

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Commandant's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Superintendent's House, Hillsborough Military Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Barracks Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Hillsborough

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Orange	CODE 135
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Cheshire

STREET AND NUMBER:
Barracks Road

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

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Orange County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Margaret Lane

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Commandant's House is a late Gothic Revival castellated brick dwelling, located just east of a large, flat, open field, where once stood the "Barracks," the main building of the Hillsborough Military Academy, for whose superintendent the remaining building served as residence. The larger building, also of brick in castellated style, was 215 feet long and three stories high, with two towers flanking the central entrance. To the rear was a long, narrow one-story frame structure that served a variety of purposes. A small frame structure on the adjoining property is thought to have been part of that building.

The Commandant's House, built of brick laid in three-to-one common bond with Flemish variation, is two stories high and roughly square in shape. At each corner is a rectangular turret, slightly taller than the main block. Those on the front (south) corners project to front and side; those on the rear corners project only to the sides. The central bays of the three-bay front and side facades also project slightly, repeating the verticality introduced by the turrets. Counteracting this is the horizontality of the slightly projecting water table, a belt course composed of three projecting courses, and the emphatic corbel cornice that runs beneath the crenellated battlements. The battlements are further emphasized by coping. All these elements continue around both the turrets and the main block. The shallow pyramidal roof is pierced on either side by an interior chimney composed of two polygonal shafts with a common molded cap.

The main entrance is sheltered by a one-story one-bay porch with a hip roof supported by simple posts. The double door is flanked by three-pane sidelights and surmounted by a five-pane transom. The whole entrance is surrounded by a wide, heavily molded architrave. The double door has panels outlined by a heavy molding. A single panel appears beneath each sidelight. Most of the remaining bays of the main block are marked by windows containing nine-over-nine sash, with plain wooden sills and flush wooden lintels. In the turrets at both levels are windows of similar design, but much narrower, containing three-over-three sash, with the panes arranged in single vertical rows. (The front turrets have windows on both front and sides; the rear ones, only on the sides.) At the second level of the projecting central bay of the main facade is a window like the others in the main block, except that it is surmounted by a triangular transom framed by a brick arch.

The west side has a one-bay porch with a flat roof protecting a simple entrance in the projecting central bay. This entrance apparently provided convenient access to the main building of the academy. At the second level in the projecting bay is a pair of narrow windows like those of the turrets. Otherwise the arrangement is like the front. The east side has a three-sided bay window at the first level, covering the south bay of the main block; pairs of narrow windows mark the projecting bay at both levels. The rear facade has no projections; it has three bays marked at both levels by windows with nine-over-nine sash, except for the central and east bays at the first level. The central bay has a single door (said to be a replacement) with sidelights and transom; the east bay is covered by a one-story shed addition.

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7. Description

The interior of the house follows a slightly modified center-hall plan, two rooms deep. The profusion of windows creates a light-filled interior in contrast to the rather severe military aspect of the exterior. The doors are paneled in similar fashion to the front door and surrounded by very heavy molded cases. The walls are plastered above heavy molded baseboards, and some rooms have picture moldings. The two front (south) parlors are separated from the hall by wide, paneled, sliding double doors. These two rooms are similarly treated, except that the east one has the bay window. The single front window in each room has an architrave that extends to the floor, framing a panel. Both rooms contain replacement mantels.

The front and rear halls are divided by a wall containing a single door. The west side projection is occupied by a very small entry hall serving the side entrance and opening into the two west rooms. The east projection is divided by the wall between the two east rooms, with one of its narrow windows lighting each. The rear rooms are finished like the front ones, except that they have single doors, not double ones. They contain original mantels of typical mid-nineteenth century design, with a rectangular fire opening flanked by pilasters supporting an ogee-arch below a curved shelf. The large window in the east rear room retains louvered interior blinds that slide into the wall. These are said to have existed at all the large windows in the house except those on the north side, but few workable ones still remain. The rear of the east room, including the half-turret, has been partitioned off to serve as a bathroom and utility room. A rear frame addition includes a porch and a kitchen.

The open-string stair rises along the west wall of the rear hall and has a plain handrail supported by slender balusters square in section. The second floor is similar in plan to the first. The finish and mantels, although somewhat simpler, are essentially the same, and the windows of the side projections are separated by the walls dividing the front and rear rooms on each side. The space at the front end of the hall is enclosed to make a small room lit by the triangular-topped window.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Commandant's House (so called locally, although "the Superintendent's House" would be more accurate) is the only major structure remaining of the complex of buildings constructed for the Hillsborough Military Academy. On December 18, 1858, Charles C. Tew of South Carolina purchased from Cad Jones of Orange County a 61 1/4-acre tract of land lying "between the Greensborough road and the North Carolina Rail Road." (An adjoining tract was purchased by Tew in 1862 from Rebecca Jones and remained part of the property for many years.) On the original tract Tew planned to establish a military academy modeled after the Citadel, where he had graduated in 1846, "the first honor man of the first class to complete the course there." After graduation he had served as a member of the faculty there, studied military science in Europe, and become superintendent of the Arsenal Academy of the Citadel in 1857. By 1858, when Tew decided to establish a military academy in North Carolina, he was well prepared for such an undertaking.

The new school opened in January, 1859, using the facilities of the old Hillsborough Academy, and by the following year, the new buildings were complete. The local newspaper reported in October, 1860, that the "Barracks have been erected at a cost of \$30,000, they are well ventilated and commodious. . . ." The nearby dwelling was presumably constructed about the same time, and it served as home for Tew, his wife Elizabeth, and their children. The academy provided academic, military, and scientific training, admitting boys between the ages of thirteen and eighteen. The fee for boarding students was \$300 and for day students, \$105. By September, 1860, it was reported that 107 cadets had enrolled, including boys from eight Southern states. It was not until February 20, 1861, however, that the academy was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly, with its superintendent and instructors entitled to hold military ranks.

When the Civil War began, the academy played an important role. Accounts of the victory at Fort Sumter were greeted enthusiastically by many: one cadet wrote in his diary, "Fort Sumter is taken. Glorious news!" One important early contribution of the academy to the war effort was artillery; North Carolina "entered the war with only four old smoothbore cannons . . . [which] had been purchased from the military schools at Charlotte and Hillsboro." An even more important contribution was the steady stream of trained military men the school provided North Carolina's army. Charles

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8. Significance

Tew left almost immediately for Fort Macon, where he aided in "strengthening the seacoast defenses" of the state. He was placed later in command of the Second North Carolina Infantry, with which he served under Robert E. Lee in Virginia. He was killed at the Battle of Sharpsburg on September 17, 1862.

Despite Tew's absence and subsequent death, his academy remained open throughout the war, under the leadership of Major W. M. Gordon. It served as a training school for the young soldiers that were needed in growing numbers by the Confederate army. Because of its value in this respect, its cadets were free from conscription. One cadet wrote frankly to his father, "no cadets over here have ever been conscripted from this institute therefore I am safe." The 1865 term began in February with the hopeful announcement that "no interruption of duties need be apprehended." Wartime inflation was reflected in the rise in tuition to \$1,500 per term. Soon after the term opened, the cadets were sent to Raleigh to guard Union prisoners, but returned to Hillsborough by early March. Events there near the final days of the war are described in a cadet's letter to his father:

Everything is in such a state of excitement I write again to know what is best for me to do under the existing circumstances which are as follows: Shermans forces are now in the adjoining county advanceing in heavy forces. . . We are under marching orders at a moments warning for the purposes of repelling the raid I don't think we will be allowed to remain at Barracks a very great while longer. . . .

The school closed for a time, but in 1866 General R. C. Colston came to serve as superintendent. In February, 1867, reports circulated that Colonel Tew had survived the Battle of Sharpsburg and was a prisoner at the Dry Tortugas, under the alias of Benjamin Harrison. These rumors were never verified. Mrs. Tew remained at the academy, and finally, in 1868, signed a detailed lease with Colston, which provided that as he was to occupy the "superintendents house it is to be made comfortable and inhabitable on the lower floor consisting of four rooms for the use of himself & family in a plain and comfortable manner." Mrs. Tew was to occupy four rooms of the academy on the "second floor east end the same that are now occupied by her." Colston had come to Hillsborough with high hopes, writing to his daughter in glowing terms of the "good buildings" and of Mrs. Tew's "very good piano and . . . fine library." But he and his family were dissatisfied and eventually moved to Wilmington.

Mrs. Tew died in 1870, and two years later the property was sold at public vendue to Paul C. Cameron for \$5,000. Cameron, the son of the wealthy landowner Duncan Cameron, refurbished the buildings and hired the principals of the widely respected academy at Oxford, North Carolina,

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8. Significance

Messrs. Horner and Graves, to run "a school of the highest grade, with a military feature in connection with classical, literary, and business training." The school operated for only a few years under Horner and Graves. Paul Cameron died in 1891, and on November 16, 1895, the property "known as the Hillsboro Military Academy Tract" was sold for \$2,900 by his relatives to the Farmers' State Alliance of North Carolina.

The Farmers' Alliance was "the most numerous, widespread, and successful farm organization in North Carolina." In the late nineteenth century, groups like the Grange and the Farmers' Alliance (the national body with which the state alliance was affiliated) sought to better the farmers' lot through improving farming methods and seeking reforms of taxation, railroads and trusts, and education. "Economic distress caused the Farmers' Alliance to spread like wildfire" in North Carolina, and by 1890, three years after it was organized, there were 90,000 members in the state. Such growth led the organization to purchase a state headquarters, and "the Barracks property, near Hillsboro," was finally selected. Throughout the organization's ownership, the alliance's secretary-treasurer and his family made their home in the dwelling next to the Barracks, and provided hospitality for the annual meetings of the group at their headquarters. As early as 1901, the property was something of a burden, and from time to time suggestions were made at the alliance's annual meetings as to how they might be relieved of the property. Finally, on June 21, 1920, the "headquarters property" was subdivided and sold by an auction company for \$21,204.40. The parcel of land where the superintendent's house stands came into the ownership of John W. Hill. The main building, held by another owner, stood empty for several years. During the Depression, according to local residents, the Barracks was inhabited by homeless families and transients. In 1937 the building was recorded and photographed by the Historic American Buildings Survey. The derelict Barracks finally came to be regarded as such a nuisance locally that it was torn down in 1938 and the bricks incorporated into new houses. The dwelling remained, however, and was sold in 1938 from the estate of John W. Hill, et al, to Eula Cole. She sold the property in 1965 to Lucius and Nellie Cheshire, who have refurbished the house with care. It is now in excellent condition.

The Commandant's House is an imposing example of the castellated style of architecture romantically viewed in the mid-nineteenth century as particularly suitable for military academies. The house has considerable historical significance as the only major structure remaining of the Hillsborough Military Academy, which served as a training ground for soldiers during the Civil War, as a school of some merit during Reconstruction, as the headquarters of the politically influential Farmers' State Alliance, and-- finally, in disrepair--as a refuge for victims of the Depression. During its history, which reflects to an unusual degree the dominant influences in

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8. Significance

the state at each period, the house itself served as home first for Colonel Tew, and later for the series of military, academic, and alliance men and their families who were connected with the various purposes of the academy buildings.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackwelder, Ruth. The Age of Orange. (Charlotte: William Loftin, 1961.)
 Colston, R. C. Papers. Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina. Library, Chapel Hill, N.C.
 Cowles, Calvin J. Papers. Correspondence, 1864-1865. Private Collections, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
 Farmers' State Alliance. Proceedings of Annual Sessions. (Raleigh: various printers, 1895-1921.)

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 04' 17"	79° 06' 58"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: March 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Dr. H. G. Jones
 Title Director State Department of Archives and History

Date 3/22/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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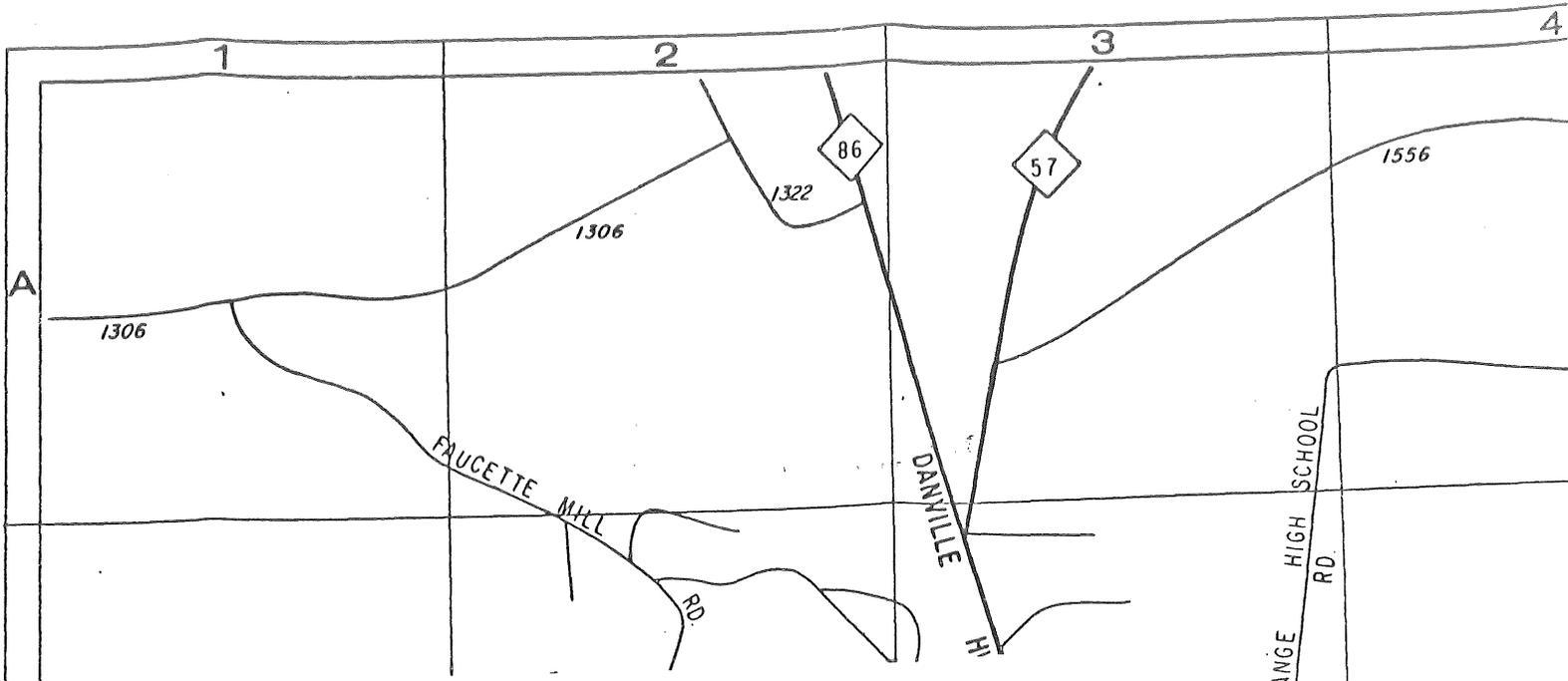
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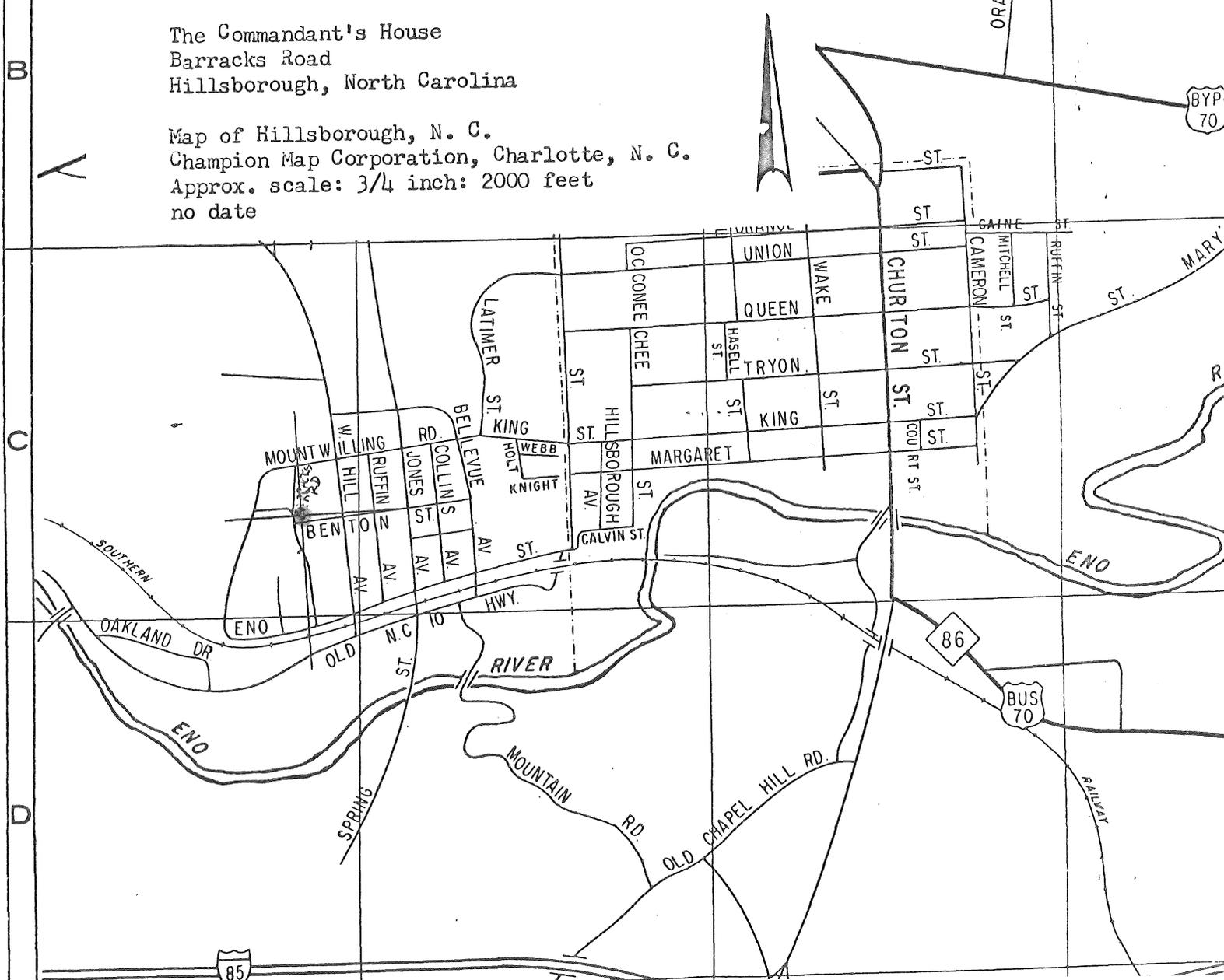
9. Major Bibliographical References

- Engstrom, Mary Clair. Notes, letters, miscellaneous material on the Hillsborough Military Academy.
Hillsborough Recorder, September 12, 1860; October 24, 1860; and April 3, 1861.
Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills.)
Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills.)



The Commandant's House
 Barracks Road
 Hillsborough, North Carolina

Map of Hillsborough, N. C.
 Champion Map Corporation, Charlotte, N. C.
 Approx. scale: 3/4 inch: 2000 feet
 no date



CASWELL COUNTY

PERSON

COL

