

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 Dr. Charles S. Grayson House

other names/site number Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library

### 2. Location

street & number 1009 N. Main St. N/A  not for publication

city or town High Point N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27262

### 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.)

William S. King - SHPO 1-28-94  
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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Grayson House  
Name of Property

Guilford, NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

-0-

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: library

Domestic: secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof terra cotta

other wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Grayson House,  
Name of Property

Guilford, NC  
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

1923-1925

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barton, Harry (architect)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

~~Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library~~

Grayson House  
Name of Property

Guilford, N.C.  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property .54 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	7
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3	9	80	6	50
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

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 M. Ruth Little and Kaye Graybeal

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date November 17, 1993

street & number 2709 Bedford Ave. telephone 919-836-8128

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

### 7. Description

Situated prominently on a corner lot in the 1000 block of High Point's North Main Street, the Dr. C.S. Grayson House was built between 1923 and 1925. North Main Street was the focus of the fashionable residential area that developed in High Point - beginning in the late nineteenth century, although commercial buildings now interrupt the once solid residential streetscapes. The two-and-one-half story, three-bay wide eclectic Colonial Revival style building is the only stone house in the vicinity of downtown. The stone, gray granite from Mount Airy, North Carolina, was cut by hand on the premises. It was fashioned into roughly squared, uncoursed rock-face masonry jointed with beaded mortar.

The main block of the house is topped by a slightly flared hipped roof with a ridgeline parallel to the front (east) facade. A porte cochere projects to the south of the otherwise symmetrical front facade. The eclectic detailing of the house is predominately influenced by the Craftsman style. This influence is evident in the one-story full-facade front porch which partially wraps the south side of the house. Beneath the porch's hipped roof is a wide fascia supported by battered stone columns resting on an enclosed, ramped stone balustrade. A front cross gable with eave brackets surmounts the center porch bay. The porch ceiling is covered in tongue and groove wood strips and the floor is paved in square, unglazed red clay tiles. The Craftsman influence is also evident in the carved false rafter ends at the open eaves of the porch roof as well as the main roof. Further adding to the eclecticism are the red, straight-barrel mission tiles covering the roof in a regularly-laid pattern. The front roof slope has three shingled and gabled dormers exhibiting extended raking cornices supported by brackets, which are closely-spaced and front-centered. The north and south roof slopes have a single, identical dormer. A stone chimney rises from the roof on the south slope.

A wood surround bay window is centrally located on the second story of the front facade. Two tripartite double-hung sash windows on each story are symmetrically placed on either side of the entrance. The central section of these windows contains six-over-one light; the sections on either side contain four-over-one light. The windows are headed by flat arches of soldier-coursed granite with implied keystone. The sills are of monolithic granite and the surrounds are of painted wood. The main

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

entry door is fully glass-paneled with fifteen lights, is flanked by five-panel sidelights, and is headed by a five-light transom. All of these elements are framed by a painted wood surround.

A series of centrally placed elements characterize the rear (west) elevation. These include an entry door, above which is a set of double casement windows providing a view from the interior stair landing, and a shingled shed dormer with a second set of double casement windows. Other elements of the rear elevation include a Craftsman-like band of four small, six-over-one light windows located on the second-story southwest corner; the band continues with three more windows on the south elevation. A covered porch originally adjoined the left rear elevation; however, the porch was replaced in 1982 by a one-story, flat-roofed, windowless, rectangular addition. The concrete block construction of the addition is finished with a rock-faced texture that successfully blends with the granite of the main house.

The garage, to the northwest of the main house and just beyond the rear addition, is a one-story, two-bay structure which is contemporary with the house, built of the same granite, and combines stylistic influences in a similarly eclectic manner. The hipped and ridged roof with carved false rafter ends at the eaves flares at its base as does the main house roof, reflecting the Japanese influence on the Craftsman style, while the mission tile covering the roof imparts a Spanish influence. A central vented eyebrow dormer is borrowed from the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Three sliding tripartite doors each contain three sets of nine lights which align with sets of three recessed wood panels below. The interior walls and ceiling are covered with narrow horizontal beadboard.

A large oak tree towers above the house from the center of the back yard. Other smaller trees in back of the house include a pecan and a mulberry. A circular driveway passes through the porte cochere from Edgar Place on the south side of the property. The driveway leading from Edgar Place to the garage was later expanded to encircle the oak tree.

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## Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

The only apparent change to the front appearance of the property is a rockfaced stone sign in the front yard identifying the library. A dense hedge conceals the porch foundation.

**The Interior**

The interior of the main block of the house is laid out in a basically unaltered center hall plan (see Fig. 1: Site & Floor Plan). The larger two front rooms, formerly the main parlor and dining room, open off the south and north sides of the center hall respectively. To the west, behind the former main parlor, is a smaller sitting room. Adjoining the sitting room and projecting south from the main block of the house, a small sunroom engages the wrap-around porch. Behind the former dining room is a breakfast room adjoining the former kitchen, both of which now contain only book shelving. All first-floor rooms feature ten-foot high ceilings. The 1982 addition to the rear of the main block, used for the library's stock storage, adjoins the former kitchen and replaces what was once a covered back porch. Located at the rear of the center hall is a half-bath with a later shower addition that projects into the former kitchen. This is the only alteration to the original floor plan other than the 1982 rear addition.

The front of the center hall is distinguished from the back by a flat archway supported by a paneled pilaster on either side wall just in front of the stairs. The front hall ceiling is circumscribed by a plaster crown molding embellished with a Greek key motif on the soffit, with a picture mold below. The narrow strip oak flooring in the center hall is found throughout the first floor with the exception of the former kitchen. The painted five-panel doors opening off the hall exhibit octagonal, pressed glass knobs. Large sliding pocket doors, finished in a dark stain, open off the front hall into both the former main parlor and dining room. The surrounds of the windows and door openings in the front parlor are also finished with dark stain, as is the thirty inch-high wainscot with flat horizontal panels. The doors of the parlor and other "public" rooms on the first floor are crowned with decorative wood lintels exhibiting raised circle motifs centered within a framed recessed panel. A French door opening onto the porch near the southeast corner of the parlor is balanced by a six-over-one light

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

window near the southwest corner. The plaster crown molding of the front center hall is also found in this room.

A tripartite Colonial Revival mantel on the rear (west) wall of the parlor balances the tripartite window on the front (east) wall. The firebox surround and flush hearth are beige marble which appears to be of French or Portuguese origin. The dark stained mantel includes a shelf featuring dentil molding and a simple frieze with a centered recessed panel. The entablature is supported by flanking pilasters with molded recessed panels.

The sitting room fireplace backs the front parlor fireplace and is faced with red brick soldier course. The flush hearth is set with unglazed square red tile. The room is made lighter by a row of three six-over-one light windows with painted surrounds. Other wood detailing includes painted picture mold and simple nine-inch high baseboard. The sunroom adjoins this room to the south, and is similarly appointed with wood detailing. Rows of three grouped windows are on two sides, and French doors which are similar in design to the front door open onto the wrap-around porch.

The dining room in the northeast corner of the house features a 5'5" high dado on all sides, with lower panels under the windows on the north and east walls. The dado consists of a continuous base and a series of flat vertical panels, each headed by square flat panels; this ensemble is crowned by a dado rail. The dado and all other wood detailing in this room is painted white. The top panel of the swinging door to the breakfast room is lit with leaded beveled glass of interlocking oblong octagons.

The one-and-a-half flight narrow open string staircase on the south side wall of the center hall utilizes a ramped and eased molded handrail which terminates at a columnar newel resting on a scrolled base and is crowned with an octagonal cap. The simple balusters are square and the open string is decorated with sawn brackets. At the half-story landing, a painted wood paneled loveseat and high wainscot are built in below a pair of high, three-light double casement windows.

The second floor, used as a part-time residential apartment, retains its original plan of four bedrooms, two on each side of a square hall. Between each pair of bedrooms is a

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

full bath. A small front room originally used as a sewing room contains a bay window and is centrally located between the two front bedrooms. A paneled loveseat is built into the bay, similar to that on the stair landing. The southwest bedroom has a high band of seven small sash windows wrapping the outer corner, creating the effect of a sleeping porch. The painted wood detailing of the second floor is similar to that of the first floor, but less decorative.

A second set of one-and-a-half flight stairs leads from the second floor hallway to a spacious attic featuring narrow strip wood flooring and stained paneled doors with painted surrounds, finishes typical of the rest of the house. This attic space was once used as a recreation room. A third set of stairs lead from beneath the first-floor staircase to a partially finished English basement, lit by three-over-one light windows in the north and west walls. The maid's quarters were once located here. Brick underpinning and piers are evident in the crawlspace in the southeast corner. In more recent years the north half of the basement was partitioned to create a rental apartment.

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

**8. Statement of Significance**

The Dr. C. S. Grayson House at 1009 North Main Street in High Point is an imposing eclectic Colonial Revival style residence constructed in 1923-1925 of rock-faced Mt. Airy granite. Dr. Grayson, one of High Point's most beloved doctors, was a family practitioner and obstetrician in High Point from 1907 until his death in 1952, and a prominent civic leader during the 1920s and 1930s when he served on the city council and four terms as mayor. The well-preserved house with its matching stone garage have housed the Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library since 1970. The Grayson House is one of the last survivors of the fashionable North Main Street residential district that was the showplace of industrialists and businessmen's houses during High Point's early twentieth century boom period. The house was designed by prominent Greensboro architect Harry Barton, a French-trained Beaux Arts designer who designed numerous courthouses, churches, schools, commercial buildings and residences throughout North Carolina from 1912 until his death in the 1930s.

**Historical Background:**

Dr. Charles S. Grayson (1875-1952) was one of High Point's most beloved doctors during the first half of the twentieth century. As a city councilman and four-term mayor, he also played a large role in High Point civic life. The eclectic style granite house that he completed on North Main Street in 1925 and lived in until his death is a symbol of his stature in the community and the continuity of his contribution to his city.

Born near Marion, in McDowell County, in western North Carolina, in 1875, Charles graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, received his medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine in 1906. During medical school he had worked as a mail clerk on a railroad line that went through High Point, and he had taken a fancy to the bustling young city.<sup>1</sup> In 1907 he came to High Point, and soon joined the medical practice of Dr. D. A. Stanton. Their offices were above Ring Drug Store on North Main Street. In the early years of his practice he did post-graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University and at Harvard University. Although

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## Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

Dr. Grayson's speciality was obsetetrics and gynecology, he also had a general family practice. During his forty-five year medical career, he served on the staffs of Guilford General Hospital, Burrus Memorial Hospital and High Point Memorial Hospital and delivered thousands of babies. He practiced with Dr. Stanton until about 1942, and thereafter Dr. Grayson continued a solo practice at the same location.<sup>2</sup>

In 1908, Dr. Grayson married Miss Bertha (Bertie) Crawford, his childhood sweetheart from McDowell County, and a few months later he purchased three lots in "Johnson Place West" subdivision, at the northwest corner of N. Main Street and Edgar Avenue.<sup>3</sup> But Charles and Bertie Grayson held onto this property, located in the new subdivison of Johnson Place at the north edge of town, for some fifteen years before building on it. They lived at 204 English Street in downtown High Point, and had two daughters during these years. Construction on the new house under a contractor named Connor began in 1923 and the family moved in late 1924 or early 1925.<sup>4</sup>

Although a skilled physician and surgeon whose services were in demand, Dr. Grayson found time to participate in the financial and political life of High Point. By 1919 he had become a director in the Bank of Commerce of High Point and was a stockholder in a number of local industries.<sup>5</sup>

Beginning in 1921 Dr. Grayson entered High Point's political life, serving three consecutive terms as a city councilman, from 1921 to 1927. In the years 1929, 1931 and 1933 he served on the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce. From 1931 to 1939 he served four consecutive terms as mayor.<sup>6</sup> One of the most notable civic improvements which he made as mayor was to have the railroad tracks, which came through the middle of downtown at grade, thereby causing great traffic jams, lowered so that traffic crossed over the railroad tracks on a bridge. One of Dr. Grayson's daughters described her father's passionate interest in local politics by saying "Politics was his golf club."<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Grayson was also active in fraternal organizations, and belonged to the local lodges of the Masons, Woodmen of the World, Elks, and Independent Order of Odd

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

Fellows. He served on the board of deacons of the First Baptist Church for many years.<sup>8</sup>

On a Saturday morning in early December of 1952, at the age of seventy-seven, Dr. Grayson collapsed of a heart attack while working in his office. He died the next day, on December 7, 1952. Evidence of the high regard in which Dr. Grayson was held in High Point is an editorial in *The High Point Enterprise* three days after his death. Entitled "Answer to Socialized Medicine," the piece is a tribute to Dr. Grayson and Dr. W. J. Vestal of nearby Lexington, North Carolina. The newspaper praised "the spirit of humanitarian service which characterized their lives," and noted that "The work and spirit of doctors of their type is the answer to those who advocate governmental medicine...." The *Enterprise* called Dr. Grayson a model of the family physician who exemplified "useful living."<sup>9</sup>

Bertie Grayson remained in the family home until her death in the mid-1960s. In 1968 N.I. "Sandy" Bienenstock and his wife Bernice purchased the house from Mrs. Grayson's estate for the purpose of housing The Furniture Library, the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of volumes on the history of furniture. The library opened in 1970, and has been operated by a non-profit foundation, The Furniture Library Association, since then. The collection is open to the public and is a valuable asset to the numerous furniture manufacturing and marketing firms located in High Point.

### Architectural Context: Upper-class domestic architecture in High Point, 1910-1925

The Dr. C. S. Grayson House meets National Register eligibility as one of the most architecturally significant houses surviving along North Main Street, once the showplace for High Point residential architecture. High Point boomed in the early twentieth century, and by 1925 the city had many large and impressive Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, or Neoclassical Revival style houses. McKelden Smith's architectural inventory of Guilford County, which included High Point, published in 1979, reported that only fragments of that collection of houses survived High Point's rapid growth and overbuilding. The major areas that survived and were recorded by

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## Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

Smith were the High Street residential area, the Lindsay Street neighborhood, the Johnson Street neighborhood, North Main Street, the Emerywood subdivision, and Roland Park subdivision. Since 1979, the commercial encroachment has continued and North Main Street, in particular, can no longer be considered a historic district because of commercial intrusions. Subdivisions such as Emerywood and Roland Park survive relatively intact because of their seclusion from commercial encroachments.<sup>10</sup>

North Main Street was High Point's most fashionable street at the turn-of-the-century, where the first generation of wealthy entrepreneurs who had founded High Point's furniture and machinery factories built grand Victorian mansions.

High Point entered the suburban age in the first decade of the twentieth century with the new suburb of Johnson Place, on the east side of North Main Street, and Johnson Place West, on the west side of the street. In 1910 an electric streetcar system was built from North Main Street down to South Main Street, with branch lines down several side streets. For the first time, residential development began to occur north of the railroad tracks which ran through the center of the business district. The streetcar made the open farmland to the north more attractive to industrialists and the middle-class, and these classes began to segregate in north High Point, leaving south High Point to become a worker housing district.<sup>11</sup>

Johnson Place and Johnson Place West Subdivision were grid-patterned developments with lots generally 50 by 150 feet (slightly larger along North Main Street), with service alleys behind the lots. This grid pattern represents a transition between the earlier downtown High Point street plan, which lacked service alleys, and later suburbs such as Roland Park, platted on adjacent land to the northwest of Johnson Place West Subdivision in 1920, with a circular street at its center and naturalistic curving avenues surrounding it. Johnson Place lots were virtually sold out by 1915. Johnson Place West had even more stringent deed restrictions than Johnson Place, with the minimum cost of a new residence at \$2000, as opposed to the \$1500 minimum in Johnson Place. The usual restriction against selling to persons of African descent was also placed on the lots.<sup>12</sup>

The quiet side streets of these new streetcar suburbs along North Main Street filled up with middle-class professionals during the 1910s and 1920s, while the larger lots

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## Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

along North Main Street were occupied by wealthier entrepreneurs and professionals. Among the new residents were secretary-treasurers (young managers) of mills, various entrepreneurs, merchants, newspaper people, doctors, and attorneys. The 1920s was High Point's greatest population boom, and the middle-class housing shortage was alleviated by new subdivisions out North Main Street. By the 1920s the automobile was becoming the primary method of transportation for suburban residents. The streetcar ceased operation about 1925, when large numbers of middle and upper income High Pointers began to purchase automobiles and stopped riding the streetcars.<sup>13</sup>

Dr. and Mrs. Grayson sought out one of the best known architects in piedmont North Carolina to design their new house--Harry Barton of Greensboro. Barton (1876-c. 1936), was an accomplished designer in the classical revival styles, and worked throughout North Carolina during the early twentieth century. Born in Philadelphia in 1876, Barton earned his architecture degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., trained at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in France, and worked with architectural firms in Philadelphia and Washington, including tenure as an architect with the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1912 he set up his practice in Greensboro. Among his numerous commissions in North Carolina are courthouses in Cumberland, Johnson, Guilford, Surry and Alamance counties, municipal buildings in Greensboro, High Point, and Reidsville, churches in Greensboro, Asheboro and High Point, and schools in Greensboro, High Point and Lexington (including several buildings on the campus of present day University of North Carolina at Greensboro). His designs in Greensboro include the Y.W.C.A. Building and the Y.M.C.A. Building, the Meyers Department Store, and residences for Sigmund Sternberger and J. W. Galloway in Greensboro.<sup>14</sup>

The highest concentration of North Main Street houses that survive are in the 1000 and 1100 blocks between Parkway Avenue and Farris Avenue. The J.C. Siceloff House at 1104 North Main Street, built ca. 1920, is an eclectic stuccoed showplace with Prairie, Spanish Mission and Colonial Revival-style features built for a prominent High Point businessman and civic leader. It was listed in the National Register in 1990. The Hardee Apartment Building at 1102 North Main Street, built in the early 1920s and listed in the Register in 1990, is of Spanish Mission style, and is

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one of the few remaining examples of upper-class apartments of the period in High Point. Most of these buildings have been sympathetically rehabilitated for commercial use as has the Dr. C.S. Grayson House, which has housed the Beatrice Bienenstock Furniture Library since 1970.

Like the Siceloff House, the Grayson House is significant as one of the small surviving group of upper-class houses from the 1910s and 1920s in High Point. Its well-preserved eclectic Colonial Revival design of Mt. Airy granite by noted North Carolina architect Harry Barton further distinguishes it. Although the type is not unusual for the 1920s outside of High Point, there are few remaining examples in the city itself.

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<sup>1</sup>Telephone interview with Mrs. Margaret Nelson, oldest daughter of the Graysons, September 29, 1993.

<sup>2</sup>*High Point Enterprise*, December 8, 1952, Obituary, "Dr. Grayson Succumbs To Heart Attack."; "High Point Physicians," manuscript in the High Point Historical Collection, High Point Public Library; *History of North Carolina*, Vol. VI (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), 55-56.

<sup>3</sup>Guilford County Deed Book 202, page 490: L.E. and L.R. Johnson to Charles S. Grayson, October 5, 1908.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Mrs. Margaret Nelson, September 29, 1993.

<sup>5</sup>*History of North Carolina*, 55-56.

<sup>6</sup>Frank J. Sizemore, ed., *The Buildings and Builders of a City: High Point, N.C.* (High Point: High Point Chamber of Commerce, 1947), 74, 221-222.

<sup>7</sup>Interview with Mrs. Margaret Nelson, September 29, 1993.

<sup>8</sup>Obituary, *High Point Enterprise*, December 8, 1952.

<sup>9</sup>*The High Point Enterprise*, December 10, 1952, "Answer to Socialized Medicine," page 4A.

<sup>10</sup>Laura Phillips, "J. C. Siceloff House National Register Nomination," State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, 1990. Phillips created the architecture context, "Upper-class domestic architecture in High Point, 1910-1925," for this nomination; see also H. McKelden Smith, *Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture, High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County.* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives & History, 1979), 56-57, 63.

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<sup>11</sup>Thomas W. Hanchett, designation report for "Johnson Street Historic District," prepared for the city of High Point, 1987, pp. 6-9. (Copy on file at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.)

<sup>12</sup>Hanchett; Guilford County Deed Book 202, page 490.

<sup>13</sup>Hanchett, pp. 6-7; Stephen C. Clark, "Residential Development Has Provided A Romantic Chapter of Local History," in *The Buildings and Builders of a City*, p. 290.

<sup>14</sup>R.D.W. Connor, compiler, *North Carolina, Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth: North Carolina Biography*. (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1928, Vol. III, 27; Henry F. & Elsie R. Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 41.

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all of lot 7, Block 7, on Sheet No. 218 of the accompanying Guilford County Tax Map, High Point Township.

### Boundary Justification

The approximately one-half acre lot is the entire parcel historically associated with the house and garage.

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Grayson House, Guilford County, N.C.

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs:

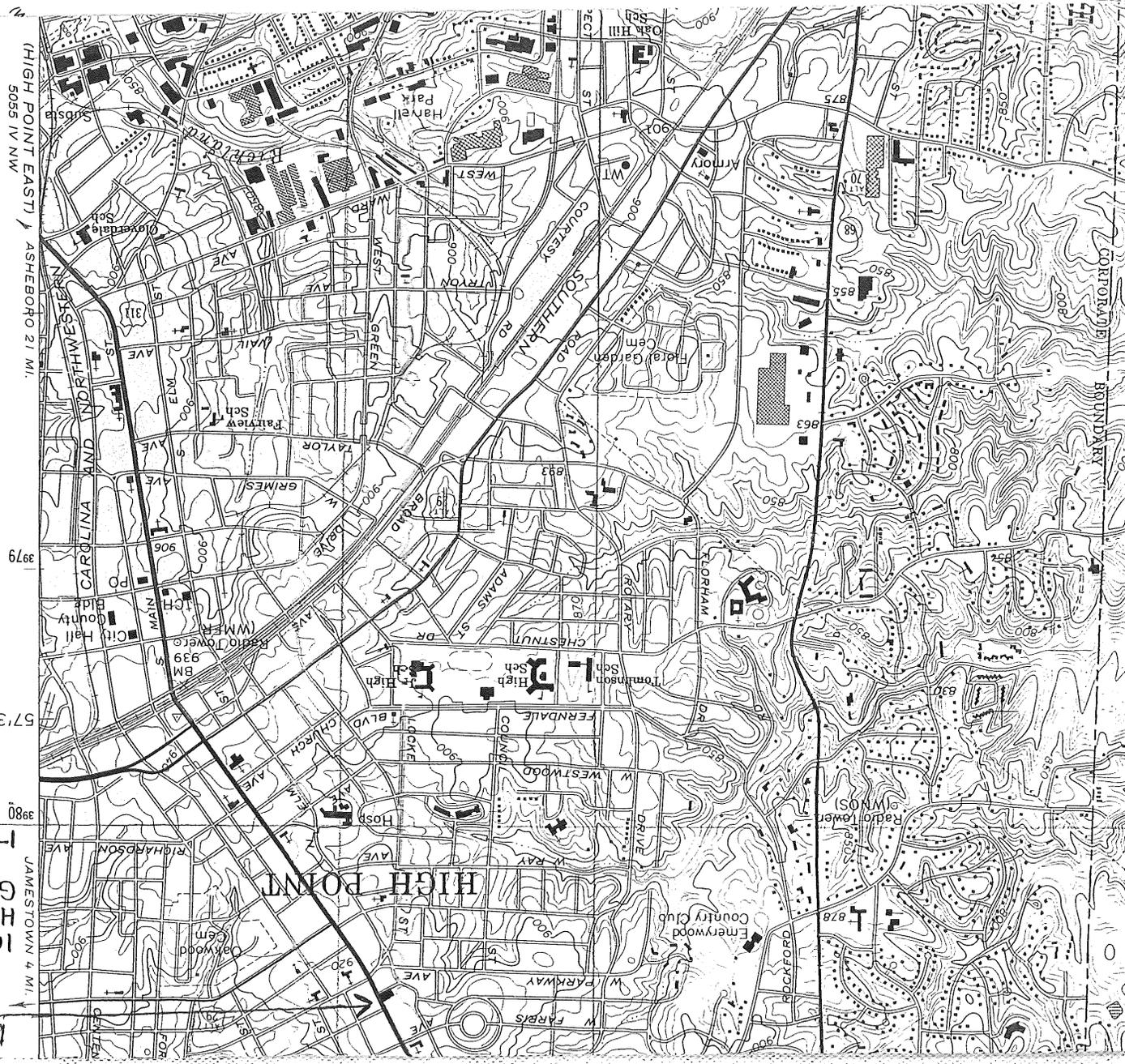
Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: August 1993

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. Overall view of house from southeast
- B. Rear view from west
- C. View of garage, from southeast
- D. View of center hall and stair, first floor
- E. View of parlor

DR C.S.  
Grayson  
House  
1009 N Main St  
High Point W  
Guilford Co.,  
NC  
17/588800  
3980 / 3980650



(HIGH POINT EAST) / ASHEBORO 21 MI.  
5055 IV NW

3979

57'30"

3980

JAMESTOWN 4 MI.

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BOUNDARY

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