

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Lenoir	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Peebles House (Woman's Club)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Harmony Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East King Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Kinston (First Congressional District: Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Lenoir	CODE 107
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Club House</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Kinston Woman's Club c/o Mrs. W. P. Neal

STREET AND NUMBER:
1212 Rhen Street, P. O. Box 1074

CITY OR TOWN: Kinston	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lenoir County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN: Kinston	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harmony Hall (Peebles House) is a two-story frame building with a brick foundation, a low pyramidal roof, and flanking single-story wings. The house bears evidence of additions and remodelings reflecting the Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles. Mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival alterations have removed all but the most subtle reminders of the eighteenth century.

The main block is three bays wide with large windows of nine-over-nine sash in the first story. The windows in the second story are smaller but have the same sash. The main block has a heavy cornice beneath the present roof which replaces an earlier gable roof.

Dominating the front (north) facade is a two-story single-bay porch. It is supported on each level by two wooden pillars and has a simple trellis balustrade. The central entrance is surmounted by a wide seven-pane transom which carries over the sidelights. A similar doorway without a transom opens onto the gallery.

The east and west sides are three bays wide. On either side a single-shoulder exterior chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond rises between the first and second bays. The windows in the first story have nine-over-nine sash, and those in the second, six-over-six. As a result of alterations the windows are not regularly placed.

At the northern end of each side is a one-story wing added about 1830. Each wing has a low hip roof and an interior end chimney. The remaining two bays on the east side of the main block have been covered by a recent shed addition which serves as a kitchen.

The rear facade is three bays wide with an entrance in the east bay and a single-shoulder common bond chimney between the two west bays. A small one-bay shed porch connects the rear entrance to a frame kitchen building.

The interior of the main block consists of one large room with transverse halls at the front and rear. A stair rises in two flights from the left side of the front hall. It has balusters square in section and a rounded handrail. The wings are entered at either end of the hall. Each contains one room featuring plain Greek Revival trim. The windows have molded architraves with cornerblocks, and the mantels consists of heavy entablatures supported by unadorned square pilasters. The doorways located on the rear wall of the front hall open into a large room. This was originally two rooms; the partition between them having been removed recently by the present owners. The room, finished with plaster walls above and below a molded chair rail, has a Federal mantel at either end. The mantel on the east wall features reeded pilasters, bands of reeding on the frieze, and a row of dentils below the shelf. The other mantel is similar but lacks the reeding and dentils. The rear hall contains an unadorned Federal mantel on the rear wall and an enclosed stair which rises through the hall but is entered from the back porch.

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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest portion of Harmony Hall (Peebles House), thought to be the oldest house in Kinston, may have been built by Jesse and Elizabeth Cobb between 1772, when they were married, and 1776, when their son was born there. Elizabeth's father, William Herriage, helped persuade the General Assembly to locate the town, named Kingston (which became Kinston after the Revolution) after George III, on his lands.

Elizabeth's brother-in-law was Richard Caswell, a representative in the General Assembly (1754-1776) and a colonel in the colonial militia. In 1758 he aided in passing a law dividing Johnston County to create Dobbs County (part of which later became the present Lenoir County). In 1762 he introduced the bill which established Kingston on lands belonging to his father-in-law, William Herriage, and became one of the trustees of the new town. Caswell was one of the three men elected to represent the province in the first Continental Congress (1774).

On January 16, 1777, Richard Caswell, successful as a general in early battles of the Revolution, became the first governor of the state of North Carolina. Since New Bern, previously the seat of state government, was too exposed to attack and occupation by British naval forces, Caswell arranged to have the major offices of the new government in Kinston for a period of time. He resided at his nearby estate, Newington. Harmony Hall, home of his sister-in-law and her husband, became the residence of James Glasgow, secretary of state. Glasgow's office with many of the official records of the state remained in the house until Kinston was threatened by the British in 1781. The Council of State met in Kinston upon occasion during these early years of the Revolution. Meetings of the State Board of War and other official groups took place in Harmony Hall.

After the Revolution, Caswell remained active in North Carolina politics, serving in the General Assembly for several terms. Although he continued to live at Newington, he purchased Harmony Hall from Elizabeth and Jesse Cobb. In 1782 he gave the house to his second son, Richard, Jr., who was at the age of twenty-four a successful businessman. On December 27, 1784, Richard, Jr., set sail on a business voyage from Charleston to New Bern. Neither the ship nor any of its passengers was ever heard of again. On December 29, 1785, the General Assembly, assuming young Richard was dead, passed an act directing the settlement of his estate. After the disappearance of Richard, Jr., his younger brothers, Winston (who had served as his

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8.

father's private secretary during the latter's last three terms in office), and John, lived in the house for a time. During the 1790s, the house was remodeled extensively, and many of the finer architectural details are from this period. The date of Winston's death is not certain, but it was probably before 1799. John died in the house about 1796, leaving a widow, Mary. She married William Lovick before 1800 and died shortly thereafter. Lovick, who remarried, continued to live in the house.

During the nineteenth century Harmony Hall was owned by several prominent Kinston citizens, including Jesse Cobb, grandson of the builder; Abner Pearce, a city commissioner and trustee of the Kinston Academy; and John Henry Peebles, a member of Kinston's first city council. Peebles and his wife, Harriet Cobb Peebles, acquired the house in 1845. Mrs. Peebles, surviving her husband, lived there until her death in 1898. The house then passed through several hands. Today it is owned by the Kinston Woman's Club, which has maintained the house since 1937 as a meeting place for civic and private groups.

The various owners made numerous changes in the house during the nineteenth century. About 1830 the two wings were added. By the mid-nineteenth century many of the doors and doorcasings had been updated with Greek Revival trim. At some time the roof was lowered forming the present low pyramid with a surrounding balustrade, now missing.

Harmony Hall is an example of an eighteenth century house greatly modified and enlarged by the tastes and needs of the owners of later periods. The house has been connected with the most outstanding families of the town's history. Of particular historic significance is its association with the family of Richard Caswell, first governor of the state of North Carolina.

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The plan of the second floor is like that of the first except that the large room is divided into two unequal rooms. The left room contains the only Georgian interiors remaining in the house. There is a mantel consisting of a plain architrave around the opening beneath a ramped entablature and molded shelf. Portions of the chair rail in this room appear to be the earliest in the house. The rear hall has been divided into several small rooms with an enclosed secondary stair on the left wall leading to the attic area above.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Talmage C., and Holloman, Charles R. The Story of Kinston and Lenoir County. Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards and Broughton Company, 1954.

Lefler, Hugh T., and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	15'	33"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	34'	59"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: May 26, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date May 26, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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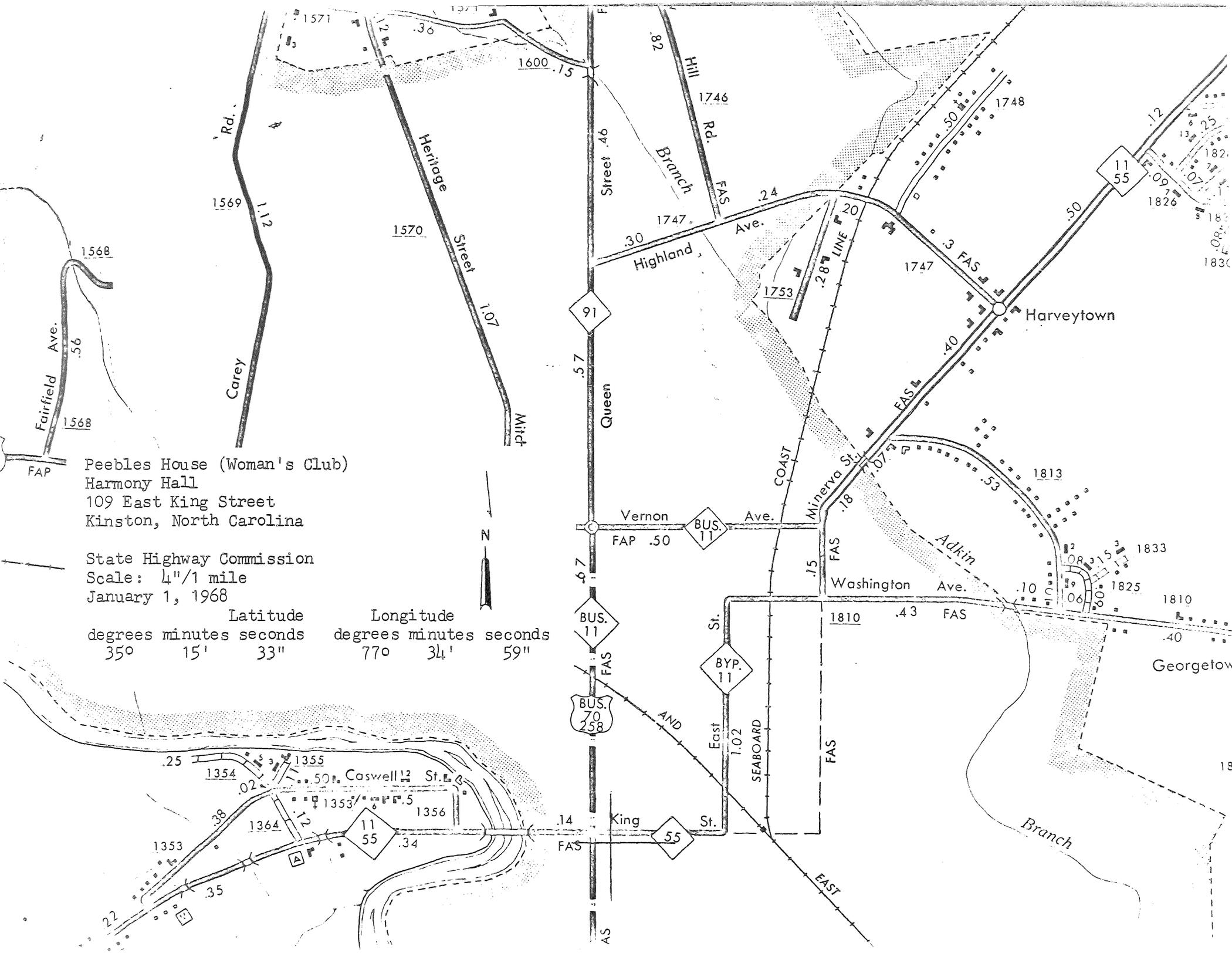
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(Number all entries)

9.

Lenoir County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, and Estate Papers).

Lenoir County Records, Lenoir County Courthouse, Kinston, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, and Estate Papers).



Peebles House (Woman's Club)
 Harmony Hall
 109 East King Street
 Kinston, North Carolina

State Highway Commission
 Scale: 4"/1 mile
 January 1, 1968

	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
	35°	15'	33"	77°	34'	59"

