

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name East Davis Street Historic District

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

2. Location

street & number Portions of E. Davis, E. Webb, Mebane, Cameron, Tucker streets  
N/A not for publication  
city or town Burlington vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27215

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey J. Crowe SHPO 3/3/00  
Signature of certifying official Date

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





- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
community planning & development  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance ca. 1888-1942  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Cates, James Wesley  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 16 acres more or less

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	640880	3994780	3	17	641420	3994600
2	17	641140	3994980	4	17	641180	3994400

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title M. Ruth Little , Michelle Kullen

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date December 1, 1999

street & number 2709 Bedford Avenue, Raleigh, N.C. 27607

telephone 919-836-9731

city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27607

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 7 Page 1**

**East Davis Street Historic District  
Alamance County, North Carolina**

**Section 7: Description**

The East Davis Street Historic District stands several blocks east of the central business district in the town of Burlington, in central Alamance County. Small and generally rectangular, the East Davis Street Historic District spans approximately sixteen acres and is composed of all or portions of eleven blockfaces. The district consists of single and multi-family dwellings, one commercial building and one church that were predominantly constructed from the 1880s to 1950. The two-lane, generally east-west East Davis Street is the main thoroughfare through the center of the district. The East Davis Street Historic District is bounded by East Webb Avenue, Mebane Street, the southwest side of East Davis Street, and Tucker Street. The blockfaces included in the district are the northwest side of the 100 block of Mebane Street, the 500 and 600 blocks of East Davis Street, the 100 and 400 blocks of Cameron Street, a portion of the 100 block of Tucker Street, and a portion of the southwest side of the 600 block of East Webb Avenue.

The East Davis Street Historic District is a highly concentrated collection of historic dwellings. Of the total of thirty-two principal buildings in the district, twenty-five contribute to its historic character. Twenty-six garages and storage sheds stand in the district. Seventy-four percent of the district's total fifty-eight resources contribute to the historic and architectural atmosphere. None of the buildings in the district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The historic district features large dwellings erected for leading businessmen, doctors, industrialists, and tradesmen in Burlington, as well as smaller houses for workers associated with surrounding textile mills. Many of the residences epitomize nationally popular architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A number of late-nineteenth and early twentieth century Queen Anne style houses stand in the district. These are generally two-story frame dwellings with a gable and wing form. The earliest example of this style is the well-preserved John R. Foster House at 518 East Davis Street. Built circa 1888 for John R. Foster of Foster Shoe Company, the house started as three rooms and was enlarged into a twelve room, two-story dwelling with a pressed tin roof, shingle siding in the gable ends and a one-story wraparound porch with a second story balcony over the entrance. Turned posts and balusters, spindle friezes, and sawnwork brackets decorate porch and balcony. The Stafford-Moore House at 514 East Davis Street exhibits both Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. Built circa 1892 for Doctor G. W. Stafford of the Stafford-Stroud Drug Company, the three-bay house features a pyramidal hipped roof with polygonal bays on the front and side elevations, bracketed eaves, shingle siding in the gable ends, and a tripartite entrance. The James Wesley Cates House at 123 Mebane Street is a splendid example of the style adorned with a variety of manufactured millwork. Built in 1892 by Cates himself, the one-and-a-half-story, frame house with central hall features a high hipped roof with a flat observation deck and front and side gable bays. Prominent ornamentation on the house includes fishscale wood shingles in the gable ends, scalloped bargeboard, wooden fanlights, and turned posts, sawnwork brackets and turned balusters on the one-story front porch. Other noticeable examples of the style include the John M. Fix House at 605 Webb

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Street and the Dollar House at 607 East Webb Avenue. The Fix House, constructed circa 1905, is a late example of the Queen Anne style featuring a high hipped roof, scalloped shingle siding in the cross bays, drop pendant eave brackets, decorative bargeboard, and a one-story wraparound porch with a second story porch over the entry. The Dollar House, built in the 1890s, is a quaint one-story example of a Victorian style gable and wing cottage featuring segmental arched windows, paired drop pendant eave brackets, and decorative round attic vents.

The Walter E. Stafford House at 607 East Davis Street is the only example of the Neoclassical Revival style in the district. Built circa 1910 and remodeled circa 1920, the two-story house with side gable roof features a two-story projecting portico with monumental Doric columns supporting the pedimented gable, highlighted by an elliptical fanlight. Other important features include Palladian windows in the gable ends, tripartite entrances, and a one-story porch with slender classical columns.

Craftsman style dwellings were also built throughout the district. Perhaps the finest bungalow is the circa 1921 house erected for local businessman Minter A. Coble at 510 East Davis Street. The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay rusticated stone dwelling exhibits a shed dormer, knee braces, exposed rafter tails, a front gable porch with stone posts and balustrade, and pebbledash gable ends and exterior end chimney. Another important bungalow in the district is the circa 1920 Marvin W. McPherson House at 513 East Davis Street. The well-preserved example has common Craftsman elements including exposed rafter tails, knee braces, an engaged porch with brick posts, and half-timbering in the gable ends. The circa 1923 Rex Ivey House at 616 East Davis Street is a two-story frame, front gable bungalow with exposed rafter tails, unusual Japanese-inspired knee braces, Craftsman sash, an uncommon corner picture window and a hipped roof porch and porte-cochere with Craftsman posts. Also built circa 1923 is the Hogan House at 119 Cameron Street. The one-story, three-bay bungalow features cast concrete block walls, porch posts and chimneys.

One commercial building stands in the district, the circa 1929 service station at the southwest corner of East Davis and Tucker Streets. Originally the Community Service Station, the one-story, Mission style stuccoed building with flat roof and red-tiled hipped roof porte-cochere with an arcaded wall continues to operate today as an automobile repair shop.

**Inventory List**

**Note:** Properties are organized alphabetically by street name and numerically by street number. The east side of North-South streets and the north side of East-West Streets are listed first. Dates are estimated using design and style, the 1913, 1918, 1924 and 1929 Sanborn Maps (SM), the 1910, 1929-30, 1935, 1943 and 1950-51 City Directories (CD), Chain of Title listings with deed references for individual parcels listed in the Alamance County Tax Assessor Office (Deed), constructed dates listed with the Burlington Tax Assessor Office (Tax Records), and the 1987 book *An Architectural History of Burlington, North Carolina* by Allison Harris Black (Black). Oral histories were provided by local residents (interview).

All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria. Any

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building built after the end of the period of significance, in 1942, is noncontributing due to its age (NC-age). Buildings built before 1942 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their original character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-alt.). Examples of this are complete window, door, and porch replacements; artificial siding that obscures the original door, window, wall and eave detailing; and extensive post-1942 additions. Artificial siding such as aluminum, vinyl or asbestos shingles does not automatically render a building noncontributing as long as the application of the siding does not obscure the decorative finish of the openings and the eaves.

**100 block Cameron  
Street, NW side**

119 Cameron St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Wilmer Hogan House.** The one-story, three-bay bungalow of rusticated cast concrete block with front gable roof exhibits knee braces, exposed rafter tails, interior and exterior cast concrete chimneys and asphalt shingle siding in the gable ends. The front gable porch is created of the same block: block posts on block bases and a closed block balustrade. Openings consist of four-over-one Craftsman sash windows, casements, and a glazed and paneled door.

a. C Garage. ca. 1923. Frame, front gable, two-car garage with plain siding and side shed addition.

The house was built circa 1923. Wilmer S. Hogan, a clerk with the North Carolina Public Service Company, occupied the house between 1929 and 1946, when the property was deeded to Mrs. Helen Hogan Ray. (Tax Records, Deed, CD, SM-1924)

123 Cameron St.  
C  
1941

**Faye Simpson House.** The frame, one-and-a-half-story, Cape Cod style cottage features a side gable roof, two gabled dormers, an exterior end chimney, and a pedimented entry porch with square Doric posts. Openings consist of eight-over-eight sash windows and a glazed and paneled door. The exterior siding is aluminum.

a. C Garage. 1941. Frame, front gable, two-car garage with aluminum siding.

The house was built in 1941 for Emma Faye Simpson, a nurse, who resided here until her death in 1999. She was the first woman in Alamance County to receive a bank loan to build a house. (Tax Record, Deed, CD, Interview)

**400 block Cameron  
Street, SE side**

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**East Davis Street Historic District  
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410 Cameron St.  
C  
ca. 1918

**Lucinda Handsell House.** The frame, three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, front gable bungalow exhibits side cross gable bays and an engaged porch with arched openings and closed balustrade. Openings consist of two-over-two and multi-light sash windows, decorative picture windows, and a glazed and paneled door. Vinyl siding covers the exterior siding, porch posts and balustrade.

a. C Shed. 1940s. Frame, front gable shed with aluminum siding.

The house was built between 1913 and 1918. Mrs. Lucinda Handsell, a widow, occupied the house in 1929. (SM-1913, 1918, CD)

414 Cameron St.  
C  
ca. 1929

**E. V. Blalock House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, hipped roof bungalow with front and side clipped gable bays features interior and exterior chimneys, five-over-one Craftsman sash windows, and a clipped front gable porch with paired square posts on stuccoed bases and a plain rail frieze. Alterations include vinyl siding, replacement porch railing, and a replacement glazed door.

a. NC Shed. 1990s. Frame, front gable shed with plain siding and exposed rafter tails.

The house was built between 1924 and 1929. E.V. Blalock, a clerk with Southern Railroad, occupied the house in 1929. (CD, SM-1924, 1929)

**400 block Cameron  
Street, SW side**

409 Cameron St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**W. L. Overman House.** The frame, one-and-a-half-story, three-bay bungalow with side gable roof exhibits a gabled dormer, knee braces, a three-part picture window, eight-over-one sash windows, and an engaged porch with paneled posts on stuccoed bases. Alterations include vinyl siding, a replacement door, and replacement porch railing.

a. NC Shed. 1990s. Frame, gambrel roof shed.

The house was built circa 1923. W. L. Overman, a traveling salesman, occupied the house in 1929. Sterling Gee, secretary-treasurer of G&D Motor, owned the property in 1945. (CD, Tax Records, SM-1918, 1924, Deed)

500 block East Davis

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**East Davis Street Historic District  
Alamance County, North Carolina**

**Street, NE side**

504 E. Davis St.  
NC-alt  
ca. 1920

**Vitus Holt House.** The frame, one-story, pyramidal hipped roof bungalow exhibits a hipped dormer, a deep cornice, and an engaged full facade porch with battered posts on brick bases with plain railing. Alterations include replacement porch posts, vinyl siding, replacement sash, and an enclosed center projecting entrance bay. The original entrance on the left hand bay is enclosed with a window.

The house was built between 1918 and 1924 for Vitus Holt, son of Kirk Holt and manager of Kirk Holt Hardware after his father's death. The house was purchased by A. H. Simpson, a local businessman, in 1936 and occupied by Harry Flynn, plant manager of Celanese Lanese Corporation, from 1943 to 1950. It was drastically remodeled when it was converted to a commercial property in 1987. (Black, SM-1924, CD, Deed)

a. NC Carport. 1990s. Metal, two-car carport.

510 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1921

**Minter A. Coble House.** One of the finest bungalows built in Burlington during this era, this was designated a local historic property in 1990. The one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, stone house features a side gable roof, a shed dormer, knee braces, rear gabled dormers, exposed rafter tails, and a front gable porch with stone posts and balustrade. Local stonemason Jimmy Mitchell laid the stonework. The gable ends and exterior end chimney are covered with pebbledash stucco. Fenestration consists of four-over-one and four-over-four Craftsman sash windows, a side bay window, and Craftsman style casements. The entrance is a glazed Craftsman style door.

a. C Shed. 1920s. Frame, one-and-a-half-story, side-gable shed with exposed rafter tails and four-over-four Craftsman sash windows.

b. C Shed. 1920s. Frame animal pen with shed roof, vertical board siding and exposed rafter tails.

c. C Garage. 1920s. Frame front gable, two-car garage with sliding board and batten doors, plain siding, and exposed rafter tails.

The house was erected between 1918 and 1924 for Minter A. Coble, associated with several local businesses and financial institutions during his career. It was deeded to Ethel A. Coble in 1960. (Black, CD, Deed, SM-1918, 1924, Local Historic Property Designation Report, copy in file)

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East Davis Street Historic District  
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514 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1892

**Stafford-Moore House.** The frame, two-story dwelling with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style elements has a central hall plan and two-story bays crowned with pediments with lunette windows on the front and east elevations. Features include a pyramidal hipped roof, cross gable bays, bracketed eaves, plain siding, two tall interior chimneys with corbeled stacks, and shingle siding in the gable ends. Openings consist of one-over-one and traceried-over-one sash windows and a tripartite entrance with multi-light sidelights and transom. The arched upper balcony entrance with lattice-paned French doors appears to be original. A recently constructed one-story porch supported by plain wood posts replaces the original one-story wraparound porch with upper balustrade.

a. C Garage. 1920s. Frame front gable garage with plain siding and exposed rafter tails.

The house was built circa 1892 for Dr. G. W. Stafford, a partner in the Stafford-Stroud Drug Company and a one-time county commissioner. J. Edwin Moore, a livery stable owner and active local businessman, later owned the house. Mr. Moore also served as the city's mayor in the 1910s and president of Grace Hosiery Mills and secretary of Standard Grocery Company in 1929. The house was occupied in 1943 by Reid Maynard and his wife, who was J. Edwin Moore's daughter. Reid Maynard was secretary and treasurer of Grace Hosiery Mills and Tower Hosiery Mills in 1943. In 1950 Melvin Boswell, an African American, occupied a building at the rear of the property. (Black, SM-1913, interview, CD, Deed)

518 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1888

**John R. Foster House.** The frame, two-story, Queen Anne style L-plan dwelling features a pyramidal hipped roof with side and front cross gable bays. Features include a pressed tin roof, shingle siding in the gable ends, two interior chimneys, and a one-story wraparound porch with a second story balcony porch wrapping around the entrance bay. A pediment marks the entry of the one-story porch. Original turned posts, turned balustrades, spindle friezes and sawnwork brackets trim both porches. Other ornamentation includes rounded eave boards and decorative bargeboard on the right side bay. Openings consist of two-over-two sash windows, twenty colored panes-over-one sash windows, and a colored glass and paneled door.

a. C Shop. 1920s/1949 Frame, front gabled shop with German siding, a side shed addition, six-over-six sash windows, and two gabled stoops supported by knee braces.

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The core of the house, a three-room dwelling facing Cameron Street, was built circa 1888 for John R. Foster, who opened the Foster Shoe Company in the 300 block of Main Street in 1890. The store was one of the first specialty shops in Burlington. The store moved to E. Davis Street after Foster's death in 1934 and continues to operate there today. By at least 1913 the house reached its present configuration facing E. Davis Street. Upon Foster's death in 1934, his wife Sallie moved to another house on E. Davis Street and the dwelling was divided into four apartments and rented. In 1935 the house was occupied by Robert Shoffner, clerk of Burlington Mills; Richard Pindell, an overseer; and Robert deFord of Scott's Billiard Parlor. William A. Patty of Patty Appliances bought the house in 1949 and converted it back to a single family residence. A utility shed and barn which housed a cow, horse and chickens, were originally located at the rear of the property. The barn which stood on the present lot of 123 Cameron Street was removed by 1936 when the lot was sold to Faye Simpson. The utility shed was expanded in 1949 to provide a vacuum cleaner repair shop for William Patty. (Black, Study List Application, SM-1913, CD, Deed)

**500 block East Davis  
Street, SW side**

511 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1889

**J. A. Thompson House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, tri-gable dwelling features plain siding and such Craftsman style features as knee braces, exposed rafter tails, and a shed roofed porch with battered posts on stuccoed bases with plain railing. Other features include an interior chimney and a stuccoed exterior end chimney with the roof gable enclosing the stack. Openings consist of fifteen-over-one sash windows and a multi-paned door with sidelights.

**a. C Shed. 1930s** Frame shed with vertical board and plain siding, a chimney stack, and a tin roof.

According to Burlington tax records, this was built in 1889, but all visible exterior fabric indicates a date in the 1910s or 1920s, or at least a thorough remodeling at this time. It is believed that Joe Thompson of Whitehead Hosiery Mills occupied the house at one time. J. A. Thompson, the vice-president of Neese-Shoffner Furniture Company, occupied the house in 1929. Frank Pollard owned the house in 1939. (Black, CD, Deed, SM-1913)

513 E. Davis St.

**Marvin W. McPherson House.** The frame, one-and-a-half-story, bungalow with

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East Davis Street Historic District  
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- C  
ca. 1920
- side gable roof has exposed rafter tails, knee braces, plain siding, a large gabled dormer, and an engaged porch with brick posts and plain railing. Half-timbering accents the dormer and porch and side gable ends. Openings consist of one-over-one sash windows and a glazed and paneled door.
- a. C Garage. 1940s. Frame, front gable two-car garage with plain siding and exposed rafter tails.
- The house was built circa 1920 for Marvin W. McPherson, cashier with the Bank of Commerce and trustee of Central Loan and Trust Company and his wife Beulah McPherson (daughter of John R. Foster whose house stood across the street). Mrs. McPherson continued to live here until the late 1970s. (Black, SM-1918, 1924, Deed, CD, Tax Records)
- 515 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1918
- F. A. Hayes House.** The frame, two-story, eclectic Craftsman/Colonial Revival style dwelling features a hipped roof, two interior chimneys, a hipped dormer, plain siding, and a one-story hipped roof porch with paneled posts on brick bases. Openings consist of single and paired five-over-one Craftsman sash windows and a glazed multi-paned door. The lattice porch railing is a replacement. The house has been converted to three apartments (A-C).
- The house was built between 1913 and 1918. F.A. Hayes occupied the house in 1929. (CD, SM-1913, 1918)
- 519 E. Davis St.  
NC-age  
ca. 1956
- J. G. Rogers House.** The brick one-and-a-half-story, Cape Cod style dwelling features a side gable roof, a combed brick veneer, three gabled dormers, an exterior end chimney, six-over-six sash windows, and an entrance flanked by fluted pilasters.
- The house was constructed circa 1956 for J.G. Rogers, president of the O & F Company. (interview, CD, Deed)
- a. NC-age. Garage/Apartment. ca. 1956. Now with the address of 405 Cameron Street, this was originally the garage/apartment for the Rogers House. The two-story, hipped roof building with combed brick veneer features an exterior end chimney, replacement one-over-one sash windows, and a shed roofed porch sheltering two enclosed garage bays.
- 600 block East Davis  
Street, NE side

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606 E. Davis St.  
NC-age  
1950

**Davis Street Methodist Church.** The Davis Street Methodist Church stands on a spacious corner lot with parking lots at the sides and rear. The front gable, brick, Classical Revival style sanctuary is three bays wide by six bays deep. A full-height pedimented portico with large stuccoed Doric columns and wrought-iron railing dominates the facade. The portico shelters three doubleleaf entrances, the center one topped with a broken pediment, flanking entrances with a Greek key molding. A two-story, side-gable brick educational building runs along the rear of the main block. A four-part brick and frame steeple with lattice balustrade at the base rises from the intersection of the sanctuary with the two-story block. Fenestration consists of oculus windows with concrete keystone surrounds, thirty-over-thirty sash windows on the main block, and six-over-six and six-over-nine sash windows on the educational building. A newly added brick porte-cochere with hipped roof adjoins the educational building at the rear.

a. NC Storage Shed. 1950s. Brick, front gable shed with an engaged brick and frame canopy.

The Davis Street Methodist Church was founded in 1890 as the First Methodist Protestant Church. In 1892 the present church lot was secured for the building of a frame Gothic style church. The church name changed to Davis Street Methodist Church in the 1930s after the three branches of Methodism officially united. In 1948 the church building committee raised more than \$90,000 for the building of a new church. Under the direction of Reverend S. J. Starnes, the present church building was completed in 1950 at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars. (Black, Cornerstone, *History of Methodist Churches*, 1963)

616 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1923

**Rex Ivey House.** The frame, two-story, front gable bungalow with side cross gable bays features plain siding, exposed rafter tails, unusual Japanese-inspired knee braces, and a hipped roof porch and side porte-cochere with Craftsman posts and a pediment over the porch entry. Openings consist of six-over-one sash windows, an original large corner picture window, and a glazed and paneled door with sidelights. Alterations include the replacement iron porch railing.

The house was built between 1918 and 1924. Rex Ivey, a restaurant owner, occupied the house in 1929. (SM-1918, 1924, CD)

620A E. Davis St.  
NC-age

**House.** Frame two-story rectangular house, three bays wide, with side gable roof, vinyl siding, six-over-six sash windows, and a gabled porch with turned posts.

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East Davis Street Historic District  
Alamance County, North Carolina

1990s

620B E. Davis St.  
NC-age  
1990s

**House.** 620B stands behind 620A and faces south. It is nearly identical to it, with three-bay width, six-over-six sash windows, vinyl siding, a gabled porch with turned posts, outside deck stairs on the left side, and a one-story three-bay wing on the right side.

600 block East Davis  
Street, SE side

603 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1941

**(former) Methodist Church Parsonage.** The two-story, Colonial Revival style dwelling with side gable roof exhibits a running bond brick veneer, an exterior end chimney, flanking one-story wings, a front bay window, and a recessed entrance with broken pediment, fluted pilasters and paneled reveals. Fenestration consists of six-over-six and eight-over-eight sash windows. The right side wing contains a one-car garage.

**a. NC Garage. 1950s.** Front gable brick and vinyl two-car garage.

**b. NC Shed. 1950s.** Frame front gable shed with plain siding.

The house was built circa 1941 as the parsonage for the First Methodist Protestant Church (now the Davis Street Methodist Church). The Woman's Society of Christian Service raised the money for the structure that cost approximately \$7,000. Reverend J. O. Long was the first pastor to occupy the parsonage. The church sold the house to retired pastor Dermott Reid, the present owner/occupant. (interview, Tax Records, *History of Methodist Churches* 1963)

607 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1910

**Walter E. Stafford House.** The two-story, three-bay, Neoclassical Revival style dwelling features a side gable roof, plain siding, two stuccoed chimneys, and full-height portico with large Doric columns over a one-story porch with Doric colonettes and dentil cornice. The pedimented gable has a lunette window. Fenestration consists of narrow one-over-one sash windows, two three-part windows with diamond paned-over-one sash windows and Palladian windows at the gable ends. The front entrance and balcony entrance have transoms and sidelights. The portico and one-story wings were apparently added to the house between 1918 and 1924.

**a. NC Shed. 1970s.** Frame, three-bay, side-gable shed with vertical board siding.

The house was apparently built circa 1910 and enlarged between 1918 and 1924. In

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1935 the house was occupied by Mrs. Mary J. Stafford, widow of Walter E. Stafford. (Black, Tax Records, SM-1913, SM-1924, CD)

611 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1929

**Susie and Ila Stafford House.** The frame, two-story hipped roof dwelling with front gable bay originally began as a one-story gable and wing dwelling. The second floor was added in the mid-to-late 1920s. The house features wide eaves, exterior and interior brick chimneys, single, paired and tripled one-over-one sash windows, and a one-story, hipped roof porch with paneled posts on brick bases with a wide plain railing. The front glazed door has sidelights. Alterations include vinyl siding and trim and a screened porch.

a. C Garage. 1929. Frame, front gable, two-car garage with vinyl siding and tin roof. (SM)

The one-story dwelling was erected ca. 1913 for Susie and Ila Stafford, sisters of W.E. Stafford. Susie was principal of the Maple Avenue Grade School, while Ila kept house. The house appears as a one-story dwelling on the 1913 Sanborn Map. Between 1924 and 1929 it was raised to two stories and given its present Craftsman character. By 1929 the Stafford sisters had moved to the corner of Tucker and E. Davis streets. I.L. Booth occupied 611 E. Davis Street in 1929, Mrs. Etta Foster and James Williams in 1935. (Black, SM-1913, 1924, 1929, CD)

615 E. Davis St.  
C  
ca. 1924

**R. A. Lutterloh House.** The frame, one-story bungalow with side gable roof features Japanese-inspired knee braces, a gabled dormer with exposed rafter tails and casement windows, two exterior end chimneys, and an engaged front gable porch. Openings consist of three- and seven-over-one Craftsman sash windows and a Craftsman style glazed door. Alterations include replacement wrought-iron porch posts on brick bases and aluminum exterior siding.

a. C Garage. 1929. Frame, front gable, one-car garage with exposed rafter tails, tin roof, and corrugated metal and plain siding. (SM)

The house was built between 1918 and 1924. R.A. Lutterloh occupied the house in 1929. (SM-1918, 1924, CD)

V

**Vacant Lot.**

619 E. Davis St.  
C

**(former) Community Service Station.** The one-story, three-bay, stuccoed Mission Style service station features a service canopy with hipped clay tile roof and arcaded

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ca. 1929 facade. The flat-roofed building has two garage bays, an office entrance and metal casements.

The service station was built between 1924 and 1929. The 1929 Sanborn Map identifies the building as "filling station" on the map. In 1929 this was the Community Service Station, managed by D.C. Patterson. In 1935 it was the Dollar Filling Station, owned by John Dollar. It continues to operate as a service station. (CD, SM-1929)

**100 block Mebane  
Street, NW side**

111 Mebane St.  
C  
ca. 1924

**Oscar Moore House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, hipped roof bungalow with front and side cross gables features shingled siding, exposed rafter tails, an interior brick chimney, and an engaged porch with paneled posts on brick bases and plain railing. Alterations include replacement sash windows, a replacement door, and replacement side porch steps. The exterior end chimney on the right side is missing its stack.

a. C Shed. 1940s. Frame, front gable shed with vertical board siding.

The house was built between 1918 and 1924. It was occupied by Oscar Moore in 1935 and by William Fuqua, a driver for BSM, in 1943. (CD, SM-1918, 1924)

V

**Vacant Lot.**

123 Mebane St.  
C  
ca. 1892

**James Wesley Cates House.** The frame, one-and-a-half-story, Queen Anne cottage with a deck on hipped roof features front and side gable bays, two interior chimneys with corbeled caps, two gabled dormers, and a one-story hipped roof porch with turned posts, decorative bargeboard, sawnwork brackets, and turned balustrade. Fishscale wood shingles cover the gable ends and scalloped bargeboard and wooden fanlights embellish the gables and gable dormers. Openings consist of two-over-two sash windows, multi-paned-over-one sash windows in the dormers, and a glazed and paneled door. "J.W. Cates 1892" is stamped in the front concrete walkway. In their later years, the Cates sisters converted the front room to a bedroom and partially enclosed the front porch to create a closet. Vinyl siding has been added.

a. C Garage. 1920s. Frame, front gable, two-car garage with exposed rafter tails, plain and replacement siding.

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James Wesley Cates moved to the Burlington area circa 1880, having already established himself as a builder and contractor. He built this house in 1892 as his residence. He established J.W. Cates coal and wood company for fuel, lumber and other building materials, and worked as a building contractor. Cates became an active civic, social and religious leader in the community. He served as mayor, member of the board of alderman, county commissioner, chairman of the city school board, a founder of First Baptist Church, and a major supporter in many of Burlington's firsts, including telephones, post office boxes, and bank deposits. After his death in 1914, the family coal business was run by his daughter, Bertha, until her retirement in 1967. Miss Cates was a charter member of the North Carolina Fuel Merchants Association. Another daughter, Verna Cates Stackhouse, managed the King Cotton Mills for almost ten years. Bertha and Verna Cates lived in the house until 1982 when it was deeded to J.W. Cates heirs. (Black, CD, Deed, SM-1913, interview)

127-129 Mebane St.  
C  
ca. 1937

**Powhatan Apartments.** The one-story, four-bay, flat-roofed brick duplex with paired one-over-one sash windows features two interior brick chimneys, glazed and paneled doors with copper-covered hipped stoops supported by brackets, a molded cornice, a patterned brick band at the water table and flat arches, and a stuccoed plate bearing the name "Powhatan."

The Powhatan Apartment building was constructed circa 1937. John Currin was an occupant in 1943. Fred Mullis, a knitter at Tower Hosiery, occupied the other unit by 1950. (Black, CD)

V

**Vacant Lot.**

a. NC Garage. 1950s. Frame, one-and-a-half-story, two-car garage with chimney, six-over-six sash windows and aluminum siding. This must have serviced the house that formerly stood on this lot.

**100 block Tucker  
Street, NE side**

112 Tucker St.  
C  
ca. 1915

**Charles W. Isley House.** The frame, two-story, three-bay, side-gable dwelling with a rear ell features a pressed tin roof, two interior brick chimneys, and a one-story wraparound porch with Doric columns and a second-floor, central bay balcony porch with gable roof, Doric columns and turned balusters. Openings consist of two-

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over-two sash windows and a glazed and paneled door. Alterations include aluminum siding and some replacement one-over-one sash windows.

a. NC Shed 1950s. Frame, front gable shed with plywood siding.

The house was built between 1913 and 1918. The earliest known owner, C.W. Isley, was deeded the property in January 1915. Charles Isley, an employee of Liberty Hosiery Mills, was still the occupant in 1929. (CD, Deed, SM-1913, 1918)

114-116 Tucker St.  
C  
ca. 1935

**Ideal Mercerizing Company Duplex.** The one-story, four-bay, brick, front-gable duplex with side cross gables features round-arched stoops, an interior brick chimney, round-arched glazed and paneled doors, and paired six-over-one sash windows. A round-arched, four-part window accents the front gable. A basketweave patterned brick band runs along the water table.

a. C. Shed 1930s. Frame front-gable shed with board and batten siding.

According to Burlington city directories, this duplex was owned by the Ideal Mercerizing Company from 1935 into the 1940s. Another industrial firm owned the house in later years. It was probably used as a company rental. (CD)

**100 block Tucker  
Street, SW side**

115 Tucker St.  
C  
ca. 1905

**Ella Andrews House.** The frame, two-story, three-bay tri-gable I-House with Queen Anne style elements features a projecting center cross gable bay, two interior brick chimneys, a side gable roof, drop pendant eave brackets, and a hipped roof wraparound porch with original turned posts, sawnwork brackets and sawnwork railings. Openings consist of six-over-six sash windows and a wide entrance that originally held a double door, now a single door and sidelight. Other alterations include vinyl siding.

The house is believed to have been constructed sometime before 1910 by builder James Wesley Cates for the Andrews family. In the earliest city directory of 1910, carpenter Leonidas Andrews, Miss Ella Andrews, and Mary J. Andrews (widow of Manley Andrews) resided in the house. Between 1929 and 1951 the house was occupied by Miss Ella Andrews and Mrs. Flora Pickard, a widow. The dwelling was apparently constructed for either Manley or Leonidas Andrews and family. (Black, CD, SM-1913)

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117 Tucker St.  
C  
ca. 1929

**Johnson Boarding House.** The frame, two-story, three-bay, pyramidal hipped roof dwelling with two interior chimneys features front and side gabled dormers, a pediment supported by knee braces over the recessed entrance bay, and a one-story, hipped roof porch on the left side. Openings consist of two-over-two sash windows and a glazed door. Alterations include aluminum siding, enclosure of the side porch, and covering of the dormer windows. Originally, the house may have had a front porch.

The house was built between 1924 and 1929. Mrs. Inez Johnson operated a boarding house on the property in 1929. The 1950 city directory listed "Apts. 1-6" at the address. (SM-1924, 1929, CD)

**600 block E. Webb  
Street, SW side**

605 E. Webb St.  
C  
ca. 1905

**John M. Fix House.** The frame, two-story, Queen Anne style dwelling, one of the most significant and substantial examples of the style in Burlington, features a high hipped roof with front and side gable bays and a one-story hipped roof wraparound porch with a second story porch over the entry. The gable bays are decorated with scalloped shingle siding, drop pendant eave brackets, and spindle and sawnwork bargeboard. The two pediments over the porch entry and side corner also have decorative bargeboard. Openings consist of two-over-two sash windows and a glazed door with sidelights. A 1960s one-story brick veneer addition is attached to the rear of the house via a one-story frame section. Other alterations include vinyl siding and replacement porch posts and railing.

The house was built circa 1905 for John M. Fix, prominent local banker. Fix began his career with Burlington Banking Company in 1901, and later worked for Alamance Loan and Trust Company and the Alamance Bank and Trust Company, reorganized as Atlantic Bank and Trust Company, of which he was chairman of the board for many years. He helped organize the Morris Plan Industrial Bank in 1922, later serving as cashier and vice-president. Harry Cox of C&H Motor Sales and Chris Bolt, an adjuster with Home Finance, occupied the house in 1950. The house was adapted for use as McClure Funeral Service in 1952 and still serves this function. (Black, CD, SM-1913)

607 E. Webb St.  
C

**Dollar House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, gable and wing Victorian style cottage features plain siding, a cross gable over the right two bays, segmental arched

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1890s two-over-two sash windows, a glazed and paneled door, paired drop pendant eave brackets, and a one-story hipped roof porch. The gable ends exhibit shingle siding and round sawnwork vents. Alterations include replacement porch posts and railing.

The house was built in the late 1890s. John Dollar, operator of Standard Oil Service Station, occupied the house in 1929. (Black, SM-1913, CD)

V **Vacant Lot.**

a. C Garage. 1940s. Frame, front gable garage with exposed rafter tails and corrugated metal siding.

V **Vacant Lot.**

635 E. Webb St.  
C  
ca. 1903 **Garrett House.** The frame, one-story, three-bay, Victorian style cottage features a steeply pitched side gable roof with a tall center cross gable, two interior chimneys, six-over-six sash windows and a one-story hipped porch with chamfered posts, spindle frieze, drop pendant brackets, and a plain balustrade. Alterations include a replacement door and vinyl siding.

The house was built circa 1903. W.R. Garrett, a salesman, and his wife Imogene occupied the house in 1929. It was purchased by Grady L. Beck in 1945. (Tax Records, CD, Deed, SM-1913)

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**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

**Summary:**

The East Davis Street Historic District, the core of Burlington's east end, consists of approximately five blocks of stylish middle-class Queen Anne, bungalow, and Colonial Revival houses, as well as one church and a gas station, built from the 1880s to the early 1940s by leaders of the town's industrial, business, and civic life. The 500 and 600 blocks of East Davis Street comprise the main spine of the district, with the intersecting streets of Mebane, Cameron and Tucker streets completing the district. Among the prominent early residents of the district were James Wesley Cates, mayor in the early 1900s, John M. Fix, prominent banker and civic leader, John R. Foster, long-time owner of the Foster Shoe Company on Main Street, and Dr. G. W. Stafford, co-founder of Stafford-Stroud Drug Company. Their stylish houses, built from the late 1880s to the early 1900s, are Queen Anne landmarks in Burlington. As the mansions of the Holt family have disappeared, these stylish frame houses are among the only surviving remnants of this initial era of industrialization in Burlington. Also of architectural note are a group of stylish bungalows built in the 1910s and 1920s by the second generation of district residents--including the Vitus Holt bungalow, Minter A. Coble's stone bungalow, and the half-timbered bungalow of bank cashier Marvin W. McPherson.

Several women who played a large role in Burlington's affairs were long-time residents of the district. Miss Bertha Cates ran the J. W. Cates Company, coal, lumber and building materials, from 1914 to 1967, and lived in the family homeplace on E. Davis Street. Susie Stafford, principal of the nearby Maple Avenue Grade School, built a house next to her parents on E. Davis Street in the early 1900s. About 1940 nurse Faye Simpson built a Cape Cod cottage on Cameron Street with a bank loan that is said to be the first granted to a woman in Alamance County.

The East Davis Street Historic District has followed the economic cycle of many neighborhoods that abut central business districts, remaining a fashionable middle-class neighborhood until after World War II, when new suburban developments sapped the vitality of established downtown neighborhoods. The district's most substantial houses began to be subdivided into apartments. Office and institutional zoning in the 1970s caused a further deterioration of the area's residential character. Since the 1980s, energetic new homeowners have begun to reclaim the district's architectural heritage. Residents have recently succeeded in rezoning the area back to residential usage.

**Historical Background**

The East Davis Street Historic District is located within the original limits of the town of Company Shops, a complex of repair facilities established in 1855 by the North Carolina Railroad Company in central Alamance County. The limits of the town, incorporated in 1866, were a one-and-one-half mile square centered on the hotel

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of the North Carolina Railroad.<sup>1</sup> All of this land remained under the ownership of the railroad until 1869, when the company began to gradually sell lots to private individuals to build dwellings and shops. One such individual was railroad employee and local entrepreneur Gabriel M. Lea, who in 1871 built a residence on a two and one-half acre site that is now along East Davis Street between Spring Street and Lexington Avenue. Like nearly all pre-1886 architecture in Burlington, the Lea House has been demolished.

During the Company Shops era, buildings stood on spacious sites connected by dirt paths. The company shops stood beside the tracks, four blocks west of Mebane Street, the west boundary of the East Davis Street Historic District. Although largely demolished, the roundhouse and some building remnants remain. The earliest building still standing near the district is St. Athanasius Episcopal Church, built in 1879-1880 at 320 East Davis Street, two blocks to the west. A journalist visiting in the late 1870s admired the handsome architecture of the village, and noted that "each house has the advantage of convenient isolation; and, surrounded with beautiful trees and luxuriant shrubbery...forms as pretty a picture of urban life as could well be imagined."<sup>2</sup>

In 1875 the offices of the North Carolina Railroad Company moved to Greensboro, and in 1886 the repair services were shifted to Manchester, Virginia by the company that leased the track, the Richmond and Danville Railroad. If manufacturing concerns had not been moving into the village in the earlier years of the 1880s, Company Shops would have ceased to exist at this time.

The town's location along the busiest railroad line in North Carolina made it desirable as a location for manufacturing facilities. Four new 1880s establishments--three cotton factories and a coffin factory--provided a sufficient economic base to prevent the demise of Company Shops.<sup>3</sup> As the railroad repair shops were being phased out, the Holt family, who had pioneered the production of colored cotton cloth in Alamance County in the 1830s, expanded their industrial facilities to Burlington. The first textile mill in the village, the Lafayette Cotton Mills, was also the first mill in the county powered completely by steam instead of water power. Peter F. Holt constructed the mill in 1882 along the tracks a short distance east of the company shops. By 1885 this had been renamed Aurora Cotton Mills under the ownership of Lawrence S. Holt, youngest son of pioneering industrialist Edwin M. Holt.<sup>4</sup> Holt descendants soon opened two other cotton mills in the vicinity. A fourth industry, the Burlington Coffin Company, was established in 1884 at the corner of Maple and Tucker streets, one block south of the district boundaries. Founded by J. Locke Erwin, a brother of Lawrence Holt, and T. P. Moore, the company employed over 100 workers and produced over 10,000 coffins annually by 1906. The factory became one of the largest coffin factories in the South and continued in operation until the 1960s. Its

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<sup>1</sup> Whitaker, *Centennial History of Alamance County*, 134; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, beginning in 1918, showed the entire town corporate limits. The eastern edge of town was Graham Road, three blocks east of Tucker Street, the east edge of the East Davis Street Historic District. Sanborn Maps for Burlington, N. C. State Archives, Raleigh.

<sup>2</sup> Stokes, *Company Shops*, 92.

<sup>3</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 19-20.

<sup>4</sup> Whitaker, *Centennial History of Alamance County*, 97, 165; Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 19.

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brick buildings, now in adaptive use, still stand.<sup>5</sup>

As the railroad company abandoned Company Shops, they decided to accelerate their sale of land and had a survey plat made which laid off streets, designated street names, and divided the property into numbered lots.<sup>6</sup> The main east-west street, along the south side of the railroad, was named Webb Avenue, the main north-south street, which extended south from the railroad passenger depot, was named Main Street. Cross-streets south of the railroad were Davis, Means (later renamed Maple), Morehead, and so on. Extending east from Main Street, one block south of Webb Avenue, East Davis Street was named for a director of the North Carolina Railroad, Dolphin A. Davis.<sup>7</sup> Blocks were numbered consecutively moving eastward.

Townpeople decided that their community needed a new name, and in 1887 abandoned the name "Company Shops" for the new name "Burlington." During the decade of the 1880s, population doubled from 817 to 1,716.<sup>8</sup> Much of the industry which fueled Burlington's growth located along the railroad tracks, and the new town of Burlington created a great need for housing for both mill owners and workers. New commercial services such as food, clothing, furniture, and pharmacies appeared. Professionals such as doctors and dentists set up shop in the evolving business district along Main Street. Wealthy mill owners erected grand architect-designed homes that symbolized their leadership in the community, thereby placing Burlington into the architectural vanguard once again, as it had been in the early years of Company Shops.<sup>9</sup> During the town's regeneration, almost all of the company shops fabric--railroad buildings, a few houses, a few stores—were demolished. The second phase of architectural resources—mills, mill housing, owners' residences, commercial buildings—from the industrialization era, form Burlington's most venerable landmarks.

The young town's business community, the second tier of industrialists and businessmen, established enterprises along the railroad tracks and built residences nearby in the late 1880s and 1890s. It is this class of residential architecture that forms the backbone of the East Davis Street Historic District. The earliest known building in the district is the **John R. Foster House, 518 E. Davis Street**. The original house was a small dwelling built about 1888 by the shoemaker facing Cameron Street, at the corner of East Davis Street, one block south of the tracks. As his family expanded in the next decade, he enlarged it into a two-story Queen Anne style house that faces East Davis Street. One of the first speciality shops in town, the attractive brick Foster Shoe Company opened in the 300 block of Main Street in 1890. The 1913 Sanborn Map, the first one that maps Burlington's residential areas, shows the house in its current configuration, with three small domestic outbuildings and a barn located on the rear lot.

About 1892 Dr. G. W. Stafford built a two-story Queen Anne style house for his family (**Stafford-Moore**

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<sup>5</sup> Burlington Coffin Company Study List Application, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, 1993.

<sup>6</sup> Stokes, *Company Shops*, 72-76, 126-127; Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 17.

<sup>7</sup> Stokes, *Company Shops*, Appendix D.

<sup>8</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 16,27, 128.

<sup>9</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 19.

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**House, 514 E. Davis Street).** Stafford co-owned the Stafford-Stroud Drug Company downtown. In 1892 the First Methodist Protestant Church congregation left their original meeting place, the non-denominational Union Church, to erect a sanctuary (**Davis Street Methodist Church, 606 E. Davis St.**) on a lot they purchased on E. Davis Street to bring the ministry to the growing east end. They built a frame Gothic Revival style sanctuary that stood until 1950 when the present imposing brick Classical Revival style sanctuary was built.

James Wesley Cates, a building contractor who moved to Burlington about 1880, built a coal, wood and lumber company along the railroad where Mebane Street intersected the tracks and East Webb Avenue. Around the same time, Cates built an ornate Queen Anne cottage for his family one-half block south of his business (**James Wesley Cates House, 123 Mebane St.**). Cates' role as a cornerstone of Burlington's civic and financial activities included his service as mayor, commissioner, and as a founder of the First Baptist Church. The stylish Cates residence was an advertisement for the variety of machine-made wooden trim available, including bargeboard, sunbursts, and fishscale shingles, and his skill in using them. He also apparently was responsible for at least one other house in the district, the Ella Andrews House at 115 Tucker Street.<sup>10</sup> Less stylish than the Cates House, the Andrews House possesses a vernacular I-House form embellished with a projecting central entrance bay and a fancy porch with bracketed posts and a sawnwork railing.

The first decade of Burlington's existence following the exodus of the railroad's shop services proved that the town had a bright future, since from 1890 to 1900 Burlington's population doubled, to 3,692, then increased to 5,952 in 1920.<sup>11</sup> During the first two decades of the twentieth century Burlington developed the civic services needed by a town of its size. The commercial district expanded east into the 100 block of East Davis Street. East Davis Street Historic District continued its gradual development of Queen Anne style, middle-class housing in the 1890s and early 1900s. The earliest Sanborn Map to map the East Davis Street District, of 1913, shows nearly complete streetscapes of Victorian houses along East Davis, Webb, Mebane, Cameron and Tucker streets. The 1918, 1924, 1929, and 1949 updates of the Sanborn Maps chronicle subsequent changes as bungalows and Colonial Revival houses were built on vacant lots and sometimes on the sites of earlier houses, and as some of the early houses were themselves expanded and remodeled. The neighborhood remained distinct and separated from the Aurora Mill Village, located just east of the district in the 800-900 blocks of E. Davis Street and along Maple, Everett and other streets. There, the Holt family built mill housing in the late 1800s and early 1900s to house the employees of Aurora Cotton Mill. A one-block commercial district in the 700 block of East Davis Street, containing early to late twentieth century one and two story brick stores, primarily served employees of the Aurora Cotton Mills. The shopping area has recently been revitalized.

A number of strong women lived in the East Davis Street Historic District, and their houses memorialize their inspiring lives. Miss Bertha Cates, daughter of James Wesley Cates, ran the family coal business from her father's death in 1914 until her retirement in 1967. His other daughter, Verna Cates Stackhouse, managed the

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<sup>10</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 96.

<sup>11</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 27, 35.

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King Cotton Mills for almost ten years. They lived together in the Cates homeplace at 123 Mebane Street until the early 1980s. Other single women in the district were Susie and Ila Stafford, sisters of W. E. Stafford. Susie, who was principal of the Maple Avenue Grade School, located one block south on Maple Avenue, and her sister had a one-story house built right beside their brother's house about 1913. (**Susie and Ila Stafford House, 611 E. Davis St.**) In 1936 Faye Simpson, a single nurse, purchased a portion of the rear property of John Foster and built a Cape Cod style house for herself (**Faye Simpson House, 123 Cameron St.**). Simpson is believed to have been the first woman to secure a bank loan to purchase a house in Alamance County.

In the mid-1920s, as a neighborhood commercial district was developing in the 700 block of East Davis Street to serve the residents of the Aurora Cotton Mill village located at the east end of East Davis Street, a gas station was built at the end of the 600 block (**former Community Service Station, 619 E. Davis St.**) With its stylish Mission Revival porte-cochere with terra cotta tile roof and arcaded openings, the station signaled that the east end of Burlington was a progressive neighborhood with a diverse mixture of residential, commercial and industrial facilities.

The East Davis Street District retained its middle-class, stable atmosphere, with wide boulevards, mature trees, and proximity to a thriving downtown, during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. In the 1930s and 1940s, as the pressure for housing continued, several duplexes were constructed in the district. The Powhatan, a flat-roofed brick duplex, was built at 127-129 Mebane Street about 1937. A front-gabled brick duplex was built at 114-116 Tucker Street in the 1940s. On the west end of the district, the Burlington business district gradually expanded into the 100-400 blocks of East Davis Street.

By 1971 when Burlington adopted its first zoning ordinance, the 500-600 blocks were zoned for office and institutional use to allow for the future expansion of the central business district into the area. Gradually the original families and their descendants died or moved away, and the commodious old houses were converted into apartments. The area became known as a low-rent district, with a high percentage of rental units and small businesses which occupied the houses, and sometimes generated unsympathetic remodeling. In 1991 a historic study by the Burlington Historic Preservation Commission recommended designation of the area as a historic district, but few local residents supported the action. Although a number of the houses were undergoing restoration, some of the rental property continued to deteriorate and crime became an issue. Finally, plans to locate a group home for the mentally ill in the John Foster House prompted residents to attempt to reclaim the historical character of the area. A project to rezone the residential sections of the neighborhood back to residential use was successful in 1997. Residents also petitioned the city to allow them to become the fourth National Register Historic District in Burlington. Accordingly, the city of Burlington financed the preparation of this district nomination in spring, 1999.<sup>12</sup> Listing of the East Davis Street Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places will be an important step in reclaiming the stable residential character of this significant

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<sup>12</sup>"Folks hope zoning helps neighborhood," *Burlington Times-News*, Burlington, August 1997; "City Council finds funds for East Davis nomination," *Burlington Times-News*, April 12, 1999.

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neighborhood.

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**Context: Criterion A: Community Development and Criterion C: Architecture**

The Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Burlington," prepared in 1983, noted that the neighborhoods focused on Davis and Mebane streets adjacent to the Central Business District contained notable individual examples of late Queen Anne, period revival styles, foursquares, and bungalows. The East Davis Street Historic District is one of these neighborhoods. The district, the surviving core of the fashionable east end of Burlington, contains significant examples of the Queen Anne and Bungalow architectural styles that define the city's owner-occupied residential areas that developed from the 1880s to the 1930s. The earliest residences in the district, of Queen Anne style, represent the second-tier industrial and commercial class in Burlington, in distinct contrast to the "grand, stylish architect-designed homes" erected by the wealthy mill owners, several built along East Webb Avenue within site of the railroad tracks. Lawrence S. Holt's "Blythewood" and John Q. Gant's "Bonnie Oaks" were grand, picturesque Queen Anne style monuments to the gilded age, each built from plans by Tennessee architect George Barber in the late 1880s and early 1890s on an entire city block. Blythewood stood where Lexington Avenue now connects East Davis Street and Maple Avenue. Bonnie Oaks stood along East Webb Avenue between Spring Street and Lexington Avenue. These mansions have been demolished, leaving the more modest Queen Anne style landmarks of the East Davis Street Historic District. Burlington's Multiple Property Documentation Form singles out the John M. Fix House and the Stafford-Moore House as notable examples of the stylish Queen Anne architecture that appeared in Burlington in the early 1890s. The irregular configurations and rooflines, elaborate chimneys, and delightful millwork on porches and gables set these houses apart from the earlier vernacular houses of the settlement, which were rectangular, one-room-deep structures with simple gable roofs. Stafford's, Fix's, and Cates's stylish Queen Anne residences were instant landmarks, appearing in a 1906 promotional book along with the Holt mansions, each with its ornate picket fence and newly planted trees and shrubs. The Stafford-Moore House and the John Fix House, although smaller than the textile owners' mansions, retain the profusion of sawn and turned wooden ornament characteristic of high style Queen Anne.

According to "Historic Resources of Burlington," (MPDF), the town's three finest examples of the Neoclassical Revival style, which appeared locally after 1900, are the J. W. Murray House, Dr. John Page House (both on West Davis Street), and the Walter E. Stafford House in the East Davis Street District. The Stafford House (**Walter E. Stafford House, 607 E. Davis Street**) is notable for its monumental Doric columns supporting a pedimented pavillion that projects beyond the one-story wraparound porch.

After 1910, Burlington moved closer to the mainstream of residential design, evidenced by the advent of pattern-book bungalows as early as 1915. The W. Manley Baker House on West Davis Street was one of the first examples. By the 1920s the bungalow had become Burlington's principal house form. Handsome examples of frame, brick, wood shingle, stucco, and stone bungalows survive in most of Burlington's neighborhoods. Then-mayor Earl B. Horner built one of the most splendid bungalows in the city at 304 N. Fisher Street in the early 1920s. The profusion of upswept gables and the exposed timbering of the front porch gable reflect the

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oriental influence on the style.<sup>13</sup> In the late 1910s and early 1920s, the new bungalow style was introduced to the district and came to dominate. Ten of the twenty-four historic houses in the district are bungalows. Two of the earliest bungalows in the district were built for Vitus Holt (**Vitus Holt House, 504 East Davis Street**), and Minter Coble (**Minter A. Coble House, 510 East Davis Street**). Holt was the son of hardware store owner Kirk Holt; Coble was a businessman. Holt's bungalow is frame, while Coble's is stone with pebbledash concrete gables. Across the street from John R. Foster's residence, his daughter Beulah and her husband Marvin W. McPherson, a bank cashier, built a stylish bungalow with half-timbered ornament about 1920 (**Marvin W. McPherson House, 513 E. Davis St.**) Early 1920s bungalows in the district (**Rex Ivey House, 616 E. Davis Street, R. A. Lutterloh House, 615 E. Davis Street**) have Japanese-inspired knee braces that reflect the exotic influences that occasionally appeared in bungalows.

The East Davis Street Historic District holds significance under Criterion A as one of several areas of East Burlington that reflect residential development during the town's industrial boom from 1890 to the 1930s. Other districts in East Burlington with similar character and similar significance are the Broad Street Historic District and the South Main/South Church Street Historic District. The eight-block Broad Street Historic District contains Late Victorian cottages and larger houses, Foursquares, Colonial Revival houses, and bungalows. One of the city's most interesting collection of bungalows is grouped around the intersection of the 700 block of South Lexington Avenue and Fifth Street in this district. The South Main/South Church Street area contains a similar collection of residential development from the industrial boom era. Building styles evolved from the early traditional I-Houses and late Victorian cottages to later Colonial Revival houses and bungalows. Among the non-residential resources are the City Park and the Pine Hill Cemetery.

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<sup>13</sup> Black, *Architectural History of Burlington*, 34, 53.

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**Section 9: Bibliography**

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**Maps:**

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**Section 10: Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundaries of the district are shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet. The map is a base map generated by the City of Burlington's Planning and Community Development Department.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries are drawn to include the densest concentration of contributing resources in the historic Burlington neighborhood. Boundaries follow streets and property lines.

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**Section Photos Page 27  
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**Photographs:**

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: Michelle Kullen

Date: July 1999

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. View of Lutterloh, Susie and Ila Stafford, and Walter E. Stafford houses, 615, 611, 607 E. Davis Street, looking northwest.
- B. E. Davis Street view, 500 block, looking northwest.
- C. John Wesley Cates House, 123 Mebane Street, looking northwest.
- D. John R. Foster House, 518 E. Davis Street, looking east.
- E. John Fix House, 605 Webb Avenue, looking south.
- F. Stafford-Moore House, 514 E. Davis Street, looking northeast.
- G. Minter Coble House, 510 E. Davis Street, looking northwest.
- H. Walter E. Stafford House and former Methodist Church parsonage, 607 and 603 E. Davis St., looking northwest.
- I. Hayes House, Marvin W. McPherson House, and J. A. Thompson House, 515, 513, 511 E. Davis Street, looking south.
- J. Blalock House and Handsell House, 414 and 410 Cameron Street, looking east.
- K. Davis Street Methodist Church, 606 E. Davis Street, looking east.
- L. Houses, 116 and 112 Tucker Street, looking east.

# E. Davis Street Historic District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

638

640 (LAKE BURLINGTON) 641

51° 11' NW

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