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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name  Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House
   other names/site number

2. Location
   street & number  1103 Church Street  n/h  not for publication
   city, town  Scotland Neck  n/h  vicinity
   state  North Carolina  code  NC  county  Halifax  code  083  zip code  27874

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   private  [X]  public-local  [ ]  public-State  [ ]  public-Federal  [ ]
   Category of Property
   building(s)  [X]  district  [ ]  site  [ ]  structure  [ ]  object  [ ]
   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing  Noncontributing
   buildings  1  sites  [ ]
   structures  1  objects  [ ]
   Total  1

   Name of related multiple property listing:  N/A

   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official
   State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date  11/18/88

   In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [X] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of commenting or other official
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date

5. National Park Service Certification
   I hereby certify that this property is:
   [X] 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):  
   Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action
The Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House (#1) is located in the 1100 block of Church Street in the Town of Scotland Neck. It sits on a corner lot, bounded by Church Street on the west, Eleventh Street on the south, and adjoining lots on the north and east. The house is a sophisticated and quite intact example of Victorian eclectic architecture, popular from 1870 - 1890. More specifically, the house displays considerable Eastlake and Stick style details.

Stately and impressive in form and size, the Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House was constructed using elaborate detailing on the exterior and interior. Clad in weatherboard, now covered by aluminum siding, the house is a rectangular two-and-one-half story, frame structure with a complex gable roof and a three-story tower. The polychromed, slate roof is flared at the eaves, and is pierced by dormers and patterned masonry chimneys. The gabled dormers are bracketed and decorated with bargeboards, a simple collar-tie and king post, and are topped with a finial. On either side of the house and rear is a projecting cross gable with an arched gable ornament, collar-tie, and finial. All cornices are handsomely bracketed, though the higher their placement, the simpler they become. The second floor cornice consists of flush vertical battens of wood, placed side by side and broken only by an elaborate, cut-out patterned window head, some with keystones, over the segmental-arch, 1/1 sash windows.

The first floor contains a front porch with sawn balustrade and restrained square-in-section posts with paneled pedestals supporting a bracketed eave and cut-out patterned frieze. The side elevations each have one-story bay windows. Again, segmental-arch 1/1 sash windows and a cut-out patterned window head are used. Other windows on this floor are paired with tall, moulded lintels. A kitchen and office form an ell off the rear of the main house. An L-shaped porch is attached on the south elevation along the rear ell.
The projecting central pavilion on the west facade culminates in an hexagonal tower. The third floor of this pavilion displays traces of Stick influence. Along the cornice, diagonal flat stickwork serves as cross-ties between enlarged brackets featuring drop pendants. Diagonal wood siding sheaths the tower on either side of the paired, arched windows. The ribbon windows on the second floor are comprised of three windows, each of 1/1 sash, together forming a single segmental arch at their top. The front entrance features shuttered double-leaf doors with etched glass sidelights. Each door has four recessed panels with an etched transom. The panels are divided by an Eastlake-style pilaster.

In plan, four main rooms are symmetrically arranged around a central hall. There, a straight-run stair, with a turned spindle balustrade and a heavy Eastlake newel post with various applied and incised ornaments, rises to three upstairs rooms. Metal "stair corners" fill the corners of the treads, an unusual element whose purpose was to prevent dust from settling in corners. A spindle grille or screen at the ceiling divides the front and back hall. Doors have four recessed panels with double mouldings on each panel, and a transom above. The grained closet doors merely have four simple, recessed panels. Doors and windows have heavily raised Eastlake surrounds with chamfered edges and lambs-tongue motifs. Roundels mark the surrounds at baseboard, chair rail, and lintel levels. The original Eastlake hardware for doors, windows, and interior shutters remain, as do many brass gaslight fixtures. Mantels on the first floor are of slate, grained to imitate fine inlaid marble. Upstairs, they are of wood with paired, attenuated brackets serving as columns. Most ceilings have diagonally laid tongue and groove paneling. The upstairs bedroom floors are all grained. The kitchen and office are void of decoration except for a wainscot of tongue and groove sheathing.

The original structure has been extremely well preserved, though some alterations were made over the years to increase space and conveniences. A fourth room was added upstairs before 1920 to serve as a bathroom, and in the 1920s a downstairs bath was acquired by blocking off one end of the rear, L-shaped porch. In 1946, the rear of the central hall was blocked off to form a kitchen. Shortly thereafter, the old kitchen and office were converted into an apartment.

Due northeast of the house is a non-contributing shed (#2) built in the 1930s.
The Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House is a significant reflection of commercial, socio-economic, and architectural trends in Scotland Neck during the period from the 1880s to 1938. Located on Church Street, one block west of Main Street, Scotland Neck's principal commercial artery, the house is associated with the town's development during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a mercantile and manufacturing center for the surrounding agricultural region. Its occupants have included members of some of Scotland Neck's socially prominent families. Max Hoffman, who likely built the house during the mid-1880s, operated a successful dry goods store in Scotland Neck, helped organize the town's first cotton mill, and participated in local government. Situated on a street lined with the impressive homes of other local leaders, the house subsequently served as a residence of appropriate scale for James Shepard Bowers, who worked as secretary-treasurer of the Scotland Neck Cotton Mills, and members of the Josey and Riddick families—names synonymous with Scotland Neck's development during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The dwelling, a 2½-story, double-pile, frame house with a 3-tier central tower in front and a 1-story rear ell, stands as an unusually ornate—and now rare—example of Victorian-period architecture built in eastern North Carolina.

CONTEXT: COMMERCE

Located in the southeastern section of Halifax County, Scotland Neck developed during the second half of the nineteenth century from the earlier communities of Clarksville and Greenwood. Largely through the efforts of John Hyman, who before the Civil War purchased from Napoleon B. Josey Sr. the land that lay between the two towns, streets—including a ¾-mile-long main street—were laid off. The legislature incorporated Scotland Neck on February 21, 1867, and appointed John Nichols, Eli C. Biggs, and Napoleon B. Josey Sr. as commissioners.

Like many towns and cities in North Carolina, Scotland Neck grew rapidly during the late nineteenth century as a center of commerce and manufacturing for the surrounding agricultural region. In 1880, the village of 482 residents supported some 16 merchants,
18 store clerks, 7 carpenters, 4 lawyers, 3 coach makers, 2 physicians, 2 grocers, a sawmill operator, and a variety of other professionals, merchants, and tradesmen. The Commonwealth, a newly founded local newspaper, stated early in 1883 "... that our town is given up entirely to mercantile interest, and the surrounding country to agricultural pursuits." As in other parts of eastern North Carolina, "agricultural pursuits" represented homage to cotton's value as a cash crop.

Completion during the period 1881-1883 of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad's branch to Scotland Neck and its commodious brick warehouse there, fostered the town's economic development. Area farmers, as well as Scotland Neck's business community, benefited from this new transportation outlet. Between November, 1882, and February 8, 1883, farmers shipped about 3,000 bales of cotton from Scotland Neck on the new railroad. When prominent local investors incorporated the Scotland Neck Cotton Mills in 1889, they wisely chose a building site adjacent to the railroad. This company, in turn, stimulated economic development and population growth. By 1900 the population had soared to 1,348.

Although Scotland Neck continued to thrive during the early twentieth century as a commercial center, lack of significant improvements in transportation facilities eventually retarded its growth. A variety of new commercial ventures, including banks, insurance companies, peanut markets, a brick mill, hardware stores, oil companies, and motor car dealerships, served the public. The population of Scotland Neck surpassed 2,000 during the 1920s, but the Great Depression of the 1930s curtailed the town's growth. Scotland Neck's population did not approach 3,000 until 1960.

New houses built by prosperous citizens in towns and cities in Halifax and surrounding counties during the late nineteenth century often reflected a tendency toward eclectic and picturesque architecture. Some 2½-story houses featured 3-tiered towers ornamented with decorative shingles. Bay windows and a rich variety of brackets, sawnwork bargeboards, and other ornamental elements available from commercial millwork companies adorned exteriors. Interiors also reflected the penchant for decorative details. Houses exhibiting features such as these were built throughout the Tar-Neuse river basin, though few of them approached the scale of the Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House, a rare survivor of the Victorian period's eclectic Stick and Eastlake styles.

Max Hoffman's ability to build his impressive home resulted from his success as a businessman in Scotland Neck's mercantile community. Born in Meiningen (Saxe), an independent state of central Germany, in 1852, Hoffman immigrated to the United States in 1868. He and his wife Fanny, who had been born in Connecticut, were married about 1876, and their first child, David, was born in North Carolina the next year. The Hoffmans, including Max's brother, Gerson, appear to have moved to Scotland Neck about this time.
By 1883 Max Hoffman had earned the reputation as one of Scotland Neck's "first and best merchants . . ."13 His general store was, according to his advertisements, the "Leader of Low Prices." Included among his stock of attire for the whole family were "the most handsome and nobbiest styles of clothing and gent's furnishings . . ."14 Hoffman's skill was revealed in a contest he sponsored jointly with two other enterprising merchants, N. B. Josey and Noah Biggs, in February, 1883: the first farmer to bring a bale of cotton to town would receive a silver watch, and a suit of clothes would be given to the farmer who produced the most lint cotton on ten acres of land.15 M. Hoffman and Brother, as the firm came to be known, served also as a commission merchant for local farmers.16

On January 1, 1883, Max Hoffman purchased from W. H. Kitchin 4 lots on block 56 of Scotland Neck's town plan. This property, for which he paid $4,200, included 2 lots at the northwest corner of Main and Eleventh streets and 2 lots directly behind them on the northeast corner of Church and Eleventh streets. Hoffman moved his store later that month to the building just vacated by I. Rothschild. The high purchase price for the lots Hoffman bought suggests that the Main Street property may have included a store building. M. Hoffman and Brother was located at the corner of Main and Eleventh streets in April, 1885.17 Hoffman presumably built his impressive residence on the Church Street property sometime after January, 1883.18

The house reflected the German immigrant's prominence in the community. Citizens elected Hoffman as a town commissioner in 1883. In 1889 he joined D. Edmondson, Noah Biggs, N. B. Josey, R. C. Josey, W. H. Kitchin, G. S. White, and A. McDowell in incorporating the Scotland Neck Cotton Mills. Hoffman is thought to have died before 1910.19

Hoffman sold his home to James Shepard Bowers on January 1, 1901. Bowers, an influential businessman, worked as secretary-treasurer of the Scotland Neck Cotton Mills. At the time of his death in 1912, Bowers was associated with a local bank and a Greensboro-based insurance company.20

The executors of James S. Bowers's estate sold the property in December, 1915, to Mary C. Josey, whose husband, William Henry Josey, was the son of Napoleon B. Josey.21 William Henry Josey operated an insurance business in the rear of his home and also managed farming operations. One of the Joseys' daughters, Nannie Louise, and her husband, Neusom Allsbrook Riddick, lived in the Joseys' house after their marriage in 1918. Riddick's pioneering N. A. Riddick Motor Car Company, founded in 1912, sold tractors and trucks as well as Buick, Cadillac, and Dodge automobiles.22 After the death of William H. Josey in 1927, his wife maintained his insurance business and the Riddicks continued to occupy the house. Mary C. Josey died in 1946 leaving the house and property to her three daughters. Shortly thereafter Louise Josey Riddick, the eldest daughter, purchased her sisters' interest, and today the house remains in family ownership.23

The Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House, which remains in close proximity to Scotland Neck's main business corridor, stands as a rare, unusually decorative reminder of the town's development as a commercial center during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
NOTES


5The Commonwealth (Scotland Neck), January 4, 1883, hereinafter cited as The Commonwealth.

6Lefler and Newsome, North Carolina, 521; The Commonwealth, March 15, 1883.

7Smith, Smith of Scotland Neck, 236; The Commonwealth, August 10, 1882; January 25, August 23, 1883.

8The Commonwealth, February 8, 1883.

9Articles of Incorporation of The Scotland Neck Cotton Mills, April 12, 1889, Halifax County Record of Incorporations, microfilm of manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Articles of Incorporation, Scotland Neck Cotton Mills; W. H. and Maria Kitchin to The Scotland Neck Cotton Mills, April 24, 1889, Halifax County Deeds, Book 92, p. 301, Office of the Register of Deeds, Halifax, hereinafter cited as Halifax County Deeds, with appropriate volume and page number; Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900. Population. Part I, Volume 1 (Washington: United States Census Office, 1901), 290.

Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse Basin: A Preliminary Inventory and Analysis (Raleigh: Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1977); [overview], 27-28; Appendix 10, p. 5; for illustrations of interior elements often used in houses of this period, see Victorian Architecture: Two Pattern Books by A. J. Bicknell and William T. Comstock (Watkins Glen, N.Y.: American Life Foundation & Study Institute, 1976; and William Seale, The Tasteful Interlude: American Interiors through the Camera's Eye, 1860-1917 (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1981), 57-127. A smaller, simpler house of this type, said to have been built by Max Hoffman for his sister stands today north of the Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House on Church Street. Examples of this house type that have been lost are those of J. L. Wooten and Col Harry Skinner in Greenville. They were pictured in The Eastern Reflector, Greater Greenville issue, July, 1907.


See stationery of M. Hoffman and Brother attached to Norfleet and M. R. Smith to M. Hoffman and Brother, June 23, 1888, Book 85, p. 250, Halifax County Deeds. This deed, like several others during the 1880s, indicates that some farmers became indebted to M. Hoffman and Brother and offered portions of their land as security for future repayment.


The writer examined all extant issues of The Commonwealth for 1883 and 1885. Although the paper contained references to houses being built by others in Scotland Neck, it apparently did not mention Hoffman's house. Unfortunately, many issues, including those for 1884, are missing. According to his daughter, however, an area lumber dealer,

19 Articles of Incorporation, Scotland Neck Cotton Mills; The Commonwealth, May 10, 1883. M. Hoffman was not listed in the 1910 census of Scotland Neck.


23 Gregory Interview.


The Commonwealth (Scotland Neck).

Eastern Reflector (Greenville).

Gregory, Mrs. Fletcher Harrison Jr. Interview, July 18, 1988, Weldon, N.C.


Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [X] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [X] previously listed in the National Register
- [X] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [X] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [X] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- [X] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Specify repository:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [X] Other State agency
- [X] Federal agency
- [X] Local government
- [X] University
- [X] Other

The boundaries chosen for the Hoffman-Bowers-Josey-Riddick House are based on the present lot size of 0.46 acres.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren-Brook Taves, preservation consultant & Maurice C. York, historian
organization N/A
street & number 5 Prospect Street
city or town Harrisville
date August 5, 1988
telephone 603-827-3348
state N.H.
zip code 03450
Halifax County Record of Incorporations. Microfilm of manuscript copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.


House, Mrs. Arthur. Interview, July 18, 1988, Scotland Neck, N.C.


Private Laws of North Carolina, 1866-1867.


United States Census. Microfilm of manuscript records, 1870-1910, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, N. C.


That lot situated at the northeast corner of Eleventh and Church Streets according to a map of said town, and bounded on the south by Eleventh Street, on the west by Church Street, on the north by the lot of J.K. Henderson, and on the east by the lands of Pittman and the lands of Phillips, and being a rectangular lot fronting 100 feet on Church Street and 200 feet on Eleventh Street. The parcel is outlined in pencil on the accompanying Halifax County Tax Map No. 621, Parcel 59, at a scale of $1'' = 100'$. 
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U. S. Route

State Route

SCOTLAND NECK, HALIFAX CO.
ZONE 18
EASTING 281900
NORTHING 4000850

HOFFMAN- BOWERS- JOSEY RIDDICK HOUSE

SCOTLAND NECK, HALIFAX CO.

ZONE 18
EASTING 281900
NORTHING 4000850

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty

Light-duty

Medium-duty

Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route

State Route

SCOTLAND NECK,
N3607.5—W7722.5/7.
1962

AMS 5556 III NW—SERIES