

TOUR HISTORIC WILSON



**Self-Guided
Walking/Driving
Tour of Landmarks
in the
City of Wilson**

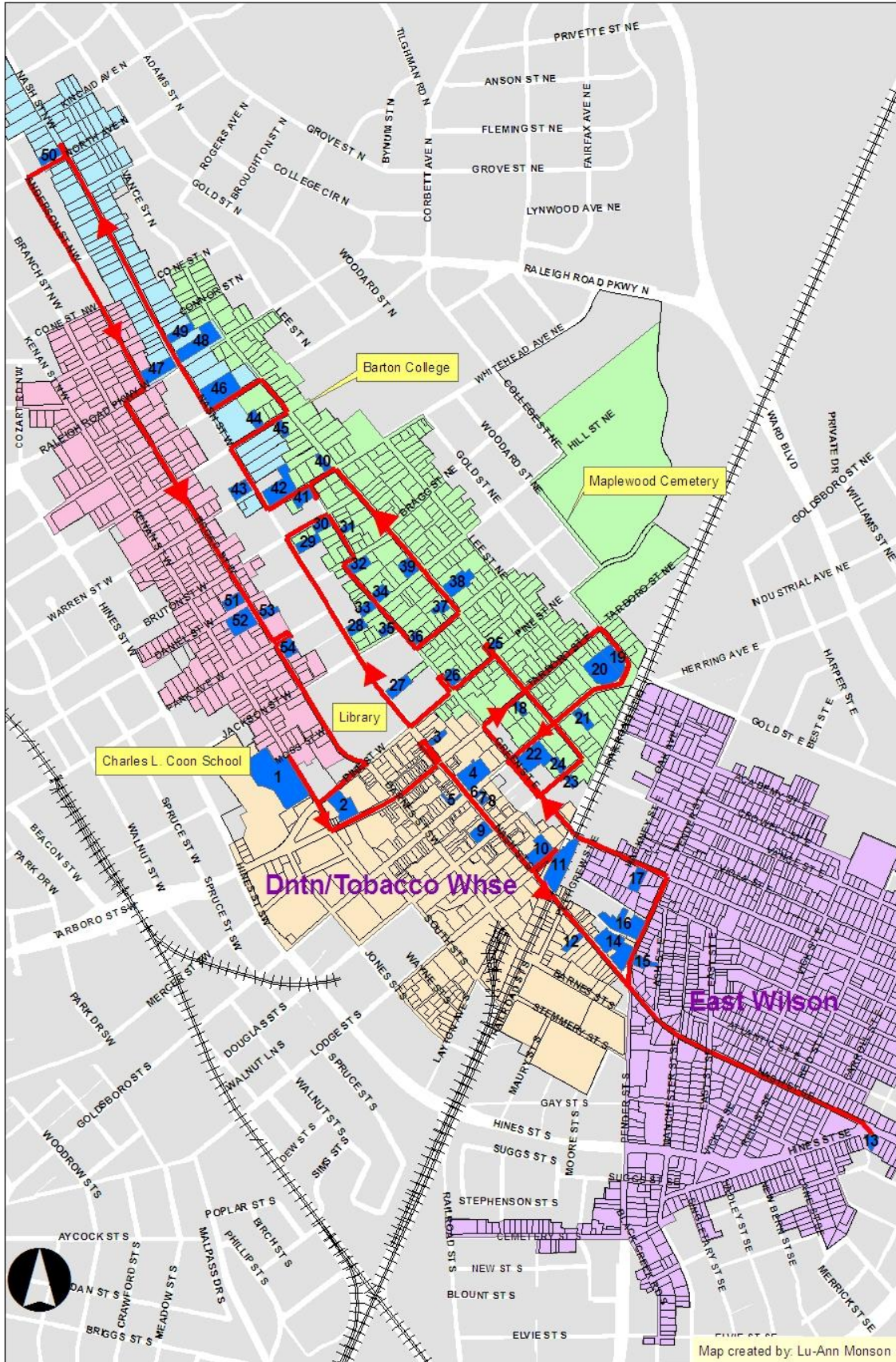
The City of Wilson and the Wilson Historic Preservation Commission are pleased to provide this tour of our historic landmarks. Most of the homes are private residences, so we ask that you appreciate the exterior beauty of the houses from the public right of ways. Commercial and public buildings may be accessible for full or limited interior access.



DRIVERS:

Please be aware that Church, Smith, Pine, Tarboro, Atlantic Christian College (ACC), Raleigh and Moss streets are 1-way streets at some or all of their extent. It will be important to follow the sequence of the tour. Walking tour participants may choose to vary from the sequence.

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1 CHARLES L COON SCHOOL – 211 Kenan Street – 1921. The Wilson High School was renamed in memory of respected educator and superintendent Charles L. Coon. Flanked by the gymnasium and auditorium, the central portion of the elegant, Neo-Classical structure is a 3-story, T-plan brick building with a shallow hipped roof. The projecting central pavilion, crowned with a bold, modillioned, wooden cornice, is reached by a ceremonial brick and stone staircase, and the recessed entrance is framed by Tuscan columns supporting a broken pediment. From 1958-1978, the building was used as a middle school, then sold and used for storage. The building was restored and rehabilitated into apartments in 2003.



2 CICERO CULPEPPER CARRIAGE SHOP - 222 South Tarboro Street - ca. 1907 (2nd story 1913). This shop is Wilson's best preserved example of 20th century commercial and industrial building. Originally a wagon entrance, the double doors are flanked by display cases with transoms. A 1-room blacksmith shop was located at the rear of the building. The Carriage Shop operated until 1925 when automobiles and trucks replaced mules and wagons which had serviced the adjacent tobacco warehouses, prize houses, livery stables and machine shops. The building was then used as a bicycle shop until 1972. Restored in 2005, it currently houses a gift & holiday collectibles store.



3 GRADY BUILDING AND WILSON THEATRE - 108 West Nash Street - ca. 1919. Designed by Solon B. Moore, this structure represents the only example of an office/retail building associated with Wilson's earliest and only known multi-purpose entertainment theatre, accommodating both live performances and motion pictures. The outstanding architectural and decorative interior detail of the theatre is much as it was when built. The 2nd floor of the Grady Building served as the design studio for Mr. Moore, and offices of Dr. Leland V. Grady, a prominent Wilson physician. The buildings are currently used as a performing arts center.



4 WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 125 East Nash Street - 1924. NR. This monumental Neo-Classical Revival structure was designed by Fred A. Bishop and built by William P. Rose. It replaced the 1855 Tudor Revival courthouse on the same site. The 3-story limestone building features a hexastyle portico carried by six fluted Composite columns and two pilasters. It is capped with an elaborate entablature with modillions and dentils, a plain frieze and a heavily molded architrave. A clock, surmounted by a plumed cartouche and embellished with a carved fruit wreath is centered at the top and reads "1855 WILSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1924."



5 BRANCH BANK AND TRUST COMPANY - 124 East Nash Street - 1903. NR. This Second Renaissance style structure represents the oldest continually operating bank facility in North Carolina. It is the third building erected to house the private banking firm chartered in 1872 by Alpheus Branch and Thomas Jefferson Hadley. The 2-story blond brick structure features reddish sandstone-colored concrete, channeled brickwork radiating from the keystones and voussoirs, and beveled glass in the arched windows. The bank operated here until 1985. Donated to the City of Wilson, it is currently used by the Arts Council and is open to the public.



6 PLANTER'S BANK - 201 East Nash Street - ca. 1920. Wilson's Planter's Bank building is one of the city's finest examples of Neo-Classical Revival architecture. The limestone veneered façade is flanked by paired Ionic columns on massive granite plinths that match the building base. The carved stone entablature features a modillioned and dentiled cornice and a stone balustrade with squat stone corner posts enlivened by bold cartouches. An elaborate pediment formed by laurel wreaths, swags and acanthus leaves supporting an egg-and-dart molded edge forms the entrance. The building is currently used as the annex to the adjacent 1938 WPA Municipal Building.



7 WINSTEAD-HARDY COMMERCIAL BUILDING – 205-207 East Nash Street – 1865. The oldest brick commercial building and Wilson's most impressive example of commercial Victorian architecture, this 2-story structure boasts exceptional corbelled brickwork and one of the finest metal cornices to survive in the state. It was erected as a general mercantile store for Kinsey H. Winstead and David L. Hardy. Seven pilasters define the 6-bay second story and support two tiers of raised brickwork; the upper resembling icicles and the lower two rows of dentils. The cornice dates from the turn-of-the-century, and documentation indicates it replaced a previous wooden cornice.



8 HERRING'S DRUG STORE - 211 East Nash Street - 1885. This Victorian commercial building was the site of Wilson's oldest family owned business, Herring's Drug Store and the office of Dr. Needham Herring. The Herring family contributed to the town's business and political organizations, and "Herring's [dance] Hall", located on the second floor, was the social hub of entertainment. The building was used as a drug store from 1885 until 1996. The facade, like many other commercial buildings, was rebuilt in brick following a fire in the 1920s. Although the storefronts have been modified, the pressed tin ceiling with cherubs and classical details are intact in both the store and adjoining office used by Hood-Herring Architecture.



9 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE - 224 East Nash Street - ca. 1927. Like many public buildings, the local post office and federal courthouse was constructed in the Beaux Arts style. Begun in a strong economy and completed in 1930, the 3-story limestone veneer building features a 5-bay façade with the central 3 bays projecting slightly. The first floor is adorned with large arched windows. The central entrance is flanked by slender pilasters, and a richly carved swag extending from the central console and surrounded by rosettes. The building was used for its original purposes until 1981. It was rehabilitated for Imagination Station, a "hands-on" science museum, and opened to the public in 1991.



10 CHERRY HOTEL - 333 East Nash Street - ca. 1917. NR. An elaborate Beaux Arts entrance features lions' masks which previously supported a pressed metal canopy on a building which epitomized hotel design of the period. The 200 rooms were small and simple, while the lobby, banquet rooms and public areas are well appointed and intact. The classical design features an elaborate metal Beaux Art cornice, with molded, modillioned and dentiled details. Located adjacent to the train station, the U-shaped hotel was convenient to many rail passengers traveling from New York to Florida. The building was restored in 1984 and is currently used as elderly apartments.



11 ATLANTIC COASTLINE RAILROAD PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE DEPOT - 401 East Nash Street - 1924. The Mission style architecture of the train station designed by A.M. Griffin exhibits a Flemish influence. The building represents the growth of the transportation industry in Wilson, which paralleled the tobacco boom, and greatly affected the rate of the town's growth. The building is cruciform in plan, with a small square porter's room in the same style to the east. Both buildings have red Spanish terra cotta tile roofs. Restored in 1997, the station operates daily with trains to New York and Florida. Be sure to visit "Miss Rail Rose," waiting for the train.



12 ORANGE HOTEL - 526 East Nash Street - 1906. The last remaining downtown frame hotel was built for Samuel H. Vick and housed African-American travelers. The 2-story clapboard building features a standing seam tin roof, 3-bay façade and a 2-tier porch, carried by turned posts with small curved brackets. A prominent African-American, Vick used his resources to help improve conditions in the Black community. He built rental homes, established the first bank, hospital, movie theatre, insurance company, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, in addition to his church [Jackson Chapel] and social interests.



13 OLIVER NESTUS FREEMAN HOUSE - 1300 East Nash Street - ca. 1911. Stone mason Oliver Nestus Freeman built his bungalow-style home of stone. He adorned the house with a sculpture garden of concrete animals, tables, benches, arches and seashell-clad items; several of which have been relocated to the museum bearing his name across the street. He owned several black bears and other exotic animals who performed at his home on Sunday afternoons which became a popular destination for groups and individuals to visit. The house is currently home to Nestus' granddaughter.



14 JACKSON CHAPEL FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH - 571 East Nash Street - ca. 1913. Romanesque style architecture adorns the oldest of the two most architecturally significant religious structures in Wilson's black community. Jackson Chapel features a 3-story belltower with a belcast pyramidal roof supported by curved brackets, red brick, wide eaves, under which are a corbelled and arched cornice panel, and large arched windows. The church serves as a visual landmark as you approach downtown, and in 1998 was enlarged with an addition reflecting the architectural details of the historic church building.



15 CAMILLUS DARDEN HOUSE - 108 North Pender Street – 1925. One of Wilson's finest Colonial Revival houses, the 2-story brick home was designed by Charles Colin Benton and built by brick mason John Barnes for Camillus L. Darden. Camillus was the son of Charles Darden, the first black undertaker in North Carolina. He operated Wilson's only franchises for Victorrola talking records and Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The house features arched floor-to-ceiling windows flanking the front door and a columned entry porch with a roof balustrade. It is currently used as the meeting house of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.



16 ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH - 119 North Pender Street - 1915. This Gothic Revival church was erected by brick mason John Barnes (brother-in-law of Norma Darden) and is believed to have been designed by Charles Collin Benton. It features a 3-story square tower with corner buttresses, Gothic arched windows, projecting stone rainspouts, a louvered and arched belfry with limestone trim, and stone finials, crosses and caps at the top. The interior features a recessed central dome carried by arches springing from the 4 corners of the sanctuary. The door and the arched window openings house the original stained glass windows.



17 WILSON HOSPITAL AND TUBERCULAR HOME - 504 East Green Street - 1913. One of three early black hospitals in the state when constructed, the grandeur of the two-story Neo-Classical Revival design is attributed to local architects Benton and Moore, and was repeated in the design of the Woodard-Herring Hospital. Mercy Hospital, as it became known, was known for its competent medical staff, including Dr. Frank S. Hargrave, who had been instrumental in its establishment. Financial hardship and the Depression plagued the hospital, which operated until Wilson's hospitals consolidated in 1964. Mercy remained vacant most of the years until rehabilitated into a small business incubator in 1996.



18 CONNER-LUCAS HOUSE - 210 North Tarboro Street – ca. 1898. This house is an example of the Queen Anne cottage style architecture of the late 1890s. It's features include the Queen Anne window in the woodshingled gable, a spindle frieze, brackets, turned columns & balusters on the porch, and an unusual truncated roof pierced by dormers & corbelled chimneys. It is associated with the sons of two prominent Wilson families: the H.G. Conners and the Silas R. Lucases. George Conner served as a judge of the Supreme Court, State Representative, and Trustee at UNC; Wyatt Lucas, continued to operate his father's local brick industry, and his son Silas was a prominent lawyer and mayor of Wilson.



19 DAVID WOODARD HOUSE - 409 North Goldsboro Street - ca. 1901. Upper class tastes and values are apparent in this turn-of-the-century residence, in the Woodard Circle neighborhood. Money, fine materials and good craftsmen were readily available to owners such as David Woodard, a principal in one of Wilson's first tobacco warehouses. Notable is the Art Nouveau stained glass transom, the slender turned columns and balusters of the full front porch, and the Palladian windows in the gable. Legal Services used the home for their law offices for 20 years. The current owners are restoring the home to a private residence.



20 WILSON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE - 403 Oak Avenue - 1859. Built originally as the Wilson Female Seminary, the Italianate structure served as a Confederate hospital during the Civil War. In 1872, it became known as Wilson Collegiate Institute and was attended by Gov. Charles B. Aycock and Josephus Daniels, Ambassador to Mexico and Secretary of the Navy under Franklin D. Roosevelt. This is the last remaining part of the building, divided into six houses around 1898. The interior walls of the upper level are inscribed with "Patience, Punctuality, Economy, Purity, Truth, Order, Industry & Perseverance". Relocated to its present site by the UDC, the building is being restored by the Confederate Sons, and will house a history museum.



21 CORA FARMER HOUSE - 304 North Goldsboro Street - ca. 1887. One of the finest and last examples of Queen Anne architecture standing in Wilson with the ornate detail work still intact. The asymmetric design features a large front porch with turned columns and balustrade, brackets and half-timbering. The home is associated with one of the oldest families in Wilson, that of Larry D. Farmer, a large land owner and former member of the town board; and his son, J. Ed Farmer, former Sheriff. The Farmer family provided the land on which Maplewood Cemetery is located.



22 ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 202 North Goldsboro Street - ca. 1906. The oldest established Episcopal Church in Wilson was founded in 1856. Their 1906 building is an outstanding example of Gothic architecture. The exterior smooth red brick and slate gable roof terminates in a large square bell tower with a crenellated parapet. The large studded entrance doors are paneled and feature Gothic motifs, including the cast iron door knob plate. The cruciform-plan church has a gabled transept, which along with the nave, contain buttressed walls pierced by arched stained glass windows. Interior features of note are the altar, pews and light fixtures, all reflecting Gothic details.



23 WIGGINS-HADLEY HOUSE - 208 North Douglas Street - ca. 1872. This house is a rare example of Italianate cottage architecture, built for a middle-class family shortly after the Civil War. Particularly notable are the front entrance, paired doors and exceptional bracket details. Mr. James T. Wiggins owned Wiggin's Mill and is believed to have planted the first lot of marketable tobacco in Wilson County; Mr. Hadley and his family are remembered for their bravery in the Civil War, participation in the development of the school system, activity in government, and their General Merchandise business. The house is currently used as a law office.



24 WILSON FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE - 209 North Douglas Street - ca. 1926. Designed by local architect, Solon B. Moore, and constructed by Jones Brothers, the 2-story 3-bay brick fire station represents the City's attempt to construct the most modern facilities possible to house their firefighters and equipment. Architecturally, it demonstrates the use of design elements and construction techniques common to contemporary residences, and typical of bungalows, including a wide overhang supported by oversized brackets and concrete sills. After serving as a homeless shelter, it is being restored as a fire museum.



25 JAMES E. GORHAM HOUSE -200 West Vance Street - ca. 1853. The Wilson Female Academy is one of the few anti-bellum structures in Wilson, and one of two early education buildings constructed here. The 2-story 3-bay clapboard building features a low-pitched roof enhanced with small brackets and a central entrance. The bay window and porches were added in the 1880s. The building is associated with Colonel James Gorham, a member of the Great Congress in Halifax County who participated in framing the U.S. Constitution. It is currently four apartments.



26 LUCAS-BARNES HOUSE - 200 West Green Street - ca. 1853. Colonial Revival style architecture overlays vernacular Greek Revival proportions, strong evidence that the house was originally the Wilson Male Academy, the other of the two early school buildings erected in Wilson. The hipped slate roof is capped with scrolled metal ornaments, the dormer and roofline feature modillions, and the delicately executed sidelights and transom are exceptional. It is associated with brick maker, builder and real estate man Silas Lucas, and his son-in-law John Thomas Barnes, businessman and secretary-treasurer of Barnes-Harrell Bottling Co.



27 JAMES ROUNTREE HOUSE - 206 West Nash Street - ca. 1888. NR. The eclectic richness of the Victorian style is illustrated in the asymmetry, a variety of textures and materials, and turned Eastlake trimwork on the porch. The paired Queen Anne doors and bay windows, spindle frieze and railing with cutouts below, turned paired columns, and brackets represent the grandeur of Nash Street in the late 19th century. The interior features wide heart pine floors, black marble mantels and a Tiffany chandelier. Rountree operated a general mercantile business. The home continues to be occupied by a Rountree descendant.



28 BOYKIN-EDMUNDSON HOUSE – 304 West Nash Street - ca.1895. Elements of both the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles are evident in this West Nash Street home, once a component in a prominent residential neighborhood, and currently one of a few surviving homes in an area of commercial development. It features German lap siding, large 1/1 windows, paired Tuscan columns and a delicately turned balustrade. It is associated with J.R. and Ida Boykin; and Haywood Edmundson Jr., a pioneer of the Wilson tobacco market; and his son. It is currently used as a law office.



29 EUGENE L. JORDAN HOUSE - 406 West Nash Street - ca. 1883. This Queen Anne style cottage has attained its significance in the quality of design and architectural detail. The 1-story clapboard home features turned posts with cut-out brackets that connect to a spindle and sawtooth frieze, and a delicate turned balustrade between the columns. The projecting bay contains a peaked gable vent and bay window with a paneled base. The corner of the porch is highlighted with an octagonal pavilion crowned by a turned finial. Interior design and frame shops have occupied the house since 1957.



30 JUDGE HENRY G. CONNER HOUSE - 109 Gray Street - 1907. This house reflects Neo-Classical Revival architecture, yet combines Queen Anne and oriental influences to give an eclectic appearance, common at the turn-of-the-century. It is associated with Judge Conner; a lawyer, judge of the Supreme Court for the Third Judicial District, NC Senator, President of Branch Bank & Trust, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of N.C., and the U.S. District Bench for the Eastern District. The slate hipped-roof home is pierced by ornately detailed interior chimneys and multifaceted dormers. The wraparound porch features Ionic columns and dentil molding.



31 ROBERT S. WILKINS HOUSE – 106 Gray Street - ca. 1922. This 1½ story brick bungalow, repeated with minor variations throughout Wilson, was built by contractor James E. Wilkins as the residence for his three children. It features a clipped gable-end roof with exposed rafter tails, a projecting front-facing clipped dormer with recessed windows framed by paired square columns. The engaged porch is supported by tall tapered wood columns on shallow brick plinths, and provides access to the offset entrance. The bracketed dormer and gables feature wood shingles. Wilkins' firm was the longest operating construction company in Wilson.



32 DR. WILLIAM S. ANDERSON HOUSE -316 West Green Street - ca. 1905. One of the most outstanding and the best preserved examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Maplewood, the oldest residential neighborhood in Wilson, is the Dr. William S. Anderson home. The 2-story 3-bay house is sheltered by a tall, slate-covered hip roof, and pierced by interior chimneys and small pedimented dormers. Palladian windows with colored glass are located in the central gable. The first floor entrance was modified in 1954 when the owner rented rooms.



33 WEAVER-SIMMS HOUSE - 307 West Green Street - ca. 1881. A typical Victorian cottage, associated with two owners; self-made men John L. Weaver and W.W. Simms. Mr. Weaver was one of Wilson's pioneer hardware merchants during Reconstruction and the latter half of the nineteenth century. Mr. Simms was one of the town's leading lumber industrialists. The 1-story house features a wraparound porch with a "grid" frieze, brackets and turned columns. Triple windows with multi-pattern sash flank the central entrance. Until recently, the house was used as the North Star Art Gallery.



34 A. P. SIMPSON HOUSE - 310 West Green Street - ca. 1880. Exceptional detail is found on this late Victorian cottage, built for A.P. Simpson, a dry goods merchant. The slat balustrade, lacy scrolled brackets and a delicate sawtooth frieze are some of Wilson's finest surviving sawnwork details, and add to the warmth and the character of the home. In 1882 it was purchased by J.F. Farmer, a community leader who served as Pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church, Justice of the Peace, and Chairman of the Wilson County Board of Commissioners. From 1920 until 2006 it was owned by the Howard/ Dickenson family.



35 WILSON PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH – 301 West Green Street - 1920. This was the third building used by Wilson's oldest established congregation, founded in 1756. The design of this Gothic Revival structure is the only church attributed to Solon Balias Moore. The quality of its architecture and its importance as a religious institution that has served the community for over two centuries add to its significance; stained glass windows feature memorials to Wilson's founding families. Other features include stone capped towers, corbelled brick, buttresses and heavily bracketed iron door hinges. It is currently used by Christ Temple of Praise.



36 PIVER-MOSS HOUSE AND SHOP - 201 Maplewood Avenue - ca. 1899. The Late Victorian Queen Anne style home and the ca. 1930 shop behind are a rare example of a commercial building associated with a residence. The house was built by J.G. Riley for Clarrisa Piver, and later sold to J.G. Raper for his daughter Fannie Moss. The shop was used as a grocery and later a dry cleaners, until becoming Maude's Flower Shoppe (from 1957 until the business relocated into the house in 1989.) The house features a slate roof with fishscale pattern, Queen Anne gable windows, cut-out brackets, turned columns and balusters and sawtooth details framed with finials.



37 PETER J. ROYALL HOUSE - 303-305 West Vance Street - ca. 1876. A conservative home converted to a duplex in 1952, the house is associated with Peter Royall and his sister-in-law Margaret Hearne. Royall owned a foundry (plow shop), served on the town council, and was instrumental in establishing Maplewood Cemetery. His widow invited her sister to stay with her. One of Wilson's earliest and most dedicated educators; the Graded School where she taught for 30 years is named in her honor. The 2-story, 3-bay house features a cut-out balustrade, simple brackets on chamfered posts and front dormers



38 GOLD-HARRELL HOUSE – 304 W Vance – ca. 1885. This Queen Anne style house was built for journalist and Primitive Baptist preacher Pleasant Daniel Gold by James Wilkins. It features an eclectic combination of classical and Victorian detail, representative of period houses. A cross-gabled slate roof shelters the 2-story house, whose gable ends are decoratively framed with arched braces and king posts, creating 3-dimensional effect on the otherwise restrained exterior. Queen Anne windows, a large 3-sided bay window a paneled base, and paired Queen Anne doors (removed) adorn the front elevation. A Neo-Classical Revival styled porch with Tuscan columns was added to the house in the 1920s.



39 A. J. SIMMS HOUSE - 211 Hill Street - ca. 1874. One of very few remaining homes built in the early 1870s, this elaborate, distinctive Victorian cottage was originally owned by A.J. (Jack) Simms, the first Clerk of the Superior Court of Wilson County. He survived financial loss and rebounded to rebuild his private life and that of his community. The cross-gable house features circular vents in woodshingled gables, a turned balustrade and oversized [some floor-to-ceiling] windows with hinged shutters.



40 DR. OSCAR HOOKS HOUSE - 115 Whitehead Avenue - ca.1915. The only entirely stuccoed bungalow in Wilson, the 1½ -story house was designed by Berewell Riddick of Virginia, and built for dentist Oscar Hoods. It features a broad gable roof that sweeps to engage the front porch. A broad front-gable dormer with brackets occupies the front elevation. Four beveled multi-paned French doors with cut glass knobs open onto the large, massive terrace, adjacent to the front porch, carried by low arches that rest on massive corner pillars.



41 WILKINS-WALSTON HOUSE - 205 Gray Street - 1907. This handsome example of late Queen Anne/early Neo-Classical Revival architecture was the home of the contractor and builder James E. Wilkins and later H.H. Walston, a prosperous planter. Walston deeded it to the Arts Council in 1974. The 2-story frame house is asymmetrical in design and features a slate roof adorned with tiled ridge poles, capped at the gable ends with scrolled metal ornaments. The L-shaped porch features Ionic columns. Two arched stained glass windows and multi-faceted transom, sidelight and front windows add interest to the fenestration.



42 DAVIS-WHITEHEAD-HARRISS HOUSE – 600 West Nash Street - 1858. NR. Designed by Oswald Lipscomb, this home was remodeled to its present Italianate form in 1872. It features bold exterior ornament, oversized windows and paired arched doors. Brackets adorn the rooflines and porch, and chamfered columns with a turned balustrade welcome visitors. The exotic trees and shrubs and handsome interior woodwork are inviting to guests staying at the bed & breakfast. The house is associated with James Davis, the first state printer and publisher of one of the first newspapers in the state; Howell Gray Whitehead, a prominent planter and businessman; and William James Harriss.



43 BENJAMIN F. LANE HOUSE - 601 West Nash Street - ca. 1898. This outstanding Colonial Revival house was designed by nationally-known architect George Barber. It was built for Benjamin F. Lane, planter and co-founder of the Liberty Warehouse, and later home to Jefferson Davis Bardin, Clerk of Superior Court and Juvenile Courts Judge. The 2-story frame house features curvilinear porch elements with Ionic columns and pilasters, turned balusters, and dentil molding. Classical garlands and columns enframe the central door, sidelights and transom.



44 MOSES ROUNTREE HOUSE - 107 North Rountree Street - ca. 1869. NR. The Gothic Revival style Moses Rountree house was designed by architect Oswald Lipscomb. The 2-story, 3-bay gable-end house features three front gables with arched windows. The central entrance is supported by latticework columns and frieze. In addition to its architecture, the home is associated with Moses Rountree, the most prominent mid-19th century merchant who operated a general mercantile store. Formerly a Nash Street facing property, the house currently sits on its third site.



45 ALLIE W. FLEMING HOUSE -112 North Rountree Street -ca. 1919. An outstanding example of the Bungalow style, this picturesque cottage with its rough stone foundation, columns and chimney is the only one of its type in Wilson. The house features a rolled-edge clipped gable roof punctuated by eyebrow dormers. A porte cochère accesses the side of the house, and stuccoed gables feature half-timbering. The Flemings were early pioneers in bright leaf tobacco (which eventually led to Wilson being the World's Largest Bright Leaf Tobacco Market in the 1920s), and instrumental in the construction of a WPA baseball stadium named in his honor, Fleming Stadium.



46 W. W. GRAVES HOUSE - 800 West Nash - ca. 1923. The finest example of Georgian Revival architecture in Wilson, as well as one of the best in the state, the Graves house was designed by Harry Barton. Donated to Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) by the heirs of Gladys Graves, it serves as the residence of the president. The 7-bay brick house features a green Ludovici tile roof with end chimneys and gable dormers with arched windows. Inset over the first floor keystone are diamond-shaped panels of green tiles. An arched transom and leaded sidelights complement the central entrance.



47 SELBY H. ANDERSON HOUSE - 901 West Nash Street - 1917. One of Wilson's finest bungalows, this house has been associated with Selby H. Anderson, a leading businessman in the banking, tobacco, and insurance industries in the early 20th century; and later with John A. Gray, rector at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. The 1-story gable-end house features a shed front dormer, sun porch, porte cochère and [now enclosed] interior courtyard. The engaged roof, supported by tapered wood columns on pink granite plinths and foundation protect the central entrance with multi-light transom & sidelights, and the now painted Roman brick.



48 WILLIAMS-COZART HOUSE - 900 West Nash Street - 1903. This home is the earliest example of Classical Revival architecture remaining in Wilson. The 2-story monumental porch supported by 2-story fluted Ionic columns draws the eye to the grand entrance, capped with an unusual bonnet shaped dormer. The house is associated with Jesse B. Williams, son-in-law of Alpheus Branch, (see Branch Bank & Trust); and U.H. Cozart, one of the state's leading turn-of-the-century bright leaf tobacconists.



49 FREDERICK D. SWINDELL HOUSE - 906 West Nash Street - ca. 1924. Georgian Revival architecture graces the West Nash Street home associated with Frederick Dudley Swindell, a prominent Wilson lawyer, and his wife Elizabeth Gold Swindell, who became the owner, manager, and editor of the Wilson Daily Times, the newspaper founded by her family. The house is owned by their grandson, Morgan Dickerman, the current president and publisher of the paper. The 2-story, 5-bay house features a green Ludovici roof, belcast entry porch with lace-like cut-out transom and sidelights. The windows are protected by louvered shutters with moon-shaped cut-outs.



50 SMITH-BISHOP HOUSE - 1301 West Nash Street - 1918. The most robust of three Western Stick style Bungalows in Wilson, this dwelling was constructed for William E. Smith, President of the Planter's Bank in Wilson, and the developer of the West End Park subdivision. In 1922 the Smiths sold the home to Asa Edward Bishop (owner of the Carolina Laundry). The stuccoed house features granite pillars and half-shoulder chimney, a heavy openwork timber gable treatment, characteristic of the Western Stick style in Wilson. Triple multi-faceted windows flank the central entrance, and a porte cochère is adjacent to the side entrance.



51 WILLIAMS-WOODARD-BANKS HOUSE - 501 Broad Street - ca. 1898. The best example of flamboyant Queen Anne style architecture in Wilson, this house was designed by nationally-known architect George Barber. It is notable for its unusual polygonal tower, brackets, wood shingles, and sawn and turned decoration. This combination of elements enlivens the overall composition. It is associated with Jesse Williams (husband of Mattie Branch Gay), a planter, insurance man and operator of a cotton gin; Calvin Woodard Jr., a merchant; and William L. Banks, an insurance agent.



52 JACOB TOMLINSON HOUSE - 407 Broad Street - ca. 1915. Jacob Tomlinson had this Classical Revival style home built for his family. The large 2-story Doric portico dominates the 3-bay façade and is ornamented with dentils and modillions. The shallow slate hipped roof boasts a molded cornice with a dentil frieze. Windows contain multi-pane top sash with elongated vertical lights centered between small square lights; and the door onto the second story balcony is flanked by multi-pane sidelights. The balcony is defined by a Smyrna cross patterned balustrade. Wings project on each side of the house and the wrap-around porch embraces three sides of the house. The trabeated front door is of dark oak.



53 WILSON WOMAN'S CLUB - 402 Broad Street - ca. 1922. The only surviving early 20th century building constructed as a club house in the city, this Mission Revival brick structure was designed by Solon Balias Moore. The Woman's Club was founded in 1915, the first community service organization. They began the first public library, among other projects. The sweeping hipped roofline is punctuated by two slightly projecting hipped roof side wings. An inset balcony with a shed is set into the center, and supported by Tuscan columns on the first floor porch. The building houses public spaces downstairs and two upstairs apartments.



54 ROSCOE G. BRIGGS HOUSE - 111 Park Avenue - ca. 1904. This fine example of Colonial Revival is associated with Roscoe Briggs, a leading tobacconist and businessman. He was co-founder and co-owner of Briggs and Fleming tobacco prizery (Wilson's first); owned Silver Lake farm and recreation area; served as the first Fire Chief in 1890, among other endeavors. The 2-story frame house features a large wraparound porch with Ionic columns and a turned balustrade, a multi-chrome slate roof, Palladian dormers, modillions and dentils, and other classical motifs. It currently houses a Park Place Consignments.

Historic Preservation in Wilson

The City of Wilson is home to five historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR). Old Wilson, West Nash, East Wilson and Broad-Kenan are residential districts, while the Central Business /Tobacco Warehouse District was the commercial center of town. In addition, five structures are individually listed on the National Register. They include: Branch Banking & Trust, the James Rountree House, the Moses Rountree House, the Davis-Whitehead-Harriss House, and the Cherry Hotel.

The National Register of Historic Places and the *local* historic landmark and historic district designations are two very different programs that recognize and protect historic properties. Some historic properties and districts may receive one or more types of recognition. However, local designation is entirely independent of the National Register program.

National Register

National Register listing is primarily an honor, meaning that a property has been researched and evaluated according to established procedures and determined to be worthy of preservation for its historical value. The listing in the National Register does not obligate or restrict a private owner in any way unless the owner seeks a federal benefit such as a grant or tax credit or applies for a special permit. For a private owner the chief practical benefit of National Register listing is eligibility for investment tax credits that can be claimed against the cost of a certified rehabilitation. Both individual properties and districts may be listed on the National Register.

Local Landmarks

Landmark designations apply to individual buildings, structures, sites, areas or objects which are studied and judged to have historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural value. Designation is an honor, meaning the community believes the property deserves recognition and protection. Landmarks are designated by the local government through the passage of an ordinance. Owners must have proposed exterior work reviewed and approved before beginning the work. Owners of landmark properties are eligible for an annual 50% property tax deferral as long as the property's important historic features are maintained. Recapture penalties may apply if the owner destroys the property or damages its historic value.

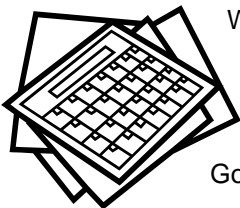
Local Historic Districts

Historic district designation is a type of zoning that applies to entire neighborhoods or other areas that include many historic properties. The zoning provides controls on the appearance of existing and proposed buildings. Designation is an honor, meaning the community believes the architecture, history, and character of the area are worthy of recognition and protection. Historic district zoning can help stabilize and improve property values, and it benefits property owners by protecting them from inappropriate changes by other owners that may destroy the special qualities of the neighborhood. COAs are also required before exterior changes take place. Unlike landmark designations, local historic district designation has no effect on local property taxes for property owners within the designated district.

Living in a designated historic district is different from living anywhere else in Wilson. In 1988, the City Council voted to permit historic overlay districts. West Nash, Old Wilson and Broad-Kenan Historic Districts were established as local historic districts by the City Council. In doing so, the City Council has shown that it places great value on protecting and preserving the unique architecture of the buildings and of the historic neighborhoods. Local designation protects the buildings from inappropriate or harmful exterior changes, while insuring that future generations as well as today's residents and visitors will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

One of the most important gifts an established historic district can give to the larger community, as well as to its own residents and children, is its tangible, architectural heritage. The people who live and work in these historic districts share in this effort to preserve the past for the future.

Wilson Historic Preservation Commission



Wilson's Historic Preservation Commission meets monthly to consider applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. The applicant or their agent should be present at the meeting where their case is heard, and may present information and hear testimony of their neighbors or other interested parties who may also address the application. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, 3rd floor of the Municipal Building at 112 North Goldsboro Street, and are open to the public.

The Impact of Tobacco on Wilson's Architecture

Since the 1840s, Wilson's cotton industry was the economic base of the area. By the 1870s, however, tobacco cultivation was expanding rapidly. By 1890, Wilson County opened its tobacco market.

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1869 | 1,898 pounds |
| 1879 | 8,745 pounds |
| 1890 | 1,508,109 pounds |
| 1902 | 22,296,077 pounds |
| 1919 | 42,330,509 pounds |

In 1919, Wilson surpassed Danville, Virginia as the nation's largest market for flue-cured tobacco. Since that time, it has remained a leader in the growing and marketing of flue-cured tobacco.

The tobacco boom resulted in a level of commercial, industrial, and residential building activity that had not been seen in Wilson's short history. Residential neighborhoods expanded north, northeast, northwest, and south of the central business district. They contain large and small houses, including Queen Anne, Neo-Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Shotgun, Bungalow, Georgian Revival, and Tudoresque styles. At the time when the tobacco market peaked, the most popular house style nationally was the bungalow. As a result, Wilson hosts one of the largest and most varied collections of the style in the state.

Summary of the National Register Historic Districts identified on the map:

The **Old Wilson Historic District**, consisting of 361 properties, encompasses five loosely defined residential neighborhoods that date from the 1850s through the 1920s. These neighborhoods were the homes of business leaders and the middle tier of merchants, clerks, and salesmen. Old Wilson contains a representation of the major architectural styles from the period, handsome churches of six congregations - Primitive Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Episcopal, Catholic and Lutheran, Wilson's oldest surviving school buildings, and peaceful Maplewood Cemetery.

The **West Nash Street Historic District** is the most impressive residential avenue in Wilson. It was home to many of the most prominent and successful merchants, businessmen, and tobaccoists in Wilson from the early twentieth century to the present. The district, consisting of 99 properties (all but 2 residential in nature), is remarkably intact.

The **East Wilson Historic District** is comprised of 1277 predominantly residential properties south of the downtown. The district is characterized by one- and two-story frame dwellings, in a variety of traditional Southern house styles built between 1890 and 1940 for working class and middle class black families. Many feature standing-seam metal roofs, and are located on narrow lots. Small gable-end churches and parapet-front grocery stores complete the district.

The **Broad-Kenan Streets Historic District** is one of Wilson's principal middle-class neighborhoods that developed during the city's most vigorous period of commercial and industrial growth; 1890 to the Depression. It features an outstanding assortment of domestic architecture, reflecting the popular national styles of this period, most prevalently, the bungalow.

The **Central Business/Tobacco Warehouse District** is the seat of government in the county since 1855, and the center for political, agricultural, educational, industrial, commercial, banking, transportation, social and religious development of the city and region.

This brochure was produced for the City of Wilson
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