-gable cottage with tin roof, two-over-two sash windows, plain siding, and a hipped roof porch with replacement posts. The front door is also a replacement.

The house was built before 1917 probably as a rental. This house and the one at 120 Earl Street appear with another identical house on a large lot on the 1917 Sanborn Map. (SM-1917)

128 Earl St.  
C  
early 1940s

**Greenman House.** The frame, one-story, L-plan Minimal Traditional style house features six-over-six sash windows, a brick corbeled chimney, and a shed roofed porch with arcaded eaves and plain posts. Aluminum siding covers the exterior siding.

**a. C Garage. 1940s.** Frame, front-gable one-car garage with vertical board doors and aluminum siding.

The house was built in the early 1940s. Walter J. Greenman, an overseer with Sidney Blumenthal & Company, was the occupant in 1942. (CD, SM-1954)

132 Earl St.

**Laughridge House.** The frame, one-story, L-plan Minimal Traditional style house

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 12  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

C  
early 1940s

features six-over-six sash windows, an interior brick chimney, a glazed and paneled door, and a shed roofed porch with arcaded eaves, plain posts and plain railing. Aluminum siding covers the exterior siding.

The house was built in the early 1940s. Charles H. Laughridge, an assistant plant engineer with Sidney Blumenthal & Company, was the occupant in 1942. (CD, SM-1954)

136 Earl St.  
C  
early 1940s

**Barnes House.** The brick, one-story, L-plan Minimal Traditional style house features six-over-six sash windows, an exterior end brick chimney, a glazed and paneled door, and an engaged porch with plain posts and arcaded eaves. A bay window accents the front gable. Wide weatherboards finish the porch walls.

a. C Garage. ca. 1940s. Frame, front gable one-car garage with side shed addition, plain siding, and exposed rafter tails.

The house was built in the early 1940s. Lowell E. Barnes, a local fireman, was the occupant in 1942. (CD, SM-1954)

**100 block Earl Street,  
S side**

119 Earl St.  
C  
ca. 1948

**Morgan House.** The one-story, side-gable Colonial Revival cottage with Flemish bond brick veneer features eight-over-eight sash windows and a recessed six-panel door with fluted surround.

The house was built between 1945 and 1948. George L. Morgan Jr. was the occupant in 1948. (CD, SM-1954)

**400 block Falls Road,  
E side**

437 Falls Road  
C  
ca. 1914

**Fenner House.** The frame, two-story, hipped roof Colonial Revival style dwelling features flanking colonnaded one-story porches, a molded and dentil cornice, a pedimented entry with paired Doric columns and pilasters, and an interior brick chimney. Fenestration consists of paired six-over-six and nine-over-nine sash windows, a six panel door with leaded glass sidelights and fanlight, and some traceried windows. The three-bay house is covered with aluminum siding.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 13  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

William E. Fenner, a leading tobacconist, had the house built circa 1914. In the early 1980s the house was renovated and converted into the offices of the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce. It is presently vacant and for sale. (Mattson, CD, interview, SM-1917)

**500 block Falls Road,  
E side**

509 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1905

**Turner B. Bunn House.** The lovely, frame, two-story Queen Anne style dwelling with pyramidal hipped roof features a witch's cap corner turret, plain siding, decorative knee braces, curved cornice brackets, projecting bay windows, two interior brick chimneys, and a slate roof. The recessed one-story pedimented porch features chamfered posts with egg and dart molding and a plain railing. Fenestration include diamond-pane windows and a leaded glass door with stained glass transom.

a. C Garage. ca. 1912. Frame, hipped roof two-car garage with tin roof, German siding, four-over-four sash window and glazed and bead board doors.

b. NC shed. ca. 1960. Frame, gable-on-hip tin roof with plain siding and two horizontal paneled doors.

Turner B. Bunn, the secretary and treasurer of Rocky Mount Mills, purchased the land for the house in 1904 and had the house built circa 1905. The house design is said to have come from *The Ladies Home Journal* and the building was overseen by Rocky Mount architect John C. Stout. Bunn lived in the house until at least the late 1940s. (Mattson, interview, CD, SM-1912)

517 Falls Rd.  
C  
1923

**Whitehead House.** The two-story, five-bay, Flemish bond brick Colonial Revival style dwelling with side gable roof features flanking exterior end brick chimneys, a modillioned cornice, and three pedimented dormers with classical pilasters and round arched windows with traceried sash and keystone. Other features consist of a one-story entry porch with an iron balcony, modillioned cornice and Doric columns and posts. A one-story colonnaded porch and porte-cochere with iron railed balconies flank the main block. Fenestration consists of nine-over-nine sash windows with stone sills, and a six-panel door with leaded glass sidelights and fanlight. The first story windows have a round-arched stuccoed transom .

a. C Garage. ca. 1923. Brick, two-car garage with a classical cornice, parapet roof

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 14  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

and glazed and diagonal sheathed doors.

General Practitioner, Dr. J.P. Whitehead, who helped build Parkview Hospital in 1914, had this house designed by a Richmond architect named Hudson in 1923. D.J. Rose from Rocky Mount was the house's builder. In addition to his private practice, Dr. Whitehead served as the Rocky Mount Mills physician. Mrs. Alta C. Whitehead occupied the house from 1934 until at least 1948. (Interview, SM-1923, CD)

521 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1908

**Lyon-Looney House.** The two-story, frame, hipped roof Queen Anne style dwelling with gables features plain siding, a tin roof, decorative bargeboard in the front gable bay with cutaway corners, an interior brick chimney with corbeled cap, and a one-story hipped porch with a sunburst pediment over the entry. The porch is supported by round classical columns and has a turned railing. Fenestration consists of two-over-two sash windows, and a glazed and paneled door with sidelights and four-light transom.

a. C Garage/Maid's Quarters ca. 1917. Frame, two-story, side-gable building with an interior brick chimney, two-over-two and six-over-six sash windows, a six-panel door, and two garage bays with glazed and bead board doors. (SM)

In 1906, Albert S. Lyon, a local builder, purchased the lot from T. V. Avent and W.S. Wilkinson, trustee for \$450. Lyon built the house for his residence circa 1908. Mr. Lyon sold the house to Dr. J.J. Williams Looney, an eye, ear, nose, and throat doctor in 1918. Dr. Looney, originally from Virginia, came to Rocky Mount to serve the community during the influenza epidemic. During the late 1920s or early 1930s three rooms were added to the house to accommodate Dr. Looney's growing family. (Mattson, DB, interview, CD, SM-1912)

529 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1905

**Avent-Gay-Gravely House.** The frame, two-story L-plan dwelling features two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps, plain siding, a rear gable ell, a dentiled cornice, and a one-story shed porch with paired Doric columns and a pediment over the entry. The fenestration consists of one-over-one sash windows and a six-panel door with leaded sidelights and fanlight. A second entrance is to the right of the main entrance and was probably added in the 1940s when alterations to the house were made.

a. C Garage. ca. 1923. Brick veneered, hipped roof, two-car garage with hipped dormers, exposed rafter tails, glazed and bead board doors and a one-story flat-roofed brick veneer addition with wood casement windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 15  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

b. C Shed. ca. 1920. One-story, common bond brick building with hipped tin roof, exposed rafter tails, and small window openings. The building is missing a door. The building was apparently moved to the site after 1956. (SM)

c. C Shed. ca. 1920. One-story, common bond brick shed with pyramidal hipped roof. The building was apparently moved to the site after 1956. (SM)

Thomas V. Avent had the house built in the early 1900s and later sold it to Mr. Bob Gay. It was later bought by Mr. J.O.W. Gravely circa 1912. Mr. Gravely founded the China-American Tobacco and Trading Company in 1918. His widow and son, P.K. Gravely continued living in the house until the 1950s. P.K. Gravely served as Mayor of Rocky Mount and was a prominent tobacco businessman. (interview, CD, SM-1912)

543 Falls Rd.  
NC-age  
ca. 1955

**Boice House II**. One-story, five-bay, Cape Cod cottage with a steeply pitched side gable roof features a Flemish bond brick veneer, six-over-six sash windows, and an exterior end brick chimney.

Dr. Edmund S. Boice had the house built circa 1955. (interview, SM-1956, CD)

547 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1917

**Woodard House**. The two-story, three-bay, hipped roof dwelling with rusticated stucco veneer over solid brick construction features hipped dormers, one-over-one sash windows with stone sills, and two interior brick chimneys. The original full-facade porch was replaced with a welcoming-arm staircase and false iron balcony. The original entrance is retained with recessed transoms and sidelights.

a. NC-age. Garage. ca. 1980. Frame, gambrel roof two-car garage with aluminum siding and glazed and paneled doors.

b. NC-age. Garage. ca. 1970. Frame, side-gable, two-car garage with aluminum siding and glazed and paneled door.

The house was built before 1917. William Woodard, director of Citizens Building and Loan Company and an agent with Atlantic Life Insurance Company of Richmond, Virginia, is the earliest known occupant of the house in 1930. (CD, SM-1917)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 16  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

**600 block Falls Road,  
E side**

615 Falls Rd.  
NC-age  
ca. 1990

**Hill House.** The frame, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, Cape Cod cottage features narrow gabled dormers, nine-over-nine sash windows, a double shouldered exterior end chimney, and vinyl siding.

a. NC-age. Garage. ca. 1990. Contemporaneous, frame, one-and-a-half story, two-car garage with narrow gabled dormers, six-over-six sash windows, and vinyl siding.

Chancey Hill, a real estate broker, had the house built in the 1990s. (interview)

**500 block Falls Road,  
W side**

512 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1900

**Thorpe-Gay House.** The frame, one-story Neoclassical Revival cottage with cross-gable roof treated with lunettes in the gables features plain siding, single and paired two-over-two sash windows, two rear gable ells, two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps, and a one-story full-facade porch with paired Doric posts and plain railing. The front entrance consists of carved double doors with glazing and decorative paneling and a transom, now covered.

a. C Shed/Garage ca. 1912. Tall, frame, one-story hipped roof garage with plain siding and five panel door. A frame, shed roof garage building adjoins the side and wraps around the rear. The shed addition features a diagonal sheathed double door, plywood covered windows, and a lower roof line. (SM)

Alex P. Thorpe, a local merchant, had the house built circa 1900. By 1908, Robert R. Gay a hardware merchant and owner of Gay's Funeral Home had acquired the house. (SM-1912, CD, interview)

526 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1912

**Moye House.** The frame, three-bay, one-story Queen Anne cottage with cross gable on hipped roof features a dentil cornice, tin roof, two-over-two sash windows, two interior brick chimneys, and a hipped roof porch with replacement porch posts. The exterior is covered with aluminum siding.

a. NC Shed. ca. 1917. Dilapidated, frame, front gable shed with plain siding, concrete block foundation and shed addition partially constructed. (SM)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 17  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

The house was built before 1912. William S. Moye, an accountant, was the occupant in 1930. (SM-1912, CD)

528 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1924

**Gravelly House.** The two-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival dwelling with Flemish bond brick veneer features a slate roof, a bracketed cornice, three flanking exterior end brick chimneys, three hipped dormers, a one-story full-facade shed porch with center pediment supported by Doric columns, and a one-story enclosed shed porch. The entrance consists of a six-panel door with ornate fanlight and sidelights. All windows are six-over-six sash with stone sills. The first story windows surmount wooden panels.

a. C Garage. ca. 1924. Contemporaneous, brick, side-gable, two-car garage with Flemish bond brick veneer, two hipped dormers, a slate roof, and two replacement doors.

b. NC Shed. ca. 1955. Frame, side-gable, shed with exposed rafter tails, plain siding and casement windows. (SM)

L. Lee Gravelly, the secretary-treasurer of China American Tobacco & Trading Co. had the house built circa 1924. D.J. Rose is said to be the attributed builder. L.L. Gravelly also served in the State Legislature. (SM-1954, interview, CD)

534 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1924

<sup>4 J.D.C.</sup>  
**Dr. Edmund Simpson Boice House.** The five-bay, two-story, brick Colonial Revival style dwelling with side-gable roof features an English bond brick veneer, a slate roof, three hipped dormers with six-over-six sash windows, a dentil cornice, two interior end brick chimneys, and a pedimented stoop with thick Doric columns and dentil cornice. A side shed roof porch now enclosed stands on the south elevation. Fenestration consists of eight-over-eight sash all over and a six-panel door with elliptical fanlight with keystone.

a. NC-age. Garage. ca. 1960 Frame, modern two-car garage.

Dr. Edmund S. Boice had this house built circa 1924 after moving to Rocky Mount to serve as a surgeon at Park View Hospital. The house was designed by Richmond, Virginia architect W. Duncan Lee and built by local contractor, Sam Toler. The house is a mirror twin of a house on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia. The circular front stairs were built in Richmond and shipped in two sections via railcar. Dr. Boice and his associate Dr. B.C. Willis founded the Boice-Willis Clinic patterned after the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. (SM-1954, interview, CD)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 18  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

540 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1949

**Gravelly House.** The one-story brick L-plan Ranch house features vinyl siding in the front gable, a recessed entrance, and horizontal two-over-two sash windows.

Edmund Gravelly, grandson of J.O.W. Gravelly, had this house built circa 1949. Mr. Gravelly was associated with the China American Tobacco Company. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

**600 block Falls Road,  
West Side**

600 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1929

**Dozier-Wilkinson House.** The two-story Neoclassical Revival style dwelling with combed Flemish bond brick veneer features a green tile side-gable roof, two gabled dormers with shingle siding, flanking exterior end chimneys, a modillioned cornice, and a projecting front gable center bay with oculus window, triglyph frieze and partially fluted Doric pilasters. Other features include two one-story porches with Doric columns and wrought-iron balcony balustrades and a classical circular entry porch with curved wrought-iron balcony balustrade and modillioned cornice supported by Doric columns with fluted caps. The side porches and front entry are connected by a brick and concrete patio. Fenestration consists of three-part windows with six- and nine-over-one sash windows with stone sills, quarter circle windows flanking the chimneys, and a six-panel door with leaded glass elliptical fanlight and sidelights. The center bay three-part window in the upper story is topped by a leaded glass fanlight with a concrete keystone.

a. C Garage. ca. 1929. Contemporaneous one-and-a-half story, brick two-car garage with front gable roof with returns, glazed and diagonally sheathed rolling doors, and a Palladian style window with Craftsman sash.

John S. Dozier with Dozier & Co. general merchandise had the house built in 1929. The design was copied from a house in Wilson, N.C. William S. Wilkinson, president of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co. Insurance and Realty, purchased the house from Dozier shortly after it was constructed. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

612 Falls Rd.  
C  
1938

**McGee House II.** The two-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival style house with side-gable roof exhibits a brown Flemish bond brick veneer, three gabled wall dormers, two double-flue interior end brick chimneys, a one-story gabled porch on the left side and a pedimented entrance with Doric pilasters. Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows with wooden sills and a six-panel door with a webbed elliptical

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 19  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

fanlight.

a. C Garage/Shed. ca. 1940. Frame, front gabled one-car garage with German siding and enclosed garage bay with board and batten siding.

Kenly McGee, a buyer for the China-American Tobacco & Trading Co., had the house built in 1938. Mr. McGee lived at 511 Avent Street in the 1920s. Wilson architect, Thomas Herman, designed the house and Sam Toler Jr. served as builder. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

620 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Briles House.** The two-story, three-bay, side-gable Colonial Revival house with painted brick veneer features a full-facade shed dormer, an engaged porch with Doric columns, and an exterior end brick chimney. Fenestration consists of paired twelve-paned casements on the first story, six-over-six sash in the shed dormer, and a classical entrance with elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Alterations include vinyl siding to the dormer, louvered shutters to the front windows and a 1950s rear addition.

a. C Garage/Shed. 1940s. Brick, hipped roof one-car garage and shed building.

b. C Shed. 1940s. Frame, front gable shed with plain siding and exposed rafters.

Thomas D. Briles, secretary-treasurer of I.W. Rose Drug Company had the house built between 1917 and 1923. (interview, CD, SM-1923)

624 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1921-22

**Alcocke House.** The two-story, three-bay, brick Prairie style dwelling features a hipped roof, wide bracketed eaves, a hipped dormer, an exterior end brick chimney, and a one-story hipped roof porch and porte-cochere with wrought-iron railing supported by brick posts. The porch has bracketed eaves and the brick supports are accented by square hammered-iron blocks at the tops. Fenestration consists of four- and eight-over-one Craftsman sash windows, a dormer casement and a six-panel front door.

a. C Garage. 1940s. Frame, front gable two-car garage with vertical board siding and exposed rafter tails.

Norwood L. Alcocke, founder and owner of Rocky Mount Nations Company, had the house built between 1921-1922. Other residents of the house include: Cy Young and Berck Ingram, both tobacco company executives; Dr. Noble, a surgeon

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 20  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

associated with the Rocky Mount Sanitarium and James Thornton, the CEO of Imperial Tobacco Company. In 1944 Dr. James Allen Whitaker, a urological surgeon, moved into the house. (SM-1923, CD, interview)

**700 block Falls Road,  
E side**

707 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1924

**Arrington House.** The two-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival style dwelling with hipped roof and Flemish bond brick veneer exhibits flanking exterior end brick chimneys, wide bracketed eaves, and a one-story hipped roof porch flanked by a one-story side porch and porte-cochere, all with paired paneled Doric posts. Fenestration consists of single and paired nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve sash windows with stone sills and a segmental arched glazed door with tracery. Brick stretcher rows outline the segmental arched door, the cornice, and porches.

a. C Garage. ca. 1924. Contemporaneous one-story, hipped roof brick veneer two-car garage with one original bay. The other has been enclosed with a wide plain siding and a twelve-light window and glazed door.

The house was built by local contractor, Sam Toler, for Miss Kate Arrington in 1924. (SM-1954, CD, interview)

**700 block Falls Road,  
W side**

700 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1920

**Marshall House.** The two-story, three-bay, brick Dutch Colonial Revival style dwelling features a side gambrel roof, a front shed dormer, an exterior end brick chimney and an engaged one-story porch with thick chamfered Doric columns. The rear one-story gabled ell addition has plain siding with cottage corners. Fenestration consists of paired six-over-one sash windows with double header row sills, small fanlights in the gable ends and a glazed front door.

a. C Garage. 1930s. Frame, front gable two-car garage with plain siding, exposed rafter tails, and glazed and beadboard garage doors.

Thomas Edmund Marshall, a bookkeeper with Rocky Mount Mills, had the house built circa 1920. The present owner, Frank Wilson, a retired Insurance salesman, purchased the house circa 1948. (SM-1923, Mattson, CD, interview)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 21  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

710 Falls Rd.  
C  
ca. 1929

**Charles Arrington House.** The two-story, five-bay, Colonial Revival style house with Flemish bond brick veneer features a side gabled slate roof, a dentiled cornice, flanking exterior end brick chimneys, flanking one-story porches and a pedimented front entry porch with paired Doric columnettes. Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows with shutters and concrete sills and a six-panel door with elliptical fanlight and sidelights. The first story windows are accented by flat arches with a center concrete keystone. The left side porch has been enclosed with aluminum siding.

a. C Garage. ca. 1930. Frame, two-car garage with plain siding.

Charles Arrington, manager of Cameo, Lyric & Palace Theatres, had the house built circa 1929. (SM-1954, CD, interview)

**500 block Peachtree  
Street, E side**

521 Peachtree St.  
C  
late 1930s

**Drs. Newsome and Margaret Battle House.** The two-story, side-gable Colonial Revival style house with Flemish bond brick veneer features six-over-six and eight-over-eight sash windows with flat arches and rowlock sills and an attached two-car garage with original sliding doors. The central entrance is surrounded by a broken scrolled pediment with dentil cornice and fluted pilasters. A one-story addition on the left side with segmental arched window was constructed in the 1950s as an entrance to the owner's medical office.

The house was erected between 1936 and 1940 by local contractor, D.J. Rose, for Drs. Newsome P. and Margaret White Battle. Newsome Battle was a surgeon while his wife, Margaret, was an obstetrics and gynecological physician with Park View Hospital. The house site was chosen to be within walking distance of the hospital. Both doctors later served at the Boice-Willis Clinic and Nash General Hospital. Dr. Margaret Battle continues to live in the house. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

**500 block Peachtree  
Street, W side**

500 Peachtree St.  
C  
1923

**(former) Wilkinson School.** Two-story, nine-bay, faint Gothic-inspired school with Flemish bond brick veneer and a flat roof. The school features two projecting entrance bays with triangular parapets, three narrow vertical windows, and flared pilasters with concrete caps. The entrances consist of double glazed and paneled

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 22  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

doors with webbed elliptical fanlights and rusticated concrete arched surrounds. A horizontal concrete band above the upper story windows and concrete coping add ornamentation to the school. Between the entrance bays are three bands of five and six-light horizontal louvered windows with concrete sills outlined vertically by recessed, narrow segmental arched windows. A one-story, flat roofed, brick addition dating from the 1950s stands at the rear right side.

Wilkinson School was designed by the architectural firm, Benton & Benton and erected by builder E.S. Derby in 1923. The school first served grades first through eighth. It later offered kindergarten through sixth grades. Miss Bessie McDearmon served as the school's first principal. The school closed sometime in the late 1960s. It is presently used as a church and school by Grace Covenant Church. (interview, SM-1923, CD, plaque)

**600 block Peachtree  
Street, E side**

V

**Vacant Lot.**

611 Peachtree St.  
C  
ca. 1950

**E.L. Pearce House.** Two-story, hipped roof Colonial Revival style dwelling with Flemish bond brick veneer exhibits eight-over-eight sash windows with flat arch lintels and two-paneled shutters, and a hipped roof stoop with square Doric posts. An octagonal window is in the center bay of the upper story.

a. C Shed. ca. 1950. Frame front-gable shed with plain siding and exposed rafter tails.

E.L. Pearce Sr., an associate with Thompson Pharmacy, had the house built circa 1950. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

V

**Vacant Lot.**

**100 block Wilkinson  
Street, N side**

126 Wilkinson St.  
C  
ca. 1934

**Hugh H. Battle House.** The frame, two-story, Dutch Colonial Revival style dwelling with slate roof exhibits plain siding, a three-bay shed dormer, and an arched pedimented entrance porch with dentil cornice and paired Doric posts. A gambrel roof two-car garage with glazed and paneled doors is attached to the rear right side.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 23  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows and a six-panel door with transom and sidelights with leaded glass.

Hugh H. Battle, Sr., a farmer, had the house built by local contractor, D.J. Rose, Sr., circa 1934. It is now occupied by Hugh H. Battle, Jr. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

**100 block Wilkinson  
Street, S side**

111 Wilkinson St.  
NC-age  
1950s

**House.** Brick, one-story, side-gable Tudor Revival cottage exhibits a front exterior chimney, a projecting gabled entrance bay with oculus window, and four-over-one Craftsman sash windows. A one-story gabled porch with wrought iron posts is on the left side. (SM-1954)

a. NC Garage. 1950s. Concrete block, front gable one-car garage.

127 Wilkinson St.  
NC-age  
post 1954

**W. Winstead House.** The one-story, side-gable Colonial Revival influenced Ranch house with Flemish bond brick veneer exhibits a side screened porch, an exterior end brick chimney, eight-over-eight and six-over-six sash windows, a modillioned cornice and a front entrance with fluted pilasters. On the left side is a hipped roof stoop supported by large brackets.

a. NC Shed. post 1954. Frame, side gable shed with vertical board siding.

Tobacconist, W. Winstead, had the house built by D.J. Rose in the late 1950s. (interview, SM-1956, CD)

131 Wilkinson St.  
NC-age  
early 1950s

**Dr. John H. Hugh House.** The elegant, brick, two-story Classical Revival style house with flanking exterior end chimneys features a side gable roof and a two-story portico with Union Jack balustrade supported by square Doric posts. One-story side wings flank the house, the left side being a screened porch with arcaded eaves. Fenestration consists of six-over-six sash windows, the first story windows with paneled bulkheads, and a six-panel door with a dentiled pediment and fluted pilasters.

Dr. John H. Hugh, an optometrist, had the house built in the early 1950s. (interview, CD, SM-1954)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 24**  
**Falls Road Historic District**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**

**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

**Summary:**

The Falls Road Historic District, an extremely well-preserved residential district containing one-hundred historic buildings, primarily houses, developed beginning in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to 1950, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of community development. The Falls Road Historic District is an intact early twentieth century residential neighborhood which grew northwestward from downtown Rocky Mount and is associated with many important tobacconists, businessmen, and physicians in Rocky Mount's history. Rocky Mount experienced a burst of construction from the late 1890s into the 1920s generated by the establishment of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market and the Atlantic Coast Line's repair shops. Like other main streets adjacent to downtown, stylish houses were built along Falls Road in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Falls Road, essentially an extension of Main Street, experienced a resurgence in development during the 1920s as large brick homes were built for doctors associated with Park View Hospital, which opened on Falls Road in 1914.

The Falls Road Historic District is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its significant collection of architecture. The residences of the Falls Road neighborhood reflect building practices in Rocky Mount from 1900 to 1950, when local architects and builders supplied nationally popular house designs to their clients. Contractors such as D. J. Rose, Sam Toler and architects, John C. Stout and Thomas Herman, built solid stylish houses along Falls Road, often from architects' plans. The district exemplifies popular architectural styles of the period, including the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, Georgian Revival and Craftsman styles. A small scattering of houses built in the early 1900s stand as a reminder of Rocky Mount's early boom of residential development. These include the circa 1900 Thorpe-Gay House, the circa 1900 Turner B. Bunn House, and the circa 1906 Lyon-Looney House. Several brick Colonial and Georgian Revival style homes represent the 1920s expansion of the neighborhood.

The Falls Road Historic District is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G. The district area continued to develop substantially until 1950, demonstrated by the construction of Revival style architecture. A principal example of this style within the district is the R. R. Gregory House, a Georgian Revival style house built in 1950. Because of the substantial development of the district until 1950 and the prominence of the Gregory House constructed the same year, the period of significance of the locally-significant historic district begins with the oldest building, constructed circa 1900, and continues to 1950, one year beyond the traditional fifty-year-old criterion.

**Historical Background and Community Development Context:**

Named after a rocky mound at the falls of the Tar River, Rocky Mount began with a post office in 1816 followed by an early textile mill powered by the falls in 1818. Some twenty years later, the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad was routed near Rocky Mount, drawing development east toward the railroad tracks and away from the falls. The momentous passing of the first train through Rocky Mount in 1840 began its long era as a railroad town. In 1867 Rocky Mount was incorporated and in 1871 the Edgecombe and Nash county line, once at the falls, was moved to the railroad tracks. As of today, the western half of the city is in Nash County and the eastern

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 25  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

half is in Edgecombe County.<sup>1</sup>

In 1890 the population of Rocky Mount was only 650.<sup>2</sup> This number soon changed as Rocky Mount grew at the turn of the century with the arrival of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market in the late 1880s. Tobacco culture spurred a multitude of allied industries drawing more and more people to the town. Stemmeries, re-drying plants and prizeries, the facilities where tobacco is inspected and packed, grew up around the sales operation. The first bank appeared in 1889 as a direct result of the large sums of money transacted at market time.<sup>3</sup> This burst of expansion created a sizeable business district built from the 1890s into the 1920s. The early tobacco factories and warehouses were clustered around the railroad tracks at the northern end of downtown on Goldleaf, MacDonald, and Pearl Streets and Falls Road. Fenner's Warehouse and J.O.W. Gravely's Warehouse both stood in the 200 block of Falls Road, south of the Falls Road Historic District.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the tobacco industry, the railroad continued to play an important role in Rocky Mount's expansion. In 1892 the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) Railroad (previously the Wilmington and Weldon) established a complex of maintenance, repair, construction and refueling facilities for the railroad known as Emerson Shops in South Rocky Mount.<sup>5</sup> Although the shops were located outside the city limits, the numerous workers directly impacted the growth of the town.

In the early 1890s, efforts were made to expand the business community. A promoter urged, "Come to Rocky Mount, go into business and get wealth." In 1892, the Rocky Mount Improvement and Manufacturing Co. was formed. Composed of a group of Pennsylvania capitalists acting as the Chamber of Commerce, the company purchased 384 acres lying on the west side of town in which they laid out roads, sold lots and built houses.<sup>6</sup>

The promotion of the town paid off as the first decade of the twentieth century was a period of boom and prosperity for the city. Tax valuation more than doubled between 1898 and 1905. Businesses at the time included four banks, four tobacco warehouses, six prizeries and stemmeries, four brick manufactories, three planing and saw mills, two sash and blind factories, one foundry, two machine shops, three buggy and wagon manufactories, two cotton seed oil mills, two ice factories, and one knitting mill in addition to numerous retail, commercial and service enterprises. Outside the city limits were Rocky Mount Mills and the ACL shops. This decade showed a population explosion which prompted various civic improvements. The 1910 census showed 8,000 against the 2,900 of 1900. Public water and sewage were provided in 1900 and electricity in late 1901. Main Street and two of the major roads stretching from downtown were paved in the early years of the century and sidewalks were laid in all the business and principal residential districts. A fire department of fifty-five men and two night

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<sup>1</sup> Mearns, *Central City Historic Buildings Inventory: Rocky Mount, North Carolina*.

<sup>2</sup> Mearns, *Central City Historic Buildings Inventory: Rocky Mount, North Carolina*.

<sup>3</sup> O'Quinlivan, *Rocky Mount Centennial Commemorative Book 1867-1967*.

<sup>4</sup> Bishir and Southern, pg. 335.

<sup>5</sup> O'Quinlivan, *Rocky Mount Centennial Commemorative Book 1867-1967*.

<sup>6</sup> Mearns, *Central City Historic Buildings Inventory: Rocky Mount, North Carolina*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 26**  
**Falls Road Historic District**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**

policemen began service in 1901. Cultural enterprises included a Masonic Hall and Opera Hall each constructed on Main Street between 1901 and 1904.<sup>7</sup>

Prior to 1910, there was little medical care available for the people of Rocky Mount outside of what a physician could do in his office or in a patient's house. Patients requiring serious surgery or prolonged treatment were sent to hospitals in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond where the local physicians had received advanced medical training. A train named "Eighty" left Rocky Mount every afternoon and traveled sixty miles with one or two patients referred from Rocky Mount to one of two hospitals in Richmond, Virginia. The first hospital in Rocky Mount was the 1898 Atlantic Coast Line Hospital which served only the employees of the railroad and their dependents. The need for a public hospital in Rocky Mount was met in 1913 when the Rocky Mount Sanitarium was opened by a group of doctors headed by Dr. L.W. Kornegay. The general hospital of forty beds served the majority of Eastern North Carolina.<sup>8</sup>

Even after the founding of the Rocky Mount Sanitarium, it was obvious to doctors in the area that further medical services were needed. In 1914 Park View Hospital, a brick and concrete facility, opened its doors on Falls Road at the corner of Hickory Street, overlooking Braswell Park. Dr. J. P. Whitehead and his associates, I.P. Battle, Quillen, R.H. Speight, and J.P. Speight incorporated themselves with Drs. George Ben Johnston and Murat Willis, both from Richmond, Virginia, to form the hospital. The doctors set up their offices in the hospital and Dr. Edmund S. Boice, who had been associated with the Richmond Hospital, joined them as the resident surgeon. The hospital was described in a medical journal ten years later as a general hospital with seventy beds for surgical and non-contagious medical cases. The hospital quickly faced cash-flow problems, thus the board sold the property in 1915 to Drs. Willis and Boice, with Dr. Quillen retaining a small financial interest and operating room privileges. By the 1920s the hospital was debt-free and had expanded its facility. The medical staff continued to expand allowing Drs. Boice and Willis to form the Boice-Willis Clinic, which operated out of the hospital. Park View Hospital successfully served Nash County residents until its closing in 1971, when Nash General Hospital was erected.<sup>9</sup> The building was demolished in the 1970s.<sup>10</sup>

As quickly as businessmen constructed commercial buildings downtown, developers built blocks of houses for white and black workers and filled suburbs with fashionable residences.<sup>11</sup> Contractors were in heavy demand between 1890 to 1925. Sam S. Toler and D. J. Rose came to Rocky Mount early in this period. They were two of the first one hundred men to receive general contractor's licenses in North Carolina. John C. Stout opened his practice circa 1900 and served the community for close to three decades, building prestigious residences for many of the leading businessmen in Rocky Mount.<sup>12</sup> All three men built or designed houses in the Falls Road

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<sup>7</sup> O'Quinlivan, *Rocky Mount Centennial Commemorative Book 1867-1967*.

<sup>8</sup> *A History of Medicine in Nash County*, n.d. pg. 5.

<sup>9</sup> *A History of Medicine in Nash County*, n.d. pg. 23.

<sup>10</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, pg. 294.

<sup>11</sup> Bishir and Southern, pg. 333.

<sup>12</sup> O'Quinlivan, *Rocky Mount Centennial Commemorative Book 1867-1967*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 27**  
**Falls Road Historic District**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**

Historic District.

The earliest houses in Rocky Mount were frame dwellings built along Franklin, Church and Pearl Streets adjacent to Main Street. Suburban growth expanded Rocky Mount in the early twentieth century with the most prestigious developments on the west side of town. A 1907 Bird's Eye View Map of Rocky Mount shows an even scattering of houses along the major thoroughfare of Falls Road, which traveled northwest from Main Street.<sup>13</sup> Linking downtown with Rocky Mount Mills, Falls Road developed early on as a prestigious residential avenue where wealthy tobacconists, mill executives, leading businessmen and professionals built homes. The 1907 map also shows Grand Avenue, another important thoroughfare which ran parallel to Falls Road on the east.

Following World War I, Rocky Mount developed at a fast pace expanding in all directions on the Nash County side of the railroad tracks. The growth is reflected in the construction of parks, a modern library, a country club, and many homes. As tract builders erected blocks of low-cost bungalows for white and black railroad workers, white businessmen and professionals had homes built in the wealthy neighborhoods west and northwest of the city. In the late 1920s, the exclusive neighborhoods of Englewood (1927) and West Haven (1928) were platted and house lots around Falls Road were purchased by many of Rocky Mount's prominent residents.<sup>14</sup> By the 1920s, a grid of streets flanked Falls Road.<sup>15</sup> A 1920 map of Rocky Mount shows Grand Avenue, west of Church Street, was changed to Avent Street and Braswell, Earl, Wilkinson, Grace and Peachtree Streets had been laid out. The map shows a few houses on Avent and Earl Streets with a row of houses on Falls Road.<sup>16</sup>

The earliest houses in the district were built in the early twentieth century and represent the Queen Anne and Neoclassical Revival styles popular at the time. Thomas V. Avent had a frame two-story gable and wing dwelling built circa 1905 at 529 Falls Road. Alex P. Thorpe, a local merchant, had a one-story Neoclassical Revival cottage with a cross-gable roof constructed in the early 1900s on the west side of Falls Road at the corner of N. Grace Street. Turner B. Bunn, the secretary-treasurer of Rocky Mount Mills, purchased a lot at the northeast corner of Falls Road and N. Grace Street in 1904 on which he had a two-story Queen Anne style house with corner turret patterned after a design in *The Ladies Home Journal* erected in 1905. Local builder, Albert S. Lyon purchased a lot on the east side of Falls Road from T. V. Avent and W.S. Wilkinson, trustee for \$450 in 1906 [Nash Co. DB 154 Pg. 147]. On this lot he built a two-story Queen Anne style dwelling at 521 Falls Road. William E. Fenner, a leading tobacconist, built a two-story Colonial Revival style dwelling circa 1914 at the southeast corner of Falls Road and N. Grace Street.<sup>17</sup>

The arrival of Park View Hospital on Falls Road in 1914 re-established the neighborhood's prominent social

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<sup>13</sup> Fowler, T.M. *Bird's Eye View of Rocky Mount*, 1907.

<sup>14</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, pg. 29.

<sup>15</sup> Fowler, T.M. *Bird's Eye View of Rocky Mount*, 1907.

<sup>16</sup> Wells, Jno. J. *Map of Rocky Mount, N.C. and Suburbs*, 1920.

<sup>17</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, 294-296; Oral histories collected by Laura Boice, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 28**  
**Falls Road Historic District**  
**Nash County, North Carolina**

status. By the 1920s doctors associated with the hospital had bought or constructed custom built houses along the road. In 1918 Dr. J.J. Williams Looney, an eye, ear, nose and throat doctor, purchased Albert S. Lyon's two-story Queen Anne house at 521 Falls Road. In many cases, several of the earlier less substantial houses were replaced with larger brick homes in the 1920s. Dr. Edmund S. Boice, a surgeon at Park View, purchased a house in the 500 block of Falls Road which he subsequently moved to a lot on Avent Street (presently 536 Avent Street). On the vacant Falls Road lot, Boice had a two-story brick Colonial Revival style house erected circa 1924. Designed by Richmond, Virginia architect W. Duncan Lee, the house was built by local contractor Sam Toler. Dr. J.P. Whitehead, co-founder of Park View Hospital and physician at Rocky Mount Mills, purchased a lot on the east side of Falls Road from Sally P. Parker of Richmond and Kate D. Parker of Cedar Hurst, New York in 1922. [Nash Co. DB 194, Pg. 18] In 1923 Dr. Whitehead had D.J. Rose build a two-story, brick Colonial Revival style residence on the lot at 517 Falls Road. The house with one-story colonnaded porch and porte-cochere was designed by a Richmond architect named Hudson. In the late 1930s, Drs. Newsome and Margaret Battle chose a house site on Peachtree Street in order to be within walking distance of the hospital. On the site at 521 Peachtree Street, D. J. Rose built a two-story, brick Colonial Revival style house for their residence.<sup>18</sup>

Physicians were not the only residents along Falls Road in the 1920s. L. Lee Gravely, the secretary-treasurer of the China American Tobacco & Trading Company, built a two-story brick Colonial Revival style house at 528 Falls Road circa 1924. The house took the place of a one-story Victorian cottage which was moved to a vacant lot at 540 Avent Street. John S. Dozier, owner of Dozier & Co. general merchandise, built a two-story brick Neoclassical Revival style house at 600 Falls Road in 1929. The substantial house with a classical curved entry porch and contemporaneous brick garage was purchased shortly after its construction by William S. Wilkinson, president of Wilkinson, Bulluck & Co. Insurance and Realty. Norwood L. Alcocke, founder of Rocky Mount Nations Company, had a two-story, brick Prairie style house built circa 1922 at 624 Falls Road. Featuring a hipped roof, bracketed eaves, and a one-story hipped porch and porte-cochere, the house is the only example of the Prairie style in the district.<sup>19</sup>

A 1919 article entitled "Your Own Interest in the Growth of Rocky Mount" encouraged people to build more houses in Rocky Mount in an effort to meet the housing shortage brought on by the increase in residents associated with railroad and private industries.<sup>20</sup> The houses on the streets adjacent to Falls Road developed more heavily in the 1920s and may have been in response to the lack of housing at the time.

The earliest houses on Avent Street were mostly one-story gable and wings as well as some Queen Anne cottages. The street became more populous in the 1920s when bungalows were built for middle-class businessmen. Zachariah Parrish, a special claims agent with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, built a one-and-a-half story Craftsman style house with shed dormer and engaged porch circa 1920 at 544 Avent Street. Kenly H.

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<sup>18</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, 294-296; Oral histories collected by Laura Boice, 1998.

<sup>19</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*, 294-296; Oral histories collected by Laura Boice, 1998.

<sup>20</sup> Mearns, *Central City Historic Buildings Inventory: Rocky Mount, North Carolina*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 29  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

McGee, a manager with the China American Tobacco & Trading Company, apparently built a one-story Colonial Revival cottage circa 1923 at 511 Avent Street. Carpenter, Hill L. Ezell, erected the one-story bungalow with hipped porch at 609 Avent Street circa 1923. Avent Street continued to evolve into the 1930s and 1940s as Colonial Revival cottages and Tudor Revival style houses filled in the vacant lots. Dr. Adam T. Thorp built a one-story hipped roof dwelling at 543 Avent Street circa 1930. Edward Eatman had a one-story Colonial Revival cottage built at 558 Avent Street circa 1948.<sup>21</sup>

In 1917 there were three small homes all standing on the same lot on Earl Street. Identical in style and plan, these houses were probably built at the same time to serve as rentals or worker housing. Two of the houses survive today. Both are one-story side-gable Victorian cottages with two-over-two sash windows and hipped roof porches. In the 1920s, a one-story bungalow was added to the lot, taking the place of the third Victorian cottage. By the early 1940s three one-story Minimal Traditional style dwellings had been built on the street. The three 1940s dwellings, all similar in plan, were mostly likely built as rental properties.<sup>22</sup>

R. Henry Gregory Jr., secretary-treasurer of Commercial Building & Loan Association, built a brick Tudor Revival style house with cross-gable roof at 122 Braswell Street in the early 1930s. Almost twenty years later, R. Henry Gregory, owner of Wimberly and Gregory Co., had a two-story brick Georgian Revival style house built at 110 Braswell Street circa 1950. Designed by Wilson architect, Thomas B. Herman, the house features a pedimented stoop, one-story hipped wings, and a dentiled cornice. Surrounded by a three foot brick wall and standing on 1.2 acres, the house acts as the centerpiece of the district.<sup>23</sup>

Wilkinson Street (previously named Braswell) remained vacant from the 1920s to the early 1930s. Hugh H. Battle, a farmer, had a frame Dutch Colonial Revival style dwelling built by local contractor D.J. Rose on a sizeable lot on the north side of Wilkinson Street. The house with a curved pedimented entrance porch and attached two-car garage is the only frame example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in the district. Brick Period cottages and a large Classical Revival style house were constructed on the street in the 1950s by doctors and tobacconists.<sup>24</sup>

The only non-residential building in the Falls Road district is the Wilkinson School at the corner of Wilkinson and Peachtree Streets. Built in 1923, the two-story brick building was designed by the Benton and Benton architectural firm and built by contractor E.S. Derby.<sup>25</sup> The school served grades first through eighth and later kindergarten through sixth grade, until its closing in the 1960s.

After the 1940s, the Falls Road neighborhood remained a premier residential area. Large and small brick homes

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<sup>21</sup> Hill & Co., *City of Rocky Mount Directories*.

<sup>22</sup> *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*; Hill & Co., *City of Rocky Mount Directories*.

<sup>23</sup> Oral history collected by Laura Boice, 1998; Hill & Co., *City of Rocky Mount Directories*.

<sup>24</sup> Hill & Co., *City of Rocky Mount Directories*.

<sup>25</sup> Plaque from Wilkinson School, (no longer attached).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 30**

**Falls Road Historic District**

**Nash County, North Carolina**

continued to infill the lots through the 1950s. The Falls Road area continues to retain its status as a desirable residential location. The city of Rocky Mount and the district's neighborhood association, known as Falls Road Neighborhood Association, are working together to maintain the neighborhood's status. In this respect, listing of the district on the National Register of Historic Places will help to accomplish this goal.

**Criterion A: Community Development and Criterion C: Architectural Significance**

Falls Road Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an extremely well-preserved residential district which developed at the turn of the century and experienced a resurgence of growth following World War I. The district represents Rocky Mount's second and third phases of residential growth. The earliest dwellings in Rocky Mount were built along Main Street and its flanking streets in the late 1800s. The majority of these houses were lost as twentieth century commercial development wiped the nineteenth century fabric away. Falls Road boasts a solid streetscape of fashionable Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, and Colonial Revival style homes which represent the affluent professional and business classes from about 1900 to 1940. The neighborhood expanded in the 1920s, partly as a result of the 1914 opening of Park View Hospital on Falls Road which attracted physicians to the neighborhood. Surrounding streets in the district represent the continued growth of the area in the late 1910s through the 1950s.

The Falls Road Historic District represents the high point of residential development following World War I. The residential architecture of the Falls Road Historic District reflects building practices in Rocky Mount from 1900 to 1950, when local architects and builders supplied nationally popular house designs to their clients. Locally prominent architect John C. Stout and contractors D. J. Rose and Sam Toler built fashionable residences along Falls Road, often from architects' plans. The most prevalent style in the district is the Colonial Revival. More frequently, examples of the Colonial Revival style in the district were architect designed houses. The majority of these also exhibit an array of finely crafted classical ornamentation and are more similar to eighteenth century Georgian prototypes than the turn of the century examples built near the central city. Architect Thomas Herman of Wilson, North Carolina, and local contractors D. J. Rose and Sam Toler are known to have constructed several examples of the style in the district during the 1920s through the 1950s.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 9 Page 31  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 10 Page 32  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

**Section 10: Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundaries of the district are shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn approximately at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet. This map is a composite of City of Rocky Mount Engineering Maps G108, G109, H108, and H109 mapped in 1969.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries are drawn to include the densest concentration of contributing resources in the Falls Road Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section Photos Page 33  
Falls Road Historic District  
Nash County, North Carolina**

**Photographs:**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: Michelle Kullen

Date: November or December 1998

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. Turner B. Bunn House and William E. Fenner House on Falls Road, looking southeast.
- B. Houses in 500 block of Falls Road, east side, looking southeast.
- C. Houses in 500 block of Avent Street, east side, looking northeast.
- D. Houses in 600 block of Falls Road, west side, looking northwest.
- E. House at 536 Avent Street, looking west.
- F. R. H. Gregory House at 110 Braswell Street, looking north.
- G. Hill House at 549 Falls Road, looking east.
- H. Dr. J. P. Whitehead House at 517 Falls Road, looking east.
- I. (former) Wilkinson School at 500 Peachtree Street, looking southwest.
- J. Hugh H. Battle House at 126 Wilkinson Street, looking north.
- K. Wilkinson Street looking east toward Falls Road from Peachtree Street.

