

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

## 1. Name of Property

historic name WHITSETT HISTORIC DISTRICT

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

## 2. Location

street & number Junction NC Highway 61 & SR 3064 ☒ N/A not for publication

city or town Whitsett ☒ N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27377

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey J. Cron SHPD 3/16/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
38	31	buildings
1		sites
5	5	structures
		objects
44	36	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

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

1

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

EDUCATION/education-related

EDUCATION/school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

EDUCATION/school

GOVERNMENT/post office

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Queen Anne

Late Victorian

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls Weatherboard

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

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

Whitsett Historic District  
Name of Property

Guilford Co., N.C.  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Development

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1894-1930

### Significant Dates

1919

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

### 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:

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property approx. 65 Acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	629120	3992780
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	629340	3992840

3	17	629700	3992280
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	629640	3991880

☐ See continuation sheet

5 1 7 629120 3991860

**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 Kaye Graybealorganization DSAtlantic date 1-1-99street & number 7820 North Point Blvd. telephone 336-759-7400city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27106**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1WHITSETT HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GUILFORD COUNTY, NC**Section 7: Physical Description**

The Whitsett Historic District is situated in the rolling countryside of eastern Guilford County, seven miles east of Greensboro. It lies adjacent to the boundary dividing Guilford and Alamance Counties within an incorporated community originating at the T-configured intersection of two-lane roads, NC 61 and Whitsett Park Road (State Route 3064). Long vistas of open land surrounding the community recall the larger and earlier context of settlement in the area by eighteenth-century Quaker and German Lutheran farmers. But as a community without a pronounced agricultural or commercial orientation, Whitsett developed around the Whitsett Institute, a prestigious private college preparatory school which operated between 1884 and 1919. Although the institute is now gone, several associated houses and boarding houses still focus on its former site now occupied by a 1921 public school building currently serving as the town hall. These houses, which have remained relatively unchanged during the last five decades, line the grassy verges of the main roads extending to the north, south and east of the former institute site. Many of the lawns are shaded by large oaks and magnolia trees planted early in the community's development. With remarkably little infill development over the last eighty years, and the original main road configuration intact, the built environment continues to evoke a time when community life revolved around the institute.

The district comprises approximately sixty-five acres and contains eighty resources of which twenty are contributing primary buildings and eight are noncontributing primary buildings. The noncontributing resources are primarily secondary structures and outbuildings, with the large majority of principal resources being contributing. There is one contributing site: the Whitsett Public School baseball field (12a). Although some of the built resources lack significance individually, they possess intrinsic value as components of a district which document this community's pattern of development. The non-contributing buildings are unobtrusive in scale and character, are compatibly-sited and thus do not infringe upon the overall integrity of the district.

The architectural landscape of the community is one of a relatively sophisticated aesthetic for a rural area, and most of the houses are notable renditions of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles along with some examples of an earlier vernacular Victorian farmhouse style. The contributing houses along Whitsett's main street, formerly known as College Avenue, now NC 61, and along Whitsett Park Road were built between 1894 and 1921, with thirteen of these having been constructed between 1900 and 1908. Most of the houses in the community were originally homes of teachers at the institute, boarding houses, or residences for merchants in the immediate vicinity. The most notable include the home of Dr. William Thorton Whitsett, "The Oaks" (28), a distinctive turreted cross-gabled Queen Anne-style house with a Colonial Revival porch, and J. Henry Joyner's house known as "Hollygate"(1) (listed in the National Register in 1980). Dr. Whitsett was the founder of Whitsett Institute, and as his collaborator and brother-in-law, Joyner built his asymmetrical two-and-a-half-story cross-gabled Queen Anne house in 1910. Other Queen Anne-influenced houses capped with hipped roofs with intersecting gables include the John Rankin House (2), the Captain Dick House (7), the Wimbish-Taylor House (25) (home of the institute's business manager) the Jefferson Lamb Houses (24) (a family dwelling where students also boarded), and the Swift-Wheeler House (23) (home of a local merchant). The 1894 Charles T. Mason

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House and Dormitory (13) is the sole-remaining family residence built with a wing specifically intended to house students.

Interestingly, there is a dearth of the Craftsman-bungalow-style houses that proliferated rural Guilford County during the 1920s and 1930s. Apparently, Whitsett was not a participant of that era's nationwide building boom that took place prior to the Great Depression, and that is evident in most areas of Guilford County. Most infill development at Whitsett did not begin until the 1940s and continued somewhat into the mid-twentieth century, and was manifested primarily in a scattering of post-World War II houses and later brick ranch houses.

The most significant change to the community since its inception is the loss of the Whitsett Institute campus. After a fire destroyed the institute's main building in 1918, the school closed and never reopened. Located on a wooded site in the center of the hamlet, this 1902 building was a grand two-story frame structure with a square four-story tower and a smaller three-story tower, each with a pyramidal cap. The entry bay projected at the first level and entrance to the building was gained through one of three arched and keystone openings. Four fluted columns rose from the flat roof above the entry bay to support a pedimented gable (1913-1914 Register of the Whitsett Institute).

According to 1895 Register of the Fairview Institute and Commercial College, the "General Plan" for the Fairview Institute consisted of the centrally-located main building, athletic grounds on the east side of College Avenue, and three boarding houses across the street to the west. Of these houses, only the Charles T. Mason House and Dormitory (13) is extant. To the south of the boarding houses, a frame building, now demolished, served as a store and post office. Another boarding house, also now demolished, was located to the south of the post office. A late 1800s drawing entitled "General View of Whitsett Institute" looking north up a very broad College Avenue (as NC 61 was then called) depicts a bustling village. A large, frame steepled chapel building is shown located on the institute campus, with another church building to the north of this. The south side of the street is lined with houses of varying sizes and styles, one being the Charles T. Mason House and Dormitory. The drawing depicts the supply store building post office and large two-story house to the south, all no longer standing. Scant small trees line the street (The Liberty News, July 27, 1977). A Methodist church was erected near the center of the village in 1908 and a Lutheran church was located at the northern edge of the village around that time. The Methodist church building, which still stands, originally served the Whitsett Methodist Episcopal Church (17). Although somewhat altered, the building depicts the original ecclesiastical Gothic design intent (Pegg 1980, p. 7).

The 1913-1914 Whitsett Annual Register describes the campus this way:

Grouped around the school campus, at a distance of one hundred yards, are twelve dormitories and boarding halls, where students room and board. The buildings are all practically new, having been erected within the past few years, and offer pleasant homes for the faculty and student body. Each boarding place is in the charge of a suitable matron.

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A circa 1915 documentary photo gives insight into the original streetscape along then College Avenue (NC State Historic Preservation Office Survey files). The brick store building (14) currently located at the intersection of NC 61 and Whitsett Park Road was originally a one-story two-bay brick structure with a parapeted roof which sloped to the rear and large storefront windows headed with decorative brickwork. The brick north wall of the current building is part of the original configuration. The building served as student and faculty supply store. To the south of the supply store was a smaller brick building, no longer standing, that served as the post office. Continuing south on College Avenue, the photograph provides a glimpse of a one-story, L-plan house and a two-story I-house.

Potential Archaeological Resources

The scope of research for this nomination did not include the investigation of potential archaeological sites; however, land within the district includes sites which may have the potential to yield information about pre-history and history. The six-acre parcel of open land to the east of Whitsett Public School (12) retains foundation footings of the 1902 Whitsett Institute main building according to local residents; however, this potential has not been determined. Another site that may have potential to yield archaeological information is the property to the south of the store building (14), which was former site of the circa 1915 Whitsett Post Office. Also according to local residents, a small servant's quarters was once located to the rear (east) of the former Walter J. Thompson House (6).

The Inventory List

The inventory listing begins with the property at the northern-most end of the district, that of the Dr. J. Henry Joyner House (1), and proceeds south along both sides of NC 61. At the intersection with Whitsett Park Road (SR 3046), the order of listing turns east and travels along both sides. Each resource is designated as either contributing (C) or noncontributing (NC) to the historic integrity of the district. In the column designated "NC", the letter "A" signifies late age, the letters "ALT" signify alteration, and the letters "DET" signify deterioration. Below this integrity designation, the letter "B" signifies a building, the letters "ST" signify a structure, and the letter "S" signifies a site. Whitsett Public School baseball field (12a) is a contributing site. Each outbuilding (all of which are one-story) within a property is sub-designated with a letter. All numerical and alphabetical designations are keyed to the accompanying planometric map of the district provided by Guilford County Planning and Development Department.

The methodology utilized in the completion of the nomination included three elements: field survey, research, and personal interviews. First, a field survey covering all resources within the proposed district was completed according to North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office standards. The resultant property files include photographs, historic data structures sheets, brief physical and historical descriptions and site maps. Research sources included Guilford County land deeds, a Guilford County Historic Documentation Map drafted in 1980 by Fred Hughes, an unpublished 1987 manuscript by Dr. Rollin M. Steele entitled Those Wonderful Whitsett Homes, and the 1994 Historic Designation Report for Whitsett, North Carolina by the Whitsett Historic District Commission. The latter two sources are located in the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office survey files in Raleigh. Newspaper articles and interviews with long-time residents and descendants of community founders also contributed.

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
01	Joyner, Dr. J. Henry House ("Hollygate")	1908- 1910	1 B		0721 NC Hwy 61	Construction on the Dr. J. Henry Joyner House, also known as "Hollygate," was begun in 1908 and completed in 1910. The dwelling is a two-and-a-half-story asymmetrical frame structure of Queen Anne style, one of the best examples in Guilford County. The house is fronted by an impressive Colonial Revival wrap-around porch. The high-pitched hipped roof is intersected by a large projecting cross-gable and exhibits an unusual semi-hexagonal projection on the north side. Three chimney stacks with band courses and molded caps punctuate the roof. Shingled pedimented gables project prominently from the western (front) and southern exposures.
01a	flower house	c. 1930	1 ST		0721 NC Hwy 61	shed-roofed brick structure with exposed rafters and continuous windows on front, connected to a brick wall which connects to modern garage; located northeast of main house
01b	garage	1908- 1910	1 B		0721 NC Hwy 61	one-story frame gable-front building located northeast of main house



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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
01c	corn crib	1908- 1910	1 ST		0721 NC Hwy 61	small, one-story frame structure east of the flower house and garage
01d	smokehouse	1920s	1 B		0721 NC Hwy 61	one-story hipped-roof frame building located between the woodshed and main house
01e	woodshed	1908- 1910	1 B		0721 NC Hwy 61	one-story frame shed-roofed building located southeast of the corner crib

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
01f	carport	1981		A ST	0721 NC Hwy 61	modern gable-front frame carport with brick foundation connected to south side of main house by a covered walkway
02	Rankin, John H. House	1903	1	B	0722 NC Hwy 61	In 1903 John H. Rankin bought 10,937 square feet of property from Dr. Thorton Whitsett upon which he built this two-story L-plan house. Presently situated on a little over five acres, this clapboard frame house is built with a steeply-pitched hip roof with gables that extend to the east, north and west. The front porch is a wrap-around beginning just off-center of the front and extending around the full expanse of the southern end of the house. The posts are turned and braced with sawn brackets. The property includes two early outbuildings: a dairy barn and milk house (1929).
02a	carport and workshop	1991		A B	0722 NC Hwy 61	frame gable-front building with projecting gable roof for carport and with detailing similar to house

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
2b	barn	1950s	A B		7205 Whitsett Park Road	corrugated front-gabled metal barn
02c	milk house	1929	1 B		0722 NC Hwy 61	small brick gable-front building
02d	garage/shed	1950s	A B		0722 NC Hwy 61	rectangular building frame with corrugated metal siding

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
03	Clapp, Dr. John House ("Midlawn")	1908	1	B	0723 NC Hwy 61	The picturesque two-story house was built in 1908 by Dr. John Clapp. Walter Hooper McLean and his wife Eugenia Cobb bought the house c. 1911. The only Dutch Colonial Revival house in the district, it is sheathed in cedar shake shingles. Two interior stone chimneys and two hipped dormers project from its gambrel roof. The gambrel roof overhangs to shelter a front screened porch supported by heavy Doric posts on stone pedestals flanking the entrance and full-height stone posts at the corners. At the rear of the house, a single gambrel roof extension projects to the east from the main block.
03a	carport	c. 1930	1	ST	0723 NC Hwy 61	shingled frame structure reflecting the style of the house
03b	outbuilding	1950s	A B		0723 NC Hwy 61	small square gable-roofed concrete block building

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
04	Midlawn Servants' Quarters (former)	c. 1908	1	B	0725 NC Hwy 61	Dr. John Clapp (Midlawn's original owner) built servants' quarters to the rear of the main house. The gabled roofed quarters have been bricked over and several additions were made in the 1940s; however, the building retains its main block form alluding its original use.
04a	garage	1980s		A B	0725 NC Hwy 61	wood frame gabled building
05	Spencer, Odell T. House	1967		A B	0800 NC Hwy 61	one-story brick ranch house with front-gabled central porch supported by slender columns

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
05a	garage	1970s		A B	0800 NC Hwy 61	shed-roofed rectangular building with corrugated metal siding
06	House (former Walter J. Thompson House site)	1980s		A B	0801 NC Hwy 61	Currently occupying the site is a modern frame house sheathed in vertical battons dating to c. 1980. The 1917 Walter J. Thompson House formerly located on this site, called "Willowbrook," was destroyed by fire in the 1920s. A two-room, side-gabled, frame student house with shed porch once located on the property behind the house is now demolished.
06a	garage	1940s	1	B	0801 NC Hwy 61	frame front-gabled building

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
06b	shed	1940s		DET B	0801 NC Hwy 61	deteriorated frame building with vertical siding
07	Dick, Captain House	1903	1	B	0802 NC Hwy 61	The 1903 Queen Anne Captain Dick House has a steeply-pitched hipped roof with a prominent front-facing shingled gable. There are two lower off-centered cross gables which join the center roof section. Whitsett Institute's 1910 Annual Register indicates a wrap-around porch connecting the front, side, and rear sections of the house. The wrap-around porch still exists, but was later partially enclosed and extended back from a room off the kitchen. The balustraded porch has freestanding classical posts with sawn brackets. The house boasts three prominently displayed diamond-shaped windows with two located in the center section of the house. Another distinctive feature is the half-timbering typical of the stick style.
08	Dick, Dora House	c. 1920	1	B	0806 NC Hwy 61	This 1895 two-story, frame L-plan house has a main gable running east-west with a cross-gable running north. It was built as a boarding house, as well as a residence for Dora Dick and her four children. The north wing of the house comprised mostly common areas. The bedrooms were located on the south side. There are two separate porches, one each on the east and west sides. The roof of each porch is supported by plain posts. The west porch has been screened. The present roof is tin. There have been few structural changes from 1910 to the present.

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
08a	granary	c. 1920	1	B	0806 NC Hwy 61	frame front-gable outbuilding with 5-V metal roof
08b	storage building	1950s	A B		0806 NC Hwy 61	shed-roofed frame outbuilding
09	Towe Memorial Baptist Church	1982	A B		0807 NC Hwy 61	concrete block church with gable front and modest steeple over central entrance; a late twentieth-century cemetery is located to the east



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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
09a	storage building	1982		A B	0807 NC Hwy 61	frame building with vinyl siding
10	Whitsett Fire Station #31	1972		A B	0809 NC Hwy 61	one and-a-half story side-gabled brick building with steeply-pitched standing-seam metal roof and side wings; additions completed in 1992 include three new bays.
10a	wood shed	1972		A B	0809 NC Hwy 61	corrugated metal wood storage shed

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
11	Carmon-McKaughan House	1907	1 B		0810 NC Hwy 61	This Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style cross-gabled frame house features a wrap-around porch. The porch was originally supported by turned posts with sawnwork brackets but these have been replaced by round columns. The second-story central section of the house features a diamond-shaped window. A 1910 photograph of the house indicates an impressive three-tiered wrap-around porch.
11a	granary	c. 1907	1 B		0810 NC Hwy 61	small frame front-gabled outbuilding; appears to have been a granary
12	Whitsett Public School (former)	1921	1 B		0811 NC Hwy 61	The two-story brick early twentieth-century public school building features a portico with Corinthian columns. It is one of the most substantial early school buildings remaining in Guilford County. The property was sold to the Guilford County School Board by Dr. Thorton Whitsett and his wife for \$10.00 about 1919 and construction began. The Corinthian columns gracing the front entrance were funded by C.T.M. Clapp in memory of his son, Ben Clapp, who was killed in World War I. The building currently houses the Whitsett Town Hall. It occupies the site of the 1884 former Whitsett Institute which attracted students primarily from the Piedmont and offered secretarial, and business curricula.

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
12a	baseball field	c. 1900	1	S	0811 NC Hwy. 61	The baseball field is contemporary with the Fair View Academy; however, the orientation of home plate has changed from the southwest position in the diamond to the present northeast position.
12b	concession stand	1950s		A ST	0811 NC Hwy 61	small frame shed-roofed building
13	Mason, Charles Theodore House & Dormitory	1894	1	B	0816 NC Hwy 61	This hipped-roof house with roof balustrade was built in 1894. The balustrade is a replica of that appearing in an 1895 documentary photograph. Paired interior end chimneys exhibit patterned brickwork. The porch has been restored to its original size and shape. Turned columns with balustrade have been added. The dormitory section, which projects from the rear of the house, includes a double porch which runs the length of both stories on the north side. The doors and six-over-six sash windows appear to be original. Hurricane shutters have been added to resemble the original. Students entering the house ascended a steep stairway in the rear and affectionately referred to this house as "The Palace."

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
13a	well house	1950s		A ST	0816 NC Hwy 61	small concrete block front-gabled structure
13b	woodshed	1950s		A ST	0816 NC Hwy 61	front-gabled concrete block structure
13c	studio	1984		A B	0816 NC Hwy 61	two-story frame salt box-shaped building built to resemble the granary that was originally located on the site

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
13d	tool shed	1950s	A	B	0816 NC Hwy 61	small frame shed-roofed building
13e	chicken house	1910s	1	B	0816 NC Hwy 61	shed-roofed board-and-batten with shed-roofed addition
14	Store Building	c. 1915	1	B	0818 NC Hwy 61	The two-story three-bay wide hipped-roof brick commercial building with exposed rafters was originally a one-story, two-bay brick structure when it was built in 1915. The 1915 Whitsett Register depicts the building with large storefront windows headed by decorative brickwork and a parapeted roof which sloped to the rear. The second story, given its construction details, appears to have been added as early as the 1920s. The brick exterior walls on the north side appear to be original. The building served as a student and faculty supply store in the later years of the Institute. It also served as a post office, a firehouse, and Whitsett Baptist Church. The building stands on the site of the former J. D. Oldham Store.

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
15	Summers-Edgerton House	1900	1	B	1000 NC Hwy 61	The turn-of-the-century triple-A house with exterior end chimneys exhibits a wrap-around porch extending along the northern elevation. The porch's original sawnwork, turned posts and balustrade have been removed. This house was built by John Wesley Summers and was one of twelve dormitories where students roomed and boarded. Sometime after 1927, Reverend Luther Talmage Edgerton bought the house. He served as pastor for both the Springwood and Bethel Presbyterian Churches. An early photograph shows a dormitory attached to the northern side of the house. A wrought iron fence surrounds the property and appears to be contemporary with the house.
15a	granary	1900	1	B	1000 NC Hwy 61	gabled frame outbuilding that appears to have been a granary
16	United States Post Office	1968	A	B	1001 NC Hwy 61	simple one-story front-gabled utilitarian brick building serving as post office for Whitsett and the surrounding community

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
17	Whitsett Methodist Episcopal Church (former)	1908	1	B	1005 NC Hwy 61	This plain clapboard church built in 1908 is of a front-gabled form fronted by a central steeple tower. A traditional roof-top steeple originally projected from the roof. The Gothic-arched window, are present only on the northern and southern elevations. The front entrance at the foot of the steeple tower is crowned by a tri-part triangular window. There have been several additions to the rear of the church. The congregation disbanded and the building was used for some time as a community center and eventually abandoned. The entrance to the building was remodeled and artificial siding added in 1986.
17a	storage building	1980s		A B	1005 NC Hwy 61	one-story front-gabled frame building
18	Ingle, David House	1979		A B	1008 NC Hwy 61	one-story frame ranch-style house with shingles and asymetrically-placed shed-roofed porch

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
18a	garage	1979		A B	1008 NC Hwy 61	front-gabled and shingled frame two-car garage
18b	storage building	1979		A B	1008 NC Hwy 61	frame shed-roofed outbuilding
19	Clapp- Barnhardt House	1904	1	B	1010 NC Hwy 61	The 1904 frame one-story cross-gabled, L-plan house features a hipped-roof porch with a sawnwork balustrade extending from the central entrance to the northeast side of the house. A porch on the west side was enclosed in the late twentieth century.



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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
19a	outbuilding	c. 1905	1	B	1010 NC Hwy 61	frame building, possibly a former smokehouse, with pyramidal roof
19b	barn	c. 1905	1	B	1010 NC Hwy 61	frame gabled barn
19c	tool shed	1980s	A	B	1010 NC Hwy 61	small modern log building

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NO.	PROP. NAME	DATE	C. NO.	ADDRS.	DESCRIPTION
20	Joyner-Fitzgerald House	1901	1 B	1015 NC Hwy 61	This two-story Queen Anne-style frame house, built by Dr. J. Henry Joyner, has a cross-gabled, asymmetrical form. Decorative wrought iron embellishes the corners of the steeply-pitched hip roof sheathed in patterned tin. Later-added shutters frame the two-over-two windows. The full wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts resting on wooden plinths. Two large brick-and-band-style interior chimneys rise above the roof.
20a	garage	1950s	A B	1015 NC Hwy 61	front-gabled frame building with shed-roofed addition
20b	barn	1920s	1 B	1015 NC Hwy 61	side-gabled frame barn with shed-roofed addition

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
20c	woodshed	1950s		A B	1015 NC Hwy 61	front-gabled frame building with shed-roofed addition
21	Whitsett- Clapp-Tysor House	1904	1 B		1017 NC Hwy 61	The 1904 two-story triple-A house has a one-story addition with a gambrel roof extending from the rear. It appears that the house may have had a front porch at one time. The porch on the north side of the house features columns accented by sawn brackets. The entry to the house is located slightly off-center.
21a	storage building	1980s		A B	1017 NC Hwy 61	large front-gabled frame building

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
22	Phillippie, Alexander House	1907	1 B		1019 NC Hwy 61	The two-story hip-roofed frame Queen Anne house with wrap-around porch features a southern gabled portion which rests on a semi-hexagonal brick foundation. A second-level screened porch faces south and a large wing faces east to the rear. The front steps are placed on the diagonal leading to a central front entrance. Free-standing turned posts support the porch roof. There are two interior chimneys, one in the southern hexagonal projection and one in the rear wing. The house features two diamond-shaped windows on the west side.
23	Swift-Wheeler House	1902	1 B		7204 Whitsett Park Road	The rambling two-story Queen Anne-style house built in 1902 by J. Frank Swift features a cross-gable roof and wrap-around porch. It features supports with ornate brackets and a balustrade which extends from a central entrance the full length of the porch. The western-most gable covers a projecting bay. Both the front gable and the western side gable are covered by a roof extending across the length of the second story. The clapboard siding appears to be original. Edro B. Wheeler, who became Whitsett's first postmaster, bought the house in 1919.
23a	garage	1997		A B	7204 Whitsett Park Road	front-gabled two-bay frame building

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
23b	outbuilding	1920s	1 B		7204 Whitsett Park Road	frame shed-roofed building
24	Lamb, Jefferson House	c. 1896	1 B		7206 Whitsett Park Road	Jefferson and Alida Lamb built the house across from the Institute to board students. The clapboard Colonial Revival-style house has a steeply-pitched hip roof with front and side gables. The gables exhibit diamond-shaped vents, and the vent in the central gable over the entrance repeats this diamond design. The turned porch posts feature sawn brackets.
24a	garage	1950s	A B		7206 Whitsett Park Road	two-story gambrel-roofed building

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NO.	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
25	Wimbish-Taylor House	1909	1 B		7210 Whitsett Park Road	This two-story house was constructed in early 1909 by Charles C. Wimbish and exhibits the same asymmetrical Queen Anne style found in many of the other houses in the district. The house is similar to the Captain Dick House although the hip roof is less sharply pitched. The house exhibits projecting bays on the north, east, and west sides. The front gable is decorated with fishscale shingles and a diamond-shaped window. As exhibited by many houses in the district, the house features a diamond-shaped window located to the right side of the main entrance. The wrap-around porch is supported with turned columns and sawn brackets. A turned spindle-work balustrade connects the supports breaking for the central entryway.
25a	flower house	c. 1909	1 ST		7210 Whitsett Park Road	small brick structure sheathed in clapboards
25b	barn	c. 1909	1 B		7210 Whitsett Park Road	small one-story frame gabled shed with vertical siding

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
25c	carriage house	c. 1909		DET B	7210 Whitsett Park Road	ruins of one-story gabled frame building
26	Mess Club (former)	c.1900/ c.1940		ALT B	7214 Whitsett Park Road	One-story vinyl sided frame house with central gable, porch and hipped-roof addition. The Mess Club, built by Dr. W. T. Whitsett, provided inexpensive boarding arrangements for students attending the Institute. Extensive alterations have converted the building originally constructed c. 1900 into a single-family home.
26a	storage building	c. 1940		ALT B	7214 Whitsett Park Road	frame shed-roofed outbuilding with asbestos siding

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NO.	PROPT NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
27	Wash House (former)	1900/ c. 1960		ALT B	7218 Whitsett Park Road	The original wash house structure on this site was built by Dr. W. T. Whitsett at the turn-of-the-century. It originally provided living quarters and work space for servants of The Oaks. The building has been altered into a one-story brick ranch-style residence with shingled components. A few interior walls are all that remain of the original structure.
27a	outbuilding	c. 1920	1	B	7218 Whitsett Park Road	one-story front-gabled frame building with exposed rafters
28	Whitsett, Dr. William Thorton House (The Oaks)	1897	1	B	7222 Whitsett Park Road	The impressive two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-style house, one of the best examples in the county, was built by Dr. William Thornton Whitsett (1866-1934) in 1897. The facade is graced by a particularly handsome wrap-around porch. The hipped-roof of the house is interrupted by cross-gables and a turret capped with a wrought iron roof anchors the western end of the porch. Each gable features a sunburst window. Two interior chimneys pierce the roof. Several alterations have been made to the house: iron balustrades were removed from the ridges of each gable, the porch pillars resting on wooden plinths were replaced by classical columns ca. 1910.



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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
28a	smokehouse	1920s	1 B		7222 Whitsett Park Road	small frame shingled building with pyramidal roof
28b	equipment and wood shed	1920s	1 B		7222 Whitsett Park Road	side-gabled frame building with metal roof and shed overhang supported by posts
28c	carriage house	c. 1897	1 B		7222 Whitsett Park Road	one-and-a-half-story front-gabled frame building

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NO	PROP NAME	DATE	C	NC	ADDRS	DESCRIPTION
28d	gas carbide generator	1920s		ALT ST	7222 Whitsett Park Road	In-ground carbide gas generator which supplied gas light to the light fixtures in the house, many of which are still in place. The generator is now covered by a modern stucco structure.
29	Whitsett Institute gazebo	late 1910s	1 ST		7205 Whitsett Park Road	Braced frame 7'-8" square structure with pyramidal roof covering well which served Whitsett Institute

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Nestled in rural surroundings, the Whitsett Historic District reflects the tastes, culture and style of an important late nineteenth-century professional and intellectual community centered on education. The Whitsett Institute, originally founded as Fair View Academy in 1884, closed in 1918, but period family homes that also served as student boarding houses, emanate from the original site which is today occupied by a former elementary school building now serving as the town hall. This 1921 Neoclassical school building, a significant structure in its own right, alludes to the importance of the former institute with its prominent central location in the community. Today, Whitsett's physical presence is a touchstone memory of local civic initiative and accomplishment. The community evokes what one local writer has termed "the gracious influence of the institute" on its surroundings.

The Whitsett Historic District is eligible for National Register listing under Criterion A, significant in the area of *community development* as a community which emerged from institutional origins. The lifestyle of the citizens as well as the built resources focused on an educational core. Whitsett was a pocket of academia and sophistication which developed in the midst of an agrarian culture. It survives as a community which retains much of its original countenance. The style of the many surviving institute-associated houses suggests a migration from town to country and the establishment of a special precinct. The houses of Whitsett are not simply independent family homes, but dwellings that were part of an interconnected community originating from educational aspirations. Collectively, the resources of Whitsett shape streetscapes and landscapes that recall a community of spirited citizens whose work and living milieu reflected the Progressive Era's doctrine of social improvement through education. They are remindful of a rapidly developing post-Reconstruction South where city and countryside distinctions were already blurring, and where co-education was well established. After the main building of the Whitsett Institute was destroyed by fire in 1918, a public elementary school was erected on the site in 1921 and today alludes to the community's educationally-inspired legacy.

Significant under Criterion C in the area of *architecture*, the district comprises resources that portray a relatively sophisticated aesthetic which is exhibited in a notable and varietal collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings. The most prominent built resources of the Whitsett community are architecturally notable Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and vernacular Victorian-era houses radiating from the central 1921 Neoclassical former school building. A sense of continuity is lent in that descendants of Whitsett's early founders reside in the community and maintain substantial family homeplaces. Although a few of the contributing resources lack individual significance, as a group they possess intrinsic value and tell the story of the community's pattern of development over time. The district's noncontributing resources are unobtrusive and are subordinate to the overall historic integrity of this rare-surviving and largely intact community. The district constitutes a significant cultural landscape which embodies the essential character of a community which evolved from educationally-motivated origins.

The district's period of significance begins in the year 1894, the construction date of the earliest extant building, the Charles Mason House (6), which included a dormitory wing for students at Whitsett Institute. The period of significance ends in the year 1930 in order to encompass the 1920s, the period

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during which the community continued to flourish after the construction of the Whitsett Public School (12) in 1921.

## Historical Background and Community Development Context

The Whitsett area's first European residents descended from William Penn's Pennsylvania Quakers who arrived from Germany with Lutheran immigrants, and came from other parts as pioneer farmers. By the late nineteenth century, local residents were tracing family roots to the Revolutionary War "Regulators" of adjacent Alamance County, who, at nearby Clapp's Mill skirmished with the General Charles Cornwallis on his way to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Eventually, the town of Whitsett came to be situated on agricultural land that was once part of the late 1700's Foust plantation in eastern Guilford County (Guilford County Deeds, Book 99, page 305 and Historical Documentation Map 1980).

As population increased in Guilford County and the economy began to recover from the tribulation that followed the Civil War, a number of rural communities emerged, particularly those served by the expansion of the railroad. The North Carolina Railroad was the foundation for the future growth of the county and for the improving conditions that significantly affected the rural development pattern in post-bellum years. This development pattern foreshadowed the increasing pace of urbanization in the county. Rural communities such as Gibsonville, Stokesdale, Browns Summit, Summerfield, Julian and McLeansville flourished in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the expansion of the railroad (Smith 1979, p. 21). Although the Danville to Salisbury railroad did not pass through Whitsett, the town benefited from its proximity as travelers arrived at the nearby Gibsonville depot (located just two miles north) and were shuttled by a two-horse wagon to Whitsett (1910-1911 Register of the Whitsett Institute, p. 50).

The rise of Whitsett as an educational center took place against the backdrop of the educational poverty of much of rural North Carolina in the decades following the Civil War. Farming families frequently depended on child labor for survival, and the state's seeming lack of interest in funding public education for all reinforced the economic and social forces favoring illiteracy and dismal personal prospects in the countryside. The schools system was bankrupt, and opposition to taxation led to stagnation. In 1872 only seven of Guilford County's eighteen townships had schools in operation (Stoeson 1993, p. 14). Those few who had the vision and means to seek quality education had to look to the private sector. Often, in communities like Whitsett where there was no alternative, the citizens themselves took initiative to provide educational opportunities.

So it was in 1884 that three enlightened and prosperous farmers, Joseph Bason Whitsett, Henry Sharp and Alphonso Clapp, established Fair View Academy, later renamed the Whitsett Institute, with the help of Paisley White, the Reverend Brantly York and Charles Mebane who each served short terms as Academy superintendents. The academy was erected on land reputedly deeded by Joseph Whitsett. Although White was most active in the first year, York and Mebane brought notable experience to the project. In 1839, York had started the school that in 1859 became Trinity College, the foundation on which Duke University was established in the twentieth century. Mebane was a professor at Catawba College, from

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which he had recently graduated, and in 1896 he was to become Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of North Carolina.

In 1890, Joseph's son, William Thorton (W.T.) Whitsett, accepted appointment as Fair View's fourth and last superintendent. William's maternal grandmother, Libina Summers Foust, had offered him 123 acres of land in Whitsett if he would accept the position at the school rather than in a larger city. Although just twenty years of age and a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the younger Whitsett began with a clear vision of educational purpose and a marketing plan for promoting the fledgling school. He became the institute's guiding force over its last thirty years and sought to develop a first-class private boarding school with several study programs built on a strong foundation of literary studies. Capitalizing on early and rapid successes, he hired J. Henry Joyner around 1908 with whom he worked in tandem to secure the school's reputation. Joyner built an elaborate Queen Anne house, which came to be called "Hollygate", just north of the Academy. Revered by students, Joyner, who became Whitsett's brother-in-law, eventually moved to public instruction and served as president of the North Carolina State Board of Education (Pegg 1980, pp. 1-2 and The Liberty News, July 27, 1977, p. 3-B).

William Whitsett generously offered a considerable amount of the family's land adjoining the school at no or little cost to encourage families, including those of his faculty and staff, to build homes large enough to house institute students (Bachelor 1991, p.11). A number of smaller cottages were also built so that male students could try their hand at housekeeping (The Liberty News, July 27, 1977, p. 3-B). Other families who moved to the area built smaller homes nearby so that their children could conveniently attend the school. Institute salaries were modest but Superintendent Whitsett insured that faculty paychecks would support the building and maintaining of substantial family homeplaces. In "Those Wonderful Whitsett Homes" (1987), local historian Rollin M. Steele, Jr., writes that the ideal for the new Whitsett citizen at the turn of the century was drawn from classical antiquity and modeled himself after Virgil, the "educated agriculturalist," the poet-beekeeper. Hence, many of these homes, whose facades reflected the tastes, culture and style of an intellectual community, were to a degree supported by small-scale, backyard farming.

But unlike most rural Guilford County communities, Whitsett did not begin or evolve as a farming or railroad community. It owed its existence to the institute. Several other academies or boarding schools were built in Guilford County in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but none prompted the development of a supporting community to the extent that Whitsett Institute did, with the exception of the Oak Ridge Academy. Though the earliest surviving buildings of the campus of the Oak Ridge Institute (as it was formerly referred to) date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the school was actually begun in 1853. Housing for the staff and students sprang up around the school; however, the community had previously been established by Quaker farmers in the eighteenth century. Other rural academies include the late nineteenth-century Jefferson Academy in the community of McLeansville, whose small frame building closed in the early twentieth century, and the Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, a nationally-respected boarding school for blacks founded in 1902 (Smith 1979, p. 31).

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Towards the turn of the century, most of Guilford remained agricultural despite the significant trend in the county and other areas of the Piedmont toward industrial and commercial development and large-scale retail marketing and banking. Life was centered around the farm and the institutions of rural living including the church, the local gristmill, the general store, and sometimes, as in Whitsett, the school (Smith 1980, p. 29).

In 1891, Fair View Academy became Fairview Institute, reflecting changes in size, faculty and curriculum. With the addition of a business curriculum in 1895, the name changed again to Fairview Institute and Business College. Finally, in 1898, the school became Whitsett Institute. The institute was a non-denominational, non-sectarian secondary school with a curriculum of literature, science, telegraphy, art and music; but it was also a "normal" school, i.e., a teacher's college, as well as a school of dentistry and business.

In 1900, Josephus Daniels, editor of the Raleigh News and Observer and later Secretary of the Navy in Woodrow Wilson's administration, spoke at commencement. Impressed, he soon editorialized, "If we had ninety-six such schools in North Carolina (one for each county), it would revolutionize life and lift up the state to the highest plane" (News and Observer, May 27, 1900). As it was, Whitsett graduates tended to have easy entry to the state's most prestigious colleges, including Davidson, Wake Forest and the University of North Carolina (1900-1901 Register of Whitsett Institute, p. 3). Students came to Whitsett from Cuba, Spain, France, England, South America, from seven other states and from Canada (1910 Register of Whitsett Institute; Bachelor 1991, p. 11).

Rapid growth, from sixty-eight students in 1888 to over 300 in 1900, led to the construction of a new main building in 1902. The frame structural members for the building were milled at the large sawmill operated by the Clapp family on nearby Rock Creek. Dr. Whitsett closely supervised the building's construction. A local memoir describes it as "solid and almost handsome, and certainly one of the finest school buildings in the state at that time. It was eighty-feet-wide and 100-feet-long, with two full floors, a beautiful four-story tower, and several arched windows with stained glass. It contained two study halls, several classrooms, a sizable library two halls designed for the literary societies, an auditorium, and a study room supplied with newspapers and periodicals" (Pegg 1980, p. 3). The 1913-1914 Register of Whitsett Institute described it as "a model school building, of handsome and striking architecture, affording comfort and convenience" and "well-adapted to the work for which it was designed." The school's annual register also touted the "beautiful surroundings and admirable location of picturesque variety and genial clime."

As Fairview Institute evolved, so did the community around it. Dr. Whitsett's deep and honorable family roots in the area eased the way for close "town-and-gown" understanding and collaboration. Along with Professor Joyner, Whitsett worked to improve local roads and to secure a United States Post Office for the community. Most significantly, he encouraged young families to build large homes on small tracts near the school and to rent rooms to the ever-growing numbers of enrolled students. Guilford County deeds suggest that at least fourteen houses were built between 1892 and 1912 (Bachelor 1991, p. 11).

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But the pressures of World War I soon caught up with Whitsett Institute. Dr. Whitsett replied to parent's inquiries about the school's future: "Because a large part of the world is at war we must not neglect [the education of] our young men and our young women." However, the class of 1917 had only twenty-two graduates. In 1918, the under-insured 1902 main school building was destroyed by fire, and the institute did not reopen given the increased availability of public high schools (Bachelor 1991, p. 12). Having provided private education for several thousand students, Dr. Whitsett and Joyner backed a bond referendum for a new public school in January 1919, and in July the Board of Education authorized its construction. Subsequently, Dr. Whitsett, became chairman of the board for thirteen years and a member for twenty-two years. In August 1919, he sold the institute's former site for the future Whitsett High School to the Board for \$600.00. A Neoclassical Revival school building, currently serving as the town hall, was erected in 1921, after the board appropriated \$1,500.00 for its construction (Bachelor 1991, p. 63). The community over which it now presides remains in essence the same aggregation of family houses and associated structures which Dr. Whitsett nurtured at the turn-of-the-century.

Architectural Context: Late Nineteenth-Century and Early Twentieth-Century Architecture in Rural Guilford County

With labor and materials diverted to war-time efforts, the Civil War nearly halted construction in the South that was unrelated to the conflict. The most significant construction project in Guilford County during the war was the railroad between Greensboro and Danville, which bypassed Whitsett to the north through the nearby town of Gibsonville. Though destruction caused by the war itself was minimal in Guilford County, statewide economic recovery was slow. Thus, few buildings of significance were built in the county immediately following the war. Generally, farmhouses built with the profits of agricultural enterprise were not large or richly detailed. Prices for farm products remained deflated for over thirty years after the war, and unless farmers had additional income from grist mills, general stores, or other businesses, farm incomes remained too modest to afford elaborate dwellings (Smith 1979, p. 21).

The "triple-A" house, as it was known colloquially due to its roof form of two side and one front gable, appeared throughout North Carolina as elsewhere in quantity as the standard-house type in the post-Civil War period. The Summers-Edgerton House (15) built in 1900, and the Whitsett-Clapp-Tysor House (21) built in 1904, illustrate the triple-A form in Whitsett. They document a developing technology of building and changing tastes in design, but reflect the continuing demand for simple, straightforward architecture.

As in most places in the nation around the turn-of-the-century, the Queen Anne style predominated in the dwellings of the most prosperous people, who were for the most part involved in industry, commerce, and other non-agricultural-related enterprises. The style is testament to the improving ability of established Guilford County farmers and entrepreneurs to erect relatively large houses with greater comfort and more refined detail. The houses were often constructed by local builders whose architectural concepts were taken from widely circulated pattern books which tended to standardize architectural styles during the period. Patterns for brackets, sawnwork, and various ornamental details utilized in embellishing Queen Anne houses as well as the vernacular Victorian styles, were easily obtained through mail-order catalogues or were milled locally and sold as stock items. These decorative elements became standard

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motifs on houses throughout the county. Thus, the conservative vernacular idiom was virtually eliminated at least among the most substantial building. The principal divergence of post-war architecture in Guilford County from that of the ante-bellum period lay in the fact that locally developed indigenous building traditions were supplanted by a national vernacular. Victorian-era styles in the county did not substantially deviate from those found in other locales of similar climate and resources (Smith 1979, p. 37).

Although traditionally Quaker areas of the county such as Whitsett were described as aesthetically-conservative, they were also intellectual centers comprised of forward-looking citizens who readily adopted a degree of sophisticated architectural eclecticism that was more characteristic of the eastern portion of the state (Smith 1979, p. 16). This acceptance of more academic design was evident by the late nineteenth century in the number of fine examples of the Queen Anne-style that the county boasted; unfortunately, many of these examples have now been destroyed. Whitsett boasts the most intact collection of these Queen Anne dwellings in the county. One of the most significant in the collection is the house built for Dr. William Thorton Whitsett (28) called "The Oaks." It features a handsome wrap-around porch accented with a polygonal pavilion. The Dr. J. Henry Joyner House (1), also highly notable in Whitsett, exhibits a handsome transitional Colonial Revival porch. While not representative of typical rural housing, this group of impressive domestic Queen Anne houses is testament to Guilford County's rapidly-increasing wealth, architectural capabilities, and, in terms of design, interest in adopting recent architectural trends near the turn-of-the-century (Smith 1979, pp. 23-24). Outside of Whitsett, one of the most outstanding examples of the Queen Anne style is the 1897 house called "Oakhurst" (NR ) located in the northwest county in Oak Ridge, a community whose origins lay rooted in agriculture as well as education. The house represents the epitome of the Queen Anne style and was built by the co-principal of the Oak Ridge Institute, Martin H. Holt. To the east of Oak Ridge, in the town of Summerfield, is the Henry Clay Brittain House, an elaborate Queen Anne-style house built by the proprietor of the Brittain Store in the community.

The outbuildings that were typical of the county's rural landscape are not well represented in Whitsett given that the community's primary subsistence was not originally rooted in agriculture. Only a few miscellaneous small barns allude to the small-scale, "back-yard" farming that took place in the first decades of the twentieth century. Outbuildings in the district consist mostly of a few storage buildings and detached garages dating to between the 1920s and 1970s. The most significant surviving outbuildings are those associated with the Dr. J. Henry Joyner House (1) and the Clapp-Barnhardt House (19). The Joyner House property exhibits a variety of types and period of outbuildings including a 1910s frame garage, a 1930s brick flower house, and a corn crib, an outhouse, and a well house that appear to be contemporary with the 1908 house. The Clapp-Barnhardt House retains its 1905 carriage house.

The standardization that took place after World War I due to the improving modes of transportation, the migration of professionals to the state's rapidly-developing Piedmont region, the availability of illustrated catalogues and journals, and the emergence of a trained architectural profession, ended the builders' dependence upon local tradition and materials and allowed the execution of more sophisticated designs (Smith 1979, pp. 37-38). An example of this more liberal aesthetic bent in Whitsett is evident in the



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shingled Dutch Colonial Revival house of Dr. John Clapp called "Midlawn" (3), built in 1908 (Smith 1979, pp. 37-38).

The architectural centerpiece of several rural communities in Guilford County was the school building. In Whitsett, the original private institute building around which the community emerged is no longer extant, however a two-story brick Neoclassical public school building was erected in 1921 near the site. In the first and second decades of the twentieth century in Guilford County, larger brick schools like the former Whitsett Public School and the Neoclassical former Jamestown Public School (1915) (NR ) and the Busick School (1925) in the Osceola community were built. However, most were abandoned as the large consolidated schools took over in the 1930s.

Several private boarding academies were built in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century rural Guilford County. The Oak Ridge Academy, formerly Oak Ridge Institute, located in northwest Guilford County, is the only nineteenth-century private school in the county which remains in operation (Bachelor 1991, p. 10). Today, its campus is primarily comprised of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Colonial and Neoclassical Revival buildings. These include Alumni Hall erected in 1912, which although is much larger, resembles the Whitsett Public School building (12). Other rural academies include the Jefferson Academy in the community of McLeansville, whose late nineteenth-century small frame building closed in the early twentieth century, and the nationally-known Palmer Memorial Institute founded in 1902 in Sedalia. The Palmer campus comprises a highly significant collection of 1920s Colonial Revival-style buildings that served as a boarding school for blacks (Smith 1979, p. 31). Of these academic institutions, only Oak Ridge Academy, begun in 1853, precipitated the emergence of a substantial supporting community similar to that of Whitsett. Although the Whitsett Institute campus no longer remains, the historic character and scale of its context remains as exhibited in the community's crossroads and the extant associated boarding houses. The high degree of intactness of these supporting contextual elements is unique in the county.

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## Section 10. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the Whitsett Historic District primarily follows property lines and is most easily defined by reference to Guilford County Tax Map 2-80, Blocks 80 and 81. The boundaries deviate from the tax map boundaries in five instances. The northernmost deviation occurs at lot 52 in block 80 along the western district boundary which connects the southwestern corner of lot 6 with the northwestern corner of lot 49. The second deviation is at lot 54 at which only the westernmost portion is included, delineated by the boundary line beginning at the southeast corner of lot 33 and due south until it intersects the line delineating lot 57. The third deviation is at lot 12, block 80, at which the southern boundary of lot 15 and the northern boundary of lot 13 project westward to include the primary structure and its associated historic outbuilding on lot 12. The fourth deviation occurs at lot 27, block 81, along the western district boundary which connects the southwestern corner of lot 29 with the northwestern corner of lot 26. The fifth deviation occurs at lot 22, block 81, along the western district boundary, which connects the southwestern corner of lot 24 with the northeastern corner projection of lot 21 which is outside of the district boundary.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Whitsett Historic District encompass entire land tracts and portions thereof that are historically associated with the original tracts owned by community residents. The land tracts included are those that currently reflect the historic development pattern of the community which primarily emerged along two roads, NC 61 and Whitsett Park Road (SR 3064). Each end of the district is anchored with a contributing resource. The portions of the tax parcels that were excluded are vacant and do not retain historic integrity.



