

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hood Brothers Building

and or common Hood's Corner

2. Location

street & number 100-104 S. Third Street (SW corner E. Market & S. Third Sts.)
not for publication

city, town Smithfield vicinity of

state N.C. code 037 county Johnston code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name NOWW Properties

street & number P O Box 1567

city, town Smithfield vicinity of state N. C. 27577

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Johnston County Registry of Deeds

street & number East Market Street

city, town Smithfield state N.C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

An Inventory of Historic Architecture, title Smithfield, N.C., 1977 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 April 9 federal state county local

Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History,
depository for survey records North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

city, town Raleigh state N.C. 27611

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The Hood Building, prominently located one block east of the courthouse at the southwest corner of Third and Market streets in Smithfield, is a well-preserved 1923 Neoclassical Revival commercial building. It is a pivotal element in the commercial streetscape flanking it. The three-story brick structure with an underground basement is rectangular in shape, five bays wide on the main (Third Street) elevation; six bays wide on the Market Street elevation. The walls, of red pressed brick veneer, are strongly defined by blond brick stringcourses and window surrounds, with decorative horizontal banding over the windows and vertical banding at the entrance corner of blond brick punctuated by white diamond-shaped tiles. A low brick parapet enclosing the flat roof is barely visible above the heavy pressed tin modillion cornice capping the building.

The building contains two storefronts, both apparently original. The drugstore, no. 100 South Third Street, occupied two-thirds of the street level. It is entered in the recessed corner through a double wooden door with glass panes and a transom flanked by large plate glass display windows set in wooden frames. Below the display windows is a painted tile dado which may or may not be original. The smaller store, in the south one-third of the building, no. 104, has a similar recessed entrance with nearly identical doors and display windows. Both entrance alcoves have white tile floor surfacing. A secondary entrance, a smaller version of the no. 104 entrance, is located in the next to last bay of the Market Street elevation and provides access to the rear of the drugstore. In the last bay of the Market Street side is a single wooden glass-paned door opening to the stairs to the upper floors. A flight of concrete steps leads from the corner along the Market Street elevation down to the basement barber shop, called the "Family Barber Shop." An electrified glass barber pole which probably dates from the 1950s is attached to the wall as advertisement.

The most prominent architectural feature of the structure is the large twelve-over-one wooden double-hung sash windows in the second and third stories. Each has a blond brick surround, consisting of an inner band of horizontal bricks framed by projecting vertical bricks, and a sandstone sill which blends with the blond brick. The windows occur singly on the Third Street elevation and in pairs on the Market Street elevation.

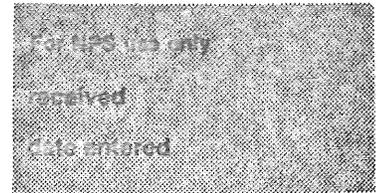
The only apparent alteration to the exterior is the addition of an aluminum shed canopy which creates a covered pedestrian walkway around the building and continues down Market and Third streets. There are plans to remove this.

The interiors of the two stores have been altered by successive tenants. The only interior space still used for its original purpose is the barber shop; this has original shop fittings. Both the drugstore and the smaller shop are now used for specialty retail purposes. The original tile floors are believed to remain beneath wall-to-wall carpeting, and the original coffered tin ceilings are intact. The steel joists supporting the second floor are said to be concealed by the coffered tin while the third floor is apparently supported by wooden joists. Along the north and west walls of the drugstore, the original built-in wooden display cabinets have survived. These have paneled walls and a molded cornice. The soda fountain has been completely removed. In no. 104, the skylight shaft in the rear is visible, although the five plate glass panes are painted over. The walls of the shaft have narrow vertical wood sheathing.

Upstairs, each floor has almost identical double loaded offices with a narrow center hall on each floor. The only difference between the two floors is that there is a larger office at the east end of the second floor which takes in the space occupied on the third floor by the center hall. The floors are unaltered, although in disrepair because of disuse. There are

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six rectangular offices along the north side, four on the south side. Each office has an identical entrance of a paneled wooden door with a frosted glass pane and transom, flanked by a pair of frosted glass windows. On the third floor, the woodwork retains its original stain; on the second floor it has been painted. Each office contains a sink and a radiator. The floors are of wood, the walls and ceilings of plaster. In the center of the south side of each floor are three narrow rooms: a janitorial closet flanked by men's and ladies' toilets. Behind this area is a skylight well, containing frosted glass windows into the offices flanking it on both floors. A second skylight well is at the southwest corner of the building. It has windows into the adjacent office on each floor and illuminates the rear of shop no. 104. These light shafts were an important element of the interior design because of the blind brick wall on the south and west elevations. The stairwell along the rear (west) wall contains the original wooden steps and railing: square balusters and box newels with molded caps.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1923 **Builder/Architect** D. J. Rose, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although this 1923 Neoclassical Revival style three-story Hood Building would seem a modest element in the streetscape of larger cities, it is one of the pivotal landmarks in the small county seat of Smithfield. Indeed, the heart of the CBD where it is located is known as "Hood's Corner." Built by well known contractor D. J. Rose, the drugstore and office building represents the zenith of prosperity reached by small eastern North Carolina railroad towns during the cotton and tobacco boom of the 1920s.

Criteria Assessment:

- B. Was built by D. J. Rose, who was born in Johnston County, and who became a prominent contractor throughout the south after establishing his business in Rocky Mount, N.C., in 1892. His work stretches from Maryland to Florida in the early twentieth century.
- C. Is one of the pivotal commercial buildings in the Smithfield streetscape which has been little altered since the eve of Second World War. The Hood Building remains one of the best examples of 1920s commercial architecture in Smithfield.

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In 1887 T. R. and B. R. Hood leased the drugstore known as Sasser, Woodall & Co. on the corner of Market and Third Street for five years. The sellers agreed not to open any other drugstore in Smithfield or within one mile of the town limits during this period. By the early 1890s T. R. Hood apparently acquired sole ownership through a series of transactions with Sasser, Woodall and Davis, the third partner in the previous business. According to a newspaper account, this earlier drugstore on the site of the present 1923 drugstore was destroyed in the 1889 fire which wiped out most of the business district. The Hood brothers rebuilt the store and operated there until 1923 when they erected the new building. The firm was begun by their father, J. C. Hood, who set up one of the earliest drugstores in Johnston County in 1871 in partnership with his son-in-law, local physician Dr. Kirkman. J. C. bought out Kirkman, and in 1878 took his son T. R. into the business, and later another son J. E. Their drugstore first occupied a small wooden building on Second Street, and later a brick store on the same street. The Market and Third Street lot was owned by T. R. and B. R. Hood, who moved the drugstore to this lot when the business district shifted after the 1889 fire. T. R. bought out his brothers, and in 1911 took his son, Hal C., into the business. In 1923, T. R. retired and Hal and his older son Will D. became partners. A bronze plaque on the north side of the building reads:

This Building Dedicated as a memorial to Thomas Ruffin Hood, 1857-1940, Father of Will, Eva, Eula, Henry C. (Hal) and Lucy, A Christian gentleman who loved his fellow man, was respected by all, and left a good name. A man who exemplified "The Quality of Life"

The state-funded inventory of historic architecture in Smithfield, published in 1977, calls the Hood Building "architecturally and historically one of the most interesting buildings in downtown Smithfield." The front page of the Smithfield Herald, May 1, 1923, has a photograph of the new building and an article describing its formal opening and the history of the brothers' drug business. The article extolls the new mahogany finished furniture and handsome soda fountain and the "not less than fifty thousand items" of drug stock.

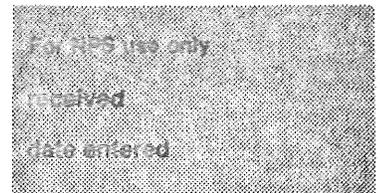
Although the newspaper does not mention it, the structure was designed by T. R. and sons Will and Hall, in collaboration with contractor D. J. Rose of Rocky Mount. Rose worked throughout the South in the early twentieth century, designing banks, hotels, churches, mills, railroad stations and residences in North Carolina as well as Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Local tradition that the building was designed so that additional stories could be added, making it a skyscraper, may have its origin in the fact that "Jep" Rose used steel beams in the first floor rather than the usual wooden joists. The Hood brothers are said to have used "the finest brick that could be found."

According to the local newspaper, the third floor served as annex for a hotel. The Smithfield Hotel was not constructed until later, and it is not known which hotel this was. Local residents remember that traveling salesmen rented third floor rooms until one of them set a mattress on fire and caused some damage. The second floor housed

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professional offices, and Dr. Hooks and Dr. Royall are specifically mentioned as early tenants.¹¹ The earliest location remembered for the A&P grocery is the smaller shop on Third Street, no. 104. It is said to have been the first chain grocery in Smithfield.¹² The basement, originally occupied¹³ by the "Sanitary barber Shop," apparently did a brisk business in Saturday night baths.

Advertisements in the Smithfield Herald in 1923 show that the Hoods employed modern advertising. The "house warming" ad for the new building announced "TO THE FIRST 250 LADY VISITORS we will give a rooted fern ready for potting."¹⁴

The Hood family has been deeply involved in Smithfield's business and cultural activities for over a century. The obituary of Tom Hood, who died in 1940, mentions, among other activities, that he was president of the local bank for many years, on the school board, a city commissioner, city treasurer, and a pillar of the Centenary¹⁵ Methodist Church, serving as superintendent of the Sunday school for thirty years.

In 1953, T. R.'s son Will's fiftieth anniversary as a pharmacist was featured in the Smithfield Herald of August 11, and on November 1, 1966, he died.¹⁶ He was the last of the Hood druggists. An editorial eulogizing the Hood brothers says that "Hood's Corner" became the hub of Smithfield's business district.¹⁷ Hal Hood died in 1963, a few months after the brothers retired and sold the drugstore to McDonald Davis, Jr. He continued the store until his death in¹⁸ 1973, and the drugstore, Smithfield's oldest continuously operating business, closed. Presently, the owners are planning to rehabilitate the building for new commercial uses.

Footnotes

¹ Johnston County Deed Book C5, p. 599. L. L. Sasser, J. P. Woodall & J. L. Davis to T. R. & B. R. Hood.

² Johnston County Deed Book O5, p. 108: J. P. Woodall to B. R. Hood; Deed Book A6, p. 163: J. L. Davis to T. R. Hood; Deed Book A6, p. 127: B. R. to T. R. Hood.

³ Smithfield Herald, May 1, 1923, front page.

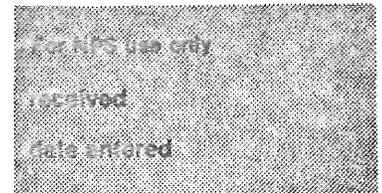
⁴ Mary McCahon Shoemaker. An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Smithfield, N.C. 1977. (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History in cooperation with the Town of Smithfield), p. 27.

⁵ Smithfield Herald, May 1, 1923.

⁶ Interview with Mrs. Pearl Myatt Hood, widow of Hal C. Hood, conducted by Smithfield Public Library archivist Mrs. Margaret Lee on 23 May 1986. Interview notes in file.

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⁷"David Jeptha Rose," biographical sketch in History of North Carolina: Vol. V, North Carolina Biography (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), pp. 338-339.

⁸Interview, Mrs. Pearl Myatt Hood.

⁹Smithfield Herald, December 11, 1923, caption underneath photograph of the Hood Building.

¹⁰Telephone interview with Mrs. Margaret Lee, archivist of Smithfield Public Library, conducted by M. Ruth Little, May 22, 1986.

¹¹Shoemaker, p. 27.

¹²Interview with Mrs. Margaret Lee.

¹³Smithfield Herald, 17 April 1923. Advertisement for the Sanitary Barber Shop; Shoemaker, p. 27.

¹⁴Smithfield Herald, 24 April 1923. Advertisement.

¹⁵Smithfield Herald, 19 January 1940.

¹⁶Smithfield Herald, 11 August 1953; 1 November 1966.

¹⁷Smithfield Herald, 4 November 1966.

¹⁸Smithfield Herald, 2 January 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property < acre

Quadrangle name Selma, N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	17	7	4	10	6	13	10	3	9	3	2	7	1	6	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

B

Zone	Easting			Northing												

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property being nominated consists of the building lot on which the Hood Building is located, as shown on the enclosed map with boundaries outlined in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. Ruth Little

organization Preservation Consultant date May 30, 1986

street & number 3501 Turnbridge Drive telephone 919/787-4589

city or town Raleigh state N.C. 27609

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Fair

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 10, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bibliography

Hood, Mrs. Pearl Myatt, interview. Conducted by Mrs. Margaret Lee, archivist of Smithfield Public Library, 23 May 1986.

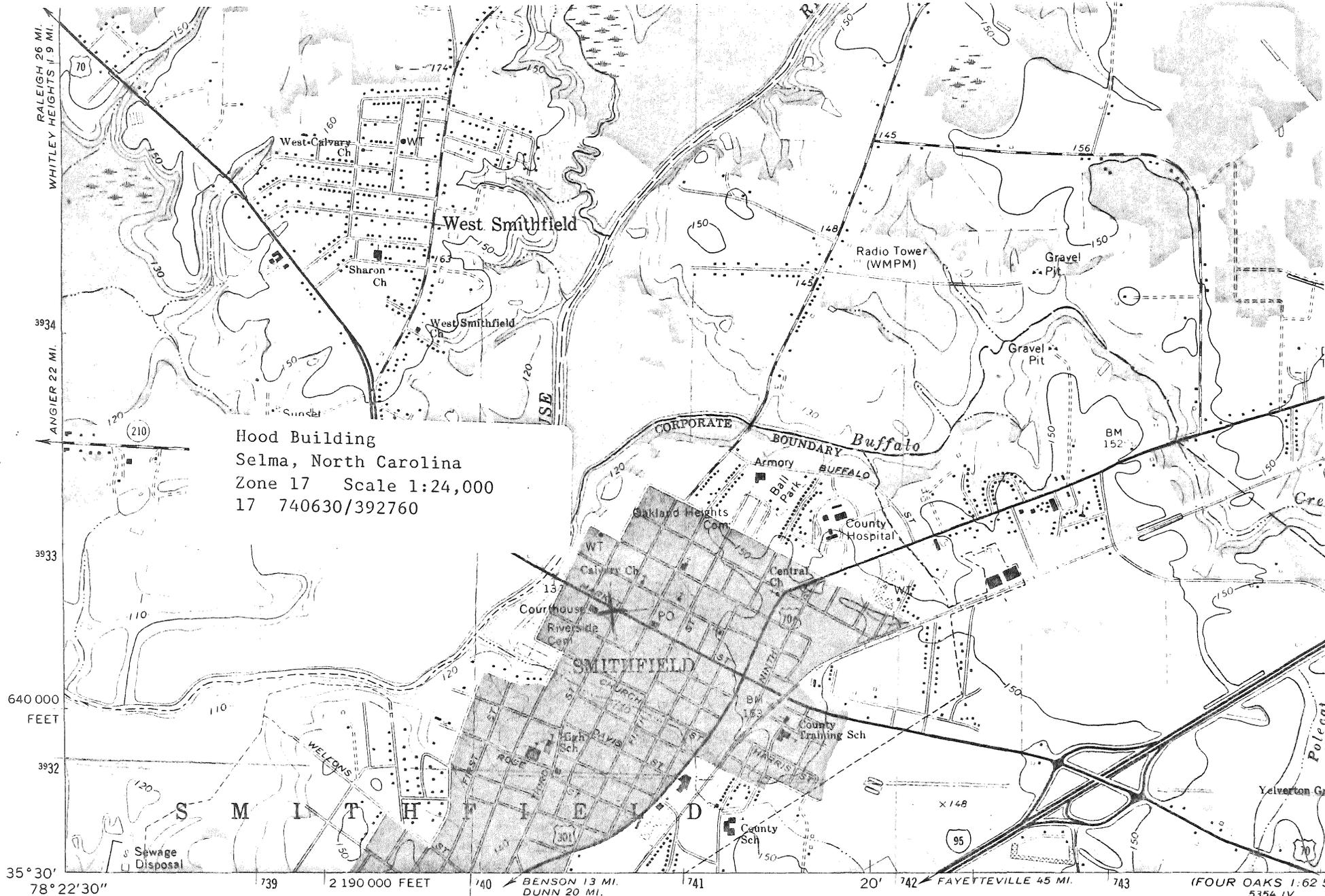
Johnston County Deed Books: C5, 599; O5, 108; A6, 163; A6, 127.

Lee, Mrs. Margaret, telephone interview. Conducted by M. Ruth Little, 22 May 1986.

"Rose, David Jeptha," History of North Carolina: Vol. V, North Carolina Biography. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919, pp. 338-339.

Shoemaker, Mary McCahon. An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Smithfield, N.C., 1977. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1977.

Smithfield Herald, May 1, 1923; April 17, 1923; April 24, 1923; December 11, 1923; January 19, 1940; August 11, 1953; November 1, 1966; November 4, 1966; January 2, 1973.



Hood Building
 Selma, North Carolina
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24,000
 17 740630/392760

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

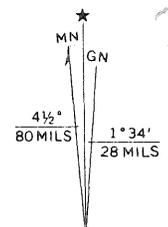
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1964

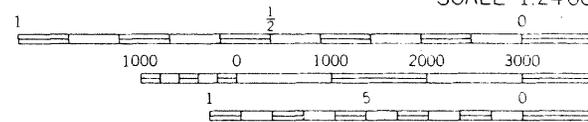
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where

BENSON 13 MI.
 DUNN 20 MI.



JT
 316



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA

(FOUR OAKS 1:62,500)
 5354 IV

17 740630 / 392760

