

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 James L. Fleming House

and/or common Fleming-Winstead House

2. Location

street & number 302 South Greene Street not for publication

city, town Greenville vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Pitt code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 City of Greenville

street & number P. O. Box 1905

city, town Greenville vicinity of state North Carolina 27893

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pitt County Courthouse

street & number Third Street

city, town Greenville state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Greenville Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state N.C.

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James L. Fleming House stands on a large urban lot at the northeast corner of South Greene and West Third streets, some two blocks from the Pitt County Courthouse in Greenville. Designed by the Knoxville, Tennessee, architectural firm of Barber and Klutz, and constructed in 1901-1902 under the supervision of a local contractor, C. B. West, for James L. Fleming, the house is a significant surviving example of Queen Anne architecture. It was restored recently for use as the offices of the Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

A two-and-one-half-story frame residence, the James L. Fleming House encompasses approximately 3,400 square feet on the main two floors and rests on a stuccoed brick foundation. Built on an east-west axis on its flat lot, the structure features a central-hall, double-pile plan with a three-stage polygonal tower at the southeast corner, two-story polygonal bays on the facade and north and south elevations, and a one-story ell and two-story addition at the rear. Yellow and red flower chains and stars enliven the gray slate of the high hipped roof which covers the main portion of the house, extending to pedimented gables over the bays and a tent roof on the tower. Finials cap the tower and gable peaks.

The house is clad in plain weatherboard siding with staggered-butt wood shingles in the gable ends and on the tower's third stage. The main entrance consists of double leaf doors with glazed upper portions surrounded by beveled and stained glass transom and sidelights with paneled spandrels. One-over-one double hung sash windows are set in simple surrounds on the first two floors. Paired single light casement windows in the gables and three identical windows in the central shed dormer admit light to the half-story attic area. The two interior chimneys have paneled and corbeled stacks.

The property's most notable features are the elaborate cast iron supports, brackets, frieze and balustrade on the one-story wraparound porch, echoed in the cast iron fence outlining three sides of the lot. A standing seam metal roof with entrance gable covers the porch, a small section of which was enclosed on the south side and which was extended toward the rear on the north side for a handicapped ramp. A small curved plaque bearing the name "J. L. Fleming" ornaments each of the two cast-iron gates providing access to the property from the east and north.

The interior of the house was finished with plaster, although most rooms were wall-papered during the recent restoration work. Paneled wainscoting appears in the downstairs hall and dining room (the northwest first-floor room), and a spindled screen supported by turned posts frames the closed string stair which rises in one long and two short flights at the rear of the hall. Turned balusters and a simple hand rail extend from the heavy paneled newel post along the staircase and around the stair well on the second floor. The stairs to the attic consist of one flight with plain, square-in-section balusters.

The two first floor front rooms, flanking the hall, are entered through sliding five-paneled pocket doors set in molded surrounds with bulls eye corner blocks, a motif repeated on the doors and windows throughout the house. A variety of late Victorian mantels were used in the house, some having beveled glass mirrors, classical colonettes, and garland trim, others having turned and sawn elements. Although some of the original tiles have been replaced, a number of fire frames were retained, as was most of the house's original hardware. The rear ell, which served as the kitchen and butler's

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pantry, has beaded wainscoting; the former room is now an office, while the latter is a small kitchen. The two-story addition, which housed a bathroom on each floor, serves the same purpose today, as well as providing additional work space and a second-floor conference room.

When the James L. Fleming House was erected, the owner installed wiring for electricity and a water pump, even though these municipal services were not yet available, demonstrating the faith of James L. Fleming in the future of Greenville.

# 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 checked="" 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** 1901-1902

**Builder/Architect**

Architect: Barber & Klutz, Knoxville, TN  
 Builder: C. B. West

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The James L. Fleming House, designed by the architectural firm of Barber and Klutz and constructed for James L. Fleming in 1901-1902, is inextricably a part of the past, present, and future of Greenville. Built during the city's first major growth period, this fine example of the Queen Anne style of residential architecture, with its unusual cast-iron porch treatment, reflects the prosperity of the era and the status of rising middle class urban society. In 1907, the house became directly involved in the origin and establishment of East Carolina University, which has been largely responsible for Greenville's growth from a small, rural town to a major, thriving city. The James L. Fleming House symbolizes that transition and even pre-saged the evolution through installation of electrical wiring and a water pump some years before the municipal utilities were locally available. The City of Greenville now owns the house and has leased it to the Chamber of Commerce. Through use as a residence, association with one of the state's leading educational institutions, and home of a public service agency, the James L. Fleming House in Greenville continues to play an important role in the city's historical process.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the first major period of urban growth and prosperity in Greenville's history, 1880 to 1910;
- B. Associated with James L. Fleming, who was active in the political life of Pitt County and Greenville, serving as mayor of the city for several terms; as a member of the State Senate, he was instrumental in establishing the East Carolina Teachers' Training School (later East Carolina University) in Greenville;
- C. Associated with the Knoxville, Tennessee, architectural firm of Barber and Klutz who designed the house, and C. B. West, a local builder who supervised its construction; it is an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture with unusual cast iron porch details.

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The James L. Fleming House was constructed in 1901-1902 during the city of Greenville's first major growth period and reflects the rising prosperity of that era (1880-1910).<sup>1</sup> Under the constant prodding of progress-minded D. J. Whichard, editor of the Eastern Reflector, local capitalists began to invest in new businesses and improved construction. New brick buildings appeared downtown; modern residences, including those of more prosperous blacks, were built; the railroad reached Greenville in 1889; and the first tobacco auction warehouse was established in 1891. Between 1890 and 1900 the population nearly doubled, and while still a small town, Greenville was making rapid progress.<sup>2</sup>

During this period, James L. Fleming, a law graduate of the University of North Carolina, returned to Greenville to set up his practice. The people elected him as mayor soon thereafter, a position he held for several terms. In 1899 Fleming married Lula V. White, whose father gave a lot on the corner of Greene and Third streets to the couple as a wedding present.<sup>3</sup> Fleming commissioned the architectural firm of Barber and Klutz of Knoxville, Tennessee, to design a new home and hired local builder, C. B. West, to supervise the construction. The Flemings moved into their new house in the summer of 1902.<sup>4</sup>

James Leonidas Fleming (1867-1909) was active in the political life of Greenville and Pitt County, promoting progressive ideas such as city electricity and water works. Confident that service utilities in Greenville were just a matter of time, he insisted that electrical wiring and a water pump be installed in his house when it was being constructed. Though a Mason, Pythian, Odd Fellow, member of the Board of Education and organizer of the Carolina Club, Fleming's crowning achievement came during his second consecutive term in the State Senate.<sup>5</sup> In 1907 he introduced a bill to establish and maintain a normal school in eastern North Carolina to be called East Carolina Teachers' Training School.<sup>6</sup> The bill passed and, along with former governor Thomas Jarvis, Fleming secured the location at Greenville. The school grew into East Carolina University; because many of the planning sessions were held there, the Fleming home was related directly to the establishment of one of the state's foremost institutions of higher learning.<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately, Fleming's enjoyment of his home and the school he had helped create was brief. On November 5, 1909, exactly a month after the school opened its doors to students, Fleming died in a tragic automobile accident just outside Greenville.<sup>8</sup> He left a wife with three children under ten years of age.

Lula White Fleming continued to live in the house next door to the Memorial Baptist Church where she had been married and where she served as organist for thirty-four years. Two of the children, Louise and James, Jr., eventually moved out but daughter Margaret remained to care for her mother, even after her marriage to Dr. John Winstead, a surgeon. By the mid 1960s, the Baptist Church had acquired the entire block, except for the Fleming lot, and planned to build a large memorial to the Baptist State Convention which had been founded in Greenville in 1830. Lula Fleming deeded the lot and house to the church with two provisions, a life estate for herself and Margaret, and the ironwork surrounding the house was not to be included. That became the property of James, Jr.<sup>9</sup>

Lula Fleming died in 1967 at age eighty-nine. Margaret and John Winstead continued to live in the house under the terms of the life estate agreement. Meanwhile, the Baptist Church had decided not to remain in the downtown area and had sold the old Fleming lot, with the estate covenant, to the city of Greenville. Upon Margaret Winstead's death in

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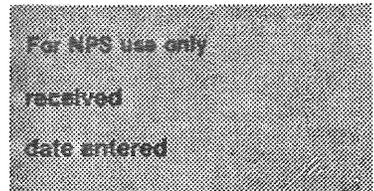
1980, the city assumed an unencumbered title to the property. About a month later, Dr. John Winstead moved out and the city council began formulating plans for use of the structure.<sup>10</sup>

The Chamber of Commerce expressed interest in the house but legal complications initially blocked pursuit of their plans. With legislative help from the General Assembly the path was cleared and the Chamber signed a twenty-five year lease for the house and lot. Deterioration had taken its toll over the years and plans to restore the house to its original appearance were announced. Accordingly, James L. Fleming, Jr., placed the ironwork on permanent loan to the city so that it would not have to be removed from the property.<sup>11</sup> Restoration work was completed in late 1982, and the house was dedicated on December 16, 1982.

Historically, it seems appropriate that the city should be the owner of the structure because of the close association both have had with East Carolina University. Greenville was a small rural town when James L. Fleming began his campaign for a teachers' training school. As the school evolved into a full fledged university, Greenville grew into a major city. The James L. Fleming House prophesied such growth for its construction anticipated the facilities of a modern city. And with its unusual wrought-iron porch treatment, it is a significant surviving example of the Queen Anne style of residential architecture which figured so prominently in the building patterns of communities undergoing rapid urbanization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as one of two major styles adopted by members of the rising middle class as symbols of their growing prosperity and influence. Many, like the James L. Fleming House, were built in close proximity to the central business district; fortunately, it has not suffered the fate that has befallen most--demolition as urban pressures radiated from the community's core. It remains as a visible symbol of transition, linking the past, present, and future together with an unbroken thread of historical continuity.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Thomas A. Williams (ed.), The Bicentennial Book: A Greenville Album (Greenville: Era Press, 1974), 14, 17-18, hereinafter cited as Williams, Greenville Album; and James L. Fleming, Jr., "A Historic Glimpse of the James L. Fleming Homestead at the Corner of Third and Greene Streets in Greenville, North Carolina" (Typescript, 1980), 1, hereinafter cited as Fleming, "A Historic Glimpse." For general urban development during the period, see Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973), 512, 513, 576.

<sup>2</sup>Williams, Greenville Album, 17-18; Henry T. King, Sketches of Pitt County (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1911), 186, 188, 196, hereinafter cited as King, Sketches of Pitt County; and Bill Sharpe, A New Geography of North Carolina (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 4 volumes, 1954-1965), II, 998, hereinafter cited as Sharpe, A New Geography.

<sup>3</sup>Fleming, "A Historic Glimpse," 1; and Pitt County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville, Deed Book U6, p. 94.

<sup>4</sup>Fleming, "A Historic Glimpse," 1. Fleming has the contracts and blueprints in his possession.

<sup>5</sup>King, Sketches of Pitt County, 246; Fleming, "A Historic Glimpse," 3-4; and John L. Cheney, Jr. (ed.), North Carolina Government, 1585-1974 (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 482, 484.

<sup>6</sup>Public Laws and Resolutions of North Carolina, 1907, ch. 820, ss. 11-19; and /North Carolina/ Senate Journal, 1907, p. 166, S.B. 412. See also William S. Powell, Higher Education in North Carolina (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1964), 19-20, hereinafter cited as Powell, Higher Education.

<sup>7</sup>Fleming, "A Historic Glimpse," 6.

<sup>8</sup>King, Sketches of Pitt County, 246; and Powell, Higher Education, 20.

<sup>9</sup>Information on Lula White Fleming and the Memorial Baptist Church taken from Researcher's interview with James L. Fleming, Jr., October 13, 1982, hereinafter cited as Fleming interview.

<sup>10</sup>Fleming interview.

<sup>11</sup>Fleming interview.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Greenville SW

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	8	2	8	4	8	7	10	3	9	4	3	4	4	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached tax map. Property 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 Architectural description: Allison B. Harris, Survey Specialist  
Significance: Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

organization Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section  
Division of Archives & History date February 1983

street & number 109 East Jones St. telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 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. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

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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\_\_\_\_\_. Interview by Jerry L. Cross, October 13, 1982.

King, Henry T. Sketches of Pitt County. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1911.

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Albert Ray Newsome. The History of a Southern State: North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1973.

/North Carolina/ Senate Journal, 1907. State Archives, Raleigh.

Pitt County Deed Books. Pitt County Courthouse, Greenville.

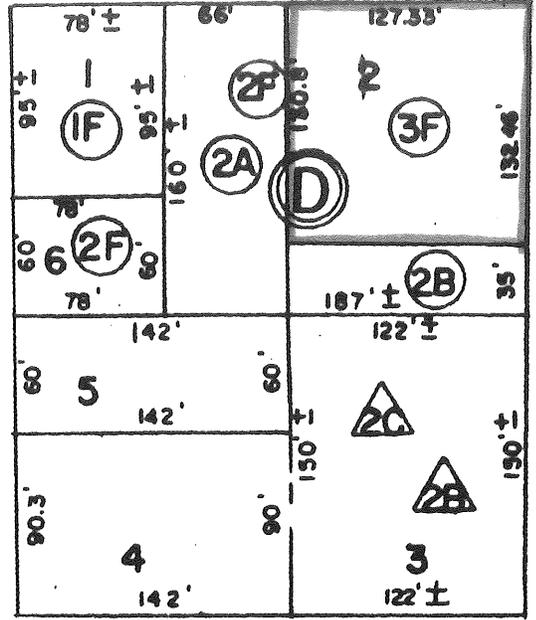
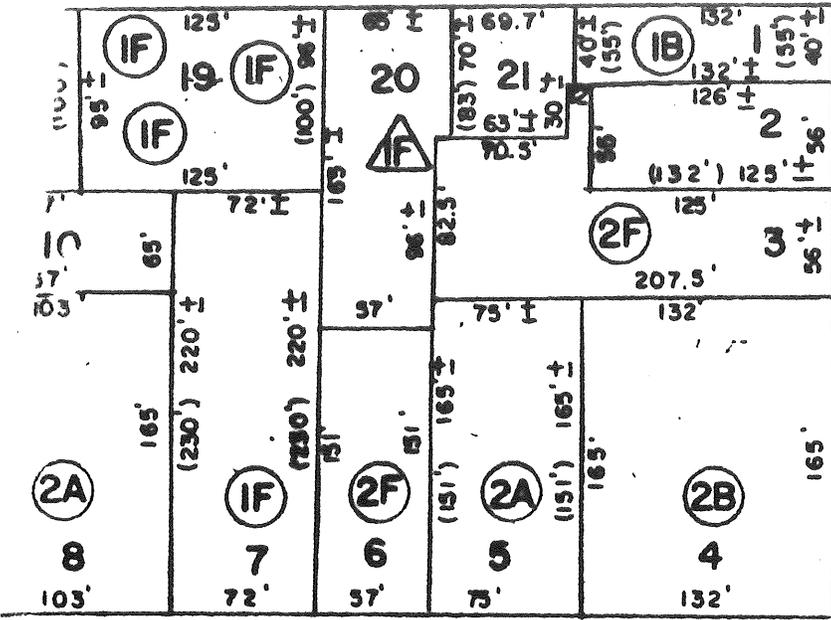
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Public Laws and Resolutions of North Carolina, 1907. State Archives, Raleigh.

Sharpe, Bill. A New Geography of North Carolina. 4 vols. Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1954-1965. Vol. II, 991-1012.

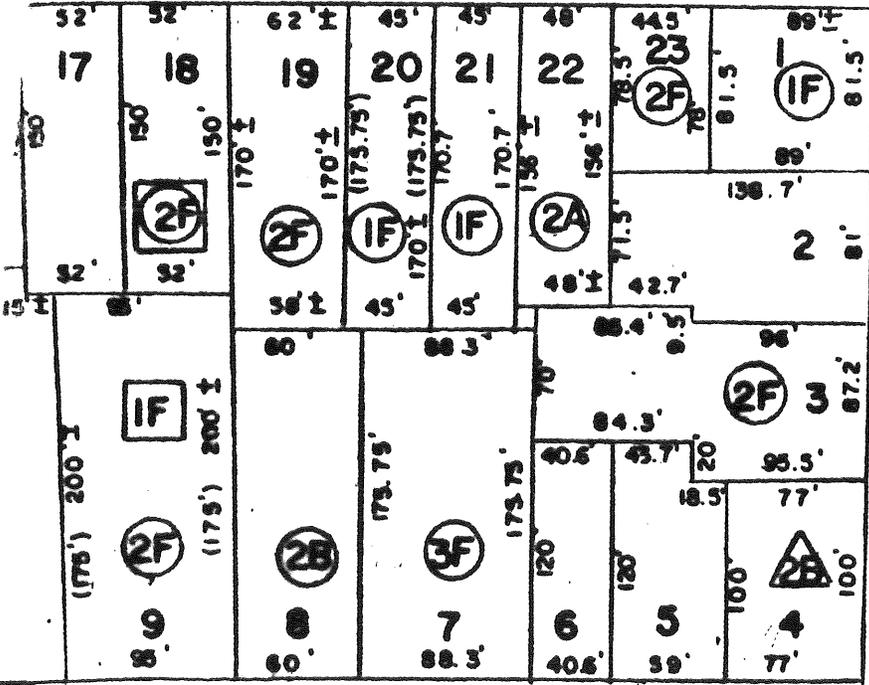
Williams, Thomas A., ed. The Bicentennial Book: A Greenville Album. Greenville: Era Press, 1974.

THIRD STREET

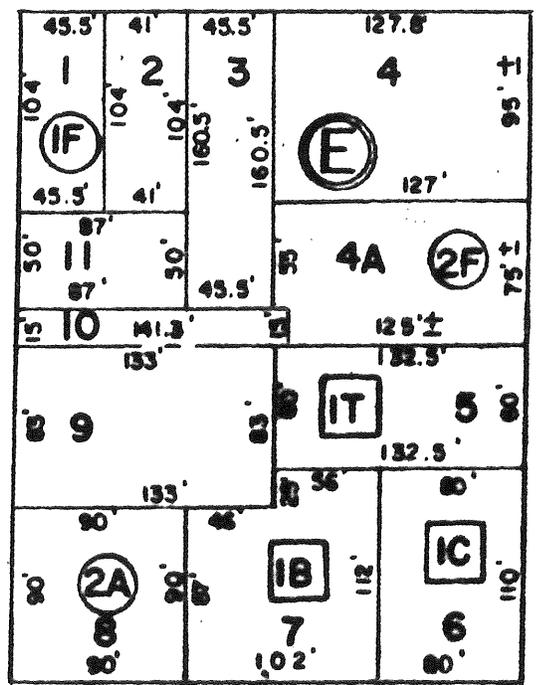


STREET

STREET

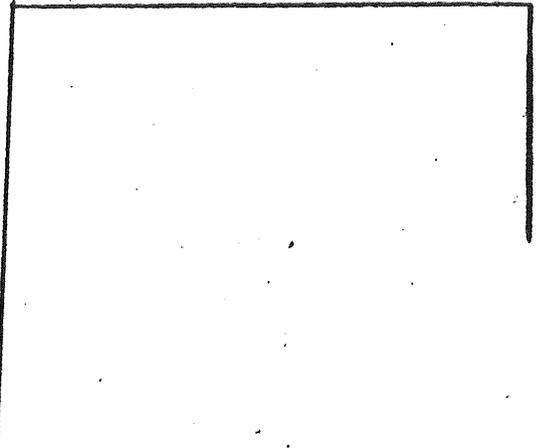
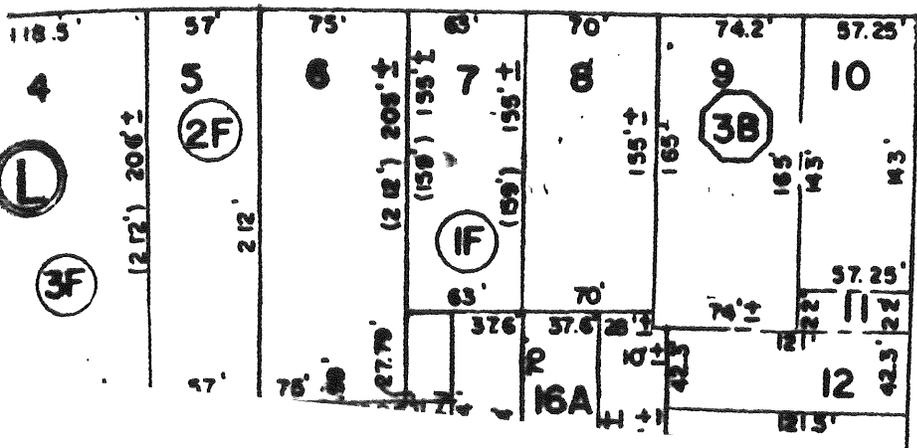


STREET



GREENE

STREET



NORTH CAROLINA-PITT CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 WINTERVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

2 480 000 FEET

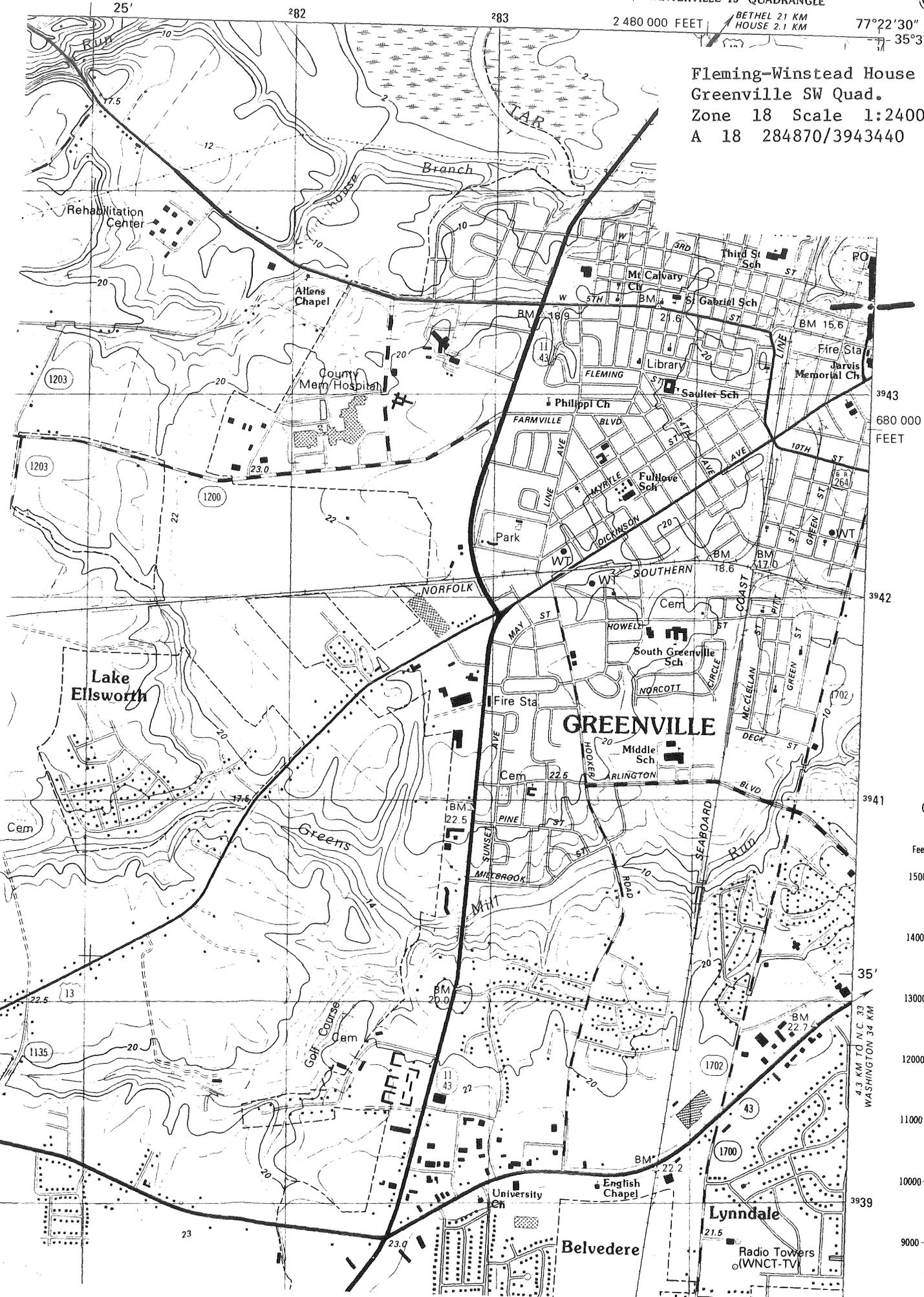
BETHEL 21 KM  
HOUSE 2.1 KM

77°22'30"

35°37'30"

5555 III A  
GREENVILLE

Fleming-Winstead House  
Greenville SW Quad.  
Zone 18 Scale 1:24000  
A 18 284870/3943440



CONVERSION SCALES

