

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 Fuquay Springs Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

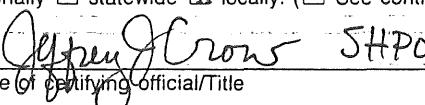
street & number South Main, East Spring and South Fuquay Sts. n/a  not for publication

city or town Fuquay-Varina n/a  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27526

**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

10/16/96  
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 commenting 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Fuquay Springs Historic District  
Name of Property

Wake, North Carolina  
County and State

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	27	7
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		28	7
			Total

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

"Historic and Architectural Resources of  
Wake County, NC (c.1770-1941)"

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ secondary structure  
COMMERCE/TRADE/ department store  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE/ natural feature

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/ multiple dwelling  
RELIGION/ religious facility  
LANDSCAPE/ natural feature

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Queen Anne  
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival  
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS/ Bungalow/ Craftsman

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
WOOD/ Weatherboard  
roof ASPHALT  
other BRICK  
WOOD

#### Narrative Description

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

## 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:

- 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):**

- 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)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

### **Period of Significance**

Ca. 1899-1946

### **Significant Dates**

1899

1908

1909

### **Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

### **Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

### **Architect/Builder**

Hairr, A. Y.

### **Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Fuquay Springs Historic District  
Name of Property

Wake, North Carolina  
County and State

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property app. 12

##### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	6	9	9	3	6	0	3	9	3	9	5	3	0	0
Zone	Easting	Northing														
2	1	7	6	9	9	3	7	0	3	9	3	9	4	1	0	

3	1	7	6	9	9	3	0	0	3	9	3	9	3	6	0	0
Zone	Easting	Northing														
4	1	7	6	9	9	4	4	0	3	9	3	9	3	0	0	

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

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 26, 1996

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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Wake County, North Carolina

### 7. Description

Architectural Classification - OTHER/Early 20th century commercial

Materials - walls: SYNTHETICS/Vinyl  
walls: METAL/Aluminum  
roof: METAL/Tin

### 8. Significant Dates - ca. 1900

ca. 1910  
ca. 1912  
ca. 1914  
ca. 1920  
ca. 1925  
ca. 1930

### 10. UTM References - 5. 17 699620 3939380

6. 17 699620 3939470  
7. 17 699510 3939560  
8. 17 699470 3939580

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Fuquay Springs HD  
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### General Physical Description

The Fuquay Springs Historic District is a compact, roughly five-block area in Fuquay-Varina, a small southern Wake County town. South Main Street (US 401), a two-lane thoroughfare, delineates the western edge of the district. The western boundary of the district is anchored by the critically important Fuquay Mineral Spring, the development of which in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century was responsible for the growth of the adjacent residential area which is the core of the historic district. The north, south and eastern boundaries are formed by the property lines of resources representing the major development of the area between ca. 1910 and 1946. Adjacent to the district to the south, east, and west are non-contributing residential fabric; to the north lies a non-contributing commercial area.

The topography of the neighborhood ranges from gently rolling along South Main Street to flat throughout the rest of the district. Lots, in general, are large and shaded with mature trees; a number of yards are delineated with concrete or stone boundary walls. In contrast, the Fuquay Mineral Spring property is heavily wooded. Streets are laid out in a grid pattern. Properties along the 400 block of South Main are set very close to the sidewalk; setbacks vary somewhat throughout the rest of the district.

The historic district is predominantly residential (the Varina Mercantile Building and the Fuquay Mineral Spring are the only non-residential properties). As a collection the resources maintain integrity of design, setting, scale and materials. Only twenty percent (seven of thirty-five total resources) of the properties are non-contributing; of these, only three are major resources and four are secondary structures.

Architecturally distinctive in the district of primarily one- and two-story frame and brick houses are the two-story, brick **Varina Mercantile Building (#4)**, the **Ballentine-Spence (#14)** and the **Walter H. Aiken (#19)** houses, both significant examples of Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residences; and the **J.E. Howard House (#22)**, one of three large Craftsman bungalows in the district. The significant resources are all executed in traditional and widely popular residential styles of the early-twentieth century which are found in small town neighborhoods throughout Wake County and the state. Of prevalence within the district are Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles, with common distinguishing characteristics including simple trim and finishes, exposed rafter ends, gable brackets and porches with tapered square posts on brick piers, among

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others. Fifteen of the residences are frame, three are brick. A variety of stone retaining walls and small, frame outbuildings largely contemporary with the residences also characterize the district.

### **Inventory**

Resources within the Fuquay Springs Historic District were identified during a comprehensive survey of Wake County, conducted by Kelly Lally between 1989-1991. The files from the survey are part of the collection at the Survey and Planning Branch, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office.

The inventory list progresses north-to-south on the east side of West Main St. with the exception of Fuquay Springs (3) on the southwest corner of Renalds Dr. and S. Main St. From its most southern point on S. Main St. the list is arranged west-to-east, on the south side of Spring St., then west-to-east on the north side. The list concludes south-to-north on the east side of S. Fuquay Ave., and north-to-south on the west side.

C = Contributing

N = Non-contributing

S & P = Survey and Planning Branch files

NR = National Register files

Lally = Wake County Inventory

### **300 Block South Main Street, East Side**

1. C Ben-Wiley Hotel  
331 S. Main St.  
1925, ca. 1935

Occupying a prominent landscaped, double lot at the northwest corner of the historic district, the Ben-Wiley Hotel is a 1925 Craftsman style building clad in plain weatherboard, with a high hip roof and exposed, shaped rafter ends. Its eight-over-eight, double-hung sash windows, simply corbelled exterior chimneys, and finished-board wooden door and window surrounds and sills are

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all original exterior features. The hotel was originally composed of a two-story main block and a two-story rear section, both covered with widely overhanging, intersecting gable roofs. In the 1930s the north side of the building was extended with a one-story dining room addition; this necessitated the enclosure of the north end of the original full-facade front porch. Also at this time, a one-story, flat-roofed kitchen addition was made to the rear (east) elevation. In 1947 further changes were made when the building was converted into apartments, including the erection of exterior stairs to the second level on both the north and south elevations and the enclosure of the south end of the front porch. However, these alterations were largely sympathetic to the character of the original building.

The interior plan of the building is irregular; some spaces were reconfigured during the 1947 apartment conversion. However, original trimwork, doors, fireplaces, and the straight-run, open string stair with a molded handrail and square newel all remain. The hotel, built by Dr. Wiley Cozart, was used by visitors to the local mineral spring through the early 1930s. It is one of only two hotels to remain (the other is the Barham Hotel) and is considered to be the more intact and well-preserved of the two. (Lally, S&P)

1a. N This modern storage barn stands at the northeast rear corner of the property.

2. C Dr. Wiley Cozart House  
333 S. Main St.  
Ca. 1927, 1936

This brick Colonial Revival house occupying the prominent corner of South Main and East Spring streets was constructed ca. 1927 for Dr. Wiley Cozart, owner of the Ben-Wiley Hotel next door. The high hip roof, pedimented front entry with fluted columns, broad eaves and quoins which distinguish this brick house are all trademarks of the Colonial Revival style. The interior of the house underwent an extensive renovation in 1937 which included the application of heavy plaster cornices in the formal areas, the installation of fluted columns at the base of the open string stair, the enclosure of a side porch, and the addition of an upstairs bedroom.

According to Dr. Wiley Cozart, son of the original owner, the house was built by local builder A.Y. Hairr, who constructed a number of prominent homes in Fuquay Springs during the 1920s and 1930s. Contributing to the significance of the property is a mature landscape with several especially notable large magnolias. (Lally, S&P).

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- 2a. C Contemporary with the house, this attractive frame gazebo is enclosed with lattice on three sides and open to a dry-laid stone fireplace standing on a stone patio. The gazebo features a pyramidal roof, exposed rafter ends, and round Ionic columns.
- 2b. N This garage and attached two-level apartment were built ca. 1980 on the site of the original garage.

### 400 block South Main Street, West side

3. C Fuquay Mineral Spring (National Register, 1986)  
Southwest corner of the intersection of South Main, West Spring Street and Renaids Drive  
Ca. 1901

Originally an open pavilion (1908) and a gazebo (1901) over the spring itself stood on this heavily-wooded property, a site of importance to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century development of Fuquay Springs. Discovered ca. 1850 and developed in the first decades of the twentieth century, the spring's popularity as a health resort brought thousands of visitors through the late 1920s. By the early 1930s, the appeal of such places was eclipsed by other social and resort activities. Fuquay Spring ceased to operate as a resort around 1933. The pavilion, where visitors danced and socialized, was demolished in 1943. The gazebo still stands, retaining only its original posts. The roof, picket fence, and concrete floor date to a 1980s rehabilitation project.

### 400 Block of South Main Street, East side

4. C Varina Mercantile Building (Bailentine's General Merchandise Store)  
401 S. Main Street  
1899

This prominent two-story brick commercial building housed Varina Mercantile from 1899 until ca. 1949. Owned and operated by William M., J.D. "Squire", and Joe Ballentine, the store supplied a variety of farm equipment, building supplies and furnishings. Ballentine later operated an undertaker business in the building as well. The three-bay facade features a stepped-parapet

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roof, nicely corbelled cornice, patterned brickwork and segmental arches over fifteen-light windows. An early-twentieth century documentary photo of the store shows it to have canopies and recessed entries flanked by plate glass display windows: these have been covered with vertical wood siding in recent years. However, the upper floor retains architectural integrity. The building is presently occupied by the Needmore Fellowship Baptist Bible Church. (S&P, Lally)

5. C House  
409 S. Main St.  
Ca. 1920

The construction of this simple one-story bungalow on a full raised brick basement is attributed by local tradition to Joe Ballentine. Battered porch posts on brick piers and a simple porch balustrade are its primary characteristics. It is unusually oriented with its main elevation overlooking a below-grade side yard. (Lally, S&P)

6. N House  
413 S. Main St.  
Ca. 1910

Little is known about this simple one-story, frame house. Tax records indicate that it was built ca. 1910 and remodeled ca. 1987; substantive changes appear to include a new roof and siding, and a replacement porch. Like its neighbor at 409 S. Main, this house is oriented southward instead of towards the street. (Lally, S&P)

7. C Barham Hotel  
415 S. Main St.  
Ca. 1908

Local tradition dates this building to the turn of the century; the 1908 Morson Map indicates a structure on the site in 1908. Certainly, the Barham was one of several early hotels and boarding houses built in Fuquay Springs to serve visitors to the mineral springs. The two-story, Triple A main block of the building has a large, two-story rear ell. The four-bay front facade features four-over-four sash windows and a central gable with an octagonal vent. The first floor facade has been altered with two separate entrances flanked by windows; this likely occurred when the

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building was converted into apartments in recent years. Original chimneys have been removed. The attached porch, under a standing seam metal roof, retains its slender turned posts and simple balustrade. The structure rests on a brick foundation and is fronted along the sidewalk by a concrete retaining wall. The hotel has been covered in aluminum siding but retains the general integrity of the original building. (Lally, S&P)

3. C Joe Ballentine House  
419 S. Main St.  
ca. 1908

Local tradition holds that this was the residence of prominent local entrepreneur Joe Ballentine. Built ca. 1908, the one-story house displays an irregular massed plan.. The gable-ended main block is intersected with a projecting cross gable; a small, round, four-light window is in the front gable. The three-bay front facade features an attached porch with standing seam metal roof and pyramidal posts on brick piers. A simple balustrade remains as well. Windows are six-over-six sash and the entire structure is covered with a stamped metal roof. A dry-laid stone retaining wall separates the yard from the sidewalk.

### 100 Block East Spring Street, South Side

9. C House  
104 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1910

This Queen Anne/Colonial Revival cottage features a high hip roof with a projecting pedimented cross gable and a nearly full-facade porch beneath a standing seam metal roof. Slender turned posts with sawnwork support the porch roof, which shelters a three-part entry with sidelights and transom. A rectangular gable vent, gabled dormer, and interior chimneys with corbelling complete the exterior of this house. The property has been occupied by a succession of local families, but may have been built for Joe Ballentine. (Lally, S&P)

- 9a. C This early twentieth century large frame barn with a rear shed extension may have been moved to the site.

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9b. C This ca. 1920 one-story frame shop is extended with open sheds on each side.

\*\* Vacant Lot

10. N Utley House  
114 E. Spring Street  
Ca. 1912

Occupied since its construction by the Utley family, and similar to its neighbor at 204 East Spring Street, this one-story cottage features a high hip roof with a cross gable and corbelled, interior chimneys. However, significant unsympathetic changes have occurred, ca. 1960s and late 1980s, which have compromised the overall integrity of the house. These include the application of artificial siding, addition of pediments above the front windows and door, apparent replacement of the front porch, and the attachment of a Greek Revival surround at the front entry. (Lally, S&P)

### 200 Block East Spring Street, North Side

11. C "Buck" Johnson House  
202 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1925

This large, frame Craftsman bungalow dates to ca. 1925 and is remarkably intact. It was built for farmer and tobacconist "Buck" Johnson. Clad in plain weatherboard, the house rests on a common bond brick foundation. Heavy triangular brackets support the broad eaves of the main house and the four-light shed dormer. Of particular note is the spacious front wraparound porch, with its fluted pyramidal columns on brick bases and a plain balustrade. Original interior chimneys with corbelling remain, as do the nine-over-one sash windows. (Lally, S&P)

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12. N House  
206 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1960s

This is a one-story brick ranch house.

13. C Wright-Barnes House  
214 E. Spring Street  
Ca. 1918, 1937

The 1908 survey of the property of the Fuquay Land Company identifies this parcel as lots 3 and 4, Block 9; no structures existed at the time in this newly-platted area. S.G. Wright bought the two lots in 1911; by the time he sold them in 1918, to Henley Barnes, the sale price had risen to \$2500.00 Thus, it appears that he had built the two-story house in the intervening years. It certainly existed by 1922, when a deed references the "residence and outhouses where Henley Barnes lived."

The house began as a single pile, center hall Triple A residence; it retains its original simple trim, diamond gable vent and patterned tin roof. The partial wraparound front porch was updated with a bungalow treatment, including exposed rafter ends and tapered posts on brick bases. These changes probably occurred during a 1937 renovation which also enclosed a rear porch for a bathroom. The deteriorated rear ell, though original, is being extensively rebuilt using like materials. A new garage, constructed of similar materials, has been attached to the south end of the ell. (Lally, S&P).

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### 100 Block East Spring Street, North Side

14. C Ballentine-Spence House  
109 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1910, 1927

This late Queen Anne house with Colonial Revival details is one of the most substantial houses in the district, and is one of the finest examples of its period to survive. Among its distinguishing period characteristics (exterior) are the high hip roof with cross gables; the wraparound porch supported by thirteen slender, tapered Doric columns; recessed second level porch; one-over-one sash windows and large projecting bay windows. Simple exterior decorative touches include small dentil work around the porch cornice, lunette windows in the gable ends, and the embossed tin shingles of the roof. Several early changes were made to the exterior of the house, including the replacement of a rear porch and construction of a two-story bathroom addition at the rear, which necessitated the removal of a rear window and the moving of an exterior door. The construction of the concrete retaining wall in front of the house occurred in the 1930s. In the late 1980s the front porch's original brick lattice foundation, front walk and steps were replaced with flagstone.

The interior of the first floor of the Ballentine-Spence House reflects significant changes made during a 1927 renovation by then-owners Mr. and Mrs. Dan Spence. Originally a center hall plan, the first floor was altered to create a larger living room, into which the front entry opens directly. The original stairs, once rising in the main hall along the east wall, were turned ninety degrees to rise behind a new wall separating them completely from the front rooms. The reconfigured lower portion of the stairs is in keeping with the original, with a simple square newel created for the new lower landing. Other interior changes from 1927 included removing mantels in the front rooms and replacing them with more contemporary examples. One original mantel, supported on slim colonettes and with a mirrored overmantel, does survive, though not in its original location. Several doors in front rooms were moved to accommodate the re-designed spaces. Original finishes and materials remain; one particularly interesting feature being the original hardware, which is finished in a "zebra" pattern of alternating dark and copper finishes.

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The house was built for James D. "Squire" Ballentine who, according to a descendant of the Spence family (the next family to own the house), lived there only briefly, if at all. "Squire" Ballentine was one of Fuquay Springs' most prominent early citizens who served in the Civil War and, later, as a Justice of the Peace. He was also involved in the local education movement, founded (with his nephew W.D. Ballentine) the Varina Mercantile, and served as Town Magistrate. The house passed into the ownership of the Spence family at a public auction in 1923; members of the family had resided there since 1919. Dan Spence served as a president of the Bank of Fuquay and owned the first car dealership in Fuquay Springs. Family members recount how the house achieved many notable "firsts" under their ownership; it was the first house in town with plumbing and electricity, and the front porch was a favorite local gathering spot to listen to the Spence's radio, the first in town. The house passed out of Spence ownership in 1988. The current owners have undertaken a careful restoration of the property. (Lally, S&P and Jim Hunsberger, owner, private research)

14a. C This ca. 1930 frame garage is one story tall with an embossed tin roof which matches the house.

14b. C Built ca. 1935, this one-story, frame shed was originally used for curing meats; later it served as a storage shed.

15. C Barbour-Perkins House  
113 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1928

This handsome red brick, Colonial Revival house was built for local physician Dr. Robert Barbour around 1928; the Perkins family has owned it since the 1950s. The one-story dwelling features trademark Colonial Revival characteristics such as the contrasting concrete sills, string course and decorative brickwork above windows. The handsome front portico is composed of an arched pediment supported by paired round columns, an elliptical fanlight and narrow sidelights flanking the door. Triple eight-over-eight sash windows flank the portico; on the east front corner is a large Craftsman-style window, with tall vertical divided panes. The only exterior change was the enclosure of the east side sun porch after 1950. Simple Colonial Revival details are found throughout the interior, including molded baseboards and a mantel with a simple shelf with vernacular carved rosettes and a green tile fireplace surround. (Lally, S&P)

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The house stands on a corner lot shaded by large oaks and dogwood trees. A brick retaining wall separates the yard from the sidewalk.

15a. C Ca. 1928 The one story, open front brick garage is contemporary with the house.

16. C Proctor House  
205 E. Spring Street  
1925

Local builder A.Y. Hairr constructed this brick Dutch Revival house for local merchant Tom Proctor and his wife, Pearl, in 1925; the family resided here until 1980. The 1-1/2 story house features a shingled roof with clipped end gables and three shed dormers across the front. The six-panel Colonial door is flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a molded cornice with dentil work. Tiny two-over-two windows flank the entry bay and a brick water table, recessed mortar joints, and decorative brickwork further bespeak the dwelling's Colonial character. A single-shoulder, exterior end chimney and an interior chimney remain.

A 1950 renovation replaced two first floor (front facade) French doors with iron balconies with the current eight-over-eight sash; the one-story west wing was constructed, as well as the rear addition, and handsome crown molding and wainscoting were applied in the living room and foyer. The changes were made in keeping with the house's original character. (Lally, S&P)

The shaded, 1.6 acre corner lot upon which this house stands is the largest in the historic district and is planted in mature shrubs and trees. The 100' x 100' side lot on the corner was formerly property belonging to the Walter Aiken House, which is the rear neighboring property. The plot was known as "The Grove."

16a. N A one-story frame garden house was erected at the rear of the lot about ten years ago.

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- 17 C Allan Rogers House  
215 E. Spring St.  
Ca. 1925

Large magnolia and dogwood trees shade the backyard of this double-pile, one-story simple bungalow with original trim, triangular brackets, and three-over-one sash windows. The porch retains its square posts on brick piers. (Lally, S&P)

- 17a.. C This is a ca. 1940 one-story frame shed.

18. C House  
217 E. Spring Street  
ca. 1914

This small Triple A cottage, with a rear ell, features an attached porch with turned posts and sawnwork. A diamond vent decorates the central gable. (Lally, S&P)

**300 Block South Fuquay Avenue, East Side**

19. C Walter Aiken House  
313 S. Fuquay Ave.  
1914

This well-preserved and finely detailed Queen Anne/Colonial Revival house was built by one of Fuquay Spring's most prominent citizens, Walter Hill Aiken, in 1914. Aiken, originally from Granville County, was a founder of the Fuquay Mineral Spring Corporation. He also founded the first tobacco warehouse in Fuquay Springs (1908) and served as Mayor in 1915. His house is a handsome two-story, irregularly-massed dwelling with cross gables and projecting bays. Lunette windows with keystones light the front and side gables. A decorative iron widow's walk surmounts the high hip roof of the main block. Most windows are one-over-one sash in plain surrounds, though there are leaded tracery windows on the first floor flanking the entry, sheltered

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by the deep front porch. The main entry features a single-leaf door with one light over three horizontal panels, surmounted by a three part transom with leaded tracery. Sidelights are also leaded. The prominent wraparound porch is supported by round and fluted Ionic columns and fluted square pilasters with decorative capitals. A projecting five-sided bay extends the southwest corner of the porch.

At the rear of the house is a one-story, flat-roofed ell which was originally a screened porch. The modern carport stands where an original well-porch was located. These are the only exterior changes made to the house. The rear of the property once featured an unusual, four-door outhouse with separate entrances for men and women.

The interior is remarkably unchanged, the only significant alteration being the modernization of the rear kitchen. The house retains its tall, molded baseboards, simple trims, five-panel doors, built-in china cupboards and mantels with shelves supported by colonettes, all hallmark characteristics of the Colonial Revival style. The entrance foyer, however, features an unusually fine solid mahogany stair. Heavy, fluted urn-shaped newels on bases with scrolled, rounded caps flank three steps which rise to a landing lit by a beautiful oval leaded window. Turned balusters and a graceful curved and molded handrail line the open string stair, which turns to rise along the south wall. According to Mrs. Catherine Williams, current owner and a descendant of Walter Aiken, this stair, and the mahogany parlor mantel, were ordered from the Henry Belter Co. of New York. The parlor mantel features a paneled overmantle above a simple molded shelf on carved brackets, flanked by narrow panels.

Mature flowering camellias, crape myrtle, azaleas and dogwoods grace the large yard, which is shaded by large oaks and fronted by an original ivy-covered brick retaining wall. (Lally, S&P)

20. C Richard Aiken House  
309 S. Fuquay Ave.  
ca. 1912

Richard Aiken, son of W.H. Aiken, built this house around 1912 and, according to family tradition, W.H. Aiken's family lived here while their house next door was being built. The four-square Colonial Revival house features a hip roof with cross gables with octagonal vents.

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The pedimented, hipped roof porch is supported by slender square columns on bases. The interior chimneys appear to have been replaced and the house was clad in vinyl siding in recent years.

The interior is relatively intact and carries out the Colonial Revival scheme, with wide baseboards, five-panel doors, and fluted pilasters at windows and doors. The stair newels are heavy, square blocks with some fluting; balusters are plain. Two original mantels survive, one with a raised panel and fluted pilasters, the other with a mirrored overmantel. (Lally, S&P)

### **300 Block South Fuquay Avenue, West Side**

21. C Dr. Charles Cheek House  
310 S. Fuquay Ave.  
Ca. 1920

This substantial Craftsman bungalow was built ca. 1920 for local physician Dr. Charles Cheek. The house was apparently originally clad in wood shingles, but was covered in aluminum siding during the 1980s. The visual impact of the low, sprawling house is one of solidity. The asymmetrical, four-bay facade features a wraparound porch sheltering oversized twelve-over-one sash windows, an oversized twelve-light and paneled door, and porch posts on heavy, irregularly-coursed, cut-stone bases. A handsome porte cochere on the north end of the house features exposed, carved rafter tails. Two small, decorative windows beneath the porte cochere feature X-shaped tracery. Heavy block brackets decorate the end gables of the main house and substantial corbelled interior chimneys pierce the widely sloping roof. A three-bay, shed dormer on the front features two twelve-over-one windows flanking a transomed door. The rear facade features a one-and-a-half story shed addition as well as a one-story addition with a modern chimney.

The largely intact interior features deep baseboards, plain door and window surrounds, and applied moldings which create the effect of coffered ceilings in the foyer and dining room. Applied molding strips on the dining room walls also create a paneled look. The open string, dogleg stair has a square paneled newel, applied carved brackets, and a heavy rounded handrail. The landing is lit by two small, rectangular windows with tracery. The interior is undergoing a careful restoration by the current owners.

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21a. C This ca. 1920 common bond brick garage has been altered somewhat on the front, but retains its overall form.

22. C J. E. Howard House  
312 S. Fuquay Ave.  
ca. 1920

Like the Dr. Cheek House next door, the J.E. Howard House is a large, solid Craftsman bungalow and the two together create an impressive visual impact along S. Fuquay Ave. The Howard House was built around 1920 for local farmer and tobacconist Jesse H. Howard. Lumber from his farm was used in construction of this house. The remarkably intact, frame home features a large shed dormer with three nine-over-one sash windows, a spacious wraparound porch with porte cochere on the south end, heavy block brackets in the gable eaves and exposed rafter ends. The front elevation is symmetrical, consisting of paired windows flanking the main entry. The three-part transom and sidelights surrounding the entry are set in a plain frame, as are the nine-over-one sash windows with thin mullions. The deep porch and porte cochere are supported by tapered, recessed-panel posts on brick piers; a molded handrail tops plain, square balusters. Three interior brick chimneys have stepped tops. To the rear of the house is a one-story, hipped roof addition with six-over-six sash and replacement doors.

The interior of the house follows a center hall plan and features standard Colonial Revival finishes. Simple mantel shelves supported on brick brackets, tall molded baseboards, simple door and window surrounds, and a heavy square and paneled newel on the closed string stair are typical features of the style. (Lally, S&P)

22a. N This is a cinderblock garage partially clad in artificial siding, with a modern carport attachment

22b. C This small frame "coop" with a vertical board door dates to ca. 1920.

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### Statement of Significance

#### Summary

The Fuquay Springs Historic District, a roughly five-block area anchored by the historic Fuquay Mineral Spring, is eligible for the National Register for its associations with the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century development of Fuquay Springs, and as an intact collection of traditional, primarily early-twentieth century residential architecture. One- and two-story, traditional, modestly decorated houses comprise the majority of the historic streetscapes, though there are also several individually important structures and sites. Among these are the **Fuquay Mineral Spring** (listed in the National Register in 1986); the **Varina Mercantile Building**, a late-nineteenth century commercial structure and the only non-residential property in the district; the **Ballentine-Spence** and **Walter H. Aiken** houses, which are both impressive examples of the intersection of late Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architecture; the **J.E. Howard House**, one of three substantial Craftsman bungalows in the district; and the Craftsman-style **Ben-Wiley Hotel**, one of only two hotels remaining from the town's heyday as a mineral spring resort , and the more intact of the two.

The historic district reflects Fuquay Springs' development between ca. 1899 and 1946. During this period there were several influences on the town's growth, including the popularity of the Mineral Spring as a recreational destination and the town's evolution into a tobacco market for southern Wake County. The historic district reflects the designs, materials, scale, and finishes popular in small town neighborhoods all over eastern North Carolina in the early-twentieth century. The residential area remains vital, with all properties inhabited and several are undergoing sensitive rehabilitations.

The Fuquay Springs Historic District was identified during a comprehensive survey of Wake County in 1989-1991 by Kelly Lally; it was placed on the Study List as a result of this inventory. Contexts and Property Types relevant to the historic district are discussed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," particularly in Property Type 7: Recreational Structures and Sites; Context 4: Boom, Bust and Recovery Between World Wars (1919-1941); and Property Type S: Houses, Subsection C: Twentieth Century Popular House Types (ca. 1910-1941).

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**Historical Background**

Prior to the late nineteenth century, the area around what is now known as Fuquay-Varina was little more than a crossroads farming community, known as Sippihaw, with a mineral spring which had been discovered prior to mid-century by farmer David Fuquay on his southern Wake County farm in the Middle Creek Township. A group of men, including Parson McCoy, Billy Sexton, and Cornelius Harnett Cofield, formed the Chalybeate Springs Corp. and began a modest development of the spring property by ca. 1860 to market the spring for its supposed medicinal properties (Black, p. 8). An early boardinghouse for those who came to "take the waters" was built nearby by a Mrs. McLean and a private, two-room school was also constructed. James D. "Squire" Ballentine conducted the school, supposedly the first white school between Raleigh and Fayetteville ("Community Information - Fuquay Varina," n.p.).

As Sippihaw began to grow, it was felt that a post office was needed. "Squire" Ballentine was successful in establishing one, which he called Varina in honor of his wife, at his home south of the spring. He also acted as postmaster. The Ballentine family opened a large general store, the **Varina Mercantile Company (#4)**, across from the spring in 1899. This store proved to be the focal point for the growing community for the next several decades.

Interest in the mineral spring continued to grow and in the 1890s, W. H. Aiken, W.H. Aiken, Jr., and K.B. Johnson formed the Fuquay Mineral Spring Corporation for the purpose of commercializing the spring property. By 1900 the Raleigh and Southport lumber railroad had a terminal at Sippihaw and the trains were converted into special excursion trains to ferry people to the Easter Monday and July Fourth celebrations at the spring ("Community Information - Fuquay-Varina," n.p.). A new hotel and restaurant business began to thrive in the town. Dr. J.A. Sexton operated the new Blanchard Hotel and restaurant across from the spring around 1904; this later burned and was rebuilt. The Blanchard was considered the largest and most luxurious of the town's hotels. (It was demolished in the 1930s.) The **Barham Hotel (#7)** was also constructed to serve visitors to the spring in the early 1900s, as were several boarding houses. A pavilion was built at the spring, which was surrounded with a park-like setting and concessions stands, and where dancing in a wooden pavillion was a popular activity for visitors during the summer months. Local residents remember that Len Aiken, one of W.H. Aiken's sons, was a favorite piano player at the pavilion and that the local Baptist congregation frowned mightily on the dancing and frivolity which took place there.

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In 1902 the community of Sippihaw changed its name to Fuquay Springs, in honor of the founding family. It was also during these early years of the twentieth century that tobacco began to become an important local industry. Tobacco growers migrated from the established tobacco belt in Granville, Person, Alamance, and Durham counties to southern Wake, where the soil was well-suited for cultivation of bright leaf tobacco. A tobacco blight known as the "Granville wilt" also drove farmers along the Virginia border southward (Black, p. 8.3). W. H. Aiken built the first tobacco warehouse in Fuquay Springs in 1908, a large frame building which was soon followed by brick warehouses and prizeries. The Bank of Fuquay was founded that year to serve the growing local economy.

The area around the spring and the Varina Mercantile continued to grow. In 1908 the Fuquay Land Company platted a large subdivision of town lots on the east side of Main Street (Morson Map, 1908). The next year the Town of Fuquay Springs was incorporated, with the original limits running roughly half a mile in each direction from the mineral spring (Lally, "Note to Varina Commercial Historic District File", n.p.). The residential area east of the spring began to attract homebuilders by ca. 1910, including "Squire" Ballentine, who built an impressive house on East Spring Street (**Ballentine-Spence House, #14**) around 1910. Other early residences in the neighborhood include the more modest houses at 104 and 114 E. Spring St. (# 9 & 10) and the **Wright House (#13)** at 214 E. Spring Street. The presence of the main highway (Main Street, now US 401) drew commercial facilities and stores to Fuquay Springs, but fires in 1916 and other years destroyed many of the earlier commercial buildings (Black, p. 8.2).

The Fuquay Mineral Spring remained a strong attraction for the area through the early 1920s, with hotels, restaurants, livery stables, and other support businesses continuing to cater to the crowds of visitors. Towards the end of the 1920s the mineral spring business began to suffer as visitors utilized the newly-popular automobile to widen their travel destinations. As late as 1925, however, a new hotel opened to serve the spring's guests. The **Ben-Wiley Hotel (#1)** was built by Dr. Wiley Cozart, a local physician, on a high lot overlooking the spring. The small facility gained a reputation as a fine establishment, especially known for its food, and it soon became a community landmark.. Dr. Cozart's son remembers selling lemonade in the corner of the yard to folks who walked over from the spring.

The spring ceased to operate after the 1920s. Richard Aiken inherited the property from his father in 1933 and planned to recommercialize it. However, during dynamiting for sewage lines

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the spring ceased to flow (though it later did resume its flow), thereby ending any chance of reviving the old tradition. Despite the end of this early recreational industry in Fuquay Springs, the town continued to prosper, spurred primarily by the continuing success of the tobacco market. In 1920 the town was wired for electric lights; in 1937 a municipal sewage system replaced the wells and septic systems on town properties and streets were finally paved in the late 1930s (Pearl Proctor interview).

Paralleling Fuquay's development from the late-nineteenth through early-twentieth century, the separate community of Varina grew up at the junction of the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad and the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railroad. This junction was approximately one mile north of the spring (Black, p. 8.2). The railroad served as the focal point of Varina's commercial growth, but the town's isolation by the railroad tracks and its lack of a main thoroughfare meant that the Varina section did not grow to the same extent as Fuquay Springs did. Nevertheless, the tobacco industry and the trade resulting from the location of the rail lines did provide Varina with its early vitality. In 1963 the two towns were joined, at least in name, as Fuquay-Varina.

**Entertainment/Recreation Context**

Mineral springs resorts (or "spas") enjoyed their greatest popularity as recreational destinations in North Carolina during the mid- to late nineteenth century, when "taking the waters" was considered the fashionable way to spend a long summer. One of the earliest known spas, Catawba Springs in Lincoln County, began attracting visitors in the early-nineteenth century. By 1821 it offered houses, family cabins and outbuildings for its visitors' use. This complex grew into a major resort; by the start of the Civil War it included a 100-room, two-story hotel, bath houses and slave houses. Its clients were chiefly the upper class families of the piedmont and low-country, who fled the isolation of rural plantations during the summer months (Davidson, p. 414- 420). Other popular nineteenth century sites included Kittrell Springs in Granville County and Shocco Springs in Warren County (Murray, p. 443).

The Civil War brought an end to many of the mineral resorts, though a recovering economy in the late-nineteenth century brought about a resurgence in their popularity that dwindled around 1930. By the turn of the twentieth century there were roughly two dozen spas statewide (Rives, p. 430). One reason for the renewal of interest in these places was the availability of rail lines in rural areas and the invention of the automobile, which opened up travel considerably. Some of the spas were primarily local gathering places; others were full-blown resort operations. One of

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the more well-known spas was Panacea Springs, near Littleton. Its grand opening season was 1909, and it offered its guest a first-rate, 150-room hotel known for elegant cuisine, a hexagonal springhouse, twenty-acre lake and a full array of support facilities, including servants quarters. The Seaboard Airline Railroad offered special trips for visitors to Panacea Springs. The whole town was affected by the popularity of Panacea Springs, with residents taking in boarders during the peak season (Rives, p. 430).

In Wake County several mineral springs were known to exist (Willow Springs and Holly Springs, for example), but only the Fuquay Mineral Spring developed into a popular early-twentieth century recreational destination (Murray, p. 443). The spring was discovered around 1850 and was a local gathering place for community celebrations during the second half of the nineteenth century. By 1908 an open-sided pavilion and a gazebo over the spring had appeared on the site. Boarding houses and hotels were erected to serve the visitors, the earliest and finest being the ca. 1908 Blanchard Hotel south of the Spring property. This building was demolished in the 1930s. The Barham Hotel, ca. 1910, stood across (what is now) Main Street from the spring; it has been altered in recent years.

Rail service to the spring from Raleigh, Durham and Fayetteville was available by 1910. Around 1915 local residents W.H. Aiken, W.H. Aiken, Jr. and Kemp B. Johnson formed the Fuquay Mineral Spring Corporation to capitalize on the springs' popularity. Their grandiose plans were to develop the Mineral Springs properties, and build and manage hotels, apartments, and houses, for the public. However, they apparently never achieved large scale success with this venture (Francis, pp. 8.1 - 8.2). Like Panacea and other popular early-twentieth century spas, the Fuquay Mineral Spring ceased to operate during the early 1930s, the victim of waning interest in local celebrations and a newly-mobile population willing to drive farther for recreational opportunities.

### Architectural Context

The residential properties in the Fuquay Springs Historic District fall within Property Type 3: Houses, Subsection C: Twentieth Century Popular House Types (1910-1941) in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)." As an ensemble, these buildings retain substantial integrity of design, general plan and original materials and, therefore, meet the registration requirements.

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Houses built in the small towns of Wake County in the first half of the twentieth century were similar to those being built in all parts of the country during that period. Craftsman and Colonial Revival-influenced period houses were easily the most popular styles of dwellings built by Wake County residents from the 1910s to the 1940s. Most of the popular house types were taken from, or inspired by, the widely-available pattern books, magazines, and mail order catalogues that sold plans and building materials.

Commercial architecture in Wake County's small towns in the late-19th and early -20th century was also similar to nationally popular forms. Generally two-story in height and rectangular in shape, these buildings consistently featured simple brick details on their upper floors. These details typically included corbelling, recessed brick panels, and brick arches. The only commercial building in the Fuquay Springs Historic District, the **Varina Mercantile Building (#4)** is a typical example of the building type.

### Craftsman

Craftsman-style houses, built from the 1910s through the 1930s in Wake County, are generally gable-front or side-gable-roofed bungalows characterized by wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends, gable brackets, large dormers, and pyramidal porch posts on brick piers. Most of these are of frame construction, usually modest in size and detail. In the Fuquay Springs Historic District there are three good examples of the type: The **"Buck" Johnson House (#11)**, the **Dr. Cheek House (#21)** and the **J.E. Howard House (#22)**. Notable examples outside of Fuquay-Varina include the Montezuma Pearce House near Rolesville and the B.K. Horton House near Zebulon (Lally, Multiple Property Documentation Form, p. F 138).

The popularity of the bungalow influenced the proliferation of simple one and two-story, gable-front frame houses throughout the county in the early to mid-twentieth century. Typically plainly finished with Craftsman-style porch post supports or exposed rafter ends, these houses were the most popular form of modest housing. In Fuquay Springs, the houses at **215 E. Spring Street (#17)** and **409 S. Main Street (#5)** are one-story examples of this. The **Wright House (#13)** is a traditional two-story Triple A form with a Craftsman-style porch.

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### Colonial Revival

From the 1920s through the 1940s, Period Revival houses, especially the Colonial Revival style, were fashionable in Wake County. The best examples of the Revival styles are found in the county's towns; rural expressions are frequently vernacular farmhouses updated in the 1940s with modern details.

Colonial Revival houses of these decades were usually of frame construction with white, plain weatherboard or brick veneer exterior walls, displaying details such as symmetrical facades, dormer windows, pedimented door surrounds, and side wings. Two noted examples in the county are the Dr. Glenn Judd House in Fuquay-Varina (outside of the historic district) and the J.K. Barrow House in Zebulon (Lally, Multiple Property Documentation Form, p. F 139). In the Fuquay Springs Historic District are several examples of this style. The **Walter H. Aiken House (#19)** and the **Ballentine-Spence House (#14)** are notable examples of frame houses with a late-Queen Anne overall form (irregular massing), but with Colonial Revival details. Three brick houses in the district, the **Dr. Wiley Cozart House (#2)**, the **Barbour-Perkins House (#15)** and the **Proctor House (#16)** also exemplify the Colonial Revival style, with decorative brick elements (quoins, string courses) and classically-detailed pedimented entries.

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Fuquay Springs Historic District are shown by the dashed line on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Fuquay Springs Historic District are drawn to include the greatest concentration of contributing late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century resources in Fuquay Springs (now Fuquay-Varina).

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### Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs, which are keyed to the district map.

1. Fuquay Springs Historic District
  2. Wake County, North Carolina
  3. Beth P. Thomas
  4. May and June, 1996
  5. North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh
- 
- A. J. E. Howard House (#22), to the northwest
  - B. Walter Aiken House (#19), to the northeast.
  - C. Walter Aiken House (#19), interior stair
  - D. Streetscape, east side of 400 block of S. Main St. (#6 is noncontributing), showing Varina Mercantile (#4), 409 and 413 S. Main St. (#5 & 6), to the northeast
  - E. Varina Mercantile Building (#4), to the southeast
  - F. Outbuilding at Ballentine-Spence House(#14b), to the northwest

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FUQUAY SPRINGS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
FUQUAY-VARINA, N.C.

## **CONTRIBUTING**

$$1'' = 200'$$

NON-CONTRIBUTING

\* VACANT LOT

