

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Odd Fellows Building

other names/site number Commerce Building

2. Location

street & number 19 West Hargett St. ☐ not for publication

city or town Raleigh ☐ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

Odd Fellows Building
Name of Property

Wake/North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
1	

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century

American Movements/Skyscraper

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals/
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof OTHER: built-up

other STONE/Limestone

TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Odd Fellows Building
Name of Property

Wake/North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

n/a

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

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

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923 - 1947

Significant Dates

1923-1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Preacher, G. Lloyd and Co., architect

Beaman, John E. Construction Co.,

Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Odd Fellows Building

Name of Property

Wake/North Carolina

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .15

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	7	1	3	3	2	0	3	9	6	1	6	8	0
	Zone			Easting					Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone			Easting					Northing						
4															

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth P. Thomas/Consultant

organization date June 20, 1997

street & number 3628 Lubbock Drive telephone 919-881-0362

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27612

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Commerce Building LLC c/o Mr. William R. Horton

street & number Suite 512, 19 W. Hargett St. telephone 919-833-7289

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Odd Fellows Building
Wake County, N.C.

7. Narrative Description

The 1923-1924 Odd Fellows Building, more recently known as the Commerce Building, stands on the southeast corner of West Hargett and South Salisbury streets in downtown Raleigh, a relatively compact business district composed of governmental, commercial and office buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth through late-twentieth centuries. The ten-story, steel and masonry building is a simple yet handsome example of classic skyscraper design, featuring the characteristic base, shaft, and capital, with Neoclassical decorative elements.

The exterior of the Odd Fellows Building is clad in cream-colored brick and limestone block, accented with terra cotta ornamentation. The structure is seven bays wide and five bays deep. All windows above the second floor on the north (main) and west facades were replaced during renovations begun in 1982 with bronzed aluminum, one-over-one sash which replicate the size and configuration of the original wooden sash windows. On the second floor of these facades are three-part windows consisting of a one-over-one sash flanked by narrower one-over-one sidelights. These windows were also replaced with bronzed aluminum replicas of the originals. Ornamentation is limited to the north and west facades; the south (rear) facade has asymmetrically placed windows in a plain, red brick wall and the east facade is a party wall with the eleven-story Raleigh Building (NR 1993).

The two-story base of the structure features divided plate glass between two-story pilasters on the ground floor. The windows and asymmetrically placed double glass doors (ca. 1986) are separated from the second story by horizontal, decorative terra cotta panels with a simple circular ornament. Fourteen pilasters, each consisting of two slightly raised columns with capitals, support an entablature with a simple architrave, frieze and cornice with block modillions. Of interest are the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) symbols which appear at the top of each pilaster between the capitals. Included here are such symbols as an all-seeing eye, an ax, and a serpent, all of which relate to the Order's tenets of love, friendship, and truth. A handsome cornerstone on the northwest corner of the north facade reads "I.O.O.F. TEMPLE 1923-1924" and includes the IOOF official symbol of three connected chain links.

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Odd Fellows Building
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Composing the shaft stage of this skyscraper are the third through eighth floors. The entire section is clad in brick laid in a stretcher bond. Window surrounds on the third floor are terra cotta and there is a projecting terra cotta stringcourse above them. Beginning on the fourth floor, the windows exhibit brick headers and sills and are flanked by outlined brick panels which give the appearance of pilasters. The transition from shaft to capital is indicated by an entablature composed of a narrow architrave with cable molding, a simple frieze, and a denticulated cornice. Centered in the frieze, between the eighth and ninth floors, is a terra cotta IOOF crest.

The ninth and tenth floors compose the capital, the most decorated of the three stages. Here, two-story Corinthian columnettes and pilasters flank the windows. The building is crowned on the north and west sides by a Corinthian entablature. The architrave features fascia and Cyma reversa, a plain frieze, and a decorative cornice with egg and dart molding, modillions, dentils, fascia, Cyma recta and cresting.

Originally accessed by number 15, the modern entry into the building is at 19 West Hargett Street. An on-going renovation of the interior, begun in 1982, has replaced original finishes throughout the building with modern materials such as dropped accoustical tile ceilings and six-panel doors. Original interior finishes were simple, including plain board window and door surrounds, chairrails and simply molded picture rails. Grilled transoms topped interior wood and glass doors and hanging, glass globe light fixtures lit interior spaces. The hallways remain as originally configured, as does a functional stair located beside the lobby elevators.

The main lobby was completely remodeled in 1986. New elevators were installed in the original shaft; modern light fixtures and pink marble floors and walls were also installed at that time. Except for replacement of the windows, the exterior has seen only a cleaning and repointing of the masonry.

Integrity Statement

The Odd Fellows Building retains its historic exterior character and has continued in its original primary use as office space since its construction. As is true of many early twentieth-century office/commercial buildings, it has been necessary to make interior changes to allow for the continued profitable use of the building in modern business. The installation of dropped ceilings and replacement of doors and windows are typical of the types of changes which have occurred in

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Odd Fellows Building
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other of Raleigh's early twentieth-century office buildings, including the Raleigh Building (NR, 1993) and the Professional Building (NR 1983). The Odd Fellows Building retains a high degree of exterior architectural integrity; the primary change being the replacement of original windows with modern materials which replicate the configuration and size of the originals. Its notable decorative elements remain intact and distinctive. The Odd Fellows Building retains overall integrity as a well-detailed 1920s skyscraper still functioning in its primary original use.

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Odd Fellows Building
Wake County, N.C.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The 1923-1924 Odd Fellows Building is significant as a substantial, well-detailed, Neoclassical skyscraper constructed in the classic, or Chicago school, design formula in which the building is modeled after the base, shaft, and capital of a column. It is one of a group of skyscrapers surviving of its type built in downtown Raleigh beginning in 1908, but especially during the city's boom growth in the 1920s. Among these are the 1908 Masonic Temple (NR, 1979), the 1923 Professional Building (NR, 1983) and the 1924 Raleigh Building (NR, 1993). The Odd Fellows Building was designed by one of the South's most successful architectural and engineering firms, G. Lloyd Preacher and Co., and is one of only two buildings surviving in the state by the company (the other is the Cape Fear Hotel, Wilmington). The structure is also significant for its association with the Odd Fellows, a popular fraternal organization for men in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries which provided kinship and support for its members and which supported a large orphan's home in the state for many years. The Odd Fellows erected the building and rented offices to professional tenants, using the rental income to endow the orphanage. The top floor was utilized as a temple by the fraternal group. The Odd Fellows Building occupies a prominent corner location in central Raleigh and remains an important vestige of the city's past in the fast-changing downtown area.

Architectural Context

The Odd Fellows Building is a handsome Neoclassical commercial building exhibiting the classic, or Chicago school, design formula. This style of skyscraper architecture was begun in the 1880s in Chicago by Louis Sullivan and remained popular nationally through the 1940s. Its design premise is that the structure is modeled in three distinct sections after the parts of a classical column, with the first one or two stories composing the base; the middle stories, the shaft; and the ornamented upper floor, the capital. Each section is clearly delineated through the use of different materials, the degree of decoration, and often through specific demarcations such as string courses or cornices.

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Several notable examples of the type were constructed in Raleigh between 1908 and 1930; the earliest is the seven-story, 1908 Masonic Temple (NR 1979), the state's first concrete and steel building. Other early examples included the ten-story, 1913 Commercial National Bank, a richly detailed Gothic Revival building which was imploded in 1991, and the 1914 Citizens National Bank, a classical eleven-story skyscraper which also did not survive. The Odd Fellows Building, the Sir Walter Hotel (NR 1978) and the Professional Building (NR 1983) all range from nine to ten stories tall and were constructed 1923-1924; their finishes are Neoclassical, with a variety of ornamentation which includes carved stone, decorated cornices, Ionic capitals, pilasters, and various moldings.

The design of the Odd Fellows Building was conceived by one of the South's most prolific architectural and engineering firms, G. Lloyd Preacher and Co. Preacher (1882-1972) was a South Carolina native and graduate of Clemson College (now University) in engineering and architecture. His specialty was institutional building design and he worked in cities throughout the South. Preacher established his firm in Atlanta in 1922 and in 1923 opened his first out-of-state office in Raleigh. The Cape Fear Hotel in Wilmington (1924) and the Odd Fellows Building (1923-1924) are his only two extant buildings in North Carolina.

Historical Background

Secret fraternal societies have existed in the United States since at least the mid-eighteenth century, founded primarily to provide kinship, economic support, and charity for their members. These organizations, with memberships numbering over two million by the late nineteenth century, are credited with having a significant impact on American society through the teaching of democratic and moral values, and the support of charitable endeavors (Schmidt, p. 4). The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was first established in the United States in 1819 in Baltimore and was partnered with a fraternal order in England until 1842. Known as the "poor man's masonry" because it had neither the influence, wealth, numbers, or antiquity of Masonic lodges, the IOOF nevertheless became a popular and respected fraternal order in the United States with a wide following in the nineteenth century (Whalen, p. 118). Founded on the tenets of love, friendship, and truth, the IOOF was the first American fraternal order to offer members

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financial benevolence for its sick and distressed, for orphans of its members, and for the burial of deceased members (Schmidt, p. 244).

The charter of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina was granted by the (Supreme) Grand Lodge at its session in 1842 and was instituted on January 6, 1843 in Wilmington (HDC, p. 4). Raleigh's two local lodges, the Manteo Lodge No. 8 and the Seaton Gales Lodge No. 64, were established in 1846 and 1870, respectively. Between 1871 and the 1880s the Raleigh area Odd Fellows rented office space in various downtown buildings, lacking a facility of their own (Vickers, p. 104).

A movement began in 1888 in Wilmington's Cape Fear Lodge to establish and support an orphan's home; this was consistent with the Order's founding purposes and its focus on benevolence. The Grand Lodge supported the idea and in 1891 voted to build the facility in Goldsboro. Construction was completed by 1892, when the first children were admitted to the "Odd Fellows Orphan Home." The facility proved popular, with the population of residents increasing to 137 by 1909. In order to raise funds to support the home, the orphans were divided into groups and sent on statewide tours competing with one another for their sustenance at the orphanage. Occasionally the children performed at the annual meetings of the Grand Lodge (HDC, p. 4). By 1914 the population of orphans had overwhelmed the facility. Repairs and improvements were a continuing problem, and other commitments stretched the budget for running the home (HDC, p. 4).

The end of World War I brought a period of boom growth and prosperity to Raleigh. Distribution functions already in place since early in the century expanded in the warehouse districts and outward along emerging transportation arteries. A massive civic improvements campaign vastly upgraded roads, electricity and water systems. Governmental and educational institutions expanded as well, drawing more workers into the urban core. Office space downtown increased apace and, during the first forty years of the twentieth century, many of the older commercial structures would be razed to permit construction of newer and larger structures, including the multi-story skyscrapers which so came to symbolize Raleigh's prosperity (Ross, pp. 22-23). This extremely favorable economic climate made it possible for the Seaton Gales Lodge to undertake to increase its endowment funds to improve the orphanage. The result of the

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Odd Fellows Building
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successful campaign was a decision to build a permanent temple for the use of the Raleigh Odd Fellows, combined with a sorely needed, well-located office building which could be rented to professional clientele and the proceeds invested into the orphanage. Local civic leader and IOOF member Edgar A. Womble became Secretary of a building committee which selected the block of 11-19 West Hargett Street for the building site. Womble also led the committee in selecting G. Lloyd Preacher and Co. as the project architect. Preacher, himself a member of various fraternal orders, was well-known throughout the south for his work on institutional buildings. The mortgage bonds were handled by the prominent Atlanta financing firm of G.L. Miller and Company (HDC, p. 5).

The Odd Fellows Building was completed in the spring of 1924 and dedicated with great fanfare on May 20, 1924. The laying of the cornerstone ceremony highlighted the rituals and symbolism of the IOOF. The handsomely carved stone carried the IOOF emblem of three chain links, symbolizing the three degrees of the Order: Friendship, Love, and Truth (Schmidt, p. 245).

The Odd Fellows leased the 115 offices to professional clientele and held meetings in the top two floors of the building through the early 1980s. However, membership in the group had begun to dwindle, as had the number of orphans at the orphanage. In 1970 the home was closed and sold to developers for a shopping center. The Raleigh lodges began to suffer as the city's limits expanded and members found it too inconvenient to drive downtown to the old building (HDC, p. 6). The building was sold in 1981 to a development group and again several years later to an out-of-state investor. Between 1982 and 1986 the building underwent the first stages of complete interior renovation. In 1997 the current owners, a partnership, acquired the building and are currently completing renovation of offices. The first level remains a combination of commercial and office uses. The handsome building contributes significantly to the city's historic downtown streetscape and remains an important vestige of Raleigh's early growth and development.

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9. Bibliography

Raleigh Historic District Commission, Inc. "Raleigh Historic Landmark Designation Application and Report," City of Raleigh, North Carolina. October, 1993. (Cited in footnotes as HDC)

Ross, Helen Patricia. "Raleigh Comprehensive Architectural Survey Final Report." North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, June 4, 1992.

Schmidt, Alvin J. The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions - Fraternal Organizations. Greenwood Press, 1980.

Vickers, James. Raleigh City of Oaks: An Illustrated History. Windsor Publications, 1982.

Whalen, William J. The Handbook of Secret Organizations. Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, 1966.

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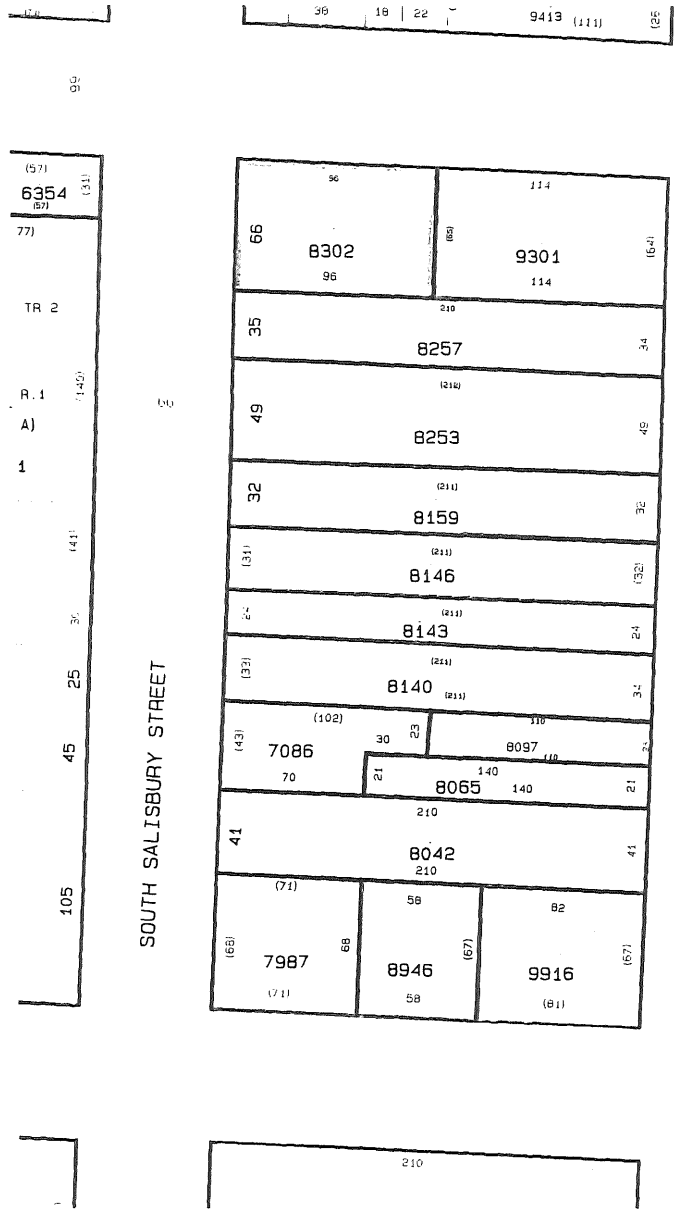
10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, at the southeast corner of the intersection of South Salisbury and West Hargett Streets, measures 96.50 feet east and west by 66.00 feet north and south. The boundary is delineated on the attached Wake County GIS map #PUB1, drawn to a scale of 1" = 95'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the property historically associated with the 1923-'1924 Odd Fellows Building.



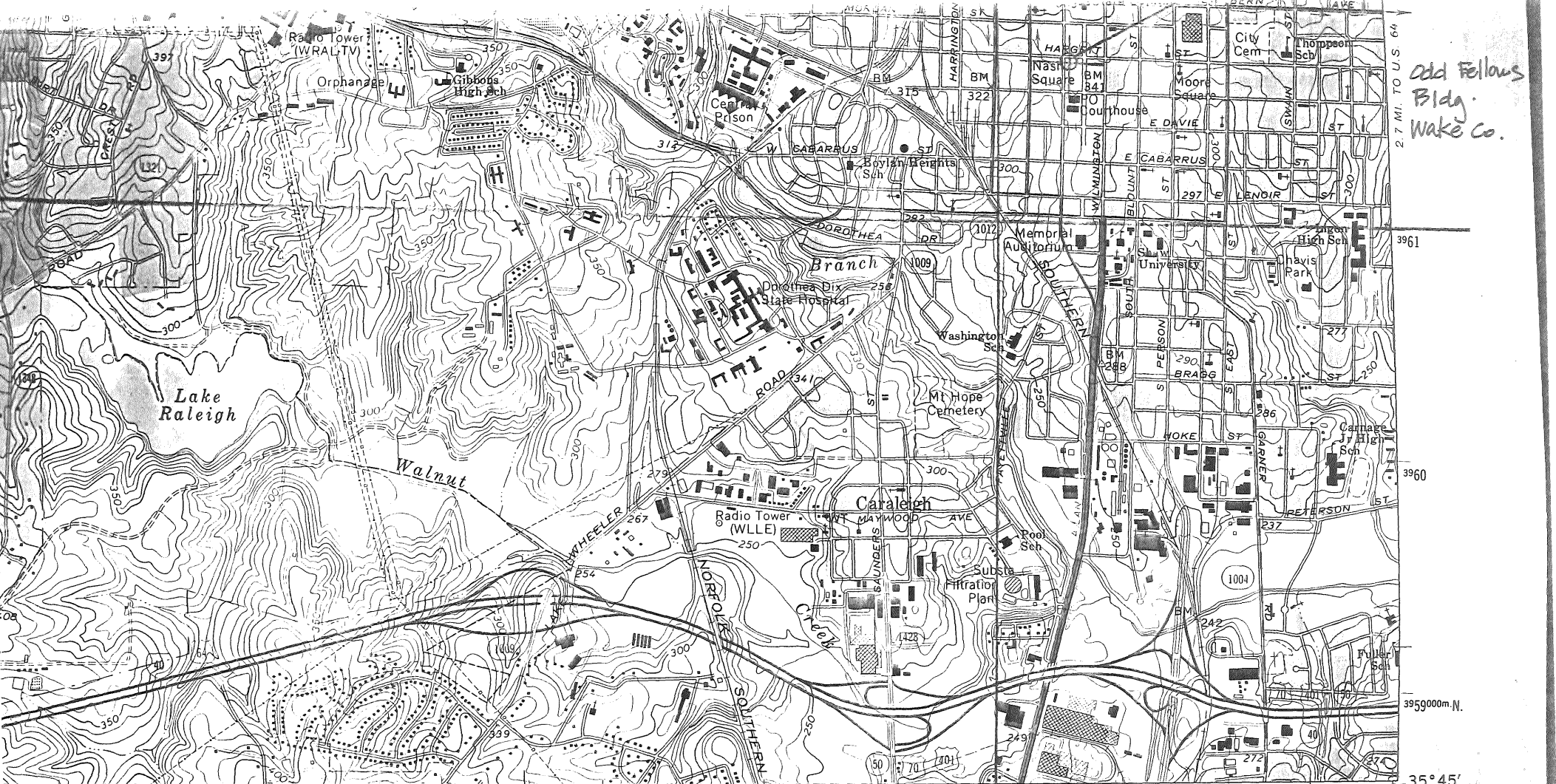
Wake
County

ODD FELLOWS
BUILDING
19 W. Hargett
Street
Raleigh/Wake

Information depicted herein is for reference
purposes only, and is compiled from the best
available sources. Wake County assumes no
responsibility for errors arising from the
misuse of this map.

Scale: 1"=95'
Name: GISPU81
Date: 05/19/97





(LAKE WHEELER)
5255 11 NW
SCALE 1:24 000
0 1 MILE
0 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
0 1 KILOMETER

OUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
METRIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
O 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
WHICH MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with
State of North Carolina agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984
and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1987

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1991
RALEIGH AIRPORT 1.1 MI. 714000m E.
PAYETTEVILLE 57 MI.
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
35° 45'
78° 37' 30"

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

RALEIGH WEST, N. C.

SW/4 RALEIGH 15' QUADRANGLE

35078-G6-TF-024

PHOTOINSPECTED 1988
1968

PHOTOREVISED 1987

DMA 5255 1 SW—SERIES V842

Odd Fellows
Bldg.
Wake Co.



