

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR  THEMATIC NOMINATION

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Gregson-Hadley House  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

322 East Raleigh Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Siler City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

N. C.

CODE

037

COUNTY

Chatham

CODE

037

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES RESTRICTED

YES UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wade H. Hadley, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

322 East Raleigh Street

CITY, TOWN

Siler City

VICINITY OF

STATE

N. C.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

N. C.

**6 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Ray Manieri

July 1, 1983

ORGANIZATION

Urban Research Associates

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Cornwallis Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greensboro

STATE

N. C. 27408

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in a residential neighborhood only a few blocks from downtown Siler City, the Gregson-Hadley House is a richly detailed example of the Queen Anne style. Although the house was designed in a one story variation that is less common than most Queen Anne residences built in more urbanized areas, it still features Eastlake decoration and other features so popular during the Queen Anne period. The first brick residence constructed in Siler City, it was built ca. 1903 according to the design of architect W. H. Tippet, about whom little is known. Tippet's original architectural plans proposed the construction of a wing on the northeast side of the house which was never completed in its entirety. Except for the design of the front porch balustrade and spindle gallery, the remainder of the house was constructed according to Tippet's specifications. An examination of Tippet's plans for the house's front elevation, reveals a naivety in his drafting skills, particularly in the translation of a three-dimensional structure on a one-dimensional surface.

Dominated by an exaggerated hip roof with several projecting gable interruptions, the house is distinguished by such characteristic Queen Anne features as a pentagonal corner turret and a highly decorated wraparound porch encircling it. The turret is also accentuated by colorful Queen Anne windows and a decorative weathervane. The porch is supported by robust turned posts and handsomely decorated with a delicate spindle gallery, simple brackets, and an involved filligree balustrade.

The massing of the house includes a combination of projecting wings and bays, repeated in the complex form of the hipped and gabled roof. Counterbalancing the height and shape of the southwest tower, the northwest front entrance has a three sided bay with an asymmetrically placed entry. This entrance bay is further highlighted by complementary gable interruptions in the roof and porch. Each pedimented gable, fancifully decorated with sawn and turned work, features different ornamental treatment. Different shingle design covers the face of each gable and a lacy gable ornament or simple bargeboard highlights the raking cornice. Handsome enlarged sawnwork brackets accentuate the clipped corners of each bay and provide visual support for the extended corner eaves.

The house's irregular fenestration pattern is primarily composed of double-hung sash windows containing one-over-one lights and an ornate single-leaf doorway. Typical of the Queen Anne style, each gable and the corner turret are distinguished by small windows with numerous multi-colored panes arranged in various patterns.

A modern addition was added to the rear of the Gregson-Hadley house during the 1920s. However, as an early photograph of the house reveals, its front section has remained unchanged since its construction. This newer section is covered in dark red straight-edge shingles and does not detract from the original section of the house.

Continued on attached sheet...

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The interior floor plan follows the original irregular plan of architect Tippet. The house is entered through a reception hall which is flanked by a large parlor in the southwest corner of the house. An L-shaped hall separates the front section of the house from the dining room, sitting room, kitchen, and bedrooms to the rear of the house. Although the original wall stenciling was lost because of replastering, most of the distinguished woodwork survives. This interior work includes the vertical board wainscoting and the typical Queen Anne combination of bull's-eye cornerblocks and symmetrically molded door and window surrounds. Original period mantels remain in two bedrooms. These mantels feature colonettes and in one instance, an overmantel with beveled oval mirror. The house's original flooring was covered with the present oak flooring in a 1920's remodeling, and most light fixtures date from about 1913 when the house was first wired for electricity.

The Gregson Hadley House presents a good example of late Queen Anne architecture, as that style was represented in the more urbanized parts of central North Carolina. It was easily one of the most elaborate homes built in Siler City during the first few decades of the twentieth century.

# SIGNIFICANCE

\_\_\_\_\_ NATIONAL

\_\_\_\_\_ STATE

\_\_\_\_\_ X LOCAL

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. H. Tippet

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gregson-Hadley House is one of the finest examples of Queen Anne architecture in Siler City. It provides an excellent picture of how that style was represented in smaller, central North Carolina towns. It is also associated with the life of Julius Clarence Gregson, one of the most influential political, industrial, and civic leaders in Siler City during the first part of the twentieth century.

## CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Associated with the growth and urbanization of Siler City and the development of the town as a small mill community in central North Carolina during the early part of the twentieth century.
- B. Associated with the life of J. C. Gregson, one of the most important industrialists and civic leaders in Siler City during the first half of the twentieth century.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of domestic Queen Anne architecture, as that style developed in North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Julius Clarence Gregson was a native of Randleman, North Carolina and a graduate of Trinity College when he arrived in Siler City in 1895. For the remainder of his life, however, he resided in the town, managed the operations of the Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company, and lent his abilities to the development of his new community.

Soon after his arrival, Gregson became associated with the Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company, which Gregson, J. A. Hadley, F. M. Hadley, J. N. Peoples and D. L. Webster organized on August 28, 1895 with a capital stock of \$30,000. Although he was only one of several incorporators, Gregson assumed the responsibility for the company's operation. Hadley-Peoples, the first major industry to locate in Siler City following the city's incorporation in 1887, was organized for the manufacture of cotton yarn. Its original incorporators, however, also made provisions which allowed the company to manufacture "furniture, wagons, buggies, carriages, carts, and all other vehicles."

The establishment of the Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company was characteristic of the development of the cotton textiles industry in piedmont North Carolina in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. During the twenty years following 1880, the number of new cotton mills in North Carolina increased fourfold. The value of textile products produced in the state also increased elevenfold, and the number of textile workers rose ninefold during this same period. By 1900, approximately ninety percent of the state's textile mills were located in the piedmont region. As in other piedmont counties, the Hadley-Peoples mill probably benefited from the good supply of cheap labor from the economically depressed rural area of surrounding Chatham County. The company continued to be part of the growth of the North Carolina textile industry during the first quarter of the twentieth century. During this time, the total value of textile products produced in North Carolina rose from \$30 million in 1900 to \$450 million in 1930. Because of this increase, North Carolina became the nation's leading cotton manufacturing state.

Continued on attached sheet...

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, North Carolina (subgroup: Deeds).

"Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company Celebrates 75th Anniversary", undated supplement to the Chatham News.

Continued on attached sheet...

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

17
----

639340
--------

3954260
---------

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

--

--

--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

--

--

--

D 

--

--

--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located at 322 E. Raleigh Street in Siler City and consists of the small area upon which the house is located. Tax Map # 8761-06.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

By the time of his marriage to Mabel Hadley, in 1900, Gregson was one of Siler City's leading businessmen. This marriage added to Gregson's influence in the community. Mabel Hadley was the daughter of F. M. Hadley, one of Gregson's co-incorporators in the Hadley-Peoples Company. As a testimony to his position in the community, Gregson decided to construct the first brick residence in Siler City in 1903.<sup>10</sup> The land upon which the Gregson House was built was previously owned by F. M. Hadley, Gregson's father-in-law. Hadley was also an important Siler City business leader. In addition to being an original incorporator of the Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company, he was president of the city's first bank, The Chatham Bank, organized in 1902.<sup>12</sup> Gregson employed architect W. H. Tippet to design an elaborate Queen Anne residence on East Raleigh Street. Nothing is known about the architectural career of Tippet, but his original plans for the Gregson House still survive. These drawings show that Tippet originally planned to construct a larger residence and that his plans must have been modified after he completed his original drawings.<sup>13</sup>

Following the completion of his elaborate new home, J. C. Gregson continued to oversee the development of the Hadley-Peoples Company. He was also involved in local political and civic affairs, such as serving as a Siler City Town Commissioner from 1919 until 1945,<sup>14</sup> and as an original member of the Chatham County Board of Public Welfare.<sup>15</sup> Gregson also helped establish the West End Methodist Church in Siler City.<sup>16</sup> Buying large amounts of local real estate, in addition to other investments, eventually made Gregson one of the town's wealthiest men.<sup>17</sup>

In 1920, the Gregson House was sold to Wade Hadley, Gregson's brother-in-law, who occupied it for many years. During the 1920s Hadley added rear additions to the home and remodeled portions of its interior. Wade Hadley, Jr., Gregson's nephew, took ownership of the house and moved into it in 1980. Since that time Hadley has occupied the home.<sup>18</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Notes

1. Wade H. Hadley, Jr., et al, Chatham County, 1771-1971. (Durham: Moore Printing Company, 1971), p. 927. Hereinafter cited as Hadley, Chatham County, 1771-1971.
2. "Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company celebrates 75th Anniversary", undated supplement to the Chatham News, p. 1. Hereinafter cited as "hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company Celebrates 75th Anniversary."
3. Hadley, Chatham County, 1771-1971, p. 215.
4. "Hadley-Peoples Manufacturing Company Celebrates 75th Anniversary", p. 3.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Hugh T. Lefler and Albert R. Newsome, eds., The History of a Southern State: North Carolina, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), p. 508. Hereinafter cited as Lefler and Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid, p. 581-582.
10. Interview with Wade H. Hadley, Jr. January 13, 1983. Hereinafter cited as Hadley Interview.
11. Chatham County Deeds, Mortgages, and Real Estate Conveyances, Book D-T, p. 204. Hereinafter cited as Chatham County Deeds.
12. Hadley, Chatham County 1771-1971.
13. These drawings are now in the possession of Wade H. Hadley, Jr. 322 E. Raleigh Street, Siler City, N. C.
14. Hadley, Chatham County 1771-1971, p. 460.
15. Ibid, p. 69.
16. Ibid, p. 249.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

- 
- 17. Hadley Interview, January 13, 1983.
  - 18. Hadley Interview, January 13, 1983.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

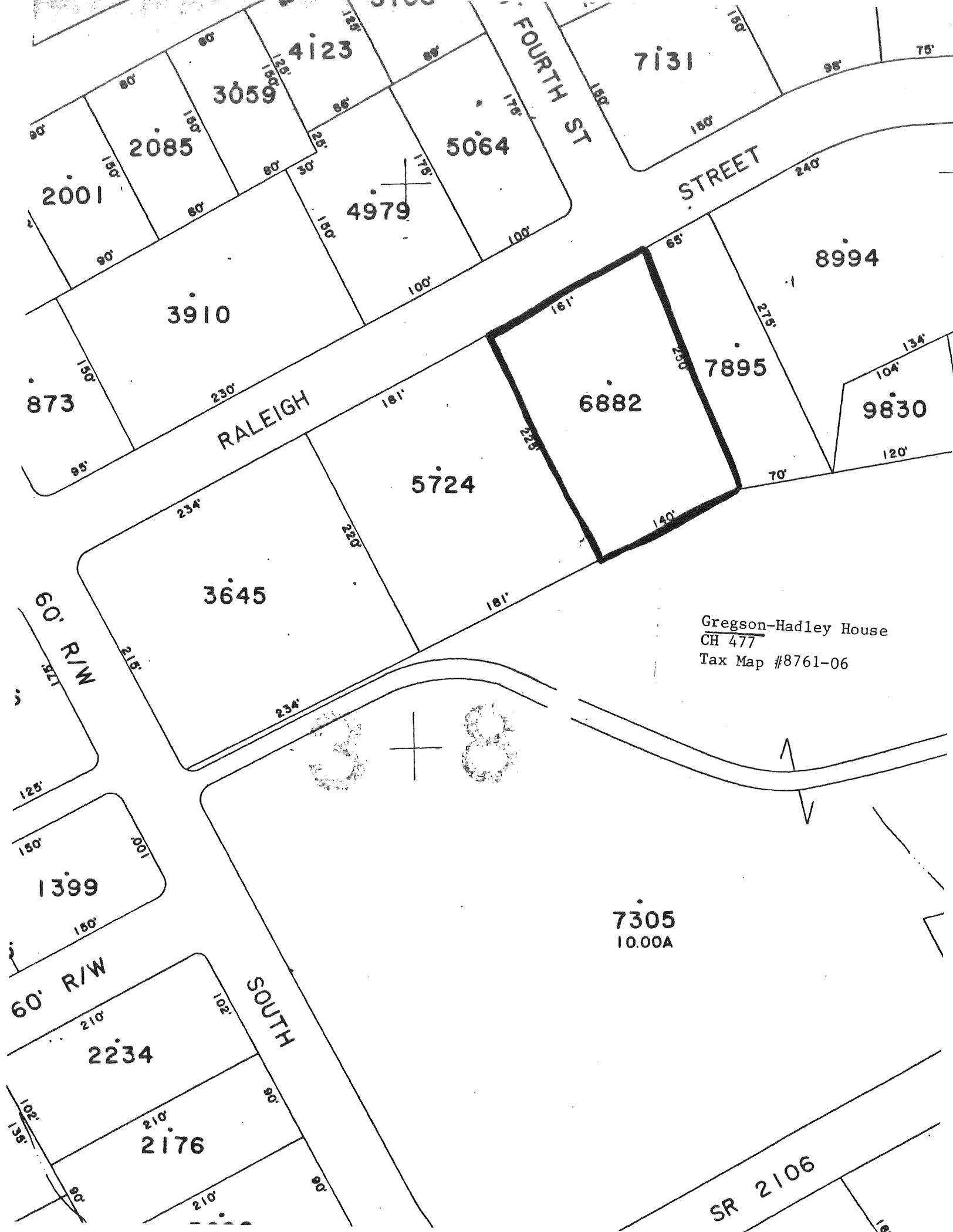
Item number 9

Page 1

Hadley, Wade H. Jr. Interview, January 13, 1983.

Hadley, Wade H. Jr., et al, eds. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham,  
Moore Printing Company, 1971.

Lefler, Hugh T. and Albert R. Newsome. The History of a Southern State:  
North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina  
Press, 1973.



3100  
4123  
3059  
2085  
2001  
5064  
4979  
7131  
3910  
873  
8994  
7895  
6882  
9830  
5724  
3645  
7305  
10.00A  
2234  
2176

FOURTH ST

STREET

RALEIGH

SOUTH

Gregson-Hadley House  
CH 477  
Tax Map #8761-06

3 + 8

SR 2106

60' R/W

60' R/W

