

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Craver Apartment Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 706-712 Chestnut Street N/A not for publication
city or town Winston-Salem N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Forsyth code 067 zip code 27101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James J. Crow SHPO 5/19/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:) _____

Craver Apartment Building
Name of Property

Forsyth County, North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

ca. 1942-1948

Significant Dates

ca. 1942

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Craver Apartment Building
Name of Property

Forsyth County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Langdon Edmunds Oppermann, Preservation and Planning

organization _____ date September 1997

street & number 1500 Overbrook Avenue telephone 910/721-1949

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

Additional Documentation

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name C.W. Myers Trading Post, Inc. (Steve Myers)

street & number 2718 N. Liberty Street telephone 910/725-2393

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27105

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Forsyth County, NC

Narrative Description

Setting

The Craver Apartment Building is in the Depot Street Neighborhood on the west side of Chestnut Street just north of its intersection with East Seventh Street. The building is set back from Chestnut Street with a small lawn in front; three concrete walks lead from the sidewalk to two front porches and to the central exterior stair. To the north across grassy and tree shaded lots is Lloyd Presbyterian Church, a notable surviving neighborhood landmark. South of the building is a grass lot, the site of Pythian Hall before it was destroyed by fire in 1994. From the back porches is a view of downtown Winston-Salem. A similar apartment building used to be its immediate northern neighbor.¹ The Craver Building was constructed when the Depot Street neighborhood was a rich mix of dwellings, commercial buildings, churches, and institutional buildings. Next door to the south was Pythian Hall, and next to it the large residence of Dr. Humphrey Hall. Along Chestnut Street to the north was a twin apartment building and several one- and two-story residences of the many residents of the area. The neighborhood today, however, is no longer the booming hub of African-American life that it was for almost a century. The Craver Building today remains as one of the few buildings on the block.

Exterior

The apartment building is an east-facing, two-story brick-veneered rectangular block with a hipped roof and exposed rafter ends at all eaves. The building is laid up in six-to-one common bond and covered with a standing-seam metal hipped roof. A brick interior chimney rises on the north and south sides. The most notable features of the building are its full-height square brick posts supporting porches on both levels, and a "letter Y" staircase on the main elevation. The porches are inset beneath the roof and extend the full front of the building, which accommodates four apartments, known locally as flats.

The building's main elevation is five bays wide with entrances on both levels at the outer bays, and six-over-six windows with simple brick sills in the bays adjacent to each doorway. The front door to each apartment is half-glazed. The center bay is formed by two full-height brick posts flanking a central exterior wooden stair. The stair rises to a landing half the height of the second floor, then divides into two flights, one to the left and one to the right, leading through the floors to the second floor porches and forming a Y-shape in elevation. In this way, each of the four apartments has a private porch distinct from the others. A symbolic doorway is created by a brick segmental arch and

¹ Sanborn Maps.

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Craver Apartment Building
Forsyth County, NC

partial wall connecting the two central brick posts above the entrance to the central stair. The lower porch floors are concrete, while the second floor porches have wooden floors; all porches retain their picket balustrades with molded rails.

The asymmetrical fenestration pattern of the side elevations reflects the uses of rooms inside. Three bays of six-over-six windows with unornamented lintels and simple brick sills are found on each side. A pair of windows illuminates the central room, and an additional smaller, six-light fixed sash window identifies the bathroom. Square openings with metal grates provide ventilation of the crawl space. The pattern is repeated on both levels and both sides. There is no visible water table or other ornamentation.

The back of the building is similar to the front with four porches inset beneath the building's hipped roof, but without the imposing brick posts of the front. The porches of the Craver Apartment Building retain their square wood support posts and picket balustrades and rails on both levels. The fenestration pattern and wood stair design is the same as that of the front, as are the porch floors. A small brick interior end flue rises at the center, serving all four apartments inside.

The front door of each apartment opens into a living room; the interiors are stacked front-to-back and divided into the living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and full bathroom. Wooden door and window surrounds are plain, and modern panelling covers the original plaster walls. Hardwood floors and plaster ceilings remain throughout the building. The exterior of this building retains high integrity and is virtually unchanged, with metal screen doors the only apparent replacement. It is in good condition.

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Forsyth County, NC**Summary Paragraph**

The Craver Apartment Building is significant both architecturally and historically to the historic and architectural African-American resources of northeastern Winston-Salem from 1900 to 1948. The apartment building was built in 1941 or 1942 by the Craver family, originally of Davidson County. Marvin Craver bought two lots in 1937; on them were a large turn-of-the-century house and the 1902 Hall of the Knights of Pythias. In early 1942 he sold the house lot to his brother H.C. Craver, and at about the same time the apartment building was constructed. The building and the evolution of its lot illustrates the change from an undeveloped area east of the young town of Winston to its rapid growth as a part of the Depot Street neighborhood, first accommodating a large single-family house, and ultimately developing to its use as multi-family housing. The building was constructed as rental flats for African-American families just before the second World War, when the Depot Street neighborhood was flourishing as both a residential and commercial hub. The apartment building is one of the rare surviving examples of the once-common "Y-stair" brick apartment buildings constructed in Winston-Salem's African-American neighborhoods in the late 1930s and early 1940s, and not found in other North Carolina cities. The design is believed to have been developed by a local construction company. It was found to work well for Winston and was used heavily in the Depot Street and North Cherry Street neighborhoods. The building is almost identical to the W.C. Brown Apartment Building at 311-317 East Seventh Street, a block to the east, and presumably was built by the same contractor. The building meets National Register criterion C as a little-changed representative of this local apartment building type, and, as such, meets the Registration Requirements outlined in Section F: Associated Property Types, III: Twentieth-century brick apartment buildings. It also meets criterion A as representative of twentieth-century community development in the African-American neighborhoods of northeastern Winston-Salem. This historic context is more fully discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural African-American Resources of Northeastern Winston-Salem, 1900 to 1948," in Section I, Part II, "The Realization of the African-American Community in Northeast Winston-Salem, 1900-1948."

Historical Background

Little is known of the history of the Craver Apartment Building. The property in the nineteenth century had been part of the land divided during the "division of the lands of Jerry Stockton, colored, deceased," after their purchase by the P.H. Hanes Company.² The lot is included on a plat of August 1892 showing thirteen "building lots belonging to P.H. Hanes & Co. situated in the third

² Stockton in 1879 had been a porter for First National Bank. His home was given as "Liberty Street, Liberty addition," which would have been this area of the city.

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Forsyth County, NCSection number 8 Page 4

ward, Winston, N.C."³ A 1937 deed to the lot refers it as "lot 11 on the plot of the land known as the Show Grounds...." The Hanes Company had sold this lot 11 and the lot to the north to Dr. J. W. Jones, a prominent African-American physician. Dr. Jones, a native of Warrenton, was an early graduate of Shaw University in Raleigh, one of its first physician graduates. He came to Winston at least by December 1891 immediately after graduation and, in addition to his successful medical career, was active in the community. This was particularly true in his Depot Street neighborhood where the Craver Building would later be built. He was for seventeen years the Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of North Carolina, whose Winston-Salem building was on the corner next door to the Craver Building until it was destroyed by fire in 1994. Dr. Jones was, as well, president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company, an African-American enterprise.⁴ He shared offices with attorney James S. Lanier on Main Street. At his death in 1928 at the age of 64, both tracts passed to family members who lived in Washington and New York.⁵ The four heirs sold the property in July of 1937 to Marvin Odell Craver.

Marvin Craver was a farmer who lived on the Welcome-Arcadia Road in Davidson County. He was born in 1889, served in World War I, never married, and died in July of 1978 at Western Hospital in Black Mountain. At the age of eighty-nine, he was the first of his three siblings to die and is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in the northern part of Davidson County, near the Forsyth County line. Craver is a common family name in this part of Davidson County.⁶ In 1937, Marvin Craver bought the two adjoining lots on Chestnut Street from the Jones family. The first was lot 11, on which stood a long two-story frame dwelling with wrap-around porch that had been built between 1900 and 1907.⁷ To the south was the home of the Reverend Junius C. Alston, pastor of Lloyd Presbyterian Church farther north on the block. The second tract was lot 12, adjacent and north of lot 11, which as the deed stated was "... occupied by said K.[nights] of P.[ythias] Masonic Hall," more often referred to today as the 1902 Pythian Hall. Five years later, early in 1942, Marvin Craver sold Lot 11 to his older brother H.C. Craver, and it is believed, but not known, that it was the second Craver who had the brick apartment building built on the lot. A strip seven feet wide on the south side of the lot, adjacent to Pythian Hall, was excepted from the sale to H.C. Craver.

³ Deed book 45/117.

⁴ Obituary 5/4/1928; death certificate; Lloyd Presbyterian Church session records (Jones joined 1/18/1891).

⁵ Deed Book 418/290, 7/29/1937. The four listed on the deed were Eliza D. Jones (widow), Ida F. Jones (widow), and R. L. McKinney (widower) of the District of Columbia, and Benetta A. Walker (divorced) of Bronx County, New York.

⁶ *Lexington Dispatch*, 1978 obituary; interview, Archie Craver; Deed Book 418/290; Davidson County Cemetery Records, p. 179.

⁷ Sanborn Maps.

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Forsyth County, NC

Henry Cleveland Craver, known as "Cleve" or "Clevie," was born in 1885 and grew up with his brother and sisters in the Arcadia section of Davidson County; he later moved to Winston-Salem and lived on the southern part of First Street. After his house was taken by construction of Peter's Creek Parkway, he bought a house in the Ardmore neighborhood in the western part of the city. He worked as a clerk in the U.S. Customs Office in Winston-Salem. After his first wife, Mamie Thompson Craver, died, he remained unmarried for several years and is so noted on deeds. He later married Ardena Morgan Craver, who taught Home Economics in the city school system, perhaps at Reynolds High School.⁸ They had no children. After owning the property for thirty years and at the age of eighty-eight, Cleve Craver sold it in 1973 to Frank P. and M. T. McLaurin.⁹ Cleve Craver died in 1980.

Neither Marvin nor Cleve Craver were wealthy men, but both lived comfortably. It is believed that Cleve Craver had the apartment building built in 1942 soon after buying it on January second of that year. It is also possible that Marvin Craver had the apartment built in 1941, then sold it to Cleve who lived in Winston-Salem. Either way, its construction was completed quickly, causing no interruption to residential listings in the city directories, and before being affected by material shortages brought on by the United States's entering World War II. The building is almost identical to the W.C. Brown Apartment Building at 311-317 East Seventh Street, a block to the east, and presumably was built by the same contractor. Other buildings similar to these were built in this area. Of interest is the difference in the economic standing of the Cravers when compared to that of the W.C. Brown family. Unlike the Cravers, the Browns were wealthy and owned many properties.

⁸ Interview, Archie Craver; city directories; Davidson County Cemetery Records, p. 179; also Deed Book 493/153 and Deed of Trust Book 573/81.

⁹ Deed Book 1109/75, 6/27/1993.

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Craver Apartment Building
Forsyth County, NC

9. Major Bibliographical References

Davidson County Cemetery Records.

Forsyth County deeds, deed index, will index, plats, tax listing records, and old and current tax maps.

Lexington Dispatch, July 1978.

Lexington, NC, city directories (Davidson County).

Sanborn-Perris Map Company, "Winston-Salem, North Carolina," (New York: Sanborn-Perris Co., 1895-1927.

Winston-Salem City Directories.

Winston-Salem Journal obituaries. (5/4/1928, p. 7)

INTERVIEWS

Katie Boles, Realtor and niece of Odell Matthew, former Realtor.

George C. Booie, owner of A. Robinson Building and Howard-Robinson Funeral Home, formerly located in Hall Building and later in A. Robinson Building, both adjacent to Brown Apartment Building.

Clark Brown, Clark Brown & Sons Funeral Home, owner of Brown Apartment Building, longtime businessman in Depot Street area, opened first business in Pythian Hall next door to future site of Craver Apartment in 1930.

Floyd S. Burge, Sr., former builder, but not related to Grace Burge who owned apartment on N. Cherry in 1936 when built.

Eugene A. Butner, Jr., distant relative of Arthur Butner whose wife Estelle S. Butner owned apartment building on N. Cherry Street at time of its construction.

Marty Butner, niece of Eugene A. Butner, Jr.

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Craver Apartment Building
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Calvin Cox, brother of Lee Cox who rented storage space in Pythian Hall.

Archie Craver who lives on Welcome-Arcadia Road in Davidson County, nephew of Marvin and Cleve Craver.

Carroll Craver, Sr., possible relative of Cravers who owned Craver Apartment Building.

Randy Craver, son of Carroll Craver, Sr.

Irma Wellman Gadson, lifelong neighbor of apartment buildings on N. Cherry Street.

Sarah Hamlin, longtime resident and former owner of apartment building on N. Cherry Street.

Ophelia Hardy, lifelong neighbor of apartment building on N. Cherry Street.

Thelma Hines, longtime resident and board member, Society for the Study of Afro-American History.

Laura Hooper, daughter of owner of Hooper's Grocery Store in Hall Building, next door to Brown Apartment Building.

Lewis Hubbard, longtime Realtor with Hubbard Realty.

Odell C. Isom, longtime resident and current owner of apartment building on N. Cherry Street.

Julia Isom Johnson, sister of Odell Isom and former neighbor and owner of apartment building on N. Cherry Street.

Ginger Baldwin McCallum, Realtor with Baldwin Realty.

Earl McLaurin, nephew of former resident of apartment building on Cherry Street.

Catherine McLean, lifelong resident N. Cherry Street, and longtime former owner of apartment building on N. Cherry Street.

Dr. Rembert Malloy, lifelong resident and board member, Society for the Study of Afro-American History.

Steve Myers of C.W. Myers Trading Post, current owner of Craver Apartment Building.

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Craver Apartment Building
Forsyth County, NC

Jerry L. Newton, Jr., son of Jerry L. Newton (deceased) of Newton Bros. Real Estate, who managed the Brown Apartment Building.

Sam Ogburn, Realtor with Home Realty.

Dr. William J. Rice, former resident of East Winston, past-president of the Society for the Study of Afro-American History in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, and past-chairman of the Forsyth County Joint Historic Properties Commission.

Richard Starbuck, Moravian Archives.

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Craver Apartment Building
Forsyth County, NC

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property included in this nomination are parcels 202/11B and 202/12 on Forsyth County Tax Map 630858.

Boundary Justification

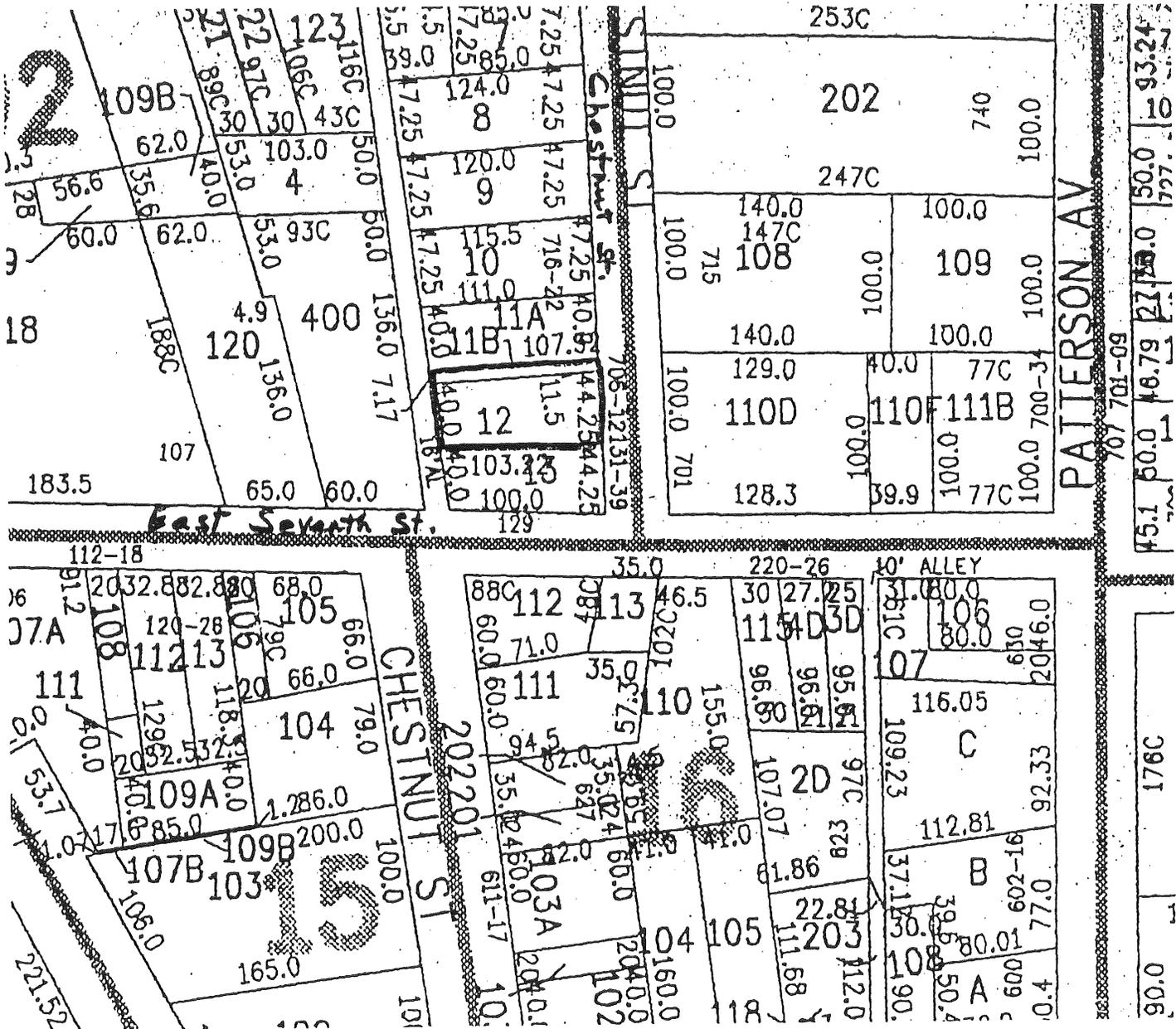
The boundaries enclosing this property comprise that portion of the inherited acreage later subdivided as the site of the building and which continues to serve as the site and setting of the building.

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Forsyth County, NC



Craver Apartment Building
 706-712 Chestnut Street
 Forsyth County Tax Map 630858, Block 202, Lots 11B and 12.
 Scale 1" = 400'

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF NC
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RALEIGH, NC

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- Lloyd Presbyterian Church
Winstn. - Salem, Forsyth Co
N.C.
- Winstn. - Salem East Quad
E/11/568190
N/17/3995500
- Craver Apartment Bldg.
Winstn. - Salem, Forsyth
County, NC
- Winstn. - Salem East Quad
E/17/568195
N/17/3995420
- A. Robinson Building
Winstn. - Salem,
Forsyth Co, NC
- Winstn. - Salem East
Quad
- E/11/568300
N/11/3995420
- Salem Memorial AME
Zion Church
Winstn. - Salem, Forsyth
Co., NC
- Winstn. - Salem Last
Quad
- E/11/568260
N/11/3995500
- W.C. Brown N.P. Bldg.
Winstn. - Salem, Forsyth
Co., NC
- Winstn. - Salem East Quad
E/17/568320
N/11/3995580

