**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR**

Fayetteville

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

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### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**

Holt-Harrison House

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### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**

806 Hay Street

---

**CITY, TOWN**

Fayetteville

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

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### 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
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### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**

John Wesley Rose

---

**STREET & NUMBER**

310 Circle Drive

---

**CITY, TOWN**

Fayetteville

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

---

**STREET & NUMBER**

P.O. Box 2039

---

**CITY, TOWN**

Fayetteville

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

### 6 FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME / TITLE**

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

---

**ORGANIZATION**

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

---

**DATE**

March 31, 1982

---

**TELEPHONE**

1-919-733-6545

---

**CITY OR TOWN**

Raleigh

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

---

**PO BOX**

53297

---

**ZIP CODE**

28305

---

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

7th

---

**COUNTY CODE**

051

---

**CODE**

037

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

---

**NAME**

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

---

**TELEPHONE**

1-919-733-6545

---

**CITY OR TOWN**

Raleigh

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

---

**ZIP CODE**

28302

---

**CITY, TOWN**

Fayetteville

---

**STATE**

North Carolina

---

**PO BOX**

53297

---

**ZIP CODE**

28305

---

**COURTHOUSE**

Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

---

**STREET & NUMBER**

P.O. Box 2039

---

**CITY, TOWN**

Fayetteville

---

**STATE**

North Carolina
The Holt-Harrison House c.1897, situated at the northwest corner of Hay Street and Woodside Avenue in Haymount, is an example of Colonial Revival architecture which was much favored for residential construction in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This was especially true for Haymount neighborhoods west of town which were developing rapidly in response to an expanding local economy and growing population. Many of the homes lining Hay Street into Haymount, which were owned primarily by local industrialists, business, and professional men, exhibit the familiar two-story rectangular floor plan with expansive porches, porticos, entrances with sidelights and transom, bay-like projections, and gable and/or hip roof dormers. The Holt-Harrison House is distinguished by being one of the earliest built during Haymount's rapid turn-of-the-century development, by its substantial construction, and by its important associations with textile industrialist Walter L. Holt.

The dwelling follows a basic two-story double-pile central-hall plan with squared projections, bays, porches, and minor additions to create interest. Its three-bay front, shielded by a two-story replacement porch, is articulated on the first floor by a three-sided projection on either side of the entrance. The centrally-placed entrance is framed by pilasters and sidelights and surmounted by a single light transom and simple entablature. Also within the protection of the porch is the second floor's centrally-placed archway with its recessed doorway and railed balcony. The archway is flanked on each side by shuttered 1/1 sash windows, the fenestration which occurs throughout the main block.

The structure is capped by a hip roof with bracketed eaves. Two gable dormers, featuring windows with fanlights echoing the gentle curve of the second story archway, punctuate the front slope of the primary roof. Rising also from the roof are two symmetrically-placed interior chimneys with corbeled stacks and two minor ones at the rear.

The interior of the Holt-Harrison House revolves around the wide center hall with staircase at the rear. Double-pile plan places two rooms on either side of the hall with one chimney flue and double fireplace openings serving each side. Original mantels are classically inspired with Ionic and Doric detailing and have complementary mirrored overmantels. Interior woodwork is robust with random width pine floors and stairway detailing consisting of heavy newel posts and turned balusters. Rooms are currently lending themselves well to adaptive use as reception, office, storage, and studio space.
The Holt-Harrison House was built by textile industrialist Walter L. Holt (of the well-known Alamance County Holt family which during the nineteenth century stimulated the cotton mill industry of Piedmont North Carolina) who worked to establish four of Fayetteville's important turn-of-the-century textile mills. These efforts, which reflected a statewide industrial revolution, boosted the local economy. Holt and other industrialists, merchants, businessmen, and professionals who contributed to late nineteenth/early twentieth century prosperity favored the expanding neighborhoods of Haymount, Fayetteville's western suburb, for new house construction, and he helped to set a standard for these dwellings after building a large, Colonial Revival house there c. 1897. Given its two-story front portico by later owner and former mayor, Jesse Harrison, the house stands as a reminder of an important period of rapid social, residential, economic, and industrial development in Fayetteville's history.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. The Holt-Harrison House is associated with the rapid social, economic, residential, and industrial development of turn-of-the-century Fayetteville.

B. Owners of the house were well-known locally; Walter Holt, textile industrialist who had a controlling interest in four out of five to six of Fayetteville's mills, built the house; his family's successor was Jesse R. Harrison, former Fayetteville mayor and realtor.

C. The house is built on a two-story double-pile plan and exhibits Colonial-Revival inspired detailing in features such as door surrounds, dormers, and mantels, representative of houses which were built in Haymount neighborhoods of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century.
The Holt-Harrison House at 806 Hay Street derives its significance from an historical, as well as architectural, standpoint. It began as a single family dwelling, changed to a multiple family dwelling, and has been used more recently for commercial and professional purposes. The Holt-Harrison House setting has changed somewhat over the years, but stands, nevertheless, as a solid, tangible reminder of the elegance which once characterized the hilltop neighborhood where it stands.

Mary De Rossett Holt, wife of Walter L. Holt and daughter of Colonel William L. De Rossett of Wilmington, a prominent family of the lower Cape Fear region, purchased a lot at the northwest corner of Hay Street and Woodside Avenue in 1897.1 This corner lot became the site of the Holt family home. Built shortly after the 1897 land purchase, the house was a part of Haymount, a rapidly developing western suburb of Fayetteville. Increased population due to a variety of factors such as industrialization and improved transportation made the establishment of new residential areas necessary, and Haymount became a fashionable neighborhood for local businessmen, merchants, professionals, and manufacturers. Two in this last category who constructed houses at the crest of the hill in the last decade of the nineteenth century were Edgar Allen Poe, brick manufacturer who built on Bradford Street, and Walter L. Holt, mill-owner who built around the corner at 625 (later 806) Hay Street.

Walter Holt was born 1 June 1859 into the family of Alamance County Holts who had been influential in the State's textile industry as early as the mid 1830's.2 He was the grandson of Edwin Michael Holt who in 1836-1837 founded what became the important Holt family cotton manufacturing business of Piedmont North Carolina.3 Walter Holt began his career as a bookkeeper and shipping clerk at Carolina Mills which were operated by his father, James Henry Holt. Young Holt and his brothers were responsible for building and operating several major textile mills in Burlington. This proved to be a good training ground for the industrialist before he moved to Fayetteville in 1895.4

### Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet.

### Geographical Data

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All of Lot 1, Block B, Map 62-1-4, Cross Creek Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.
Once there, Holt worked to develop the local textile industry. Fayetteville had a strong cotton mill history which was interrupted by Civil War activity and attendant destruction. It was the late nineteenth century re-establishment of mills, by persons such as Walter Holt, which boosted the local economy.

He worked to establish and/or operate at least four area mills. The first was Holt-Morgan Mill which was built in 1895. Holt-Williamson Manufacturing Company followed in 1898. Close to 1900, Tolar, Hart & Holt Mills were established with Walter Holt as a director. The manufacturer also served as president and treasurer of Fayetteville Lakeview Mills. He, with the help of his cousins and friends who served as secretaries, treasurers, and co-directors had a controlling interest in four out of five to six local textile concerns. These men played a large part in Fayetteville's turn-of-the-century economic and industrial development.\(^5\)

Walter Holt, along with his wife, two sons, and two daughters, made Fayetteville's Haymount neighborhood his home. His property holdings were described in this way:

Walter Holt is an extensive property owner, and on Haymount, the charming western suburb of Fayetteville, his beautiful home - an elegant colonial residence, with the furnishings and comforts of refinement and culture, surrounded by ornamental grounds, grove, etc., kept in faultless taste - is the abode of an ideal domestic life.\(^6\)

After Holt's death in 1913, the property was retained by his widow and children and in 1934 was transferred to Jesse R. Harrison through the Sussex Corporation, a Virginia Trust Company.\(^7\) This began a new era for the "Holt Place". Jesse R. Harrison was a former Fayetteville mayor from 1929-1931, active locally in real estate endeavors, and later an officer in the Fayetteville Building and Loan Association.\(^8\) He saw an opportunity for turning his hilltop purchase into an income-producing venture and converted it into a four-unit apartment house.\(^9\) At that time, the porch was altered from its original one story wraparound style to its present two-story type with columns.\(^10\) Harrison was living on Gillespie Street at the time of the adaptations, but by 1943 was living in Apartment Number 1 at 806 Hay Street. His widow lived there after him.\(^11\)

Also part of the hilltop venture was the building of a gas station at the corner of Hay Street and Woodside Avenue around 1940 (where the Holt-Harrison House parking lot is now).\(^12\) This was done by J.R. Harrison or by another party on land leased from him. The "two-bay hollow tile and stucco service station with concrete driveways" was occupied by Gulf, Texaco, and AMOCO distributorships during its history.\(^13\) It no longer stands today.
The Holt Place - Harrison Apartment House suffered throughout the 1960s from the effects of rapid suburban development. In order to handle increased traffic flow, the Central Business District Loop was created to bypass the downtown area and connect points north with those west. An entrance ramp to this highway was created along the western boundary of the Holt-Harrison property, which made it necessary for the State Highway Commission to petition for right-of-way agreements, easements, and the like. The end result was that property lines were pared and redrawn, and that now the backdrop of the home is slick concrete rather than "ornamental grounds". It provides a valuable function, however, in acting as a buffer for the largely intact residential area lying immediately to the east and as a shield against further encroachment.

With the 1970s, the Holt-Harrison House entered yet another phase. It was -- and is -- used for both commercial and professional purposes. After being transferred out of the Harrison family, it was used between 1974 and 1979 as James Lentz's Highlander Antiques. In the latter year, John Rose received a warranty deed for the property and has adaptively restored it for use as offices, studios, a library, and an interior design center.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Holt-Harrison House

Significance/Historical Background

Item number 8

Page 4

Reference Notes:

1Dr. S.J. Hinsdale by executor to Mary de Rossett Holt, 1 April 1897, Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Book 101, Page 297, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Deeds.


3Ashe and Weeks, Biographical History, 7: 183-185.

4Ashe and Weeks, Biographical History, 7: 216-217.

5Ashe and Weeks, Biographical History, 7: 217.


7Cumberland County Deeds, Book 378, Page 443.

8"Hay Street Linked to Noted Family" by Lucille Johnson, Fayetteville Observer, 4 February 1979, Sec. E, p. 6; Fayetteville City Directories, 1937: 122; 1939: 125; Vertical file marked "Fayetteville-Mayors" in Anderson Street Library, Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville.

9See Fayetteville City Directory, 1937: 321.

10Fayetteville Observer, 4 February 1979, Sec. E, 1 and 6.


12Fayetteville City Directory, 1943: 712.


14Cumberland County Deeds, Book 1018, Page 418; Book 2201, Page 19; Book 2172, Page 190; Book 2027, Pages 499 and 501.


16Cumberland County Deeds, Book 2674, Page 311.


Cumberland County Records: Deeds, Wills.
