
WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY UPDATE 1958-1975



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Town of Wake Forest Planning Department

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project History and Overview.....	6
Survey Methodology	8
Historic Context.....	10
Early Development of a College Town: 1800-1956	10
The Reinvention of Wake Forest: 1956-1975	11
Wake Forest’s Population Explosion: 1975-2020	24
Architectural Context.....	29
Development Context	32
Recommendations	36
Bibliography	54
Appendix A: National Register of Historic Places Designations	57
Appendix B: List of Surveyed Properties	58
Appendix C: List of Surveyed Districts/Neighborhoods	62

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Wake Forest Local Historic District	6
Figure 2: Wake Forest’s National Register Historic Districts	7
Figure 3: Forestville Baptist Church (WA0182).....	10
Figure 4: 215-303 East Juniper Avenue (WA4973).....	12
Figure 5: Paschal Golf Club (WA8724).....	14
Figure 6: Brewer Circle (WA8693)	18
Figure 7: Windsor Park (WA8767)	18
Figure 8: Public Housing (WA8691).....	19
Figure 9: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Duplexes (WA8692).....	20
Figure 10: Wake Forest Masonic Lodge #282 (WA4978).....	21
Figure 11: Northern Wake Hospital (WA8705).....	23
Figure 12: House (WA8706).....	29
Figure 13: Cardinal Hills (WA4989).....	30
Figure 14: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734)	30
Figure 15: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8734)	30
Figure 16: John and Melanie Murphy House (WA8716).....	31
Figure 17: Commercial Building (WA8723).....	31
Figure 18: Northern Wake Hospital (WA8705).....	31
Figure 19: Home Gardens/Mangum/Green Acres (WA7925)	32
Figure 20: Brewer Circle (WA8693)	33
Figure 21: Spring Valley (WA4990).....	33
Figure 22: Cardinal Hills (WA4989).....	33
Figure 23: Pineview Estates (WA8694).....	34

Figure 24: C. R. and Lillian Faircloth House (WA8699)	34
Figure 25: Oakwood Estates (WA8695).....	35
Figure 26: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734)	36
Figure 27: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734)	36
Figure 28: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734)	37
Figure 29: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734)	37
Figure 30: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8734)	38
Figure 31: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8734)	38
Figure 32: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8734)	38
Figure 33: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8734)	39
Figure 34: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717).....	40
Figure 35: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717).....	40
Figure 36: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717).....	41
Figure 37: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717).....	42
Figure 38: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493)	43
Figure 39: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493)	43
Figure 40: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493)	44
Figure 41: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493)	44
Figure 42: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493)	45
Figure 43: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery proposed boundary	45
Figure 44: 532 North Wingate Street (WA8760).....	46
Figure 45: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Duplexes (WA8692)	47
Figure 46: 442 Woodland Drive (WA8732).....	47
Figure 47: 219 West Vernon Avenue (WA8745)	47
Figure 48: Wake Forest Historic District Boundary Increase.....	49

Figure 49: Windsor Park (WA8767) 120 Windsor Drive50

Figure 50: Windsor Park (WA8767) 218 Forestville Road.....50

Figure 51: Windsor Park (WA8767) 1316 Highland Drive50

Figure 52: Windsor Park (WA8767) 300 block Forestville Road50

Figure 53: Proposed boundary for the Windsor Park Historic District51

PROJECT HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

In 2020, the Town of Wake Forest received a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO) and contracted hmwPreservation to undertake an architectural survey update of historic resources within the Wake Forest town limits that were constructed between 1958 and 1975. The project aims to ensure that all historic resources, those fifty years old or older, have been surveyed for appropriate consideration during planning and development activities.

Melanie Murphy conducted the first survey of architectural resources within the Town of Wake Forest. The survey began in July 1978 and concluded by April 1979. This survey included twenty-two resources in the central business district, forty-five resources in the North Main Street district, and documentation of the Glen Royall Mill and associated mill village. Ms. Murphy's study resulted in the establishment of the Wake Forest Local Historic District overlay in 1979, which runs along North Main Street from West North Avenue to West Oak Avenue, extending east to the railroad right-of-way and also including three properties on West South Avenue.

Kelly Lally surveyed Wake Forest as part of a comprehensive survey of Wake County from 1988 to 1991. The survey documented over two thousand properties throughout Wake County. It led to the submission of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) titled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941)" by Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson, as well as the publication of the book *The Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* in 1994, written by Kelly Lally.

Three National Register Historic Districts were designated between 1999 and 2003: Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District (NR1999), Downtown Wake Forest Historic District (NR2002), and the Wake Forest Historic District (NR2003), which includes within its boundary the 1979 Wake Forest Local Historic District. Appendix A includes a complete list of National Register properties within the town limits.

A multi-phase update to the Lally survey began in 2005-2006 and was conducted by Sarah Woodard David, Jennifer Martin, and Cynthia DiMiranda of Edwards Pittman Environmental. The primary goal of the project was to revisit previously surveyed properties throughout the

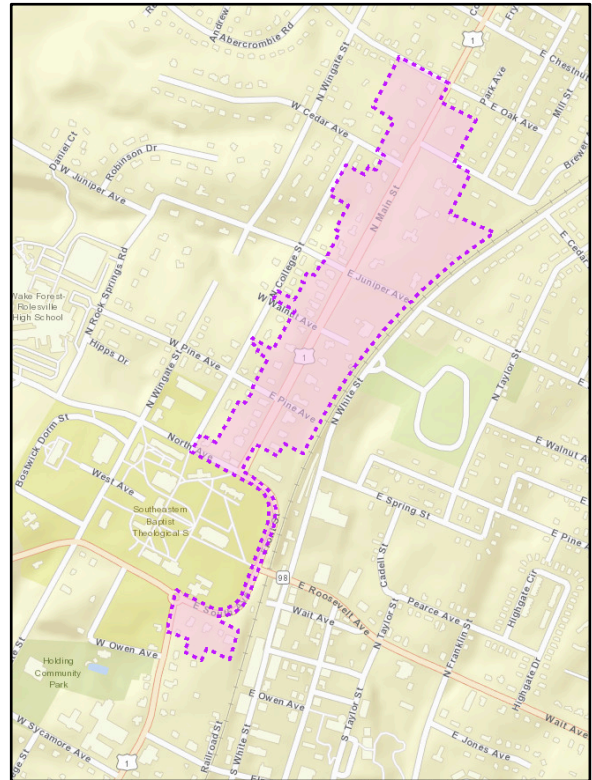


Figure 1: Wake Forest Local Historic District

county to determine if they had been altered, deteriorated, demolished, or moved, as well as to identify and survey properties that had reached fifty years of age since the 1991 Lally survey.

In 2008, M. Ruth Little and Heather (Wagner) Slane surveyed additional resources within the Wake Forest town limits, focusing on properties constructed prior to 1958 that were not documented in any of the earlier surveys. The survey utilized primarily Multiple Structure Survey Forms to document African American resources in the East End, clusters of mid-twentieth century housing, and complete mid-twentieth century planned developments. As a result of the survey, the Ailey Young House (WA4979) was added to the National Register Study List in 2010 and designated a Wake Forest Historic Landmark in 2012.

The primary objective of the 2020 survey project was to expand the existing survey records to include resources constructed between 1958 and 1975. The survey documented both representative and outstanding examples of mid-twentieth century architecture. It also documented planned developments that were either platted or largely built between 1958 and 1975.

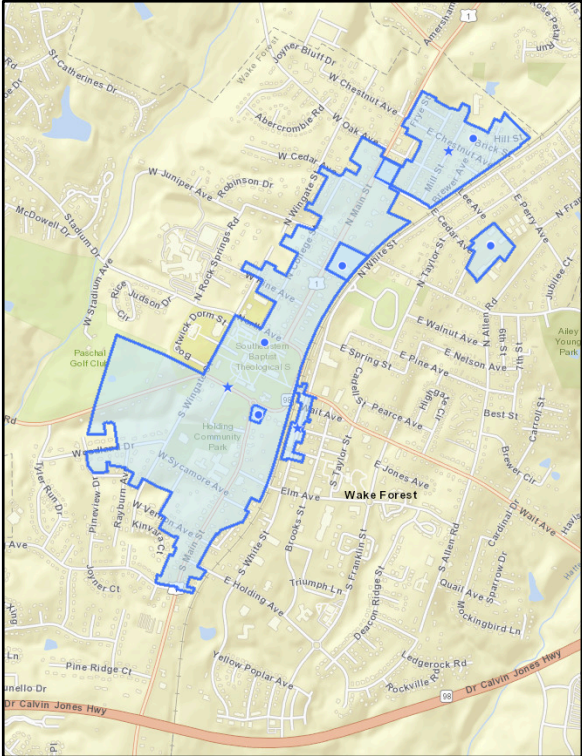


Figure 2: Wake Forest’s National Register Historic Districts

SURVEY METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

The Wake Forest Architectural Survey Update 1958-1975 focused on the documentation of historic resources within the town limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of Wake Forest, North Carolina. The survey is a continuation of the previous architectural surveys, focusing on resources constructed between 1958 and 1975. Heather Slane and Cheri Szcodronski served as the principal investigators.

A planning phase took place in January 2020 during which surveyors identified seventy-six resources (including neighborhoods/subdivisions) that had not been previously surveyed and warranted documentation. The Town of Wake Forest created coded maps that identified properties by age as well as a spreadsheet prioritizing properties for recordation. The surveyors conducted a windshield survey, using the maps and spreadsheet, to establish the properties to be intensively surveyed. Surveyors prioritized buildings that retain high material integrity, have high architectural or historical significance, are the best examples of the architectural style, or display unique craftsmanship. Additional priority was given to those properties contiguous to the Wake Forest National Register Historic District. Further, a working bibliography was prepared during the planning phase.

Fieldwork took place in February and March 2020, during which time surveyors comprehensively surveyed seventy-four individual buildings, including updating records for six buildings that had been previously surveyed. Nine neighborhoods, four of which were partially documented in 2008, were also surveyed along with four public or institutional housing complexes. The resources were documented with field survey forms, brief written descriptions, and photographs. For neighborhoods/subdivisions, a single photograph was taken of each house and a brief written summary addressed the area overall rather than its individual components.

Basic archival research, including the examination of plats, historic newspapers, Sanborn maps, and additional property records, was carried out as appropriate to provide additional data for significant properties and neighborhoods/subdivisions.

Material gathered during the fieldwork and research phases was used to fully populate database records and create paper survey files. A special notation was made of properties that appeared potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Database

All database records were fully populated for each property, written summaries were included, and report forms generated from the database for inclusion in the paper survey files. A digital copy of the database was presented to both the NC-HPO and staff for the Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission.

Photographs

Digital survey photographs were taken from the public right-of-way using a digital SLR camera. Photographs of both primary and secondary resources were labeled according to the NC-HPO

guidelines and contact sheets printed for inclusion in the paper survey files. A DVD of all labeled survey photographs was prepared for the NC-HPO and Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission staff.

Paper Files

Paper files for each surveyed property include the field survey notes, printed contact sheets, and printed database records, as well as any related notes and documentation gathered during the project. The Town of Wake Forest was given the opportunity to make copies of the files before they were submitted to the NC-HPO.

Maps

Digital maps were used during the planning phase and field survey to identify the properties constructed between 1958 and 1975 and to verify the boundaries of properties to be surveyed.

Survey Report

Upon completion of the field survey and database records, the following written report outlines the project methodology, a summary of survey findings, and includes recommendations for further study. The report also includes additional historic and architectural context for the development of Wake Forest, specifically for the 1958-1975 period. The consultant presented the findings of the survey to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee and to the Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission.

Study List Recommendations

Included within the survey report is a list of properties considered by the consultant to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, specifically those properties that appear to demonstrate significance under at least one of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and possess a high level of material integrity. The report explains why each property was selected for the Study List. On October 8, 2020, the consultant presented these properties to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee who approved their placement on the NC-HPO National Register Study List.

Survey Limitations

In mid-March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the abrupt statewide closure of public buildings, including libraries and other research facilities. These closures, together with social distancing mandates, prohibited follow-up research and fieldwork. While the majority of the research and fieldwork had already been completed, the pandemic did limit the ability of the consultants to take interior photographs of buildings considered eligible for the NC-HPO National Register Study List. The Town of Wake Forest issued letters to the affected property owners, requesting that they take and submit digital interior photographs to the consultant. In all but one case, photographs were obtained from the building owners.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Early Development of a College Town: 1800-1956

Wake Forest is located in Wake County, about eighteen miles northeast of Raleigh, the county seat and state capital. Originally known as “the Forest of Neuse” “Forest of Wake” or the “Forest District,” its current boundaries were formed from the joining of three smaller separate towns: Forestville to the south, the Town of Wake Forest College, and the Town of Royall Cotton Mills to the north.¹

Forestville

Forestville was a small village that formed in the late 1700s on an early road leading northeast out of Raleigh. It received a post office in 1838, which served both Forestville and Wake Forest until it was discontinued in 1848.² Forestville Baptist Church was founded in 1859 and their present sanctuary was completed in 1860. Although forced to sit in the balcony, the church allowed African American members to join the congregation for services. In 1880, the African American members left to form their own church, Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, which still offers services today.³ Although a masonic lodge, Wake Forest Lodge #97, was first established in Forestville in 1827, it relocated to Dunnsville, Neuse Crossroads, and finally Millbrook, where it has been known as the Millbrook Lodge #97 since 1945. It was replaced by Forestville Lodge #282, which formed in 1868. This lodge ceased activity in 1880 but was reinstated in 1890, and the name was changed to Wake Forest Lodge #282 in 1893. The lodge again ceased activity in 1900 but was restored in 1905, and it has remained active since that time.⁴



Figure 3: Forestville Baptist Church (WA0182) 1350 South Main Street

Town of Wake Forest

The Wake Forest community was founded some decades after Forestville. In 1820, Dr. Calvin Jones bought land in Wake Forest Township, where the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is today. A post office was established in 1823, and operated from the home of Dr.

¹ Carol W. Pelosi, *Connections: 100 Years of Wake Forest History* (Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers, 2008), 8; Jennifer Smart, *Wake Forest* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 7.

² K. Todd Johnson and Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 2, *Reconstruction to 1920* (Wake County, NC: Wake County Commissioners, 2008), 627-628; “A Bit of History: Forestville was the Town,” *Wake Forest Gazette*, March 26, 2014, <https://wakeforestgazette.com/bit-history-forestville-town> (accessed June 2020).

³ “Forestville,” newspaper clipping, June 16, 1994, “Forestville Baptist Church” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Forestville Baptist Church, “Church History,” “Forestville Baptist Church” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁴ “Historical Table of Lodges which Founded the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Extinct Lodges, and Lodges Created by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina Since its Organization in 1787,” *Freemasons, Grand Lodge of North Carolina Records, 1790-1951*, Southern Historical Collection, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, https://cdn.lib.unc.edu/faids/mss/inv_images/masons.pdf (accessed June 2020).

Jones, the first postmaster. This office was somewhat less efficient than the Forestville office, especially after the arrival of the railroad in Forestville, making that location the preference for many residents. The Wake Forest post office continued to operate sporadically, until 1873, when railroad services shifted from Forestville to Wake Forest and, at that time, it became a permanent fixture.⁵

Dr. Jones and Samuel Alston established the Wake Forest Academy for Boys in 1823, and soon after added the Wake Forest Female School. After Jones moved to Tennessee in 1832, and on the advice of Reverend John Purefoy, whose farm was located near Dr. Jones', the North Carolina Baptist Convention purchased the Jones property.⁶ In 1834, Reverend Samuel Wait established the Manual Labor Institute on the property to train boys in Baptist theology and scientific agriculture. The Institute included daily farm work, which was traded for tuition, room, and board, but which never advanced beyond menial farm labor and was therefore unpopular among the students. As a result, enrollment began to drop. In 1838, the school rechartered and renamed itself Wake Forest College based on a liberal arts curriculum, making it the oldest college in Wake County and second oldest in the state of North Carolina. Since the agricultural land surrounding the college was no longer needed, and the college was deeply in debt, the farmland was subdivided and sold as residential lots, which now form the historic core of the town.⁷

The Raleigh and Gaston Railroad was completed in 1840, passing through Forestville and the Town of Wake Forest College. While the tracks extended along the eastern boundary of Wake Forest College, the depot was located in Forestville. Although the students had to walk over a mile from the depot to the school, the railroad company refused to build a station in both towns due to their close proximity. The college trustees successfully campaigned to have the depot relocated to better serve the college, a move that took place in 1874, funded by the college.⁸ In 1900, the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad became part of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, which connected the region to markets in Virginia and points further north.⁹

Commercial development in Forestville suffered after the loss of the depot, while in turn the Town of Wake Forest College prospered. The town quickly grew to include 960 acres, centered on the college campus, and it was incorporated in 1880. In 1909, the town was renamed the Town of Wake Forest, a name which reflected the expansion of the community beyond the

⁵ Melanie Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina," 1979, Town of Wake Forest Planning Department; George Washington Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College*, vol. 1, 1834-1865, (Wake Forest, NC: Wake Forest College, 1935), 49-52, Books and Pamphlets Digital Collection, Special Collections & Archives, Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, <https://wakespace.lib.wfu.edu/handle/10339/33244> (accessed June 2020).

⁶ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Ray Branson et. al., "The Story of Wake Forest: As Understood in this Year of the Bicentennial of Wake County," Wake Forest, NC: Wake County Bicentennial Committee, 1971, 5-6; Wake Forest Historic District/Properties Commission, "Historic Wake Forest" brochure, 1995, Wake Forest Planning Department; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 7;

⁷ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 7; "Historic Wake Forest" brochure; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 7; Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College*, vol. 1: 65, 70-71, 80-91, 171-173, 188-190.

⁸ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 9-10; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 10; "Historic Wake Forest" brochure; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 35; Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College*, vol. 1, 52.

⁹ J.D. Lewis, "North Carolina Railroads – Raleigh & Gaston Railroad," https://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_raleigh_gaston.html (accessed June 2020).

boundaries of the school. A small business district had formed east of campus over the railroad tracks and included pharmacies, hardware stores, grocery stores, farm supply stores, and clothing stores. As the town grew, new streets were named in honor of presidents, professors, and students at the college, including Wait Avenue, White Street, Jones Avenue, Brooks Street, and Owen Avenue.¹⁰ By this time, the railroad was operating two morning trains and two afternoon trains, carrying passengers to jobs or shopping in Raleigh, while bringing mail or news back to Wake Forest. Shop owners often took the train north to Richmond or New York City to purchase goods that they in turn sold in their own Wake Forest stores.¹¹

Meanwhile, a segregated African American community, now known as East End, formed after the close of the Civil War in the northeastern part of town, generally east of North White Street, north of Wait Avenue, and south of East Perry Avenue. This neighborhood was home to many of the town's formerly enslaved Black population, many of whom worked in town and at the college in positions as domestic servants or as laborers for the railroad, industries, mills, and shops. A Black commercial district formed on North White Street, adjacent to the white-dominated downtown, and included Joe Gill and Johnnie Hayes' pool room, Oscar Smith's shoe shop, Edward Gill's barbershop, Louis Gill's restaurant, and Aaron Mitchell's foundry. Mr. Percy, Ms. Gracie, Ms. Lillie Hodge, and Marlon and John B. Cole all operated sweet shops and corner grocery stores scattered throughout the neighborhood. According to church records, in 1879, the Olive Branch Baptist Church separated from the Wake Forest Baptist Church and built its first sanctuary on Juniper Street. The Reverend George Harris served as the first pastor. The community was also served by its own funeral homes, midwives, electricians, plumbers, salons, and barbershops, and residents could join the Masonic Lodge or the Order of the Eastern Star.¹²



Figure 4: 215-303 East Juniper Avenue (WA4973)

Town of Royall Cotton Mills

The Town of Royall Cotton Mills was the last to be established of the three communities that today form the Town of Wake Forest. The Glen Royall Cotton Mill was established by Robert E. Royall, W.C. Powell, and Thomas E. Holding in 1899 to produce muslin sheeting. A village for the mill workers was built adjacent to the mill and houses were rented to employees. The village, which functioned as an independent, close-knit community, also included a commissary/company store, the Glen Royall Elementary School, and the Glen Royall Baptist Church. In 1907, the Town of Royall Cotton Mills was incorporated to prevent annexation by

¹⁰ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Pelosi, *Connections*, 10, 18-19; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 12; "Historic Wake Forest" brochure; Johnson and Murray, *Wake*, vol. 2: 629-630.

¹¹ Carol Pelosi, "Just a Little History: The Railroad Was a Lifeline," January 24, 2018, *Wake Forest Gazette*, "Railroad" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

¹² Pelosi, *Connections*, 60; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 7-9; Wake Forest Historical Museum, "The Normal and Industrial School," <https://wakeforestmuseum.org/2013/07/21/the-normal-and-industrial-school> (accessed June 2020); Evelyn Jones, "The DuBois Community, May 18, 2008 (North East Quadrant)," 2-3, 5-6, "African American History" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Sarah Moore, "History of Olive Branch Baptist Church," "Olive Branch Baptist Church" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

the Town of Wake Forest College, a move that allowed the mill and village to retain its autonomy. By 1910, the mill employed approximately one hundred men, women, and children, most of whom were white, although African Americans were employed as drivers, cooks, laundresses, and other similar menial roles.¹³ The mill complex expanded in 1926 to accommodate a shift in production to cotton yarn, by which time the mill and village encompassed over ninety buildings on about fifty acres.

With cotton the primary cash crop throughout Wake County, the early twentieth century economy in Wake Forest was based on cotton production and processing. W.W. Holding purchased ginned and baled cotton from farmers, graded the cotton, then sold it to Royall Cotton Mill and other mills in the region. C.E. Gill operated a cotton gin in town until the 1930s, when the Holdings purchased it. A hosiery mill opened in Wake Forest around 1912. However, cotton prices began to drop by that time, and the cotton crop was devastated by the boll weevil insect by the 1920s. The Royall Cotton Mill continued to be successful in spite of the struggles associated with growing cotton. Yet, Wake County shifted instead to dairy farming during this period, and a number of large dairy farms remain extant in the rural agricultural land beyond the town limits.¹⁴

Ultimately, Wake Forest became the largest and most prosperous of the three early towns, in large part due to the presence of the college and the railroad depot. The population of Wake Forest jumped quickly from 823 people in 1900 to 1,443 people in 1910, and in turn, town services expanded rapidly during first decades of the twentieth century.¹⁵ The town built an electric light plant in 1909, bringing electricity to homes and businesses within the town limits, which were expanded in 1915.¹⁶ In 1923, two new roads brought greater connectivity to Wake Forest. US Highway 1 linked Maine to Florida and brought gas stations, restaurants, motels, and other travel and tourism related businesses to Wake Forest. NC Highway 98 connected Wake Forest to Durham, improving travel within the immediate region.¹⁷ Further, many of the downtown roads were also paved during the 1920s.¹⁸

Schools were built to serve the growing population in the early twentieth century. The first schools for white children were built in both Wake Forest and Forestville in 1919. They were consolidated in 1923 when a new two-story brick school, known as the Benton Building, was constructed at South Main and West Sycamore streets. This school was replaced in 1933 with a larger three-story school, which served children in grades one through eleven.¹⁹

The first public school for African American Children was located at the corner of E. Juniper and Taylor Street (the site of today's Alston-Massenburg Recreation Center). A private school

¹³ Pelosi, *Connections*, 10; Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 13; "Historic Wake Forest" brochure; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 8, 19; Johnson & Murray, *Wake*, vol. 2: 631, 636-638; J. Daniel Pezzoni, "Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1999, Section 8, 30-35.

¹⁴ Pelosi, *Connections*, 18-19, 34, 41; Kelly Lally, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca.1770-1941)," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993, Section E, Pages 46, 71-72; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 13-14; Johnson and Murray, *Wake*, vol. 2: 201.

¹⁵ Smart, *Wake Forest*, 36; Johnson & Murray, *Wake*, vol. 2: 633.

¹⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 10-11; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 16.

¹⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 30.

¹⁸ Smart, *Wake Forest*, 36.

¹⁹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 27, 41; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 65.

for African American children was established in 1905 by Allen Young and Nathaniel Mitchell as a Presbyterian Mission School. It was located in a vacant mattress factory at the corner of North White and Spring streets. Allen Young grew the school to become the Wake Forest Normal and Industrial School. It served the adjacent African American neighborhood, and later offered agricultural training for boys, domestic training for girls, evening classes for adults, and the first preschool and kindergarten in the town for Black children.²⁰

Members of the Olive Branch Baptist Church took great interest in providing quality public education in the East End neighborhood and worked to establish a public school there in the 1920s. They purchased a four-acre lot and sought a grant from the Rosenwald Fund, which provided a \$1,500 grant to build a seven-teacher type school, known as the Wake Forest Graded School (Colored). The grant was matched with \$1,500 from the Black community and \$17,000 from the county school board, including a loan from the State Literary Fund. The school, which opened in 1926, served children through seventh grade until 1929 when eighth grade was added. In 1932, a high school teacher was hired to serve students through eleventh grade, although former students recalled that most boys never completed school, instead taking jobs farming tobacco, corn, cotton, and other crops. After the school was built, the adjacent East End neighborhood became known for its brick masons, a skill taught at the school, and the school's music teachers also offered private music lessons in the neighborhood.²¹

Wake Forest College purchased a 155-acre tract of land in 1915, west of the campus on Wingate Drive and Richland Creek, and extending from the Raleigh-Wake Forest Highway (now Stadium Drive) south to Durham Road (now NC Highway 98), with the goal of expanding the college's athletic facilities. A nine-hole golf course that served both the college and the community opened later that year, now known as the Paschal Golf Course. When Durham Road was upgraded as part of the construction of NC Highway 98 in the 1920s, the planned route for the highway was so close to the college golf course that several greens had to be relocated to accommodate construction. The land for this move was given by George Washington Paschal, and the golf course today bears his name. A swimming pool followed in 1925, located immediately adjacent to the golf course fed by Richland Creek and known as the Golf Pond.²²



Figure 5: Paschal Golf Club (WA8724)
555 Stadium Drive

²⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 13-14; Wake Forest Historical Museum, "The Normal and Industrial School"; Johnson and Murray, *Wake*, vol. 2: 268-269; Jones, "The DuBois Community," 4.

²¹ Beth P. Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1993, Section 8, 6-8; Fisk University, "Wake Forest School," *Rosenwald Database*, http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/index.php?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MzA2NA==&school_county=wake&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=10 (accessed June 2020); Jones, "The DuBois Community," 4-5; Brian J. Slattery, "Duo epitomizes Spirit of Black History Month: Pope Part of Wake Forest Downtown's History," *The Wake Weekly*, February 22, 2007, Wake Forest Historical Museum, Vertical File, "African American History."

²² Pelosi, *Connections*, 55; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 118; George Washington Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College*, vol. 3, 1905-1948, (Raleigh, NC: Wake Forest College, 1943), 218-219.

Wake Forest, already deeply in debt by the 1920s, was greatly affected by the Great Depression. Glen Royall Cotton Mill went into bankruptcy in 1929 and was reorganized two years later by Don P. Johnston as Royal Cotton Mill. Although the mill remained open, wages were cut dramatically and employees could no longer afford to pay rent, which the mill eventually stopped trying to collect. The commissary was closed in 1934.²³

By the 1940s, the town had started to recover, largely aided by federal programs that built roads, recreation facilities, a water system, and a post office.²⁴ In 1940, the Community House was constructed to serve as an event space with funding from the Works Progress Administration. The Community House also included a pool, from which African American children were excluded. There was initially discrimination against white children from the mill village, though they were ultimately permitted to use the pool.²⁵ Residents also remember a small children's pool at the Community House with shallow water for young children. Another WPA grant that year funded construction of the town's first government-owned post office which had, until that time, operated out of the postmaster's home or a rental space.²⁶

In 1933, the superintendent of the Wake Forest Graded School (Colored) sought funds from the Public Works Administration to build a high school on the campus, having hired a teacher for the high school grades the preceding year. However, construction did not begin until 1938 and the high school, known initially as the Wake Forest Colored High School opened the following year. The students helped choose a new name for the school, and W.E.B. DuBois High School was chosen in honor of the Civil Rights activist.²⁷ A vocational department was added to the school in 1942 when the Old Ebenezer School was moved to the campus and clad in brick veneer to serve as an agriculture and shop building. The agriculture department taught vocational agriculture to high school boys, as well as adult farmers during evening classes.²⁸ The high school taught students through eleventh grade until 1947 when the twelfth grade was added.²⁹

World War II brought new challenges to the town, the economy of which relied on the presence of students, many of whom suddenly left school to enlist in the military. The US Army Finance School opened on the campus in 1942 and helped to keep Wake Forest's economy afloat during the war. Additionally, Wake Forest College started admitting women as full-time students in 1942.³⁰

In spite of the challenges that were presented during wartime, improvements still came to town during the 1940s. A new stadium was built for Wake Forest College in 1940 and named Groves Stadium. In 1943, the town was surveyed to number the houses. Road improvements included opening Woodland and Rayburn while North College and South White were extended and

²³ Pelosi, *Connections*, 33-35, 38-43; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 19; Pezzoni, "Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District," Section 8, 36.

²⁴ Pelosi, *Connections*, 43-44; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 53.

²⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 55; Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College*, vol. 3, 219; Pezzoni, "Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District," Section 8, 37.

²⁶ Smart, *Wake Forest*, 53, 120-121.

²⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 45; Slattery, "Pope Part of Wake Forest Downtown's History"; Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," Section 8, 8.

²⁸ Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," Section 8, 9.

²⁹ Jones, "The DuBois Community," 4.

³⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 57-58; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 17.

paved. Improvements came to the Royal Cotton Mill as well, where wages increased significantly, and employees were able to purchase their mill village homes rather than renting them from the company.³¹

Following World War II, enrollment in Wake Forest College increased rapidly with many students utilizing the GI Bill. Veterans and their families moved to Wake Forest, while the college and town struggled to provide enough housing for the influx of students. Former students remember the housing shortage and recall having been assigned housing throughout town in residents' spare bedrooms. Town residents could park a trailer on their property and rent it to students, as long as they lived in the adjacent home. The college acquired decommissioned barracks from Camp Butner (located in neighboring Butner, NC) and relocated them to North Main Street, the present site of the Wake Forest Historical Museum, for use first by students in the Army Finance School and later by married graduate students. In 1951, the barracks were again relocated, this time to the African American community on North Allen Road, just outside the town limits, where they were known as Barracktown until they were demolished in the late 1970s. Additionally, during the post-war period, some residents acquired outbuildings to move onto their lots for makeshift student housing, and one student even ordered a chicken house from Sears, Roebuck, & Co. to live in.³²

In spite of the college's success in Wake Forest, in 1946, the town received an offer from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to provide up to \$330,000 annually to the college if it would relocate to a new campus in Winston-Salem. The news was so devastating and dramatic to the community, that the campus newspaper likened it to dropping an atomic bomb.³³ The North Carolina Baptist Convention unanimously accepted the offer, then began plans to convince the Southern Baptist Convention to establish a Baptist seminary on the vacated college campus. Throughout the late 1940s, the Southern Baptist Convention had been exploring options to expand theological education, and in 1950 made the decision to purchase the old Wake Forest College campus. The following year, as construction began in Winston-Salem, the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary moved into the Wake Forest College School of Religion Building in Wake Forest. The first graduation was held at the conclusion of the 1953-1954 academic year and the Master of Theology degree was added to the seminary offerings the following year.³⁴

Further challenges to the Wake Forest economy came in 1952, when construction began on a new US Highway 1. The highway had been the primary north-south thoroughfare through Wake Forest, serving travelers with restaurants, gas stations, and lodging since its construction in 1923. However, the new route, completed in 1954, took travelers around, rather than through, Wake Forest.³⁵

³¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 57, 61, 62-63; Pezzoni, "Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District," Section 8, 38.

³² Pelosi, *Connections*, 67, 113; Robert J. Cook, "My Wake Forest Story," "1950s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Pelosi, "100 Years of History"; H. Johnston, Jr., "My Life in Wake Forest," "1950s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Carol Pelosi, untitled newspaper article, *The Wake Weekly*, April 6, 2000, "1950s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

³³ Pelosi, *Connections*, 64; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 8.

³⁴ Pelosi, *Connections*, 64-65; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 18; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, "A Brief History," 1961, North Carolina Collection, Louis Round Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2-4.

³⁵ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Pelosi, *Connections*, 72.

Changes came to the mill as well, with management based in Saxapahaw, employees coming from outside the mill village, and the commissary closed. In 1951, the employees participated in a union strike that grew to include mill workers from other mills in the area. Tensions in Wake Forest escalated to a riot that had to be stopped by the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Eventually the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled against the union and the strike ended.³⁶

During – and in spite of – the turmoil of the late 1940s and early 1950s, new industries came to town and helped keep its economy stable and its people employed throughout the mid-twentieth century. Companies were attracted in part by the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, which had been established in 1948. Burlington Industries opened the Wake Finishing Plant in 1948, which employed about 600 workers dying and treating fabric for the Knit Fabrics Division. An alfalfa dehydration plant opened in 1950 (although it closed three years later), followed by Evan lumber mill and a Waco feed plant (later a Purina dog food factory).³⁷

The Reinvention of Wake Forest: 1956-1975

Wake Forest College moved to Winston-Salem in May of 1956, the impact of which was felt throughout the town, with not only the loss of the jobs on campus, but also the loss of the employees and students who moved with the school and no longer supported Wake Forest businesses.³⁸ The college, which had more than 2000 students by 1949, had contributed approximately two million dollars to the town's annual economy. The several hundred graduate students who attended the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, most of whom were married, had different spending habits than the college undergraduates. Thus, there was a decreased need for clothing stores, restaurants, theaters, and other business that relied primarily on the business of students, and the Collegiate Theater, Ben's of Wake Forest (a men's clothing store), and several other stores closed after the college relocated. Yet, family-oriented businesses, including grocery stores, did benefit somewhat from the change. Although the population of Wake Forest dropped significantly after the college moved to Winston-Salem - from 3,704 people in 1950 to 2,664 people in 1960 - a period of growth and reinvention for the town followed.³⁹

Interest in suburban development nationwide grew significantly after World War II, led in part by the Federal Housing Authority (FHA). The FHA published recommendations for new housing developments to be located on dry land and within a strong housing market, wide streets and cul-de-sacs to minimize through traffic, wide lots to accommodate the popular – and

³⁶ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina"; Pelosi, *Connections*, 73-74.

³⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 66, 72-75; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 19, 25; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 36; Carol Pelosi, "Wake Finishing Oldest of the Major industries," June 26, 1980, *The Wake Weekly*, "Industry" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

³⁸ Pelosi, *Connections*, 64-65.

³⁹ Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 18; The Alliance for Wake Forest History and Culture, "A Walk Through History and Into the Future – Wake Forest," 2002, "Wake Forest History" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum, 9; Carol Pelosi, "100 Years of History: Town Faces Life Without a College," *The Wake Forest Gazette*, March 10, 2004, "1950s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; David Leone, "Men on a Mission: Rebuilding Wake Forest," *The Wake Weekly*, September 25, 2008, "1960s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Debra A. Golden, "Town Saw Record Growth in the 90s," *The Wake Weekly*, August 30, 2001, "Growth" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Anne Moore, "Wake Forest University," NCpedia, <https://www.ncpedia.org/wake-forest-university> (accessed August 2020).

affordable – Ranch and Split-Level house styles of the time, and driveways rather than sidewalks and front walks.⁴⁰ Further, to help guide this development, a local housing authority was established in the 1950s, which served to enact and enforce the first housing codes.⁴¹

After the decline in population in the 1950s, new residents moved to the Wake Forest area in large numbers during the 1960s and 1970s, many taking advantage of job opportunities in Raleigh. By 1970, the population had grown again to 3,148 people, and 3,780 people by 1980. As a result of the influx of people to Wake Forest, at least ten new residential developments were built on the edges of the town limits from the 1950s through the 1970s. Yet, the earliest of these, especially those platted in the 1950s, were slow to develop and were not fully built out until the 1970s in most cases. For example, south of town, a large neighborhood comprised of three separate developments was built: R.M. Banks laid out the Home Gardens subdivision in 1953, W.G. Mangum Subdivision was platted in 1960, and Grace and J. Nurney Bond platted the Green Acres subdivision in 1966. While construction within these adjacent developments began in 1953, it continued through the mid-1970s, with some sections of Home Gardens still under development today and the neighborhood has lost a number of original homes.⁴² Similarly, on the eastern border of the town limits, Brewer Circle was platted in 1954 off of North Allen Street and Wait Avenue. Formerly the property of Nancy Brewer, construction continued on this circular drive until 1971.⁴³



Figure 6: Brewer Circle (WA8693)
800-block of Brewer Circle

Other developments, platted in the 1960s, had more compact periods of development. Windsor Park, Spring Valley, and Marshall Village are adjacent neighborhoods built south of town in the 1960s and 1970s. K.S. Marshall acquired the land for these three developments by purchasing several small farms during the Great Depression, and the individual plats, which function as a single neighborhood, were laid out in 1960, 1961, and 1965 respectively.



Figure 7: Windsor Park (WA8767)
300-block of Forestville Road

⁴⁰ Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 69-70; Daniel L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, *National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs* (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2002), 66.

⁴¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 81, 88; “Public Housing in Wake Forest and Wake County,” *The Wake Forest Gazette*, <https://wakeforestgazette.com/public-housing-in-wf-and-wake-county> (accessed June 2020).

⁴² “Home Gardens,” October 24, 1953, Book of Maps 1953, Page 97, Wake County Register of Deeds; “W.G. Mangum Subdivision,” April 1, 1960, Book of Maps 1960, Page 79, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Green Acres Subdivision,” August 1966, Book of Maps 1966, Page 176, Wake County Register of Deeds; Pelosi, *Connections*, 93.

⁴³ “Subdivision of Property of Mrs. Nancy P. Brewery, Wake Forest, N.C.,” 1954, Book of Maps 1954, Page 14, Wake County Register of Deeds.

Construction began with Windsor Park in 1964 and continued until 1978.⁴⁴ Cardinal Hills was built on the west side of town off Wait Avenue (NC Highway 98) in the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood was developed by Ira “Shorty” Lee, and first platted in 1964, then expanded with a second plat in 1974.⁴⁵ In the early 1960s, a group of local businessmen bought a 252-acre tract of farmland from Joanna Williams, who worked for the college and moved with it to Winston-Salem. They built an 18-hole golf course and opened the Wake Forest Country Club in 1966.⁴⁶ Three years later they platted a small neighborhood of twenty home sites with houses constructed between 1972 and 1994.⁴⁷ Pineview Estates was platted by Arlos Tarn’s Pineview Development Company in four sections situated off South Main Street between 1969 and 1976. Construction began in 1970 and continued into the 1980s.⁴⁸ Similarly, Oakwood Estates, which was owned by Dr. Nash Underwood and Stephen C. Gould and located west of town off Durham Road (NC Highway 98), was platted in three sections from 1970 to 1976 and construction of its thirty-five houses took place largely in the 1970s.⁴⁹

Although there was broad interest in municipal low-income housing for many years, this did not come to fruition until the 1960s. Twenty-seven units for white residents were built in 1962 on West Oak and West Chestnut avenues, followed by twenty-five units for African American residents constructed on North White Street in 1968. A third public housing complex, originally named Massey Apartments, was completed in 1974 and later renamed New Hope Village. The complex was originally approved to be fifty units, but ninety-two units were built instead,



Figure 8: Public Housing (WA8691)
600 North White Street

causing some opposition to the project among town residents. This development, located on North Allen Road and built after the Civil Rights Act of 1968, was never segregated.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ “Windsor Park Subdivision,” May 31, 1960, Book of Maps 1960, Page 156, Wake County Register of Deeds; Spring Valley Subdivision,” August 28, 1961, Book of Maps 1961, Page 44, Wake County Register of Deeds; Ruth Little and Heather Wagner, Wake Forest Architectural Survey Update Database, 2008, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh; Pelosi, *Connections*, 93.

⁴⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 92-93; “Cardinal Hills Subdivision,” March 2, 1964, Plat Book 1965, Page 104, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Cardinal Hills Subdivision,” February 15, 1974, Plat Book 1974, Page 189, Wake County Register of Deeds; Pelosi, *Connections*, 92-93.

⁴⁶ Leone, “Men on a Mission”; Pete Hendricks, “Commissioner’s Involvement Taints Entire Effort,” *The Wake Weekly*, March 30, 2006, “Growth” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁴⁷ “Property of Wake Forest Country Club,” August 1969, Book of Maps 1971, Page 271, Wake County Register of Deeds.

⁴⁸ Pelosi, *Connections*, 92; “Pineview Estates – Section One,” January 12, 1970, Book of Maps 1969, Page 374, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates – Section Two,” June 23, 1970, Book of Maps 1970, Page 145, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates,” May 9, 1975, Book of Maps 1975, Page 153, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates,” January 14, 1976, Book of Maps 1976, Page 189, Wake Forest Register of Deeds.

⁴⁹ “Oakwood Subdivision, Section One,” March 31, 1970, Book of Maps 1970, Page 261, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Oakwood Subdivision, Section Two,” August 1, 1975, Book of Maps 1975, Page 304, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Oakwood Subdivision, Section Three,” Book of Maps 1976, Page 188, Wake County Register of Deeds.

⁵⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 81, 88, 116-118; “Public Housing in Wake Forest and Wake County,” *The Wake Forest Gazette*, <https://wakeforestgazette.com/public-housing-in-wf-and-wake-county> (accessed June 2020).

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary too expanded its housing during this time. In 1958, soon after their relocation to the Wake Forest College campus, the seminary began construction of twenty-five duplex apartments on a large wooded lot west of the campus and bounded by West Pine Avenue, Stadium Drive, Rock Springs Road, and North Wingate Street. The following year, construction began on fifty additional duplexes located on Stadium Drive, Judson Drive, and Rice Circle, about half of which were ready for occupancy for the 1959-1960 school year. In total, the two-part development included eighty-eight duplexes constructed from 1958 through 1975. The complex catered to married students with families, so its amenities include a playground and ball fields.⁵¹



Figure 9: Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Duplexes (WA8692)

As the population in Wake Forest grew, its community institutions also expanded to better serve the new residents. After becoming the sole occupant of the campus, the seminary offered the campus golf course for rent for just \$1 annually, as well as selling Groves Stadium and twenty-seven adjacent acres to Wake County in 1955 and 1956. Until this time, the elementary and high school students attended the 1930s school on West Sycamore Street, but in 1958, a new Wake Forest High School building opened adjacent to the stadium, while the West Sycamore Street school remained an elementary school. Both Wake Forest High School (for white children) and DuBois High School (for African American children) used the stadium as their home field in the early years, but by 1959, DuBois High School played home football games in an unlit open field north of the elementary school building where games were played in the afternoons. Roger Shackelford, a DuBois alumni, recalls that DuBois held its homecoming game at Groves Stadium in the early 1960s where playing "under the lights made the event special." Lights were installed at the DuBois campus in 1964. Wake Forest High School established its first football team in 1956, coached by Tony Trentini, for whom the stadium is now named. Additional school improvements during this time included a new gymnasium built at Wake Forest High School in 1964, and at DuBois High School, the vocational agriculture building was expanded in 1953 and again in 1969, and three new classroom buildings were constructed on the campus in the late 1950s and 1960s.⁵²

Some of Wake Forest's oldest community institutions experienced growth and change in the 1950s. The Wake Forest Masonic Lodge #282, established in 1868, moved to a new lodge building on Wait Avenue downtown in 1950.⁵³ Forestville Baptist Church, a landmark community institution founded in 1859, became a full-time church in 1955, and an education

⁵¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 90; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, "A Brief History," 7.

⁵² Pelosi, *Connections*, 76, 81, 86; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 65; Pelosi, untitled newspaper article, *The Wake Weekly*, April 6, 2000; "Taking a Swing at 100," *Wake Forest 27587 Magazine*, Autumn 2016, "Paschal Golf Course" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," Section 7, 2-4; Personal interview with Roger Shackelford (DuBois High School Alumni) by Michelle Michael (City of Wake Forest Planning Department) via email, September 2020; UNC University Libraries, "USDA Historical Aerial Photos," Wake County 1959 and 1971, <https://library.unc.edu/data/gis-usda/wake> (accessed September 2020).

⁵³ Little and Wagner, Wake Forest Architectural Survey Update Database.

building was constructed adjacent to the historic church in 1958.⁵⁴ The Olive Branch Baptist Church in East End was destroyed by fire in 1954, and a new building was built on the same site in 1955, although the steeple was not added until 1980.⁵⁵



Figure 10: Wake Forest Masonic Lodge #282 (WA4978) 220 Wait Avenue

By 1960, Wake Forest was served by a bookmobile but did not have a permanent library. Although there had been some interest in a countywide library system, all Wake County precincts except Wake Forest rejected the necessary increase in taxes to fund it. Instead, Wake Forest received a grant from the State Library Board to establish its own local library, which became a true community effort: Catherine Paschal and Clyde Smith, librarians at the Olivia Raney Library in Raleigh, sought the grant; businessman W.W. Holding, Jr., leased his former office on White Street to house the library; high school shop teacher Mack Bridge and his students built the shelving; Nannie Holding organized a book donation program; and the Wake Forest Woman's Club organized fundraisers to provide an operating budget. The library opened with one thousand books in 1961, offering library cards to Wake Forest Elementary School students for twenty-five cents, to Wake Forest school district residents for fifty cents, and to anyone else for one dollar. Meanwhile the bookmobile continued to serve residents on the outskirts of town.⁵⁶

The library was initially a branch of the Olivia Raney Library, but became part of the countywide library system in 1970.⁵⁷ By that time, the library had outgrown its space, and was relocated to the former Central Carolina Bank building on South White Street. The bank offered funds to help with the move, which were matched by the community, and the Town took over the operating and maintenance expenses at that time. The library had again outgrown its space by the early 1990s, and in 1996 the present library was constructed on East Holding Avenue using joint funding from the town and the county.⁵⁸

Although parks, schools, and amenities for white children had been built and updated frequently throughout the town's history, these opportunities did not materialize for African Americans until the 1950s. Thanks in part to years of advocacy by East End resident Bertha Perry, in 1956, the mayor announced plans to construct a swimming pool on the east side of town, and three years later the Taylor Street Pool opened. Holding Park, Wake Forest's first public park, opened for use by both races in 1964 next to the Community House and pool, and in 1969 a playground was added.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Catherine W. Bishir and Marshall Bullock, "Forestville Baptist Church," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1984, Section 8, 1-3; Forestville Baptist Church, "Church History"; "Forestville," newspaper clipping, June 16, 1994.

⁵⁵ Moore, "History of Olive Branch Baptist Church"; Joan Smith, "New Steeple Tops Homecoming," *The Wake Weekly*, October 23, 1980, "Olive Branch Baptist Church" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁵⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 88, Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 25.

⁵⁷ Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 24-25.

⁵⁸ Pelosi, *Connections*, 108, 139.

⁵⁹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 75, 98; Pelosi, untitled newspaper article, *The Wake Weekly*, April 6, 2000.

Town services had to be expanded to accommodate the population growth as well. Ensuring an adequate water supply was an ongoing concern in Wake Forest, and in 1963, a dam was built on Smith Creek to provide a water supply reservoir, and a water treatment plant was built at the foot of the dam. Sewage treatment was also a concern, as Wake Forest's sewer lines had been built in the 1920s and at this time were still outfalls that dumped raw sewage directly into local waterways. The state mandated treatment of wastewater to prevent pollution, and sewage treatment plants were built on Richland Creek and Spring Branch in 1963, and on Smith Creek in 1977. Seven-digit phone numbers were assigned to town residents in 1964, and phone calls to Raleigh became toll-free.⁶⁰

Transportation improvements were also made in response to the population growth. In 1964, Brook Street and South White Street south of Elm Street were paved. New residents brought increased traffic, and in the late 1960s, a new bypass for NC Highway 98 was recommended for construction south of town, and was completed in the late 1970s.⁶¹ By 1963, after numerous fatal accidents between automobiles and trains at the grade crossings in Wake Forest, town leaders began to explore changes to increase safety at railroad crossings.⁶² A 1963 fire likely caused by the sparks of a passing train destroyed the original 1874 passenger depot, which was replaced the following year with a new brick depot. The old freight depot was demolished in 1965 to make way for a parking lot, and the new depot, which remains extant at 121 Front Street, provided both passenger and freight service.⁶³ The Seaboard Air Line Railway merged with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1967, forming the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, which in turn was absorbed by CSX Transportation in 1982 and continues to be operated by CSX.⁶⁴

The loss of Wake Forest College resulted in not only a loss of jobs, but also a loss of collective identity in the Wake Forest community. In the 1960s, town leaders began crafting a new identity as an industrial center, starting with the 1964 establishment of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) whose mission was to attract new industry, new jobs, and new residents to Wake Forest. Their first project was to help A. Schrader's Son, a division of Scovill Manufacturing Company, open a plant manufacturing hydraulic cylinders, valves, and other air and fluid control products. The IDC sold bonds to buy the land and built the plant, which employed 450 workers by 1971, then leased it to Schrader, who paid off the bonds. The Town of Wake Forest and Wake County jointly funded the extension of water and sewer services to the plant. In 1965, Athey Products opened a plant employing another 250 workers to manufacture heavy earth-moving machinery for mining, quarrying, and highway construction companies, as well as street sweeping machinery. Neuse Plastic Company opened a plant in the former Purina dog food facility in 1966, manufacturing milk jugs and other plastic containers with about 45 employees. Diazit Company, which produces blueprint machine parts for the construction industry, also announced plans to build a plant near Wake Forest in 1966.

⁶⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 79-80, 84, 91, 111.

⁶¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 91, 93, 110.

⁶² Pelosi, *Connections*, 93; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 82.

⁶³ Pelosi, *Connections*, 95; David Leone, "Horror, heroes and the _____," *The Wake Weekly*, September 25, 2008, "1960s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Pelosi, "The Railroad Was a Lifeline"; "Landmark Comes Down," 1964, *The Wake Weekly*, "Railroad" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁶⁴ J.D. Lewis, "North Carolina Railroads – Seaboard Air Line Railway/Railroad," https://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_seaboard_air_line.html (accessed June 2020); J.D. Lewis, "North Carolina Railroads – Seaboard Coast Line Railroad," https://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_seaboard_coast_line.html (accessed June 2020).

The Formex Division of Huyck Corporation built a facility in 1970 to produce fabric for paper mills and employed about 125 people. Mallinckrodt Parenteral plant opened in 1975, employing almost ninety people manufacturing injectable contrast media used for x-rays.⁶⁵

In the early 1950s, Wake County began making plans to improve its health care system with the construction of two new hospitals in Raleigh and four hospitals in smaller towns around the county, including Wake Forest. The hospital was completed in 1960, but problems with operational funding prevented it from opening until 1963. The hospital offered twenty beds, an operating room, and a laboratory. The county's 1964 STOP POLIO campaign offered immunizations to all county residents. A professional building was built in the late 1960s, and Bbel Health Care also built a nursing home facility on Wait Avenue in 1990.⁶⁶



Figure 11: Northern Wake Hospital (WA8705) 250 South Allen Road

Wake Forest remained largely segregated well into the 1960s. In 1960, Wake Forest native I. Beverly Lake, Sr., ran for governor on a segregationist platform, and although he was defeated in the primary by Terry Sanford, who did eventually become governor, Lake had substantial support among Wake Forest residents.⁶⁷ In addition to segregated schools, the theaters and most restaurants were also segregated. However, residents recall that Shorty's restaurant and some dime stores served both white and African American residents. During the Civil Rights movement, Wake Forest was spared much of the unrest of nearby cities like Greensboro, Wilmington, and Oxford, although there were efforts to dismantle segregation among local residents. African Americans were not permitted to swim at the Community House pool, so a group of Black children "fell into the pool," resulting in the removal of that particular restriction.⁶⁸ The Forest Theater, which was destroyed by fire in 1966, required African Americans to enter from the alley, purchase concessions from an alley window, and sit in the balcony. Residents recall that it was not uncommon during the 1950s for African Americans in the balcony to "accidentally" drop their drinks onto the white patrons below.⁶⁹

In 1967, the Wake County School Board mandated that integration of schools was required in all school districts by 1970. To try to achieve an uneventful transition, the town established a Good Neighbor Council, as well as appointing committees at each of the three schools. Until that time, DuBois High School had served African American students in grades one through twelve, while Wake Forest Elementary and Wake Forest High School had served white students. However, when Yvonne Peppers, Theresa Watkins, Jeanette Massenburg, Rhonda Hood, and Pauline Battle transferred from DuBois High School to Wake Forest High School for

⁶⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 90-91, 104; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 19-20; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 8, 53-54; "Industry Chooses WF Site," *The Wake Weekly*, January 24, 1964, "1960s" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Leone, "Men on a Mission"; Carol Pelosi, "Mallinckrodt Parenteral Has Tripled in Five Years," June 5, 1980, *The Wake Weekly*, "Industry" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁶⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 81, 86-87, 91, 132-133; Branson, "The Story of Wake Forest," 24.

⁶⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 81, 84; Leone, "Five Walked In."

⁶⁸ Slattery, "Pope Part of Wake Forest Downtown's History."

⁶⁹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 75.

the 1967-1968 school year, their treatment was so poor that Peppers, Massenburg, and Battle returned to DuBois High School.⁷⁰ Watkins recalled they were “confronted with the racism slogans, being called ugly names, tearing up our books, going in our lockers, slashing the KKK sign on our books.”⁷¹ Watkins had chosen to switch schools in the hope that she could play basketball, since DuBois High School did not have a girls team, however her father refused to allow her to play fearing that she would be unsafe at away games. In spite of the opposition, full integration was achieved by the start of the 1970-1971 school year, as required. That same year, the Rolesville school district was dissolved and half of the Rolesville students were assigned to the Wake Forest district, which then included Wake Forest Elementary School, Wake Forest-Rolesville Junior High (formerly DuBois High School), and Wake Forest-Rolesville High School.⁷²

Other Wake Forest residents broke barriers to equality in the 1960s and 1970s as well. In 1961, Dessie Watkins Harper was the first woman elected to the Board of Commissioners, and Anne Holden was the first woman appointed to the role of town clerk. In 1971, Ailey M. Young was the first African American to be elected to the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners.⁷³

Wake Forest’s Population Explosion: 1975-2020

Although industrial growth helped Wake Forest to reestablish its identity and offset the economic impact of Wake Forest College’s move to Winston-Salem, industry went into a steep decline by the late twentieth century. Unable to adjust to the changes from cotton to synthetic clothing, the Glen Royall Cotton Mill closed in 1976, putting about 230 employees out of work.⁷⁴ Walter Kidde Company opened a new plant in 1982 that employed 150 workers making fire protection systems, but it was a short-lived venture and closed just seven years later.⁷⁵ AGA Gas also operated a gas separation plant for a short period in the 1980s and 1990s.⁷⁶ Although the Wake Finishing Plant had been expanded four times since the 1950s, processed 700,000 yards of fabric weekly, and employed seven hundred people, Burlington Industries closed the facility in 1992. Athey Products had undergone a major expansion by 1980, and started to make street sweepers, in addition to machinery for snow removal, ditch cleaning, and other construction equipment, all built to order. But the plant closed in 2000, leaving another 130 people out of work. Parker-Hannifin (formerly Scovill Schrader) followed a few months later, with another 140 unemployed.⁷⁷ Weavexx (formerly Formex) closed its manufacturing operations in 2003, leaving over 130 employees without work.⁷⁸ W.W. Holding Cotton Exchange operated until around 2000, and the warehouse is now an artisan and event

⁷⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 98-99, 102; Jones, “The DuBois Community,” 4; Thomas, “W.E.B. DuBois School,” Section 8, 9.

⁷¹ Leone, “Five Walked In.”

⁷² Pelosi, *Connections*, 98-99, 102; Jones, “The DuBois Community,” 4; Thomas, “W.E.B. DuBois School,” Section 8, 9.

⁷³ Pelosi, *Connections*, 105; David Leone, “Five Walked In,” September 25, 2008, *The Wake Weekly*, “Integration” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁷⁴ Murphy, “Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina”; Pelosi, *Connections*, 109; Pezzoni, “Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District,” Section 8, 38.

⁷⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 121, 127; Carol Pelosi, “Industries Moved to WF and Area,” *The Wake Weekly*, January 6, 1983, “1980s” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁷⁶ Pelosi, “Industries Moved to WF and Area.”

⁷⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 140, 154-155; Carol Pelosi, “Athey Builds Sweepers to Meet Growing Demand,” June 19, 1980, *The Wake Weekly*, “Industry” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁷⁸ Pelosi, *Connections*, 158; Pelosi, “Wake Finishing Oldest of the Major industries.”

space.⁷⁹ Mallinckrodt Parenteral underwent a significant expansion around 1980 and is one of the only remaining industries in Wake Forest.⁸⁰

Transportation in the Wake Forest area also changed dramatically in the late twentieth century. The railroads were in decline by the 1970s. Passenger service decreased in 1971 and ultimately ended in the 1980s. In the 1990s, sections of track north of Weldon were removed, and by 2018, freight trains ran through Wake Forest taking goods from Norlina, the new northern terminus, to Raleigh and back each day, but did not stop in Wake Forest. However, this section of railroad is expected to be incorporated into the South East High Speed Rail project connecting Washington, D.C., to Jacksonville, Florida, which is currently in the planning stages.⁸¹

Construction of a new section of NC Highway 98 from Wake Forest to Durham began in 1977 to reroute the road and add bridges following the construction of Falls Lake Reservoir, and the project was completed in 1982. Construction also began in 1977 to expand US Highway 1 from two lanes to four lanes east from Wake Forest to Raleigh. It was renamed Capital Boulevard in 1990, and in 1992, it was widened to four lanes heading north from Wake Forest as well. Stadium Drive was realigned to meet Jenkins Road and Harris Road was realigned to meet Purnell Road in the early 1990s, and construction also began on Interstate 540, also known as the Northern Loop Expressway, approximately ten miles south of downtown Wake Forest.⁸² In 2004, construction began on the NC Highway 98 bypass, which opened in 2006 to help alleviate traffic congestion around the seminary by allowing through-traffic to bypass downtown.⁸³

Although annexation of new neighborhoods and industries on the fringes of the town limits, was discussed in the early 1970s, it did not take place at that time, in spite of the clear need for the extension of town services. The Forestville town charter had been repealed in 1915, followed by the Town of Royall Cotton Mills charter in 1945, and the mill village was in desperate need of improved services and paved streets. East End was also in particular need of annexation and the extension of town services. In this neighborhood, several families still utilized privies and septic tanks that often leaked into homes and yards, and the streets remained unpaved.⁸⁴ In 1977, East End, Glen Royal Mill Village, Pineview Estates, and Cardinal Hills were annexed without opposition. The same year, efforts were made to annex many of the houses and industries on NC Highway 98 (Durham Road) west of the town, and after strong opposition from the property owners, the annexation was upheld by the courts and finalized in 1982. Efforts to annex Forestville began in 1984 and were completed in 1988 after a lengthy legal battle.⁸⁵ Following annexation, the town utilized various grants to improve housing, extend

⁷⁹ The Cotton Company, “Our History,” <http://thecottoncompany.net/cotton-company/our-history> (accessed June 2020).

⁸⁰ Pelosi, “Industries Moved to WF and Area”; Pelosi, “Mallinckrodt Parenteral Has Tripled in Five Years.”

⁸¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 51, 105; Pelosi, “The Railroad Was a Lifeline.”

⁸² Pelosi, *Connections*, 110, 121, 134, 136.

⁸³ Eren Tataragasi, “N.C. 98 Bypass Opening Called a Success,” *The Wake Weekly*, June 22, 2006, “Growth” Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

⁸⁴ Pelosi, *Connections*, 20, 63, 105-106, 109; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 15.

⁸⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 111, 122, 126; Town of Wake Forest Planning Department, “Annexation History” Map, October 2019.

water and sewer lines, and pave streets in the East End and Glen Royall Mill Village neighborhoods.⁸⁶

In the late twentieth century, Raleigh's rapid growth and the construction of Falls Lake placed development pressure on Wake Forest.⁸⁷ Wake Forest's population began to grow at an extraordinary rate, from 3,780 people in 1980, to 5,769 people in 1990, and 12,588 people in 2000.⁸⁸ The town then grew fourteen percent – adding over 2,500 residents – between July 1, 2004, and July 1, 2005, the highest growth rate of any North Carolina town.⁸⁹ The population continued to increase from 37,046 people in 2010 to over 45,600 people in 2019.⁹⁰

To accommodate the influx of residents, new housing developments were constructed at an unprecedented rate. In 1970, Wake Forest had approximately 1,051 housing units. That number grew to 1,540 units in 1980, 2,333 units in 1990, 10,155 units in 2006, and 11,370 units by 2010.⁹¹ Remington Woods, Tyler Run, Cimarron, and Staffordshire subdivisions, as well as Weatherstone townhomes and North Forest apartments, were all built in the 1980s, followed by the Heritage subdivision, also a golf course community, in the early 2000s.⁹² Unlike earlier, mid-twentieth century neighborhoods, which often were integrated with neighborhood schools, churches, parks, and shopping centers, these late twentieth century neighborhoods were relatively isolated, connected more closely with each other than with nearby community institutions.⁹³ Located on the western and southern edges of town, the neighborhoods were built beyond the town limits. However, over time the town boundaries were expanded and these areas annexed.⁹⁴

In the early 1970s, plans began for merging the Wake County and City of Raleigh school systems. Wake Forest initially rejected the merger because funding was unequal between City of Raleigh schools and the county schools, however it was approved in 1976 and a single countywide school system was formed.⁹⁵ A new middle school site was selected on South Main Street in 1987, and the Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School opened there two years later.⁹⁶ Meanwhile, the old middle school, originally W.E.B. DuBois High School, remained vacant until the National DuBois High School Alumni Association purchased the campus from the Wake County Board of Education in 1998, with plans to establish a community center offering tutoring programs, a computer lab, job training, adult educational opportunities, a local history museum, and recreational opportunities.⁹⁷ The 1926 Rosenwald building on the Dubois

⁸⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 113, 118-119.

⁸⁷ Murphy, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake Forest, North Carolina."

⁸⁸ Golden, "Town Saw Record Growth in the 90s."

⁸⁹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 164.

⁹⁰ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Wake Forest town, North Carolina," [census.gov/quickfacts/wakeforesttownnorthcarolina](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/wakeforesttownnorthcarolina) (accessed June 2020); Town of Wake Forest Planning Department, "Demographics," <https://www.wakeforestnc.gov/planning/demographics> (accessed June 2020).

⁹¹ David Leone, "Commercial Growth Lagging Behind Residential Explosion," *The Wake Weekly*, January 3, 2008, "Growth" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Wake Forest Planning Department, "Demographics."

⁹² Pelosi, *Connections*, 123, 144.

⁹³ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 70.

⁹⁴ Town of Wake Forest Planning Department, "Annexation History" Map.

⁹⁵ Pelosi, *Connections*, 108, 110.

⁹⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 127; Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," Section 8, 9.

⁹⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 142-143; Jones, "The DuBois Community," 4; Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," Section 8, 9.

campus remains extant, however the 1939 high school building was demolished in 1991.⁹⁸ In the early 1990s, a large addition was constructed at the Wake Forest Elementary School.⁹⁹ The Rosenwald Elementary Building also known as the McElrath Building (ca. 1926) and the PWA-era High School Building (1939) were demolished in 2017. The ca. 1942 Agriculture/Shop Building and two 1960s era classroom buildings are still standing though only the Agriculture/Shop Building is in use.

Public parks and recreational opportunities expanded to serve the growing community. In 1977, the town received a grant to renovate the Community House and to demolish the 1942 swimming pool to build a new, larger pool in its place. Ailey Young Park, the town's second public park, was dedicated in 1982 on East Juniper Avenue and included the only town-owned baseball fields for many years.¹⁰⁰ The Alston-Massenburg Center was built at the Taylor Street Pool in 1986 with funding from both the Town of the Wake Forest and Wake County, and the pool in that location was closed and filled in. The adjacent Taylor Park initially had basketball courts, but they were removed between 2005 and 2010, and a picnic shelter and playground were built by 2010.¹⁰¹ In 1989, funding was approved to build Tyler Run Park, to add restrooms at Holding Park and Forrest Park, and to make improvements to Rock Spring Park. Additional ball fields were built at J.B. Flaherty Park in 1993, the Flaherty Community Center and pool was added in 2001, and the park also now has tennis courts, a playground, and a dog park. Kiwanis Park opened as part of a new greenway system in 2000, and Joyner Park opened in 2009 and was expanded with a community center and playground in 2019.¹⁰² Although the Wake Forest Country Club closed in 2007, the Heritage Golf Club opened south of town in 2001 and the nine-hole Paschal Golf Course established in 1915 still operates today.¹⁰³

In the late 1970s, the Wake Forest Plaza shopping center was built on Brooks Street south of town, and contained a Winn-Dixie grocery store and other retail stores. The Market of Wake Forest Corners shopping center was built in the mid-1980s and offered retail stores, banks, restaurants, and an automobile service station. After the Athey plant closed, that facility was redeveloped as a multiuse commercial and recreational space known as The Factory, which offers shopping, restaurants, indoor soccer, and baseball fields. By 2006, the town shopping centers also included Capital Plaza, Wake Pointe Shopping Center, and Wake Forest Crossings.¹⁰⁴

These shopping centers began pulling retail business away from the downtown, which experienced high vacancy during the difficult economic climate of the mid-1980s. The Downtown Revitalization Committee was formed in 1978 to prioritize efforts for the economic revitalization of the downtown area, and in 1985 it was incorporated as a nonprofit, the Wake Forest Downtown Revitalization Corporation, which is now known as Wake Forest Downtown,

⁹⁸ Smart, *Wake Forest*, 65.

⁹⁹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 134.

¹⁰⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 110, 121, 133.

¹⁰¹ Pelosi, *Connections*, 75, 124; Pelosi, untitled newspaper article, *The Wake Weekly*, April 6, 2000; Aerial images, City of Raleigh and Wake County iMAPS, maps.raleighnc.gov/iMAPS (accessed June 2020).

¹⁰² Pelosi, *Connections*, 127, 153, 155.

¹⁰³ Leone, "Men on a Mission."

¹⁰⁴ Pelosi, *Connections*, 112-113, 123, 159; Leone, "Commercial Growth Lagging Behind Residential Explosion."

Inc.¹⁰⁵ In 1986, the Town of Wake Forest and the Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce invested in the downtown by removing dilapidated signage, cleaning the building exteriors, installing new awnings and sidewalks, and planting trees.¹⁰⁶ With the town struggling to keep industry long-term, the Wake Forest Business and Industry Partnership formed in 1994 to attract both commercial and industrial companies to the town.¹⁰⁷ Wake Forest became a Main Street Community with support from the Town of Wake Forest Downtown Development Department and Wake Forest Downtown and today has a vibrant downtown commercial core.

¹⁰⁵ David Zucchini, "Waking Up: Town Eager for Growth," *Raleigh News and Observer*, April 1, 1978, "Growth Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Wake Forest Downtown, "About," <https://www.wakeforestdowntown.com/about/> (accessed June 2020).

¹⁰⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 126; Zucchini, "Waking Up."

¹⁰⁷ Jeff Alford, "Wheels Start Moving to Attract WF Industry," *The Wake Weekly*, May 4, 1995, "Growth" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Jeff Alford, "WF Board, Business Groups Talk Industrial Development," *The Wake Weekly*, December 14, 1995, "Growth" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Wake Forest Business and Industry Partnership, "About Us," <http://www.discoverwakeforest.org/about-us> (accessed June 2020).

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Wake Forest's nineteenth and early twentieth century is best represented by the buildings within the Wake Forest Historic District (WA1665; NR2003). These buildings, the largest collection of intact resources from the pre-World War II era in the town, illustrates a diversity of architectural form and style that is due in large part to its lengthy period of development, from 1820 through the mid-twentieth century.

In Wake Forest, and throughout North Carolina, the economic depression of the 1930s followed by the limited availability of building materials during the World War II era, resulted in very limited residential construction from 1930 to 1945. However, following the war, a dramatic increase in residential construction occurred, in part as a response to the suppressed housing market of the previous decade, and in part—in college towns specifically—to an increase in student enrollment. The Town of Wake Forest was no exception with the existing residential area expanding into undeveloped land near the college and new suburban developments laid out near, or outside of, the town boundaries.

In the immediate post-World War II era, smaller houses with restrained ornamentation were constructed on vacant lots within Wake Forest's historic neighborhoods as well as on the fringes of the historic core. Characterized by a very simple rectangular, side- or front-gabled form, flush eaves, and a lack of architectural detail, Minimal Traditional-style houses were a response to the limited resources of the Depression and World War II, and then the need for rapid home building after the war. These houses, constructed from the mid-1940s through the early 1950s, were small in size with compact footprints that were well suited to existing urban lots.

By the 1950s, the Ranch form came to dominate the residential landscape in Wake Forest, as it did in much of the state. The wide, one-story houses, with low-pitched, hipped or gabled roofs were most often constructed with brick veneers and were attractive to both middle- and working-class families looking for a low-maintenance alternative to wood siding, which required regular repainting. Most examples in Wake Forest utilized traditional details, perhaps a reference to the Classical and Colonial-style buildings on the Wake Forest College campus. These details include double-hung windows, paneled doors with classical surrounds, and decorative metal posts or classical columns supporting the carports and small porches.



Figure 12: House (WA8706)
332 South Allen Road

While much of the flat land immediately surrounding the college had already been developed by the 1950s, rugged terrain and large suburban lots remained to the west and south of the Wake Forest Historic District, and throughout new mid-twentieth century developments at the outskirts of town. Engaged one- and two-bay carports were common, illustrating the significance of the automobile during the mid-twentieth century. Additionally, the open floor plans with centrally located kitchens represented the family-centered focus of the 1950s

house, a rejection of the fragmentation of rooms separated by hallways that earlier house forms provided. Most of the subdivisions platted in the 1950s and 1960s contain entire streetscapes of Ranch houses, the form remaining popular in Wake Forest through the 1980s.

The vast majority of houses built in Wake Forest between 1958 and 1975 were constructed with Ranch forms and finished with traditional details. However, several noteworthy examples of the Modernist style are present in the study area. Modernism was introduced to North Carolinians in the late 1940s, most notably through the establishment of the School of Design in 1948 at North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University) in nearby Raleigh. The style, which like most architectural styles was slow to reach small towns and rural areas, was little used in Wake Forest until the 1970s, and even then was never as popular as the Ranch house.

The earliest example of the style in Wake Forest is the 1950 Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734). The house is not overtly Modern, but instead bears a Ranch form with Modernist details including paired and tripled one-light, metal-framed casement windows with shared transoms. The resulting window units are in turn grouped—most often in groups of three—to create wide expanses of glass. The two interior chimneys are tied together and have a shared, flat chimney cap creating the image of a single, broad chimney.

Characteristics of the Modernist style typically include flat and shed roofs with deep overhangs, exposed roof beams and purlins, large banks of windows, recessed entries, and natural materials. Among the best residential examples of the style is the c.1973 William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8698). Located in a new, curvilinear subdivision constructed adjacent to the Wake Forest Country Club, the one-story, side-gabled house has few openings on the street-facing façade, but large expanses of glass windows and doors on the rear elevation to take advantage of the natural views and to blur the boundary between interior and exterior spaces. The dramatic slope of the shed-roofed, two-car carport and the deep eaves emphasizes the horizontality of the house and differentiates it from Colonial Revival-style houses in the neighborhood.

A late example of Modernist architecture in Wake Forest is the c.1977-1984 John and Melanie Murphy Rich House (WA8716). Constructed about 1977, the front-gabled core of the house features a low-sloped roof with deep overhangs and exposed purlins, a prominent exterior



Figure 13: Cardinal Hills (WA4989)
200 block Mockingbird Lane



Figure 14: Thomas J. Byrne House
(WA8734) 442 Pineview Drive



Figure 15: William and Barbara Mutschler
House (WA87698)
1320 Country Club Drive

chimney on the façade and large expanses of windows that nearly wrap the corners of the building. The house was enlarged before 1988 with a side-gabled wing and attached garage, all arranged around a landscaped patio and deck space at the rear.

Modernism as applied to commercial buildings was equally scarce in Wake Forest. A handful of commercial buildings near the downtown core, predominantly banks, were constructed with Modernist design elements, though many have been altered over time. More typical are mid-twentieth century commercial buildings that continue the trends of standard commercial construction that prevailed throughout the early twentieth century.

The most striking example of institutional Modernism in Wake Forest is the 1960 Northern Wake Hospital (WA8705). The one-story, flat-roofed, blonde-brick building features pierced concrete screening on the east and north elevations, facing the street and parking lot, and full wall of windows on the west elevation, facing a wooded area at the interior of the block. The entrance is sheltered by an asymmetrical, barrel roof supported by concrete columns.

More typical of mid-century institutional building is the 1958 Forestville Baptist Church Education Building with a red-brick veneer, twelve-light steel-sash casement windows, and a modest, inset entrance.



Figure 16: John and Melanie Murphy House (WA8716) 142 Jenkins Road



Figure 17: Commercial Building (WA8723) 502-504 South White Street



Figure 18: Northern Wake Hospital (WA8705) 250 South Allen Road

DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

While the population of Wake Forest declined in the 1950s, new residents moved to the Wake Forest area in large numbers during the 1960s and 1970s, many taking advantage of job opportunities in Raleigh. As a result, at least ten new residential developments were built from the 1950s through the 1970s. Most mid-century development in Wake Forest occurred in neighborhoods just outside of the city limits or as clusters of Ranch houses located along major thoroughfares leading into and out of the town, like South Main Street, Wait Avenue, and Durham Road (NC 98). The earliest neighborhoods were gridded, though irregularities occurred as the neighborhood planners navigated natural features and irregular tracts of land. Later neighborhoods were laid out using Olmstedian principles, including curvilinear streets, large lots with deep setbacks, and the retention of mature tree canopies. Constructed mostly east and south of downtown the neighborhoods were largely built out with Ranch houses, though several include split-level, Modernist-style, or other variations on late-twentieth century residential architecture.

As a result of the population decline associated with the relocation of Wake Forest College in 1956, many of the earliest subdivisions, platted in the 1950s, were not fully developed until the 1960s or early 1970s. This is true for the earliest platted developments in the study. The large neighborhood south of town (WA7925), near the intersection of South Main Street and Capital Boulevard (US1), reads as a single development but was platted as three separate subdivisions; Home Gardens (1953); W.G. Mangum (1963); and Green Acres (1966).¹⁰⁸



Figure 19: Home Gardens/Mangum/
Green Acres (WA7925)
1600 block Mangum Avenue

Loosely gridded, the three developments intersect each other at irregular angles. The land is relatively flat with mature trees at the rear/interior of blocks and paved streets. The lack of sidewalks is typical of mid-twentieth century developments that were located beyond walking distance of the city center and which, as a result, were automobile focused. Houses in Mangum/Green Acres largely date from 1960 to 1976, reflecting the growing population of the town during those decades, and include small, one-story, side-gabled Ranch houses with siding or brick veneers. Home Gardens developed much more slowly, with the southwest end not developed until the 2010s. The area is currently experiencing teardowns and new construction at the northeast end, along Ligon Mill Road and Wake Drive.

Similarly, on the eastern border of the town limits, Brewer Circle (WA8693) was platted in 1954 near the intersection of North Allen Street and Wait Avenue.¹⁰⁹ The plat was organized around a circular drive, accessed from the east side of North Allen Street and bisected by Carroll Street, which extended north from Wait Avenue. However, the northeast part of the circle was never

¹⁰⁸ “Home Gardens,” October 24, 1953, Book of Maps 1953, Page 97, Wake County Register of Deeds; “W.G. Mangum Subdivision,” April 1, 1960, Book of Maps 1960, Page 79, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Green Acres Subdivision,” August 1966, Book of Maps 1966, Page 176, Wake County Register of Deeds.

¹⁰⁹ “Subdivision of Property of Mrs. Nancy P. Brewery, Wake Forest, N.C.,” 1954, Book of Maps 1954, Page 14, Wake County Register of Deeds.

completed and while the right-of-way remains on maps, no roads currently exist in this area. Development was focused along North Allen Street, Wait Avenue, and the southeast end of Brewer Circle. The land is relatively flat and mature trees remain scattered throughout the neighborhood with more dense forest-like areas on the undeveloped lots. Housing in Brewer Circle is generally smaller and less impressive than the brick Ranch housing in the nearby neighborhood of Cardinal Hills. It includes small, frame Minimal Traditional-style houses as well as small, one-story, side-gabled Ranch houses. The most impressive houses are side-gabled and hip-roofed Ranch houses on large lots, set well back from the north side of Wait Avenue, most with attached carports. The south end of the neighborhood was largely built out by 1971, though the north part of Carroll Street was developed later and extended to form a separate, much denser, early twenty-first century neighborhood.



Figure 20: Brewer Circle (WA8693)
800-block of Wait Avenue

Unlike developments platted in the 1950s, those planned in the 1960s, after the population of the town began to rebound, had more compact periods of development. The adjacent Windsor Park (WA8767) and Spring Valley developments (WA4990), platted in 1960 and 1961 respectively, are located south of town and extend east from South Main Street on former farmland. “Papa K” Marshall bought up several small farms during the Depression, subdivided the land in the early 1960s, and constructed small, side-gabled Ranch houses throughout the neighborhood, primarily between 1964 and 1978. The streets in Windsor Park are arranged with curvilinear streets bisecting the roughly triangular piece of land bordered by Forestville Road on the east and South Main Street on the northwest. Streets in Spring Valley are dead-end streets that extend east from South Main Street. Like Home Gardens/Mangum/Green Acres and Brewer Circle, the development lacks sidewalks and is instead focused on the automobile.



Figure 21: Spring Valley (WA4990)
100-block Spring Valley Road

In 1964, the Cardinal Hills subdivision (WA4989) was platted by Ira “Shorty” Lee, then expanded with a second plat in 1974.¹¹⁰ The neighborhood, located on the east side of town, south of Wait Avenue, is characterized by wide lots, deep housing setbacks, and mature pine trees. The small scale of the neighborhood and the dead-end and cul-de-sac streets at its south end make for little traffic and generally quiet streets, which are without curbs,



Figure 22: Cardinal Hills (WA4989)
200-block Mockingbird Lane

¹¹⁰ Pelosi, *Connections*, 92-93; “Cardinal Hills Subdivision,” March 2, 1964, Plat Book 1965, Page 104, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Cardinal Hills Subdivision,” February 15, 1974, Plat Book 1974, Page 189, Wake County Register of Deeds; Pelosi, *Connections*, 92-93.

gutters, or sidewalks. The oldest houses in the area are Ranch houses along South Allen Street that predate the 1964 plat, and illustrate typical 1950s Ranch forms. The Ranch form dominates the core of the neighborhood as well, with most houses constructed between 1965 and 1975 with brick veneers and Colonial Revival-style detailing including multi-light windows, paneled aprons below windows, six-panel doors, fluted door surrounds, and dentil cornices. The later houses on Quail Avenue are both one- and two-story houses, as well as examples of split-level houses. Later plats of Sparrow, Nuthatch, and the 300-block of Mockingbird lane, all at the south end of the development, date to the 1980s.

The subdivisions of the 1970s continued earlier trends in neighborhood development in Wake Forest with either long streets from which short dead-end roads with cul-de-sacs extended, or loop roads around which the lots are organized. Pineview Estates (WA8694), platted in four sections from 1969 to 1976, illustrates the former. Extending west from South Main Street, just north of NC 98, the development has two long east-west streets, Pine Ridge Court and Lakeview Avenue, from which shorter, dead-end streets extend.¹¹¹ The land has rolling hills, a small pond near the northwest end of Pine Ridge Court, and mature trees (many of them pine trees) throughout. The neighborhood includes sixty-six houses, most constructed from 1970 to 1981, predominantly one-story, side-gabled, Ranch houses with brick veneers or a combination of brick and vinyl siding. Many have Colonial Revival details including double-hung, multi-light windows that are generally paired and, in some cases, have paneled aprons. Houses in each separate plat are very consistent in form and detail, indicating that they were most likely speculatively built.



Figure 23: Pineview Estates (WA8694)
100-block Pine Ridge Court

Platted in 1969, the Wake Forest Country Club (WA8697) development is located northwest of downtown Wake Forest and just south of the Wake Forest Country Club and southeast of the golf course, a Gene Hamm-designed course that opened in 1967. The development includes twenty parcels arranged around a loop road accessed via Capital Boulevard and Chilmark Avenue. The drive makes a U shape with cul-de-sacs at the corners and at the southwest end of the dead-end road. The land is relatively flat and the neighborhood is covered with a canopy of mature trees. Fifteen of the twenty houses in the development date from 1972 to 1980 and are largely one-story, brick Ranch houses, most with more Modernist detailing than is typical in Wake Forest. Two Modernist houses of note (1320 and 1414 Country Club Drive)



Figure 24: C. R. and Lillian Faircloth
House (WA8695)
1414 Country Club Drive

¹¹¹ “Pineview Estates – Section One,” January 12, 1970, Book of Maps 1969, Page 374, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates – Section Two,” June 23, 1970, Book of Maps 1970, Page 145, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates,” May 9, 1975, Book of Maps 1975, Page 153, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Pineview Estates,” January 14, 1976, Book of Maps 1976, Page 189, Wake Forest Register of Deeds.

are juxtaposed against more traditional forms, including several two-story, side-gabled, Colonial Revival-style houses.

Oakwood Estates (WA8695) is located approximately 1.25 miles west of downtown Wake Forest, on the north side of Durham Road (NC Highway 98). It was platted in three sections from 1970 to 1976.¹¹² The neighborhood is arranged around a circular drive that extends north from Durham Road. Oakwood Drive makes up the west side of the circle; Dogwood Lane is the east side of the circle; and Holly Circle is a small cul-de-sac at the northwest corner of the circle. The neighborhood has mature trees and rolling topography, paved streets with curb and gutter, but no sidewalks. Thirty-five houses were constructed in the neighborhood before 1980 and include one-story, side-gabled Ranch houses; one-and-a-half-story and two-story, side-gabled, Colonial Revival-style houses; split-level and split-foyer houses; and a number of more Modernist, shed-roofed houses.



Figure 25: Oakwood Estates (WA8695)
100-block Oakwood Drive

¹¹² “Oakwood Subdivision, Section One,” March 31, 1970, Book of Maps 1970, Page 261, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Oakwood Subdivision, Section Two,” August 1, 1975, Book of Maps 1975, Page 304, Wake County Register of Deeds; “Oakwood Subdivision, Section Three,” Book of Maps 1976, Page 188, Wake County Register of Deeds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

National Register Study List

The following resources are proposed for placement on the North Carolina National Register Study List as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):

Thomas J. Byrne House, 442 Pineview Drive

The Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734) appears eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture. Built in 1950, this one-story, side-gabled, Modernist-style house is located at the northwest corner of Pineview and Woodland drives, southwest of the Wake Forest College (now Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) campus. Designed by Raleigh architect Owen Franklin Smith, the architectural plans are dated March 1950 and illustrate a roughly T-shaped plan with an offset, side-gabled garage wing on the right (north) end. The house is an early example of Modernism in northern Wake County and the only extant example of 1950s Modernism in Wake Forest.

Further, the house illustrates the early work of Smith, who received a degree in Architecture from NC-State in 1939 and worked under several well-known local architects until starting his own practice in 1946. Best known for his design of schools and commercial buildings, including the North Carolina Farm Bureau Building on Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh, the Byrne House is one of only a handful of extant residential designs by Smith and, designed in 1950, is one of his earliest residential designs. At the time of his death in 2012, Smith was the longest practicing architect in North Carolina.

The house features a one-story, side-gabled form with a gabled wing extending from the center of the rear (west) elevation to form a T-plan. While the form and aluminum siding are typical of Ranch housing of the period, the configuration of the windows is distinctly Modern. The paired and tripled one-light, metal-framed casement windows have shared transoms and the resulting window units are in turn grouped—most often in groups of three—to create wide expanses of glass. Fireplaces in the living room and den have plain, rectangular chimneys just behind the main ridgeline of the roof. The chimneys are tied together and have a shared, flat chimney cap creating the image of a single, broad chimney. An inset entrance bay near the center of the façade has a solid door with a wide four-light sidelight. An inset, screened porch is located at the left rear corner of the building with a door from the porch opening to the den. An uncovered deck at the rear (west) end of the rear wing is accessed from the master



Figures 26 and 27: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734) facing west (top) and facing north (bottom)

bedroom and is screened by a sided half-wall. The side-gabled garage wing on the right end of the building is connected to the house via an open breezeway.

The interior of the house also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Its original plan and many original features, including wood-paneled walls, wood built-ins and cabinetry, bathroom tile and fixtures, white linoleum floor in the kitchen accented by colorful squares, and a half-round, built-in banquette seating area in the kitchen, all remain in place.

The house may also be eligible under Criterion B for its association with Thomas (Tommy) Byrne, though more research is needed to explore Byrne's local significance. Byrne, a Baltimore native, relocated to Wake Forest in 1937 to play baseball for Wake Forest College. In 1943 he began a career in Major League Baseball, playing for the New York Yankees, St. Louis Browns, Chicago White Sox, the Washington Senators. In November 1949, Byrne purchased two parcels of land on Pineview Drive, near his alma mater of Wake Forest College, and commissioned Owen Franklin Smith to design a home for the site. Upon retiring from baseball in 1957, Byrne returned to Wake Forest permanently. He was involved in several local business ventures, most notably the creation of the Wake Forest Country Club with several other investors.¹¹³ Byrne's influences in business carried over to the civil servant sector, where he served on the town board for eight years prior to serving two terms as mayor from 1973-1987. Byrne was called upon not only to shape the community of Wake Forest but is also credited in recruiting business to the Research Triangle Park, and was said to have been influential in the recruitment of University of North Carolina's famous basketball coach, Dean Smith. Byrne's impact on the Town of Wake Forest was substantial enough that the Town dedicated a day to Tommy Byrne on September 9, 2007.¹¹⁴ Byrne remained in the house until 1997 and remained in Wake Forest until his death in 2007.



Figure 28: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734) entrance hall facing southeast



Figure 29: Thomas J. Byrne House (WA8734) den facing southeast

The house stands on a 1.24-acre tract, lots 35 and 36 of the J. S. Lassiter Estate that was subdivided in April of 1949. The site features several mature trees in the front (east) and south side yards with a more dense tree coverage along the west property line. The boundary should include the entire 1.24-acre parcel historically associated with the house. The Period of Significance is 1950, the year of construction.

¹¹³ Tataragasi, Eren. "Tommy Byrne Day to honor Yankees star, former mayor." *The Wake Weekly*. August 30, 2007, 1A.

¹¹⁴ Tataragasi, Eren, 1A.

William and Barbara Mutschler House, 1320 Country Club Drive

The William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8698) appears eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture. Built c.1973, this one-story, side-gabled, split-level house is a rare example of Modernist design in Wake Forest.

Nestled within the trees on the north side of Country Club Drive, the house is one of the oldest houses in the Wake Forest Country Club development (WA8697), platted in 1969. While a number of the Ranch houses in the neighborhood have Modernist detailing, the Mutschler House (architect unknown) has a Modernist form as well. It was designed for William and Barbara Mutschler who purchased the lot in January 1973.

The dramatic slope of the shed-roofed, two-car carport on the front of this Modernist-style house differentiates it from the more typical Ranch and Colonial Revival-style houses in the neighborhood. The house has deep eaves, vertical wood board-and-batten above a brick wainscot, and an interior brick chimney serving back-to-back fireplaces on the both levels of the house. As was typical with Modernist designs, the windows are relegated to the side and rear elevations, placed to take advantage of natural views while affording the residents privacy from the street. The façade is devoid of fenestration with the exception of the thirty-two-panel door with one-light sidelight and transom windows that extend all the way up to the roofline. The left (west) one-third of the façade is obscured by the shed-roofed, two-car carport. Tall, fixed windows and one-light French doors on the west gable end open from the dining room to a wood deck that wraps around the northwest corner of the building.

The interior of the house also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Its original plan and many original features, including exposed wood ceiling trusses, board-and-batten interior sheathing, hardwood floors on the main level, and brick-paved floors on the basement level. The site drops down to the rear, exposing a walk-out basement with a glassed-in sunroom that projects into the rear yard.

The exterior is landscaped with a circular concrete drive edged with plantings at the front of the house. At the rear of the house are brick patios, brick and gravel paths, and landscaped gardens overlooking a wooded area and the Wake Forest Country Club golf



Figures 30 and 31: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8698) facing northwest (top) and facing southwest (bottom)



Figure 32: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8698) living room facing northwest

course to the north. New York natives, the Mutschlers relocated to Wake Forest as part of a job transfer for IBM, for whom William “Pete” had been employed since 1956. The couple purchased the property in January 1973 and likely constructed the house soon after. They retained the property until 2005.

The boundary should include the entire 0.91-acre parcel. The Period of Significance is c. 1973, the date of construction.



Figure 33: William and Barbara Mutschler House (WA8698) den and dining room facing north

Olive Branch Baptist Church and Cemetery, 326 East Juniper Avenue

The Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717) and Cemetery (WA1659) appear eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage: African American, specifically as they relate to the Exploration/Settlement and Social History of the East End community from Emancipation through the Civil Rights era. The Olive Branch Baptist Church, formed in 1865, was the pivotal social institution around which the African American settlement in northeast Wake Forest, the current-day East End neighborhood, formed. The property meets Criterion Consideration A for religious properties because the property derives its significance from its association with the exploration and settlement as well as the social history of the African American community in East End, and not for its particular religious association.



The cornerstone of the current church building indicates that the church was organized in 1865 and it appears to have initially shared a facility with the (white) Wake Forest Baptist Church, located on the campus of Wake Forest College, now Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. According to a church history published in 1989, during these early years, “the white minister preached to the whites in the morning and to the Blacks in the afternoon.” Church histories indicate that the current site was obtained for a church in 1879. However, a November 25, 1869 deed from William G. Simmons to “Fletcher Phillips, Arthur Alston, and Ralph Pearce, Trustees of said School for Freedmen,” conveys an approximate one-acre lot, standing “about half a mile east from Wake Forest College...being the lot on which the Olive Branch Church now stands.”¹¹⁵ This deed indicates the church stood on the current site as early as 1869. An associated cemetery is located southwest of the church and forms the northeast corner of the larger, Wake Forest Cemetery. The majority of graves are unmarked, though the oldest graves likely date to the 1860s. Another historically African American cemetery (WA7333) is located to the southeast, though its association with the church is not documented.



Figures 34 and 35: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717) facing south (top) and facing west (bottom)

Black communities frequently formed around Black institutions and the East End neighborhood is no exception. Its formation is indicative of the significance of the Olive Branch Baptist Church in the early settlement of the area. The East End neighborhood, with extant houses dating primarily from the early- through the mid-twentieth century, grew northeast, east, and southeast from the church. The tracks of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, constructed in 1840, extend just one block west of the church and form a physical boundary between the African American development and the established white community north of the Wake Forest College campus. The early twentieth century downtown commercial core is roughly one-half

¹¹⁵ Wake County Deed Book 28, pg 729.

mile southwest of the church. While streets in the area are arranged in a loose grid, the grid is irregular and intersections don't always line up, indicating an organic, rather than fully planned, development.

In the late nineteenth century, the segregated African American community was home to much of the town's formerly enslaved Black population, many of whom worked in town and at the college in positions as domestic servants or as laborers for the railroad, industries, mills, and shops. A Black commercial district formed adjacent to the white-dominated downtown, while other stores and businesses operated throughout the neighborhood. The community was served by its own funeral homes, midwives, electricians, plumbers, salons, and barber shops.¹¹⁶ The East End neighborhood was not annexed into the Town of Wake Forest until 1977, at which time the streets were still unpaved and some residents still utilized privies and septic tanks that often leaked into homes and yards. Following annexation, the town utilized various grants to improve housing, extend water and sewer lines, and pave streets.¹¹⁷

The Olive Branch Baptist Church is also significant for its contributions to the Social History of the African-American East End neighborhood. The church, like most late nineteenth and early twentieth century African American churches, served as a community center, hosting community meetings and actively working to establish schools in the area. As noted in the 1869 deed, there was a Freedman's school associated with the church from its very early years. In addition to hosting a school associated with the church, members of the Olive Branch Baptist Church were instrumental in establishing a public school in the East End neighborhood in the 1920s. The first public school for African-American children was located across Taylor Street, east of Olive Branch (at the site of today's Alston Massenburg Center) and operated until the 1920s. In 1924, the church purchased a four-acre lot to the northeast and sought a grant from the Rosenwald Fund to build a seven-teacher type school, known as the Wake Forest Graded School (Colored). The school, later renamed the W.E.B. DuBois School, was completed in 1926 and served children through seventh grade until 1929 when eighth grade was added. In 1932, a high school teacher was hired and the school then served students through eleventh grade.¹¹⁸



Figure 36: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717) sanctuary facing south

¹¹⁶ Pelosi, *Connections*, 13-14; Smart, *Wake Forest*, 7-9; Wake Forest Historical Museum, "The Normal and Industrial School," <https://wakeforestmuseum.org/2013/07/21/the-normal-and-industrial-school> (accessed June 2020); Evelyn Jones, "The DuBois Community, May 18, 2008 (North East Quadrant)," 2-3, 5-6, "African American History" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum; Sarah Moore, "History of Olive Branch Baptist Church," "Olive Branch Baptist Church" Vertical File, Wake Forest Historical Museum.

¹¹⁷ Pelosi, *Connections*, 113, 118-119. Town of Wake Forest Planning Department, "Annexation History" Map, October 2019.

¹¹⁸ Beth P. Thomas, "W.E.B. DuBois School," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 1993, Section 8, 6-8; Fisk University, "Wake Forest School," *Rosenwald Database*, http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/index.php?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MzA2NA==&school_county=wake&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=10 (accessed June 2020); Jones, "The DuBois Community," 4-5; Brian J. Slattery,

Located at the southwest corner of East Juniper Avenue and North Taylor Street, the Olive Branch Baptist Church remains an anchor of the African American community in northeast Wake Forest, both physically and socially. It is located on a mixed-use block with residences side-by-side with a barber shop and funeral home. The Alston Massenburg Community Center and Taylor Street Park are located to its immediate east. The W.E.B. DuBois School, another landmark of the African American community, is located just two city blocks to the northeast.

The current sanctuary was completed in 1955 after the second church burned in February 1954. It has a brick veneer and flush eaves, characteristic of post-World War II construction, and minimal Colonial Revival-style detailing. Paired slab doors centered on the façade doors have a classical surround with broken pediment supported by fluted pilasters. The entrance is sheltered by a wide, front-gabled portico supported by vinyl columns with vinyl siding in the gable of the portico, likely added in 1980. The entrance is flanked by leaded-glass, stained-glass windows. A cornerstone at the northeast corner of the façade reads, “Olive Branch Baptist Church—Organized 1865-1879—Rebuilt 1955—Rev. S. L. Suitt, AB, MA, MRE, Pastor.” A three-part steeple, added in October 1980, is located near the north end of the front-gabled roof. The sanctuary is seven bays deep with stained-glass windows matching those on the façade. The rear (south) two windows on each side elevation are smaller.

A one-story-with-basement, side-gabled wing at the rear of the church creates a T-plan for the building. This wing, which houses classrooms, offices, bathrooms, a kitchen, and a fellowship hall, has double-hung windows, vents in the upper part of the gable, and entrances on the front (north) elevation of rear wing, an entrance on each side of the sanctuary. The interior of the church retains its original plan and minimal interior detailing typical of its 1950s construction.



Figure 37: Olive Branch Baptist Church (WA8717) office facing southwest

The boundary should include the entire 2.02-acre parcel currently associated with the church, as well as any portions of the associated cemetery that fall outside of that parcel. A tentative Period of Significance that extends from 1955, the construction of the current sanctuary, to 1977, when the East End community was annexed into Wake Forest, is proposed. However, if it is found that the adjacent cemetery and 1955 sanctuary have equal significance, an earlier POS that encompasses the earliest known graves, would be appropriate.

“Duo epitomizes Spirit of Black History Month: Pope Part of Wake Forest Downtown’s History,” *The Wake Weekly*, February 22, 2007, Wake Forest Historical Museum, Vertical File, “African American History.”

Friendship Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery, 245 Friendship Chapel Road

The Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493) and Cemetery (WA6510) appear eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Religion and for Ethnic Heritage: African American, specifically as it relates to the Social History of the African American community in Forestville from Emancipation through the Civil Rights era. The Friendship Chapel Baptist Church, formally organized in 1867, was a pivotal religious and social institution for African Americans in the Forestville area.



The church is located in what was historically the Town of Forestville, which developed around the railroad depot located there from 1833 to 1877. Forestville was surrounded by working plantations and farms of white, slave-owning, families. Throughout the South, enslaved people worshiped and celebrated life events, such as Christian holidays, births, deaths, and marriages outdoors in “brush arbors” on white-owned farms and plantations, often in secret and at night. The origins of the Friendship Chapel Baptist Church date to the 1840s when enslaved African Americans in the Forestville area conducted secret worship services.



Figures 38 and 39: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493) facing northeast (top) and facing west (bottom)

An early cemetery is located at the site of the brush arbor, on what was historically the Dunn family plantation, approximately 0.4 miles east of the 1929 sanctuary. Few inscribed grave markers remain, though local tradition suggests the church’s founding and leading members are buried there. Existing markers are predominantly fieldstones, though commercially made and handmade markers are also present. The cemetery was thoroughly documented with ground-penetrating radar in 2017 prior to its designation as a Local Landmark. That documentation provided evidence of 567 burials, including a single mass grave that is believed to hold victims of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. However, the site contains areas that were too steep or rocky to survey and likely hold additional graves. The cemetery remained in use until the late 1940s or early 1950s when it was deemed full, after which all burials took place in a second cemetery, begun in the 1920s just north of the 1929 sanctuary.

After Emancipation, northern missionaries from the Baptist, Methodist, and African Methodist Episcopal Zion denominations traveled through the South encouraging the establishment of independent Black churches and many formerly enslaved people founded their own congregations. From 1865 to 1867, some Blacks were allowed to attend services at Forestville Baptist Church, a white Baptist congregation established in 1859. Oral traditions passed down though both congregations affirm that both Black and white congregants worshipped at Forestville Baptist, although in a segregated manner with African Americans relegated to an interior elevated gallery, not an uncommon arrangement at this time. Despite this arrangement, many chose instead to continue to worship outdoors under the brush arbor. It is said that,

during a revival meeting in 1866, Nelson Ligon was so moved by the Spirit that he jumped from the gallery into the white audience, an incident that led to the founding of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church in 1867. The church's significance for the National Register can be evaluated using an MPDF created for rural Black churches in Tennessee. Establishment of the church represents the beginning of organized religion for African Americans in Forestville, making it eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Religion. The social history of the African American community in Forestville, specifically from the Jim Crow through the Civil Rights eras, can be told through the lens of Friendship Chapel Baptist Church. Throughout the South, Black churches were most often the location of meetings involving Black politics and movements for civil rights and suffrage, but were perhaps even more important as nurturing centers for African-American identity. The continuation of the Friendship Chapel Baptist Church into the twenty-first century is indicative of the significant association of the church with the development, practice, and enhancement of religion in the Black community in Forestville.¹¹⁹

The twentieth-century Friendship Chapel Baptist Church was dedicated in May 1929, replacing a number of earlier log and frame structures on the site, constructed between 1867 and 1890. A cemetery north of the 1929 sanctuary dates to the 1920s and is still in use today. Friendship Chapel Baptist Church is a one-story, three-bay, front-gabled brick church with a concrete foundation. Paired doors centered on the façade are sheltered by a front-gabled portico supported by Tuscan columns and constructed in 1985. A bell tower atop the entrance has been covered with vinyl siding, but retains a flared pyramidal roof. The sanctuary is four bays deep with original double-hung windows flanking the front doors and extending along the north and south elevations. Each has a six-light upper sash with muntins arranged to form a pointed arch. The lower sashes are standard two-light sashes and both have milky stained-glass panes. A lower, one-story, hip-roofed wing at the rear (east) was constructed before 1959. It is two bays deep with one-over-one windows. A one-story-with-basement, side-gabled educational wing, built in 1992, extends from the north end of the rear wing. It has one-over-one windows, a brick veneer, and vinyl siding in the gables.

The interior of the building retains a barrel-vaulted ceiling laid with wide, flush boards. Original woodwork includes paired five-panel doors between the foyer and sanctuary, original window surrounds, and a chair rail that extends around the sanctuary. A raised platform at the east end is accessed by



Figures 40 and 41: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493) sanctuary facing east (top) and facing west (bottom)

¹¹⁹ Carroll Van West, "Historic Rural African-American Churches in Tennessee, 1850-1970," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1999.

stairs and doors from each side of the platform access the one-story wing to the rear.

Located 0.2 miles east of South Main Street and the center of Forestville, the sanctuary is oriented to face west toward Forestville. Friendship Chapel Road extends along the south side of the building and continues to the site of a former farmstead about one-tenth of a mile east of the church. While the paved road does not continue, a roadbed extends to the north end of the earlier cemetery.



Figure 42: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church (WA1493) 20th century cemetery

The boundary should include approximately 3.9 acres of the larger 13.6-acre parcel currently associated with the church. The L-shaped tract includes trees that flank the front walkway to the church, the immediate surroundings and landscaping, and the twentieth-century cemetery

associated with the church. A modern sanctuary, dedicated in December 2000, stands west of the historic building with paved parking surrounding it on all sides and should be excluded from the boundary. The nineteenth-century Friendship Chapel Cemetery stands approximately one-half mile east of the church on a non-contiguous parcel. The designation of noncontiguous parcels does not preclude the resources from being listed with a single nomination because they share a common history and because the parcels were historically never connected.

A tentative Period of Significance that extends from 1929, the construction of the current sanctuary, to 1970 is proposed. However, if additional research during the nomination finds that the nineteenth-century cemetery and 1929 sanctuary have equal significance, an earlier POS that encompasses the earliest known graves, would be appropriate. The property meets Criterion Consideration A for religious properties because the property derives its significance from its association with the Religious and Social History of the African American community in Forestville, and not for its specific religious association.



Figure 43: Friendship Chapel Baptist Church and Cemetery proposed boundary

Wake Forest Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation

The 2003 Wake Forest National Register Historic District (WA1665) included 229 primary resources that formed the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century core of the town of Wake Forest. It included the institutional buildings associated with Wake Forest College, residences of college faculty and staff, houses of townspeople, churches, and commercial buildings. The campus is located in the center of the district with Main Street, the north-south axis of the district, extending both north and south of the campus. Grid-patterned streets extend east and west from Main Street. The district was listed under Criterion A for its Educational significance as a college town associated with the Wake Forest Institute, later Wake Forest College, the first viable denominational college in the state. It was also significant under Criterion C for Architecture. Its period of significance extended from c.1820 to 1953, fifty years from its listing.

Boundary Increase

The 2003 Wake Forest National Register Historic District included a high concentration of architecturally significant nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residences and institutional buildings. The boundary corresponded to a density of structures constructed before 1953, fifty years prior to the nomination of the district. However, throughout the mid-1950s, housing was constructed to address the lingering housing shortages that occurred after World War II. More than fifteen houses were constructed within the district boundary by 1955 and several areas immediately adjacent to the district saw continuous development through the mid-1950s with approximately nineteen houses in the proposed boundary increase constructed between 1940 and 1956.

The population and demographics of Wake Forest changed significantly as a result of the relocation of Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem in 1956. While construction both within the historic district and in the proposed boundary increase came to a near halt between 1956 and 1960, the area quickly recovered with construction resuming by 1960. While the student population had dropped from more than 2000 students at Wake Forest College in 1949 to only 575 students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary by 1963, the student body was vastly different, with graduate-level single and married students, some with families, replacing the predominantly single undergraduate population. Thus, while the total population of students decreased, the need for off-campus, family housing increased. The seminary itself constructed a total of eighty-eight duplexes to house the students. Further, while not constructed specifically for students, an additional twenty houses were built in areas immediately adjacent to the historic district between 1960 and 1974.

There are four areas in particular that illustrate the continued growth and development of the Town of Wake Forest around the college campus through at least the 1960s.

Boundary Increase Area A:

Northwest of the district is mid-twentieth century residential development along North Wingate Street, West Juniper Street, and Rock Springs Road. Houses are largely brick Ranch houses on large, wooded lots. While the area has a more suburban feel than the early twentieth century houses within the district boundary to its east, the streets laid out as a continuation of the existing street grid and setbacks are consistent throughout the area.



Figure 44: Boundary Increase Area A:
532 North Wingate (WA8760)

Additionally, land to the northeast has been developed with curvilinear subdivisions with houses dating largely to the 1980s and 1990s, those subdivisions forming a clear boundary to the mid-twentieth century residential development.

Boundary Increase Area B:

Along the west boundary of the district, separated from the oldest part of the campus by several institutional buildings, is institutional housing, constructed by the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Paschal Golf Club, constructed by Wake Forest College. The collection of thirty one- and two-story brick duplexes was constructed from 1959 to 1975, to house the largely married student population and their families. The 1917 Paschal Golf Club is a significant landscape associated with the earlier college and the adjacent houses—within the Wake Forest Historic District and associated with faculty of the college—along Durham Road (NC98). Both resources illustrate the continued construction and use of college/seminary related resources through the mid-twentieth century.



Figure 45: Boundary Increase Area B:
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Duplexes (WA8692)

Boundary Increase Areas C & D:

Southwest of the district is mid-twentieth century residential development along Woodland Drive, Rayburn Avenue, South Wingate Road, and West Vernon Avenue. Woodland Drive and Rayburn Avenue (Boundary Increase Areas C and D) were extended to this area in the 1940s with the earliest houses on these blocks constructed during housing shortage following World War II. Vernon Park (Boundary Increase Area D), platted in 1925 to include land on the south side of Vernon Avenue, the northeast corner of Vernon Avenue and South Wingate Street, and the length of Wingate Street down to Holding Drive, remained largely undeveloped until the 1950s (with the south end of the development re-platted and developed in 2002). Houses in both areas are largely Minimal Traditional-style houses and brick Ranch houses with lot sizes on Woodland Drive consistent with the adjacent parts of the historic district. Lots on the remaining streets are typically large, wooded lots with uneven terrain that slopes down to the south and east away from the campus and historic district.



Figure 46: Boundary Increase Area C:
442 Woodland Drive (WA8732)



Figure 47: Boundary Increase Area D:
219 West Vernon Avenue (WA8745)

Like Boundary Increase Area A, the areas have a more suburban feel than the early twentieth century houses within the district boundary to its north and east. However, the streets are laid out as a

continuation of the existing streets within the district and setbacks are consistent throughout the area. Additionally, land to the south and west has been developed with curvilinear subdivisions with houses built from the 1980s through the early 2000s. Those subdivisions form a clear boundary to the mid-twentieth century residential development.

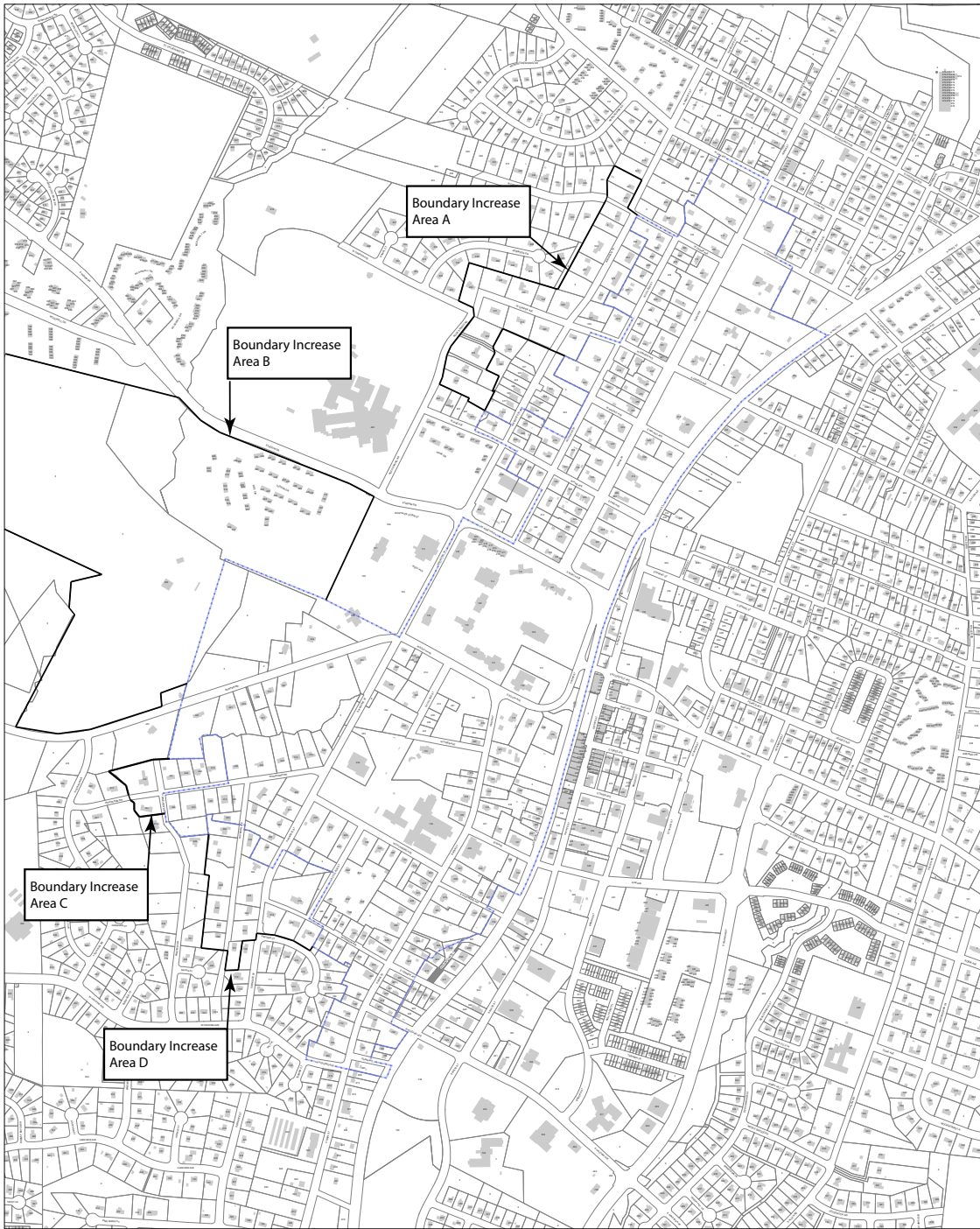
Summary:

The boundary increase is largely bounded by late-twentieth-century residential development to the south and west with additional institutional buildings constructed by the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Wake Forest-Rolesville High School campus also along the western boundary. Immediately north of the district is early twentieth century housing on West Oak Avenue, West Chestnut Avenue, and North Main Street. Many houses in this area date to the original c.1820-1953 period of significance, but have been altered and are intermixed with houses from a later period of development. The Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District (WA1633; NR1999) adjoins the Wake Forest Historic District at its northeast end. The district is bounded on the east by the tracks of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad (now CSX Railroad), with downtown Wake Forest located east of the railroad tracks.

The Wake Forest Historic District Boundary Increase is significant under Criterion C for Architecture. The expansion area includes a significant collection of mid-twentieth-century residential resources, illustrating the continued growth of Wake Forest throughout the mid-twentieth century, despite the relocation of Wake Forest College in 1956. The Period of Significance extends from 1917, the date of Paschal Golf Club, to c.1975 to include residential development adjacent to the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and associated with the population growth

Additional Documentation

Approximately 40 buildings within the 2003 Wake Forest National Register Historic District were constructed after 1953 and were thus considered to be noncontributing to the district. Of these, fifteen were given a c.1955 or a 1950s construction date in the inventory, indicating that they were likely constructed prior to the relocation of Wake Forest College in 1956 and thus, illustrated a natural extension of building construction in the area surrounding the college. Additional Documentation that provides an extension of the period of significance to at least 1956 should be considered. However, an additional eleven houses within the district were constructed between 1958 and 1965 with five additional houses constructed between 1970 and 1972, justifying an extension of the Period of Significance to 1965 and perhaps into the early 1970s.



Please note that this data is intended for illustrative purposes only. For specific boundary designations, please refer to the official map of the Wake Forest Planning Department as of 2/16/2024.

Legend
□ Property - - - - Wake Forest National Register Historic District ■ Building Footprints



Figure 48: Wake Forest Historic District Boundary Increase

Windsor Park Historic District

The Windsor Park Historic District (WA8767) appears eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development and Criterion C for Architecture. While the population of Wake Forest declined in the 1950s with the relocation of Wake Forest College to Winston-Salem in 1956, new residents moved to the Wake Forest area in large numbers during the 1960s and 1970s, many taking advantage of job opportunities in Raleigh. As a result, at least ten new residential developments were built from the 1950s through the 1970s, most just outside of the city limits. Windsor Park is the most intact development and retains the highest material integrity of all of the post-World War II residential suburbs completed by the early 1970s.

Located immediately south of the Forestville community, approximately 1.3 miles south of downtown Wake Forest, the Windsor Park subdivision was platted in 1960 as a middle-class white, curvilinear subdivision. During the Depression, "Papa K" Marshall bought up several small farms south of town and in 1960, Marshall platted a neighborhood of 95 lots arranged along curvilinear streets bisecting the roughly triangular piece of land bordered by Forestville Road on the east and South Main Street on the northwest. Like most post-World War II, automobile-oriented developments, the subdivision has paved streets, but lacks sidewalks. The lots, most of which measured roughly fifty feet wide and two hundred feet deep, were intentionally narrow and meant to be combined. The result is approximately forty-four home sites, each with modest Ranch houses with consistent, deep setbacks, grassy lawns, and paved or gravel driveways leading to open carports. Mature trees remain at the interior of most blocks and on vacant/undeveloped lots however, there are few mature trees along the street front of the properties.

Houses throughout Windsor Park are small, side-gabled or hip-roofed Ranch houses, constructed speculatively, most between 1961 and 1972. The Ranch house was popular nationwide in the 1950s, particularly for middle-class white families, due to its size (suitable for large suburban lots), open floor plans, and grouped or picture windows that



Figure 49: Windsor Park (WA8767)
120 Windsor Drive



Figure 50: Windsor Park (WA8767)
218 Forestville Road



Figure 51: Windsor Park (WA8767)
1316 Highland Drive



Figure 52: Windsor Park (WA8767)
300 block Forestville Road

emphasized the outdoors as an extension of the interior living space. The houses in Windsor Park are predominantly four or five bays wide with brick veneers, double-hung windows, picture windows adjacent to the entrances, and open carports. Material alterations include vinyl windows, metal roofs, and, in some cases, enclosed or enlarged carports. However, these alterations do not detract from the significance of the district.

The period of significance extends from 1960, when the neighborhood was platted, to 1972, when the majority of the subdivision was built out. The boundary follows the 1960 plat of the subdivision, excluding later and altered houses in the 1400 and 1500 blocks of South Main Street.

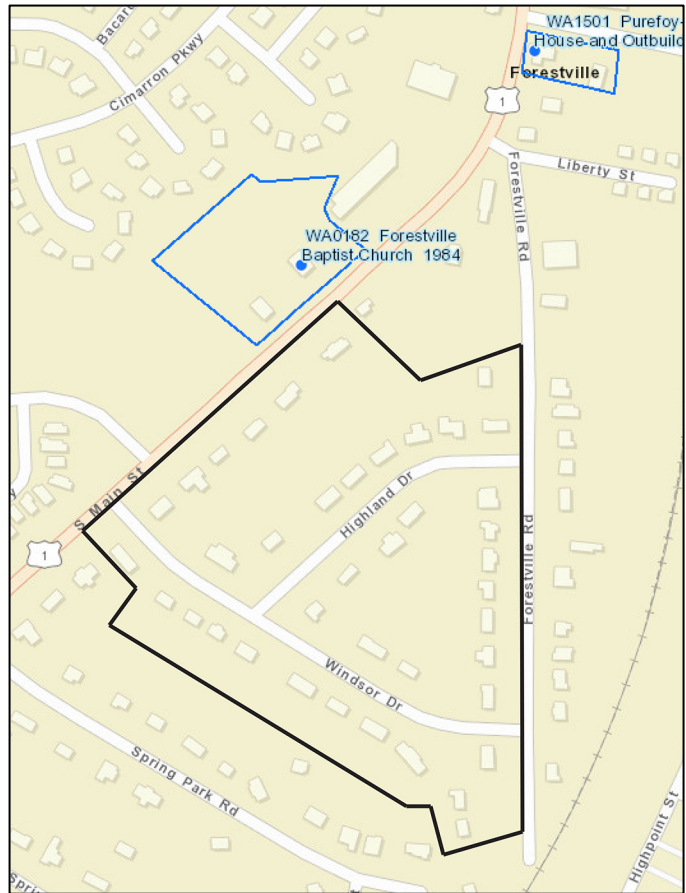


Figure 53: Proposed boundary for the Windsor Park Historic District

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APPENDIX A: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DESIGNATIONS

Property Name	Year
Powell House	NR1974
Lea Laboratory	NR1975
Forestville Baptist Church	NR1984
Purefoy-Dunn Plantation	NR1988
Royall Cotton Mill Commissary	NR1991
W.E.B. DuBois School	NR1993
Oakforest	NR1998
Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District	NR1999
Downtown Wake Forest Historic District	NR2002
Wake Forest Historic District	NR2003
Purefoy-Chappell House and Outbuildings	NR2008
South Brick House	NR2014
Dr. Calvin Jones House	NR2016

APPENDIX B: LIST OF SURVEYED PROPERTIES

SSN	PropertyName	StreetNumber	StreetDir	StreetName	StreetType	Status
WA0182	Forestville Baptist Church	1350	S.	Main	Street	NR1984
WA1499	Purefoy-Allen-Harris House	1248	S.	Main	Street	Determined Not Eligible 2013
WA4978	Wake Forest Masonic Lodge #282	220	E.	Wait	Street	
WA6508	House	600	S.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA6509	House	145	W.	Vernon	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8689	New Hope Village	133	N.	Allen	Road	
WA8690	Public Housing	309	W.	Chestnut	Avenue	
WA8691	Public Housing	600	N.	White	Street	
WA8692	Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary Duplexes	400blk		Stadium	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8698	Mutschler House	1320		Country Club	Drive	SL2020
WA8699	Faircloth House	1414		Country Club	Drive	May be eligible; no interior access
WA8700	Savage House	1601		Wake	Drive	
WA8701	Jones House	10009		Ligon Mill	Road	
WA8702	Wellman House	10001		Ligon Mill	Road	
WA8703	Daniel House	257	S.	Allen	Road	
WA8704	Office Building	247	S.	Allen	Road	
WA8705	Northern Wake Hospital	250	S.	Allen	Road	
WA8706	House	332	S.	Allen	Road	
WA8707	House	352	S.	Allen	Road	

SSN	PropertyName	StreetNumber	StreetDir	StreetName	StreetType	Status
WA8708	House	705		Durham	Road	
WA8709	House	735		Durham	Road	
WA8710	House	744		Durham	Road	
WA8711	House	753		Durham	Road	
WA8712	House	806		Durham	Road	
WA8713	Grace Baptist Church of Wake Forest	500	E.	Jones	Avenue	
WA8714	House	522	E.	Jones	Avenue	
WA8715	House	525	E.	Jones	Avenue	
WA8716	Rich House	1421		Jenkins	Road	May be eligible in 2030
WA8717	Olive Branch Baptist Church	326	E.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020
WA8718	House	502	E.	Walnut	Avenue	
WA8719	House	508	E.	Walnut	Avenue	
WA8720	House	514	E.	Walnut	Avenue	
WA8721	Wake Forest United Methodist Church	905	S.	Main	Street	
WA8722	Commercial Building	430-434	S.	White	Street	
WA8723	Commercial Building	502-504	S.	White	Street	
WA8724	Paschal Golf Club	555		Stadium	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8725	House	647		Wait	Avenue	
WA8726	House	857		Wait	Avenue	
WA8727	Brewer House	870		Wait	Avenue	
WA8728	House	1001		Wait	Avenue	
WA8729	Bunn House	1232		Wait	Avenue	
WA8730	House	414		Woodland	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8731	House	434		Woodland	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8732	House	442		Woodland	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8733	House	501		Woodland	Drive	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)

SSN	PropertyName	StreetNumber	StreetDir	StreetName	StreetType	Status
WA8734	Byrne House	442		Pineview	Drive	SL2020
WA8735	House	525		Rayburn	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8736	House	526		Rayburn	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8737	House	530		Rayburn	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8738	House	604		Rayburn	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8739	House	701		Rayburn	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8740	House	554	S.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8741	House	608	S.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8742	House	618	S.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8743	House	210	W.	Vernon	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8744	House	215	W.	Vernon	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8745	House	219	W.	Vernon	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8746	House	515	N.	College	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8747	House	204	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8748	House	304	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8749	House	318	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8750	House	321	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8751	House	328	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8752	House	342	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8753	House	400	W.	Juniper	Avenue	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8754	House	316		Rock Spring	Road	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8755	House	324		Rock Spring	Road	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8756	House	338		Rock Spring	Road	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8757	House	511	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8758	House	521	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8759	House	531	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)

SSN	PropertyName	StreetNumber	StreetDir	StreetName	StreetType	Status
WA8760	House	532	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8761	House	533	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8762	Rogers House	534	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8763	House	558	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8764	Glen Royal Baptist Church Parsonage	609	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)
WA8765	Bridges House	611	N.	Wingate	Street	SL2020 (WFHD-BI)

APPENDIX C: LIST OF SURVEYED DISTRICTS/NEIGHBORHOODS

DSSN	District	LocationDesc	Status
WA4989	Cardinal Hills Subdivision	Cardinal/Mockingbird/Quail/Wait/Allen/Robin	Not eligible
WA4990	Spring Valley/Windsor Park Subdivision	S.Main/Windsor/Highland/Forestville/Spring Valley/Farm/FarmRidge	Not eligible
WA7925	W.G. Mangum, Green Acres, and Home Gardens Subdivisions	Ligon Mill/Mangum/Cameron/Wake/Forest/Seawell	Not eligible
WA8693	Brewer Circle Development	Brewer/Carroll/Wait/N.Allen/Best	Not eligible
WA8694	Pineview Estates	Pine Ridge/S.Wingate/Lakeview/Agnew/Pineview/Julie Ann	May be eligible in 2030
WA8695	Oakwood Estates	Oakwood/Dogwood/Holly	May be eligible in 2030
WA8696	Wake Union Church/Crenshaw	Wake Union Church/Crenshaw	Not eligible
WA8697	Wake Forest Country Club Neighborhood	Country Club Drive/Keefer Circle	May be eligible in 2030
WA8766	Wake Forest Historic District Boundary Increase		SL2020
WA8767	Windsor Park	S.Main/Windsor/Highland/Forestville	SL2020