

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Wendell Boulevard Historic District

Wendell, Wake County, WA4069, Listed June 3, 2009

Nomination by Ellen Turco

Photographs by Ellen Turco, February 2008



M. A. Griffin House, 3720 Wendell Boulevard



Mallie Curtis Todd House, 3851 Wendell Boulevard



131 North Buffalo Street



3421 Wendell Boulevard

**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 any 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 Wendell Boulevard Historic District

other names/site number East Wilson Avenue

2. Location

street & number Wendell Boulevard, Mattox Street, Old Zebulon Road, Buffalo Street and Main Street not for publication NA

city or town Wendell vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 37951

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or 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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Wendell Boulevard Historic District
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
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	<u>74</u>	<u>24</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>74</u>	<u>28</u> 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, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)"

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure
EDUCATION education related housing
RELIGION religious facility
FUNERARY mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
RELIGION religious facility
COMMERCE specialty store
DOMESTIC secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/QUEEN ANNE
20TH CENTURY REVIVIALS/Colonial Revival; Bungalow/Craftsman; Other: Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional
Other: Ranch

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof METAL/tin; ASPHALT
walls WOOD/weatherboard; shingle
METAL/aluminum
BRICK
SYNTHETICS/vinyl
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1890 – 1958

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 43 +/-

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 737300 3963420
2 17 738400 3963380

Zone Easting Northing
3 17 738340 3963020
4 17 737280 3963100
 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 Ellen Turco, Architectural Historian

organization Circa, Inc date December 2, 2008

street & number PO Box 28365 telephone 919-834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Honorable J. Howard Broadwell

street & number PO Box 828 telephone 919-336-3727

city or town Wendell state NC zip code 27591

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Wendell Boulevard Historic District
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Setting and Description

The Wendell Boulevard Historic District is a residential area just north of the Wendell Commercial Historic District (NR 1997) of Wendell, North Carolina, a small tobacco town that boomed in eastern Wake County around the turn of the twentieth century. The district is a roughly three block linear area with the majority of the district's buildings located on the north and south sides of Wendell Boulevard. The district extends east from Buffalo Street to Old Zebulon Road along Wendell Boulevard as well as one block south on Buffalo Street, north on Main Street, and north on Mattox Street.

The district is located within a larger residential neighborhood; however, the district boundaries encompass the most architecturally intact area. Streets with a majority of post-1958 and/or less materially intact buildings were excluded from the boundary. A county operated public school, Wendell Elementary School (ca. 1985), is located on the north side of Wendell Boulevard adjacent to the district's western edge. South of the district on North Main Street is the Wendell Commercial Historic District (NR 1998).

The district contains a total of fifty-nine primary resources and is primarily residential. There are only four non-contributing primary resources. Roughly thirty-five of the district's primary resources have dependencies, the majority of which are contributing frame gable roof garages or sheds. There are two contributing religious properties and two commercial properties. North Main Street and Wendell Boulevard meet at a "T" intersection which is the approximate center of the district. This is where the district's two religious institutional buildings are located. Wendell Baptist Church is a 1937 Neo-Classical Revival brick church at 3651 North Main Street. A second monumental, classically-inspired brick church is located at 129 North Main Street. Wendell United Methodist Church, built in 1923, features a large pedimented portico with paired Doric columns. At the district's west end are its two commercial structures: the ca. 1958 service station at 3400 Wendell Boulevard and a non-contributing ca. 1970 brick commercial structure, Wendell Drug, at 3430 Wendell Boulevard.

The overall setting of the district is that of a middle class residential enclave of a small North Carolina town. Dwellings address the street, facades are parallel with the curb, and setbacks are generally uniform. The properties have generous front yards, with lots measuring roughly half-an-acre. The exceptions are the Griffith House at 3501 Wendell Boulevard, the M.C. Todd House at 3851 Wendell Boulevard, and the J.H. Sanders House at 3901 Wendell Boulevard. These large homes are among the more stylistically realized in the district and possess larger yards of roughly three-quarters of an acre. Yards are landscaped with locally popular varieties of dogwoods, crepe myrtles, azaleas, pines and large hardwoods such as oaks. In the sidewalk planting median on the north side of Wendell Boulevard between North Hollybrook Road and

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Old Zebulon Road are mature oaks that provide a leafy canopy over the street. Wendell Boulevard has WPA-constructed concrete curbs and sidewalks.

The dwellings range in size from modest, one-story gabled dwellings to large two-story dwellings with irregular Queen Anne massing. Styles represented are Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional and Ranch, with Colonial Revival as the most predominant style. Buildings in the district date from the 1890s through the 1970s; however, the period of historically significant building ends in 1958 with the construction of the district's last Ranch style dwelling.

The district retains an excellent degree of architectural integrity. While some of the individual dwellings have undergone alterations such as replacement windows and siding, the overall streetscape is not negatively affected, and many properties remain highly intact. The district's setting is further enhanced by mature oak trees, landscaped yards and WPA-era curb, gutter and sidewalks.

INVENTORY

This list is arranged alphabetically by street and then numerically by street address from lowest to highest number. Except in instances where an exact date is known, the construction date provided is an estimate based on building style, county property records, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, or resident attribution.

The historic district is made up of contributing and non-contributing resources. A resource is categorized as contributing if it was present during the period of significance, ca.1890 through 1958, *and* it possesses integrity of materials and form that dates from the period of significance. Non-contributing resources either date from after the district's period of significance or have been altered to an extent that the building's historic appearance has been lost or significantly obscured such as with the application of stucco over historically brick façade.

The resources in the district were first identified during the comprehensive survey of Wake County's historic architectural resources conducted by Kelly Lally between 1989 and 1991. A survey update documenting changes to recorded properties was conducted in February 2008 by Ellen Turco of Circa, Inc. Files from both surveys are on file at the Survey and Planning Branch, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

Residential buildings have asphalt shingle roofs unless otherwise noted. Foundations are brick unless otherwise noted. Siding materials are also noted in the descriptions below. Buildings with a dominant architectural style are identified as such. Simple buildings with minimal ornamentation were not assigned a style.

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William and Evelyn Stott House ca. 1938 Contributing Building
100 N. Buffalo Street

One-and-half story dwelling with a gambrel roof line and twin gabled dormers on the front elevation and a full shed dormer across the rear. Enclosed sunroom on the south elevation. A fanlight door is set in the projecting gable entry bay. Vinyl siding covers the house; it retains its original 6/1 windows. William worked at R. B. Whitley's store and served as president of Wendell Savings and Loan. Evelyn was a teacher at Wendell Graded School. (Stott information and construction date source: son Raymond Stott)

Garage ca. 1940 Contributing Building

A front-gable garage

Carport ca. 1985 Non-contributing Structure

A flat-roofed carport supported by metal posts

House ca. 1910 Non-contributing Building
103 N. Buffalo Street

This one-story side-gabled dwelling originally had an L-plan. It has been altered by the enclosure of the wrap porch on the east and south sides and the reconstruction of the front porch. The original siding and windows have been replaced with vinyl substitutes.

House ca. 1950 Contributing Building
109 N. Buffalo Street

The projecting gabled entry bay of this brick Cape Cod form house is its most distinguishing feature. Its steeply pitched pediment, with a star and dentil motif, is supported by fluted pilasters. The 4-panel entry door has a row of four small, arched windows at the top. A shallow-hip side porch projects from the south elevation and an exterior end chimney is found on the north side. Windows are 6/6 with a multi-paned picture window at the façade's north end.

Shed ca. 1960 Non-contributing Building
Frame gabled shed

House ca. 1910 Contributing Building
110 N. Buffalo Street

This one-story triple-A form house has vinyl siding, windows and replacement porch posts. There are shingles in the decorative front gable.

Garage ca. 2000 Non-contributing Building

A vinyl sided side gable garage with double garage door and entry door.

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McBroom House ca. 1945 **Contributing Building**
116 N. Buffalo Street

One-and-a-half story Period Cottage with a projecting front gable entry bay, gabled dormer and an inset side porch. The house is covered with asbestos shingles and both 6/6 and 8/8 sashes are present. The house is currently the Sunset Inn Bed and Breakfast.

Garage ca. 1945 **Contributing Building**
Front gable board and batten garage.

Alma T. Nowell House ca. 1940 **Contributing Building**
119 N. Buffalo Street

This one-and-a-half story, double-pile frame Colonial Revival house has three inset gabled dormers and shed roof entry porch. The porch shelters a glazed and paneled entry door and small window. A second porch with a shallow hipped roof is on the south elevation. Windows are original 6/6 sashes, paired on the front elevation. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding.

House ca. 1948 **Contributing Building**
122 N. Buffalo Street

This one-story brick Minimal Traditional dwelling has a central projecting front entry bay with a paneled entry door topped by a transom and flanked by fluted pilasters. A dentil cornice is on the entry projection and the main block. The original 6/6 window sashes are surmounted by jack arches. A gables side porch is on the north elevation.

House ca. 1910 **Contributing Building**
125 N. Buffalo Street

This one-story, triple-A form house has vinyl siding and windows. A diamond vent is in the front gable. The window openings may have been reduced. The original, two-light entry door is centered under the hipped front porch supported by square posts.

Garage ca. 1950 **Contributing Building**
Front gable frame garage.

O'Neal House ca. 1950 **Contributing Building**
128 N. Buffalo Street

This small, one-story, side-gable house has a stoop porch shed-roofed addition of the north side. The house is covered with vinyl siding. Original paired 6/6 windows remain.

House ca. 1910 **Contributing Building**
131 N. Buffalo Street

A front gabled wing projects from the façade of this pyramidal roofed cottage. The wing has arched vents in the gable and a diamond shape window on its south wall. A columned porch

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wraps around the dwelling's south side. The house is highly intact and retains weatherboard siding, paired 1/1 window sashes, and a glazed and paneled entry door flanked by sidelights over panels.

Garage ca. 1950 **Contributing Building**
Front gable frame garage.

Wendell Christian Church ca. 1910, 1965, 1990 **Non-contributing Building**
141 N. Buffalo Street

This heavily altered brick building was built around 1920 as the first home of the Wendell Christian Church. The congregation occupied the building until a new and larger church was built at 345 Mattox Street. In 1958 the Todd family, members of the church, acquired ownership of the building and donated it to the town for use as public library in honor of Mallie Clendon Todd. However, the library did not take occupancy until the town received funding through the county library system in the mid-1960s. The Wendell Public Library occupied the building beginning in the mid-1960s. The building was converted to office use in the early 1990s.

The structure has undergone major changes with each change of use. Documentary photos show the original church structure to be a rectangular brick building with shingled gables. The façade had two arched entries; one within the belltower at the southeast corner and a second entry at the northeast corner. Between the entries was a Palladian window with stained glass. The side elevations had arched windows. The Sanctuary's open-plan interior worked well for the library; but the exterior was heavily altered for this use. The belltower was removed and as a result the roof was rebuilt shifting the ridge location and altering the pitch. A gabled stoop porch was built. The Palladian window was altered and the stained glass removed, and the northeast corner entry was infilled with brick. The interior was partitioned to accommodate offices in the early 1990s.

Wendell Methodist Church 1923/1997 **Contributing Building**
129 N. Main Street

This classically-inspired, hip-roofed brick church building features a pedimented portico with paired Doric columns and pilasters stained glass windows. In 1997, a one-story, brick fellowship hall was constructed in the south yard and connected to the church by an arcaded walkway.

This church was established in 1903 by Reverend Frank Fletcher Eure. The first church building was on Third Street (demolished 1924) and was used until the construction of the larger building on North Main Street.

House ca. 1915 **Contributing Building**
219 N. Main Street

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One-story, triple-A form dwelling with original weatherboard siding. Diamond vent in front gable. The hipped roof porch has a decorative front gable and is supported by square posts. 1/1 sash.

Garage **ca. 1915** **Contributing Building**
One-bay, front gable garage with shed addition on north side.

House **ca. 1900** **Contributing Building**
223 N. Main Street

This one-story, L-plan house with a projecting clipped-corner wing has been altered by the loss of original material. Metal scroll posts on brick piers support the hipped roof porch. The house is covered with vinyl siding and vinyl sashes have replaced the original wooden ones. A later shed dormer projects from the roof.

House **ca. 1947** **Contributing Building**
229 N. Main Street

A simple one-story, front gable house with a hipped roof porch that wraps to a carport on the south side. Windows are original 6/6 sashes. Vinyl siding covers the house.

Nowell House **ca. 1915** **Contributing Building**
230 N. Main Street

A two-story, two-bay, dwelling with a hipped-and-gabled roof. Diamond-shaped vents are set in the gables. A full facade porch with square posts spans the front elevation. Windows are original 2/2 sashes. Vinyl siding covers the dwelling. Jim Nowell constructed this house just prior to building 240 N. Main Street.

House **ca. 1905** **Contributing Building**
231 N. Main Street

This Queen Anne pyramidal roof cottage has two front facing gables with returns. Under the south gable is a three-sided bay. Turned posts support the wrap porch. The house was been altered by vinyl siding, trim and windows.

Shed **ca. 1915** **Contributing Building**
A side-gable shed with weatherboard siding and a metal roof.

Nowell-Strickland House **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
240 N. Main Street

This one-and-a-half story house has a hipped roof with four large hipped dormers, one on each elevation. The full façade, hipped roof porch is supported by square posts. Sidelights flank the central glazed and paneled entry door. The windows sashes are Craftsman 4/1. The house is sided with weatherboards. Asbestos shingles cover the dormers. The dwelling was built by Jim

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Nowell around 1910. Nowell operated the local buggy shop, and later bicycle shop (224 N. Pine Street) Nowell's daughter, Joyce Nowell Strickland, currently resides in the house.

Knott House **ca. 1900** **Contributing Building**
345 Mattox Street

This one-and-one-half-story, hipped roof Queen Anne cottage has a wrap porch with turned posts and pendant brackets. The central entry is flanked by sidelights. Hipped dormers are on the front and side elevations. A one-story gabled ell projects from the rear elevation. The weatherboard siding and 1/1 window sashes are original.

House **ca. 1948** **Contributing Building**
219 Old Zebulon Road

The façade of this one-story side-gable Minimal Traditional house has a diminutive front facing gable, or peak. There is an entry stoop and paneled entry door with lunette window set in a Colonial Revival surround with fluted pilasters and a blind lunette that mimics that of the window in the door below. North of the entry is a picture window. There is a side gable screened porch on the north side of the house. Alterations include aluminum siding and replacement vinyl sash.

Shed **ca. 1990** **Non-Contributing Building**
A one-story side-gable shed covered with T-111.

Bruce Knott House **ca. 1951** **Contributing Building**
224 Old Zebulon Road

The façade of this one-story, side gable house is very plain. Gabled porches project from the north and south side elevations. Both porches have Chippendale-inspired balustrades. A picture window is set north of the entry. Alterations are the addition of aluminum siding and replacement windows with metal awnings over each window opening and the front door.

Garage **ca.1940** **Contributing Building**
Weatherboarded two-bay hipped roof garage with enclosed storage at the north end.

House **ca. 1945** **Contributing Building**
225 Old Zebulon Road

This one-story, side gable, brick Period Cottage has a projecting asymmetrical front gable and chimney on the façade. 8/8 sash are present on the front elevation; 6/6 sashes are on others. A brick flat arch surmounts each window. In the gable above the entry is a four-light oculus window and adjacent to the entry is a square, four-light window. Alterations include two small vinyl-covered shed additions on the rear.

Shed **ca. 1950** **Contributing Building**
A front-gable concrete block storage shed.

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Bailey House ca. 1950 **Contributing Building**
212 N. Pine Street

One-story, brick, gable-and-wing dwelling with an engaged two-bay shed porch supported by square brick posts. Under the porch are the entry door and a twenty-light picture window. The windows are 6/6 sash. An exterior end chimney is on the south elevation. The house was built by Tom Bailey. Ownership was transferred to Wendell Baptist Church in the mid 1960s (C. Hinnant interview).

Outbuilding ca. 2007 **Non-Contributing Building**

A one-story brick residence or shop with paired 8/8 sash and a half-glazed entry on the west elevation.

Nowell Auto Repair Garage ca. 1935 **Contributing Building**
224 N. Pine Street

This one-story, flat-roofed brick commercial building has a vinyl sided frame shed addition on the west elevation. Fenestration has flat brick arches. North elevation has entry with transom, display window, garage bay with replacement door and original 6/6 wood sash. East elevation has garage bay flanked by fixed metal casement windows. The building was constructed around 1930 by Jim Nowell as an automobile repair garage. Nowell previously operated a bicycle and buggy repair shop on the site.

M. A. Griffin House/Wendell Academy Boarding House ca. 1890/1990 **Contributing Building**
3300 Wendell Boulevard

A two-story, double-pile, cross-gable house with end returns and a full-façade hipped roof porch. The house has been covered with vinyl siding but a plain board frieze remains exposed. The windows are replacement vinyl sashes and the square porch posts have been wrapped in vinyl. A shouldered exterior end chimney is on the west elevation. At the southwest corner a one-story, flat roofed addition has been built. Attached to the rear of the addition is a carport. The house was built by Wendell educator M.A. Griffin and was used both as his residence and as a boarding house for the Wendell Academy.

Shed ca. 1970 **Non-Contributing Building**

A gabled concrete block shed.

Vacant Lot
3310 Wendell Boulevard

Carl Johnson House ca. 1935 **Contributing Building**
3320 Wendell Boulevard

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A one-story, side gable brick Period Cottage with a steeply-pitched projecting front gable entry bay and an enclosed arched side porch. The entry bay has a paneled door with a lunette window and an adjacent narrow 6-light fixed sash window. Above the entry is an arched louvered vent. A façade chimney is east of the entry bay. The windows are 6/1 sash with flat arches. The windows are paired west of the entry bay. Johnson owned a farm that grew tobacco.

Garage **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**
A two-bay, metal garage with metal lift doors on a concrete slab foundation.

White-Scarboro House **ca. 1935** **Contributing Building**
3340 Wendell Boulevard

A multi-gabled one-story Period Cottage with a distinctive asymmetrical curved front gable with a circular gable vent and a steeply pitched projecting, front gable entry bay. An irregularly shouldered brick façade chimney inset with accent stones and a “W” is located between the two front facing gables. At the dwelling’s northeast corner is an engaged porch supported by stuccoed arches on brick piers. The windows are single and paired 6/6 sash. The house has been covered in vinyl siding and a large one-and-a-half bay front gabled garage is connected to the rear elevation by a breezeway. The house was built by Glen and Loree White. The second owner, Logan Scarboro, owned a farm that grew tobacco.

Service Station **c.a. 1958** **Contributing Building**
3400 Wendell Boulevard

One-story, flat-roofed service station with four service bays and a projecting office bay. Each garage bay door is comprised of twelve square panes divided by metal mullions. Each bay is separated by a “column” of square panes. Double rows of glazed squares run the length of the façade under the projecting eave of the flat roof. The structural portion of the building is built in concrete block on a poured concrete slab. The blocks are sheathed with square baked enamel tiles.

Canopy #1 **ca. 1980** **Non-Contributing Structure**
A flat roofed gasoline pump canopy supported by four square posts. The roof is shingled with red novelty shingles.

Canopy #2 **ca. 1980** **Non-Contributing Structure**
A flat roofed gasoline pump canopy supported by four square posts. The roof is shingled with red novelty shingles.

Wendell High School Teacherage **ca. 1930** **Contributing Building**
3401 Wendell Boulevard

A two-story, five-bay, brick teacherage displaying Colonial Revival influences. A one-story front gable entry portico is centered on the symmetrical façade. The porch is supported by paired square posts and pilasters connected by a Chippendale balustrade. This balustrade is replicated

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paneled shutters. A one-story gabled wing covered in vinyl weatherboards projects from the west elevation. The double-pile interior follows a center hall plan. Formal rooms have dentil cornices and crossetted mantels. Bill Griffin bought tobacco for tobacco companies.

Shed **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**
Prefabricated, gabled shed covered in T-111 siding.

House **ca. 1940** **Contributing Building**
3521 Wendell Boulevard

One-and-one-half story side gable house with a projecting front gable and a corner flat roof porch on the façade. Square posts with square bases and capitals support the porch roof. Colonial Revival details include the shouldered façade chimney flanked by small attic windows, 6/6 sash with paneled shutters, and the flush dormers. Weatherboard siding covers the house.

Commercial Building **ca. 1950/1980** **Non-Contributing Building**
3541 Wendell Boulevard

An altered one-story, three-bay brick commercial building with an arched central entry. Alterations include stuccoed wall surfaces, a side drive-through canopy, doors and windows replaced, and a hipped tower on the roof.

Wendell Baptist Church **1937; 1941; 1954** **Contributing Building**
3651 Wendell Boulevard

Brick Neo-Classical Revival church features a colossal pedimented portico with fluted Doric columns and a plain architrave. The arched window openings of the main block have cast stone keystones and sills and contain stained glass. The building has been expanded three times. In 1941 a two-story with basement rear classroom and office addition was built off the northeast corner, resulting in a T-plan. This brick addition has a hipped roof with projecting eaves and paired and single 6/6 sash. A bracketed entry pent is at the southeast corner. In 1954 a second addition, with a large steeple, was constructed off the west wall of the 1941 addition. This two-story brick addition has 8/8 windows with plain aprons below. A two-part, minimally detailed brick addition with a large port-cochere was built off the north wall of the 1941 addition sometime after 1991. The one-story flat-roofed section has a double-leaf glazed entry in the east wall. The perpendicular one-story gabled section has a Palladian-inspired window also in the east wall.

Singlewide Mobile Trailer **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**
A temporary prefabricated, rectangular, flat-roofed trailer.

Kirk Hall **1975** **Non-Contributing Building**
3701 Wendell Boulevard

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Well-detailed, one-and-a-half story brick Georgian Revival building. This building was constructed by Clarence Kirk in 1975 to house his law firm, a use that continues to this day.

House **ca. 1918** **Contributing Building**
3711 Wendell Boulevard

An intact Queen Anne pyramidal roof cottage with two front facing gables. Under the larger of the gables is a bay window. The hipped porch is supported by round columns. The 1/1 sash and weatherboard siding are original.

Garage **ca. 1918** **Contributing Building**
Front-gable frame garage with a single wide bay and no door. The garage is covered with 5-V tin

M.A. Griffin House **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
3720 Wendell Boulevard

This large, two-story, Queen Anne house was built by Wendell educator Mallie Asa Griffin around 1910. Griffin came to Wendell to teach at the Rhodes Academy (later Wendell Academy). Later he opened the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. The most prominent feature is the two-tiered, wrap-around porch with attenuated turned posts with anvil capitals supporting a frieze. The posts are grouped singly, in pairs and tripled. Turned balusters span the run between posts. Sawn bargeboards and lunette windows are set in the gables. The sole roof dormer above the entry contains a multi-paned stained glass window. The house's multi-gabled roofline is covered by a patterned slate roof topped by finials. The four-part entry consists of a door with an oval window above two panels flanked by oval sidelights and transom. The original glass of the entry door has been replaced with leaded glass with a pelican motif. There is a two-story rear ell with a double tier porch which mimics the front porch. Alterations include several shed roof additions on the rear of the house, vinyl siding and 1/1 replacement vinyl sash.

Smokehouse **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
A square building with a pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves and a plain frieze. Central entry on north side and one window opening on east side elevation. Vinyl siding.

Powerhouse **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
A rectangular building with a front gable and clipped rear gable. Central entry on north side and one window opening on east side elevation. Vinyl siding.

House **ca. 1915** **Contributing Building**
3721 Wendell Boulevard

This house is similar in form to the adjacent dwelling at 3711 Wendell Boulevard. The main block is similar; a pyramidal roof cottage with two front-facing gables. However, these are truly twin gables as they are equal in size and both have diamond vents. There is a third decorative gable on the east side elevation. The porch wraps from the façade to the east elevation; the

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original posts have been removed and replaced with metal, leaf-patterned supports. There is a gabled peak in the porch roofline over the entry. The original tin shingle roof with decorative scrolled finials has been retained. Windows are 1/1 wood sash. Vinyl siding covers the house.

Apartment **ca. 1970** **Non-Contributing Building**

A one-story, front-gable apartment covered with vinyl siding.

Charlie Hobgood House **ca. 1900, ca. 1980** **Contributing Building**
3830 Wendell Boulevard

This two-story, three-bay, triple-A form dwelling has a one-story triple-A ell with a separate entrance. At the east end of the rear elevation is a large ca. 1980 addition with a steeply pitched side gable roof with end returns and a massive shouldered chimney at the east end. Also attached to the rear elevation is a shed carport. On the façade a one-story porch with rounded corners wraps to the east elevation. 2/2 sashes are found throughout the building. Alterations include aluminum siding and shutters and metal porch supports.

House **ca. 1900/2000** **Contributing Building**
3831 Wendell Boulevard

A one-story pyramidal roof house with gables on the front and side elevations. The façade gable has a diamond-shaped louvered vent. The porch has a hipped roof and battered supports and wraps from the front (south) to the east side elevation. A stencil on the porch frieze reads "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Window sash are 4/4. Weatherboards cover the house and a plain board frieze runs under the roofline. A two-story, hipped-roof, weatherboarded garage addition has been connected to the rear (north) elevation by a hyphen. It was built sometime after 1996. The garage has two lift doors and an entry door and paired 6/6 window sash on the second story.

Jimmy and Ashta Hobgood House **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
3840 Wendell Boulevard

A one-story, triple-A form house. The one-bay gabled entry porch is likely a later addition. Windows are 6/6 sash, paired on the front elevation. Alterations include asbestos shingles and replacement metal porch supports.

Shed **ca. 1990** **Non-Contributing Building**

Prefabricated shed with T-111 siding.

Stell-Clark House **ca. 1900/1992** **Contributing Building**
3841 Wendell Boulevard

Owned by the Stell Family for many years, this two-story Queen Anne house features a wrap-around porch with square posts topped by sawn spandrels and a plain matchstick frieze and balustrade. A porte cohere attaches to the east side of the porch. The roof is both hipped and

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cross gable in form and the gable ends feature returns and a plain frieze. Some time after 1991 a clerestory was built atop the flat portion of the hipped roof. A set of paired windows under a lunette was added near the peak of the front facing gable. Previously an arched vent was present. Other alterations include vinyl siding and windows. A low cut stone wall delineates the front yard. Long time resident Leroy Clark owned the Farmer's Tobacco Warehouse in downtown Wendell.

Garage ca. 1970 **Non-contributing Building**
Front-gable frame garage.

Robert and Annie Pearl Hobgood Critcher House ca. 1948 Contributing Building
3850 Wendell Boulevard

A very simple one-story, side gabled house with a gabled sunroom on the east elevation and a one-bay pedimented entry porch. Original 6/6 windows are paired on the front elevation and found singly elsewhere. Vinyl siding and shutters have been added.

Shed ca. 1990 **Non-Contributing Building**
Front gable shed covered with T-111 siding and a half-glazed entry door.

Mallie Curtis & Martha Todd House ca. 1917/1957 Contributing Building
3851 Wendell Boulevard

This "aeroplane bungalow" is the only one in Wake County. The shingled house has a shallow-pitched, side-gable roof surmounted by a full-story monitor. The framing of the eaves was intentionally left visible, in keeping with the organic themes of the Craftsman period, and is supported by exaggerated knee braces. The characteristically Craftsman porch is covered by a shallow-pitched, vented, front gable roof displaying the exposed rafter tails and knee braces seen elsewhere on the dwelling. The porch roof is supported by tripled square posts, tied together by pergola cross beams under the lintel, on brick piers. A balustrade of geometric cut-outs spans the porch. Original banded 6/1 sash windows remain. In 1957 a shingled one-story family room addition was built off the east elevation. The gable end has an exaggerated roof overhang with brackets to match the original parts of the house. The windows of the addition are 1/1.

M.C. Todd was a lifelong Wendell resident who became a prominent local businessman and community leader. He was appointed cashier of the newly formed Bank of Wendell in 1907, after completing one semester at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Todd also formed the Todd Insurance Agency, specializing in crop insurance. Todd was promoted to bank president in 1944 upon the death of R.B. Whitley. He also served as a town commissioner, clerk, and served two terms as mayor beginning in 1943 (Sprouse 11-12).

Garage ca. 1917 **Contributing Building**
Two-bay, shingled garage surmounted by a pyramidal roof. Garage doors have been replaced.

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Outbuilding	ca. 1920/1950	Contributing Building
Shingled outbuilding with a pyramidal roof and multi-light entry door. A shed addition was added to the west elevation in the 1950s. This building originally had weatherboard siding and exposed rafter tails.		
Hurley D. Powell, Jr. House 3900 Wendell Boulevard	1939	Contributing Building
This one-and-one-half-story Cape Cod house displays a variety of Colonial Revival details. Twin roof dormers surmount the main block. Gabled extensions flank the main block and an ell projects from the rear elevation. Sheltering the central entry is a one-bay pedimented entry porch with Chippendale balustrade. Windows are 6/6 sash with paneled shutters. A dentil frieze sits below the boxed cornice. Beaded weatherboard siding covers the house. On the east elevation is a shouldered chimney.		
Shed	ca. 2000	Non-Contributing Building
A frame side gabled storage shed with an open shed attached.		
J.H. Sanders House 3901 Wendell Boulevard	ca. 1950	Contributing Building
A two-story side gabled brick Georgian Revival dwelling of excellent detail. The three-bay symmetrical façade features a central entry with a broken-pediment-with-urn surround, 6/6 windows flanked by paneled shutters, a dentiled cornice and quoins. There is a one-story side gable wing on the west elevation.		
H.D. Powell House 3910 Wendell Boulevard	ca. 1900/1930	Contributing Building
This was originally a two-story house that burned and the second level was not rebuilt. The present one-story, side gabled house has a full façade shed-roof porch with battered supports. The central entry door has two arched windows over bulls-eye panels. Paired 4/1 Craftsman sash flank the entry. Sash on the remaining elevations are a combination of 4/1 and 4/4. The interior is a center hall plan. Late-nineteenth century wood mantels remain over the fireboxes. Alterations include German vinyl siding. Baynes and Company Custom Picture framing has occupied the building since 1984.		
House 3911 Wendell Boulevard	ca. 1954	Contributing Building
A brick Ranch with a corner cut-away entry with original three-light mid-century door. A second entry is on the slightly projecting front bay. A concrete slab porch on square posts projects off the west elevation. Original 2/2 horizontal window sash remain.		
Garage	ca. 1990	Non-Contributing Building

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Front gable, two bay frame garage with lift doors.

House **ca. 1920** **Contributing Building**
3920 Wendell Boulevard

This one-story, triple-A form house has multiple rear additions. Its hipped-roof porch may not be original as evidenced by the Craftsman-style appearance of the battered posts on brick piers. Under the porch are paired 4/1 Craftsman window sash; 4/4 sash are on the other elevations. A diamond vent is visible in the front gable. The house has been vinyl sided.

Vacant lot
3930 Wendell Boulevard

House **ca. 1900/2000** **Contributing Building**
3931 Wendell Boulevard

This two-story, gable-and-wing form house with hipped-and-gabled roofline has recently been renovated. The gable ends have returns and diamond-shaped vents. A wrap-around porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers; however, these supports were added recently, replacing round posts. It is not known if the round supports were original. The central entry is a fully glazed door with sidelights. There is a second, fully-glazed entry door in the projecting front wing. Weatherboard siding covers the house. The windows are 1/1 replacement sash flanked by vinyl shutters.

Shed **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**
A side gabled shed covered in T-111 siding and two 2/2 windows flanking a half-glazed entry door. There is an open shed off the side elevation.

Vacant Lot
3940 Wendell Boulevard

Kelly and Ida Hunter House **ca. 1944** **Contributing Building**
3941 Wendell Boulevard

A one-story, stuccoed dwelling with a stepped parapet roofline. 6/6 windows are paired on the front elevation and topped by metal awnings. This Mediterranean-influenced house is the only one of its type in the district. Kelly and Ida Hunter built the house around 1944 for their daughter. The family had seen this style of house during their travels to the American southwest and wanted to replicate it. The Hunters were the owners of Hunter's Five and Dime Stores in Wendell, Clayton and Zebulon.

Carport **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Structure**
Carport with metal roof and wood posts.

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Apple House **ca. 1948** **Contributing Building**
3950 Wendell Boulevard

This Minimal Traditional dwelling could also be considered an early example of the Ranch house. The brick side-gable main block has a weatherboarded extension on the east elevation. Colonial Revival details include recessed entry with pilastered entry surround, a plain frieze and window shutters. Windows are 6/6 sash; a triple band of these windows is situated east of the entry and they are found paired on the east elevation. A brick flat arch surmounts each window.

Apartment **ca. 1950** **Contributing Building**

One-story, front-gable dwelling with central entry and 6/6 window sash. Aluminum siding covers the building.

House **ca. 1945** **Contributing Building**
3951 Wendell Boulevard

This simple one-story, side-gable brick cottage has a single-bay arched porch with an applied sunburst pattern in the gable. The porch is supported by round columns and square pilasters. The 6/6 window sash are paired and banded on the front elevation and placed singly elsewhere. Soldier and header courses are located above and below the window openings, respectively, and a soldier course watertable is also present. There is a gabled screened sun porch on the east elevation, and an asbestos sided wing on the west elevation.

Garage **ca. 1945** **Contributing Building**

A front-gabled weatherboarded garage with a double leaf auto bay door.

Willard and Hoy White House **ca. 1959** **Contributing Building**
3960 Wendell Boulevard

Brick Ranch with an attached garage/breezeway on east elevation. The façade has a front-facing entry gable with recessed entry. The bay east of the entry is faced with stone and contains a bay window. The gables and soffits of the house are wood. Windows are original 6/6 sash. A substantial chimney projects from the roof in front of the ridgeline. White owned a tobacco farm.

Carport **ca. 1990** **Non-Contributing Structure**

Metal carport

George and Lucy Vaughn House **ca. 1957** **Contributing Building**
3961 Wendell Boulevard

A painted brick ranch with recessed entry with sidelights. The windows are 6/6 sash and flanked by paneled shutters. A stocky interior chimney projects from the roof ridge.

Shed **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**

A small garden shed with steeply pitched roof and an open shed off the east side.

Garage **ca. 2000** **Non-Contributing Building**

A one-bay, front-gabled garage of recent construction.

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John Lynch House **ca. 1910** **Contributing Building**
3970 Wendell Boulevard

One-story, side-gable house with a one-bay, front gable central entry porch supported by narrow chamfered posts. A photo from 1991 shows lattice porch supports matching those on the gabled side screened porch of the west elevation. Paired 12/1 windows flank the entry. Two large magnolia trees are in the front yard. The entry door has been replaced as have the lattice front porch supports. Vinyl siding covers the house. Lynch was a tobacco farmer and also worked in the local tobacco warehouses.

Shed **ca. 1990** **Non-Contributing Building**
Prefabricated frame shed with a gambrel roofline and open side shed.

House **ca. 1900** **Contributing Building**
3980 Wendell Boulevard

One-story, triple-A form house with a full-façade hip roof porch supported by later, battered posts on brick piers. A plain frieze board runs under the eaves. Original 4/4 window sash remain. The sash are paired on the front elevation with sets flanking the central entry. Asbestos shingles cover the original siding material and a square picket balustrade has been added between the porch piers.

Garage **ca. 1920** **Contributing Building**
One-bay front-gable weatherboarded garage with vertical board double doors.

Shed **ca. 1920** **Non-Contributing Building**
Front-gabled shed sheathed in corrugated metal with an open rear shed

Todd Funeral Home **ca. 1939** **Contributing Building**
3981 Wendell Boulevard

A one-and-one-half story, side-gable house with Colonial Revival details. The façade features four dormers and a door surround with broken pediment, transom, dentil cornice, and fluted pilasters. The 12/12 windows are set in keystone surrounds with dentil trim. Each side elevation has a single-shouldered chimney and there is a side gable porch on the east side elevation. Vinyl siding covers the dwelling. This house was built by the Todd family to house both the local funeral home and living quarters.

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Statement of Significance

The Wendell Boulevard Historic District meets Criterion C for the significance of its residential architecture. The linear district is a roughly six block residential area in the eastern Wake County town of Wendell. There are fifty-nine primary resources in the district. The district possesses the densest and most intact concentration of historic residential resources in Wendell. It is significant within the local architectural context of Wake County.

Incorporated by the General Assembly in 1903, Wendell developed as a tobacco market and railroad town. Many of the town's residents made their living by tobacco; as warehouse owners, brokers, auctioneers, gentleman farmers, crop insurance agents or bankers. The district was the neighborhood of choice for the merchant class of "tobacconists," a local term referring to a person who made their living in some way related to the production and/or sale of the crop or ancillary services, from the early 1900s through the 1950s. As such, the district possesses a progression of houses built in the Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional and Ranch styles. Houses range from modest in size and detail to quite large and stylish, such as the Mallie Asa Griffin House, a substantial Queen Anne dwelling with an elaborate, double-height wraparound porch. The Mallie Curtis Todd House is the county's only example of the "aeroplane" bungalow—a fanciful interpretation of Craftsman themes popular on the west coast.

The historic context for the district's significance may be found in "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County (ca. 1770-1941)," specifically in context 3: Populism to Progressivism (1855-1918), pages E46-64; and context 4: Boom, Bust and Recovery Between World Wars (1919-1941), pages E65-77. Additional context for the years 1942 through 1958 is provided below in Section 8. The district has local significance under Criterion C for its collection of buildings representative of Wake County's distinct architectural styles and building types. The historic architectural context for the district appears in Property Type 3A: Houses Built from the Colonial Period to the Civil War Era, pages F.124-131; 3B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I, pages F132-137; and 3C: Twentieth-Century Popular House Types, pages F137-142. Additional architecture context for the Ranch and Minimal Traditional types not included in the MPDF has been added to Section 8. The district meets registration requirements for the "house" building type on pages F125-142

The period of significance begins ca. 1890 with the district's oldest dwelling, the Knott House, and continues to 1958, the approximate date of construction of the latest Ranch

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house. The historic buildings in the district generally retain their architectural integrity, including original materials, porches and windows. Two non-contributing primary resources were built after the end of the period of significance, and two, both on N. Buffalo Street, are non-contributing due to alterations. The district also retains integrity of setting including large oak trees, mature yard plantings, and WPA-era curbing, gutters and sidewalks.

Historical Background and Context

This rural area was first known as the Rhodes School House community and was comprised of small family farms and the Rhodes School. The school was established in 1861 on land donated by Ambrose Rhodes. In 1891 headmaster M. A. Griffin changed the school's name to Wendell Academy to reflect the name of the new post office.

Three events contributed to the growth of Wendell from a rural community to a small town with a robust tobacco based economy. The first event was the formal incorporation of the town by the North Carolina General Assembly on March 6, 1903 (Pleasants 9). Then in 1906, the Raleigh and Pamlico Railroad line was completed, connecting Raleigh to markets in the eastern part of the state and passing through Wendell. Local lore holds that schoolteacher Mallie Asa Griffin gave the town its name. Griffin chose the name to honor American physician, historian and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes. However, the town's name is pronounced differently than that of its namesake. The vernacular pronunciation "Wen-dell" (with emphasis on both syllables) is said to mimic the call of the railroad conductors as they passed through town. While this story may explain the unique pronunciation of the name, it also attests to the importance of the railroad in Wendell's history.

The "Granville Wilt," a crop disease that afflicted North Carolina's northern piedmont tobacco belt, had the greatest impact on the growth of Wendell. As the Granville Wilt spread, destroying crops and livelihoods, tobacco farmers found eastern Wake County's soil conditions amendable to the cultivation of bright leaf tobacco. An influx of farm families fleeing the wilt led to the establishment of a tobacco culture in and around Wendell at the turn of the twentieth century. Tobacco markets followed the crops, and the small rural community of Wendell was transformed into a regional tobacco trading center and burgeoning town with its own local bank, shops, churches, and other industries. Historian George S. Pleasants summarizes tobacco's impact on Wendell's growth: "No single commodity has been as influential in the town of Wendell's development as has tobacco...It helped build schools, churches, homes; educated children; and supported local businesses (11)."

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Several important business concerns drove the town's economic growth and subsequently the development of the historic district. Tobacco agriculture created many possibilities for the growth of Wendell, and local capital was required to support farmers and nurture businesses. In 1907, the Bank of Wendell was founded by Rayford Bryant Whitley. After achieving success as a businessman and local politician in neighboring Johnston County, Whitley recognized the potential for growth in Wendell. Whitley's bank was "critical to the success of the local tobacco market and played an integral role in the town's economy," (Thomas 8.12-13). The bank's early stockholders read like a "who's who" of Wendell with prominent families of the district such as the Hobgoods and Todds represented. District resident M.A. Griffin also charted a second bank, Farmer's and Merchants, at this time.

The Wendell Leaf Market, Wake County's first tobacco market, was established in 1907. C.S. Hobgood and Amos Dean built and operated the town's first warehouse, the Star Warehouse, around this time (Pleasants 11). By 1920 four large, brick tobacco warehouses had been built within the town limits (Thomas 8.13).

Once the tobacco market was established, the town continued to prosper. The population almost doubled from 759 to 1,239 between 1910 and 1920 (Lally 234). The tobacco market proved hardy to the Depression, and the town weathered the period fairly well, although building within the district does appear to have virtually stopped in the early 1930s. Local construction projects continued through the efforts of the Works Progress Administration and Wendell's curbing, gutters, and sidewalks were laid along the streets in the 1930s.

From 1941 through 1945 Wendell residents focused on World War II and the war effort. The return of young soldiers home to Wake County caused a bump in the number of farms in operation. The 1940 agricultural census lists 5,255 farms in the county; by 1950 that number rose to 6,200 (Martin 1-4). Tobacco continued to be the county's leading crop and Wake County was the fourth largest tobacco-producing county in the state. Due to the strength of the local tobacco economy, the Wendell market continued to thrive in the post-war era. In 1947, Renfro Leaf Tobacco Company was formed in Wendell to handle leaf purchases at local tobacco markets. Also in 1947 Producers Cooperative Association built a 31,000 square feet warehouse in Wendell. This was the first cooperative warehouse to be owned and operated by tobacco growers in eastern or piedmont North Carolina. (Martin 4).

The healthy tobacco market allowed Wendell's economy to continue to expand. Between 1942 and 1958 fifteen, or just over one-third, primary resource buildings were constructed in the district.

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Although tobacco was Wendell's mainstay for most of the twentieth century, by the 1990s North Carolina's tobacco culture was nearing its end. The Wendell Leaf Market was closed in 1999. It was the last market in Wake County to do so. However, the town has adapted to a new regional economy based on research and technology. Today Wendell is growing rapidly as a bedroom community to Raleigh and the Research Triangle. Wendell's shops, restaurants and service business cater to its population of roughly 5,000 residents. Both its Commercial Historic District and the Wendell Boulevard district remain vibrant, active areas. In order to instill community pride East Wilson Avenue was renamed Wendell Boulevard in 1994.

Architecture Context

The Wendell Historic District contains fifty-nine primary properties. Within it are examples of several types of nationally popular architectural styles spanning the period from circa 1890 through 1958; Queen Anne, Craftsman, Period Cottage, Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional and Ranch. The "house" property type is discussed in depth in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941). The document should be referenced for a thorough discussion of historic architecture in Wake County.

The term "tobacconist" is a local one referring to a person who made their living in some way related to the production and/or sale of the crop or ancillary services. Families who directly worked in the tobacco industry built many of the district's homes. Building styles in the district do not fall neatly into a chronology. In the small, yet independent-minded community of Wendell, individuals simply built homes they liked. In many instances styles were built concurrently with one another rather than in succession. Due to the district's small size many of the resources are the only examples of their style represented in the district.

Precise construction dates are not known in most cases, but all of the buildings likely post-date ca. 1890, when the Wendell Academy and post office were founded. One of the district's earliest structures is the ca. 1890 Knott House, a one-story, hipped-roof Queen Anne cottage at 345 Mattox Street.

Three one-story, hipped-roof houses, each with twin front gables and wrap porches were built around 1910; 3711 Wendell Boulevard is the most intact of the three, with original weatherboard siding and Doric porch columns. The other examples, 3721 Wendell Boulevard and 231 North Main Street, retain their forms with replacement siding and porch posts. Also built ca. 1910 is the Mallie Asa Griffin House (3720 Wendell Boulevard), a local interpretation of the Queen Anne style with a fanciful, double-tiered, wrap-around porch. Architectural historian Kelly A. Lally deemed the house "the largest and most ornate dwelling in Wendell."

The triple-A form house, a regional vernacular type, is present in both one and two-story

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versions, with five examples in the district. This form was common in North Carolina from the 1870s through the 1930s in rural, small town and urban settings. The district's examples fit this broad pattern with construction dates from ca. 1900 through ca. 1920. 3980 Wendell Boulevard is typical of the triple-A form: a one-story, side gable house with a front-facing gable for decorative purposes only. This particular house has battered Craftsman porch posts suggesting the porch may not be the original one.

The district's only true bungalow is the spectacular ca. 1920 Mallie Curtis and Martha Todd House at 3851 Wendell Boulevard. Although Craftsman windows and porches are present in the district, for example at 3910 Wendell Boulevard and 3931 Wendell Boulevard, respectively, the Todd House is a fully executed "aeroplane" bungalow. The shingled house displays typical Craftsman features such as low-pitched rooflines, exposed rafter tails, a prominent porch, oversized triangular eave brackets and banded window sashes. Surmounting the roof is a stepped-back second story, containing two bedrooms, which defines the airplane bungalow form. The form was so named due to this second-story "cockpit," with the ground story spreading out below like the wings of a plane (Sprouse 13). The style is not commonly seen outside of California where it originated and certainly was a daring choice for the Todds in small town eastern North Carolina.

The district's strongest stylistic influence is the Colonial Revival, which is evident in both of its church buildings as well as its residential architecture. The district's only true "Cape Cod" dwelling is the Hurley D. Powell House (3900 Wendell Boulevard). The house features Colonial detailing such as twin dormers, a pedimented entry porch with Chippendale balustrade, 6/6 windows with paneled shutters and beaded siding. The Sanders House (3901 Wendell Boulevard) is a brick, two-story Georgian Revival house with typifying features such as a symmetrical façade, broken pediment entry surround and brick quoins. The ca. 1950 Griffin House (3521 Wendell Boulevard) has a double-height Mount Vernon-inspired porch--an architectural tribute to an idealized colonial era.

The district has four Period Cottages. Defining architectural characteristics of the Period Cottage include asymmetrical facades with steeply-pitched, front-gable wings or entry bays, arched entryways, brick or stone front façade chimneys, simulated half-timbering in the gables, and casement or diamond pane windows. 255 Old Zebulon Road is a one-story brick dwelling with a projecting front gable and a façade chimney. A similar house, this one with a side sun porch with arched openings, is 3320 Wendell Boulevard. Next door at 3340 Wendell Boulevard is a frame Period Cottage with a distinctive sloped roof line.

The Minimal Traditional style makes its first appearance both nationally and locally in the 1930s and continued to be used through the 1950s when it was supplanted by the Ranch. The style was

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a modest choice for a nation recovering from economic hard times after the Depression, and a few years later World War II. The style takes its name from its use of traditional stylistic references, in a minimal, or stripped down manner. Minimal Traditional houses often lack full-façade porches or entry porticos, fancy pedimented door surrounds and elaborate cornices. Eaves and rakes are often flush. The style's small size and lack of applied decorative detail and large porches kept down construction costs and enabled the dwellings to be completed quickly and inexpensively. There are six Minimal Traditional Houses in the district. 219 Old Zebulon Road is representative of the style. It is a simple one-story gabled box with a pared down Federal Revival entry surround topped with a simplified "fanlight."

The one-story Ranch house with its long, low lines is America's omnipresent post-World War II style; an architectural reminder of the nation's explosive growth after the war. As such, the district's four Ranch houses (3960, 3950, 3911 and 3961 Wendell Boulevard), built between 1950 and 1958, are important indicators that Wendell was influenced by this national trend. "Modern" Ranch houses were built by prominent citizens, such as the Hunter, White, and Vaughn families who wanted an up-to-date and stylish house in which to live. However, in keeping with the conservative tastes of a small southern town, the district's Ranches possess a clear preference for colonial precedents. The district's few Ranches are infill properties and as such represent the next in a series of popular styles rather than an example of the Ranch neighborhoods found in other Wake County towns.

A Ranch style house is a rectangular dwelling with emphasis on the façade width. They are always one story in height, with a shallow-pitched hipped or side-gable roof. Often, an overhanging eave adds to the form's horizontal appearance. Ranch houses may be clad in brick, stone, wood or stucco as the form was often interpreted through local building traditions. The first Ranches had casement windows, with double-hung or horizontally sliding sashes appearing later on. Picture windows and attached garages or carports are common.

The district's earliest Ranch house is the ca. 1948 Apple House (3950 Wendell Boulevard). The brick house illustrates the transition from Colonial Revival precedents to the modern Ranch form. The one-story, side-gable dwelling has a recessed entry with a pilastered entry surround. A plain frieze runs under the overhanging roof. The George and Lucy Vaughn House at 3961 Wendell Boulevard was built in 1957. This example, while definitely a Ranch, clings to a few colonial decorative elements such as 6/6 windows. The ca. 1958 brick and stone veneer house at 3960 Wendell Boulevard is the district's most fully actualized Ranch house with an attached garage and no hints of colonial precedents. The 1958 construction date of this house marks the end of the period of significance.

The Wendell Boulevard Historic District represents the densest and most intact concentration of

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historic residential resources in the town; it was the preferred address for prominent citizens from 1890 through 1958. The district contains an illustrative collection of large and high style buildings when compared to neighborhoods outside the district. While adjacent streets do have buildings dating from the period of significance, the large number of post-1958 buildings detracts from the historic streetscapes. South of Wendell Boulevard and west of the Wendell Commercial Historic District is an area known as the Third Street district (not NR listed) comprised of Third Street, South Main Street and Cypress Street. This area has a good but small collection of intact frame and brick Craftsman bungalows and modest Colonial Revival houses. Both districts compare favorably with one another in terms of resource quality, but the resources of the Wendell Boulevard Historic District span a longer period of time (1890 – 1958) and therefore more architectural styles are present in the district than in the Third Street area.

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Boundaries

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are shown by a black line on the accompanying tax parcel map at a scale of 1 inch = 159 feet.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the densest and most intact concentration of historic residential resources constructed during the period of significance, ca. 1890 through 1958, and is drawn to exclude noncontributing properties.

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Photos

The following information applies to all photographs:

Wendell Boulevard Historic District
Wendell, Wake County, North Carolina
Photographs taken February 2008
Photographer Ellen Turco
Originals located at the North Carolina SHPO

- 1) View looking east on Wendell Boulevard from N. Pine Street.
- 2) Wendell Baptist Church, 3651 Wendell Boulevard
- 3) M. A. Griffin House, 3720 Wendell Boulevard
- 4) Hurley D. Powell, Jr. House, 3900 Wendell Boulevard
- 5) Kirk Hall, 3701 Wendell Boulevard (non-contributing)
- 6) Mallie Curtis Todd House, 3851 Wendell Boulevard
- 7) J. H. Sanders House, 3901 Wendell Boulevard
- 8) Carl Johnson House, 3320 Wendell Boulevard
- 9) House, 122 N. Buffalo Street
- 10) House, 3980 Wendell Boulevard
- 11) Smoke House (left) and Power House (right) for M. A. Griffin House, 3720 Wendell Boulevard

Wendell Boulevard Historic District

