

Lee Avenue Historic District

Listed September 6, 2002

Description:

The Lee Avenue Historic District is a seven-block long, L-shaped district that includes the 200-400 blocks of West Main Street, the 1900-2300 blocks of Lee Avenue, 2511 and 2517 South Academy Street, and 319 West Raleigh Street in the historic village of Jonesboro, now within the limits of the city of Sanford and known as Jonesboro Heights. The district is located in the south end of Sanford, on N. C. Highway 78 (Main Street). Topography is generally level, with undulating terrain in the center of Lee Avenue where a creek bisects the road. The blocks of West Main Street, containing houses and the Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, lie just west of the central business district of Jonesboro. Lee Avenue, primarily residential, intersects West Main Street and extends northwest. The district contains a total of fifty-four primary buildings, of which forty-six (primary houses) are contributing, for a ration of eighty-five percent contributing primary residences. The eight noncontributing primary buildings are two altered pre-1952 houses, four houses built in the mid-twentieth century modern design, and the 1975 sanctuary of the Jonesboro Baptist Church.

Although most of the houses are relatively close to the street, lots along West Main Street are much smaller than those along Lee Avenue. The Lee Avenue lots extend back 300-400 feet to the roadbed of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad (tracks removed) on the east side and approximately as deep on the west side. In the center of the west side of Lee Avenue (2000-2010 blocks) are two extremely wide lots that share the site of the Tenny Inn, an early twentieth century resort hotel that burned in 1921. The hotel site has a low marshy area in the center where a pond was situated during the resort area. The three house lots on South Academy and West Raleigh streets are relatively narrow and less than a half-block deep. The district is extensively landscaped with hardwood and pine trees as well as shrubs. Some of the dwelling on Lee Avenue have extensive outbuildings, including barns, and have rear pastures included in the historic district. Horses graze in at least one of the pastures.

The district's houses are of frame and brick construction, one or one-and-one-half stories in height, with porches and rear ells. The earliest houses are of I-House or pyramidal cottage form; later houses are of Queen Anne, bungalow, colonial Revival, and Minimal Traditional styles. The oldest building in the district is the ca. 1882 Pierce-Seawell House at 202 West Main Street, at the intersection with Lee Avenue. The I-House sits on a large lot with numerous outbuildings and lush landscaping. Two other houses also date to the 1880s; the frame Barnes House, 2517 South Academy Street (I-House, ca. 1886) and the moved Jonesboro Methodist Church Parsonage, 2511 South Academy Street (gabled ell, ca. 1885). The remaining houses were built from about ca.1895 to the early 1950s. The most distinctive group are eight substantial pyramidal cottages with flanking side-gabled wings, front dormer windows, and wide front porches located in the southern blocks of Lee Avenue. The second most distinctive group is bungalows, primarily of brick, constructed throughout the district in the 1920s and 1930s. The Lonnie Thomas House, 2002 Lee Avenue, and the Leslie P. Cox House, 404 W. Main Street, are distinguished Colonial Revival-style two-story brick houses that bracket the district. Well-known local builder Leslie P. Cox built the Thomas House in 1941, and built the other house as his own residence about 1952. Both houses are set on large lots with expansive front yards.

A handful of commercial, religious, and civic buildings are interspersed among the houses. The Jonesboro Methodist Church Parsonage originally stood at the corner of West Main and South Academy Streets. In 1952 the house was sold to O. A. Zachary and moved intact a short distance to the south along South Academy Street. The house lot is compatible with its original location and it still retains a residential setting appropriate for the house. At the south end of Le Avenue are two well-preserved 1930s-1940s gas stations. The Jonesboro

public school teacherage, a two-story brick Colonial Revival-style house built in the late 1930s, stands at 309 W. Main Street. The 1950 Classical Revival-style sanctuary of the Jonesboro Baptist Church stands at 316 W. Main Street.

By the late 1940s the district had largely reached its present appearance. From the 1930s to the early 1950s several small Minimal Traditional houses were built at the north end of Lee Avenue, and several ranch houses built after 1950 are located here as well. In 1960 a striking modern-style doctor's office was constructed at 212 W. Main Street on the site of the house. The building's flat roof, sawtoothed brick walls, and side courtyard with large windows and porch has architectural distinction, although its date of construction renders it noncontributing to the district.

The buildings of the Lee Avenue Historic District retain their historical integrity, although a number of them have vinyl or aluminum siding and replacement windows. These altered buildings still retain their overall form, their porches, entrances, and other decorative details. The presence of most of the original porches, largely with original porch columns and posts, is a unifying architectural feature in the district. The pyramidal cottage at 2404 Lee Avenue and the Craftsman-style house at 2012 Lee Avenue have lost their original porches, but are still contributing because they retain most of their original features.

The district boundaries are drawn to exclude late twentieth century development at the north end of Lee Avenue, and along West Main Street. A large linear shopping center, Kendale Plaza, extends from the southwest corner of the Main-Lee streets intersection. Late twentieth century commercial development also occupies the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection. The 300 block is the only segment of the south side of West Main Street that retains its pre-1952 historic fabric.

Inventory List:

Note: List is arranged alphabetically, by street name, north side first, then south side; west side first, then east side. Buildings are of frame construction unless otherwise stated. Dates are derived from the following primary and secondary sources. The primary sources are the 1930 Sanborn Map (1930 SM), the 1950 Sanford City Directory (the earliest extant directory) [1950 CD], and interviews. Secondary sources include Daniel Pezzoni's Lee County survey files and book, *The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 1995.

All buildings are categorized as C (contributing) or NC (noncontributing) based on the following criteria. Any building built after the end of the period of significance, in 1950, is non-contributing due to its age (NC-age). Buildings built before 1950 that have lost their architectural integrity because of substantial additions and/or alterations incompatible with their historical character are categorized as noncontributing because of these changes (NC-alt.). Examples of this are complete window, door, and porch replacements; artificial siding that obscures the original door, window, wall and eave detailing, and extensive post-1950 additions. Artificial siding such as aluminum, vinyl or asbestos shingles does not automatically render a building noncontributing as long as the application of the siding does not obscure the decorative finish of the openings and the eaves.

2500 block

S. Academy Street

East side

2511 S. Academy ca.1885 **Jonesboro Methodist Church Parsonage.** Two-story gabled ell frame house, three bays wide. One story polygonal bay on front-facing gable wing. One story columned

C shed-roofed porch on the side wing. Covered in vinyl siding, however, the house retains four-over-four and six-over-six sash windows, some paired on front façade. Distinctive diamond-shaped vent in front gable. Moved from the corner of W. Main . Academy in 1952.

2517 S. Academy St. **John Kenneth Barnes House.** 2 story frame I-House with center front gable with returns. Three bays wide, the house originally had a full-width, one-story hip roofed porch with cut sawn balustrade. The altered center entrance now has a modern gabled hood and stained glass transom. The two-story rear ell to the south rear kitchen wing, now attached to a one-room structure (summer kitchen?) north of the kitchen wing has been attached to the kitchen by an enclosed breezeway.

C

NC-age. Shed. modern. Small gabled frame shed with vertical board siding, resting on concrete piers.

NC-age House, ca. 1950s. Small, concrete block dwelling side gable, two bays wide.

**1900 block
Lee Avenue,
West side**

1916 Lee Ave.
ca. 1925

C

House. Large distinguished 1 ½ story hip-roofed Craftsman house with front cross-gable, high brick foundation, deep boxed eaves with decorative brackets and rafter tails, tripled 6-over-1 Craftsman sash windows, original Craftsman door with sidelights, and a wraparound porch with boxed posts and solid railing. Vinyl siding covers the original stucco walls, porch posts and railing. Florrie A. Matthews, operator of the Sanford Flower Shop, was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

**2000 block
Lee Avenue,
West side**

2002 Lee Avenue
1941

C

Lonnie L. Thomas House. This 2-story, 5-bay-wide Colonial Revival-style house is the largest house in the district. Designed by Charles Benton & Sons of Wilson and constructed by local contractor Leslie P. Cox, the house features brick veneer walls, 6-over-6 sash windows with flat-arched openings, molded surround, a lovely recessed entrance with leaded glass sidelights and sunburst fanlight, and interior end chimneys. The side-gabled roof is covered with slate. (Pezzoni)

C Garage. 1941. 1-story hip-roofed 2-car garage, with brick veneer walls, slate roof. A ca. 1980 latticed breezeway connects this to the house.

C Barn. C. 1941. 1-story brick barn with front gambrel roof. Side and rear frame additions.

- 2006 Lee Avenue
ca. 197
C
Cox-Thomas House. 2-story, 3-bay vernacular Foursquare with Craftsman trim. House has a hip roof, interior chimneys, and a 1-story hip front porch with battered wooden posts and original Craftsman railing. The sides and rear retain original 8-over 1 Craftsman-style sash windows, while the front sash has been replaced. Vinyl siding covers the original wooden siding. A flat-roofed wooden addition stands to the rear. Leslie P. Cox, owner of the L. P. Cox Co., general contractors, built this house for his own family. It was later owned by Lonnie L. Thomas, prior to his construction of a new house next door at 2002 Lee Avenue (Pezzoni)
- 2010 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
C
Womble House. 1-story frame bungalow with a hip roof with a hipped dormer and a full, engaged front porch with brick piers, battered posts and original wood railing. The house features interior chimneys, an original front door, and original 6-over-1 sash windows. Vinyl siding covers the walls and eaves. The Womble family owned the house for many years. (owner interview)
- C Garage. c. 1940. Small shed-roofed 1-car garage with German siding.
NC Shed. c. 1998. Small gabled shed with T-111 siding.
- 2012 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C
House. 1-story Craftsman-style hip-roofed house with a hipped dormer, interior chimneys, and boxed eaves. Alterations include the replacement of the window sash, addition of a front picture window, addition of vinyl siding, and the possible removal of a front porch, but the house retains its general historic character. Willie E. Moses, owner of a grocery on W. Main Street, was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)
- C Garage. c. 1940. Front-gabled garage with vinyl siding.
- 2016 Lee Avenue
c. 1932
C
Harris House. Large, distinguished brick Tudor Revival-style bungalow set on a large lot. The 1-story house has a front-gable roof with decorative brackets and rafter tails, a half-timbered front gable, and is flanked by an original side porte-cochere and original porch. The front porch features an arched wooden soffit, brick posts and a brick railing. Windows have a variety of 8-over-1 and 6-over-1 sash. Mrs. Dela F. Harris, a widow, apparently had it built by a Sanford contractor. (1950 CD, Holt interview)
- C. Shed. c. 1935. Hip-roofed storage building with plain siding.
C House. c. 1935. Small shed-roofed house with plain siding, possibly used as a servant's quarters.
C Garage. c. 1950. Shed-roofed 1-car garage with plain siding.
NC House. c. 1995. Front-gabled house of concrete block construction.
- 2020 Lee Avenue
c. 1933
C
William M. Holt House. Substantial brick Tudor Revival-Craftsman-style house set on a large lot. The 1 1/2-story house has a side-gable roof, interior chimneys, a wide half-timbered cross-gable, a brick patio extending to a side porch with brick posts and a brick railing. Eaves feature decorative brackets and rafter tails, and windows are triple 6-over-1 and 4-over-1 Craftsman sashes. William M. Holt Sr., founder of Holt Supply Co., agricultural machinery, in 1927, had a Sanford contractor build the house about 1922, and lived here until his death in 1993. (1950 CD, Holt interview) The large lot extends to the south and includes the north half of the site of the Tenny Inn, a rambling ornate Queen

Anne style hotel built ca. 1901 that burned in 1921. The grounds included a lake with several gazebos.

NC Garage. c. 1960. Side-gabled, 4-car garage with plain siding.

NC Shed. c. 1960. Flat-roofed storage building with plywood sheathing.

**2000 block
Lee Avenue,
East side**

2001 Lee Avenue
c. 1935
C
House. 1-story front gable Craftsman-style house with center chimney, bracketed eaves, a corner engaged porch with plain posts, 6-over-6 sash windows, and a complete covering of vinyl siding. Mrs. Carrie M. Maddox was owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

C Shed. C. 1940. Small front-gable shed with asphalt siding.

2005 Lee Avenue.
1950s
NC-age
House. Brick-veneered Ranch house, 4-bays-wide, with side porch with wrought-iron posts.

NC Garage. c. 1955. 1-story front-gabled garage with German siding.

2009 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C
House. Side-gabled 1-story bungalow with eave brackets, exposed rafter tails, a shed dormer, and an engaged porch with battered wooden posts. House also features plain siding, an original glazed and paneled door, and 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows. Calvin J. Sloan, a conductor for the Atlantic and Yadkin Railroad, was the occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

2011 Lee Avenue
c. 1949
C
Albert L. Cox House. Small Minimal Traditional-style 1-story side-gable house with five bay façade, gable end chimney, and a simple classical door surround. Replacement sash and full vinyl siding. Albert L. Cox was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

2015 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C
House. Craftsman-style 1-story front-gable house with eave brackets, exposed rafter tails, a corner engaged porch with battered wood posts, 6-over-1 Craftsman sash windows, and asbestos siding. William Ferguson, a city policeman, was the occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

NC Garage. c. 1930. Front-gable frame garage with plain siding, in ruinous condition.

2019 Lee Avenue
1950s
NC-age
House. Minimal Traditional-style 1-story side-gable house with brick veneer walls and 6-over-6 sash windows.

2021 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C
H. F. Ohler House. 1-story side-gable bungalow with an engaged porch set on brick piers and battered wood posts, 6-over-6 sash windows, an original glazed and paneled door, and eave brackets. The walls are covered with asphalt shingles. H. F. Ohler, a pharmacist, is the earliest known owner. William K. Withes was the owner/occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

C Shed. c. 1940. Front-gabled garage with a side storage shed and plain siding.

2023 Lee Avenue
c. 1949
C
Homer L. McCleney House. Small 1-story side-gable house with a center chimney and 4-over-4 sash windows. Alterations, including T-111 siding and a replacement front stoop, render the house noncontributing. Homer L. McCleney was the owner/occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

2025 Lee Avenue
c. 1949
C
George W. Melton House. 1 ½ -story side-gabled house built of concrete block on sloping site, with 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows and affront-gabled stoop. George W. Melton, a radiator repairman, was the owner/occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

**2100 block
Lee Avenue,
West side**

2114 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
C
Hunt House. 1-story hip-roofed Craftsman-style house with front and side-gabled wings, exposed rafter tails, a recessed corner porch with a replacement column, and plain siding. Other features are a glazed and paneled door with sidelights, 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows, and an interior chimney. The house sits on a large lot where the Tenny Inn, a rambling Queen Anne-style hotel, stood from ca. 1901 to 1921 when it burned. A house with full façade porch stood on this footprint on the 1930 Sanborn map; perhaps[s] the front and side wings are additions. Mollie Hunt was the owner/occupant in 1950. Jonesboro lawyer George Jackson owned it in the late 20th century and added classical columns to the house and garage. (1950 CD, 1930 SM, Pezzoni)

C Garage. C. 1935. Large front-gabled 3-car garage with plain siding and peripteral classical columns added in the late 1900s.

2116 Lee Avenue
c. 1928
C
Arnold House. 1-story front-gabled bungalow of brick laid in a Flemish bond variation with a side chimney. A side-gabled, partially recessed porch has brick piers, battered wood posts, and a plain railing. The entrance features a transom and sidelights, and the 1-over-1 sash windows may be replacements. Gertrude M. Arnold, widow of Jonesboro merchant Daniel Arnold, had this house built, apparently by a contractor named James A. McBryde. Her son William M. Arnold, who sold fertilizer and livestock on Fayetteville St. in Jonesboro, and his family lived here during the second quarter of the century. (1930 SM, 1950, CD, Pezzoni)

NC Carport. c. 1990. Metal free-standing carport.

NC Carport. c. 1990. Metal free-standing carport.

NC Carport c. 1990. Metal free-standing carport.

2120 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C

George C. Hunt House. Substantial 1 1/2 –story pyramidal cottage with large gabled dormer window and flanking side-gabled wings with cross gables covered with scalloped shakes. A hipped porch with slender classical columns wraps across the front and side, with angled corners. Other features are plain siding, 1-over-1 original sash windows, an entrance with transom and sidelights, and a bay window on the north side. The front dormer was an early sleeping porch that has been enlarged. George C. and Irene hunt owned the house in the early twentieth century. (1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

2122 Lee Avenue
c.1927
C

Roy G. Sowers House. 1 1/2-story side-gabled brick bungalow with engaged porch that extends around the south side as a porte-cochere and around the north side, supported by Doric columns, Other features are a hip dormer, an interior chimney, a transom over the entrance, and replacement sash windows and vinyl-covered trim. Dr. Sowers, an eye-ear-nose-throat specialist, had the house built, apparently by a contractor named James A. McBryde. (Pezzoni, 1930 SM, 1950 CD)

C Servant Quarters. C. 1927. Small gabled building with flush siding that was originally the cook/housekeeper’s quarters.

**2100 block
Lee Avenue.
East side**

2103 Lee Avenue
1950s
NC-age

House. 1-story front-gabled house with metal casement windows, recessed corner porch with wrought-iron post, and side chimney.

NC Shed. c. 1970. Metal-sheathed shed.

2107 Lee Avenue
1940s, c
1960 NC-alt

Hasty L. Caddell House. 1-story side-gable Ranch house with German siding, built in the late 1940s. Later frame additions, including a carport, have altered its original character. Hasty L. Caddell was owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

NC Shed. c. 1960. Gabled shed with plywood sheathing.

C 2107a c. 1948. Small hip-roofed house with 6-over-6 sash windows and asbestos wall shakes. Valton R. Cox was owner-occupant in 1950.

C 2107b. Rental House. c. 1940. Small front-gable frame house, probably a rental, with exposed rafter tails, 6-over-6 sash windows, a shed porch, and asbestos wall shakes. O’Connell Lee was the occupant in 1950.

NC-age. 2107C. Rental House. c. 1955. Small front-gable house, probably a rental, with 6-over-6 sash windows and asbestos wall shakes.

NC Shed. c. 1940. Ruinous frame vehicle shed.

2109 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C
J. B. McFarland House. 1 ½-story pyramidal cottage with pedimented front dormer and flanking cross-gables and a hipped porch with slender classical columns and plain railing. Original 2-over-2 sash windows with Queen Anne-style colored glass borders in the upper sash of the dormer and cross-gables. Vinyl siding covers the walls and trim. Businessman J. B. McFarland had this house built. Irene M. Gunter was the occupant in the 1930s and 1940s. (1950 CD, Pezzoni)

C Garage. c. 1930. Front-gable garage with plain siding and side additions.

2019a Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C
House. 1-story gable-and-wing cottage with original 2-over-2 sash windows. House is covered with T-111 siding and has a replacement porch. The house occupies a separate lot behind 2109 Lee Avenue. A similar house appears on the 1930 Sanborn Map at this location, but seems to face the railroad track to the rear. This may be the same house that has been turned around to face Lee Avenue. Thomas V. Strayhorn was owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

2113 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C
House. Pyramidal cottage with front-gable wing, plain siding, original glazed and paneled door, 2-over-2 sash windows with Queen Anne-style small panes in the upper sash, interior chimneys, and a wraparound porch with replacement posts. Marvin P. Campbell was occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

NC Shed. c. 1950. Front-gable shed with German siding and exposed rafter tails.

2115 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C
House. 1-story gable-and-wing house with interior chimney, wraparound porch with replacement posts, and plains siding. Other features are an original glazed and paneled door, wide eave returns, and original 2-over-2 sash windows with Queen Anne-style small panes in the upper sash. Thomas F. Beasley, a watchman at Womack Lumber Co., was owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

2117 Lee Avenue
c. 1910
C
John Yarborough House. Pyramidal cottage with flanking side gable wings, two interior chimneys, German siding, original 2-over-2 sash windows, and an original glazed and paneled door. The wraparound porch has brick piers with paired classical colonettes that may be replacements of the original posts. John W. Yarborough, a grocer on E. Main St. in Jonesboro, live her in the early 20th century with his sister and her husband, Mr. Russell, Jonesboro depot agent. The 1920 census lists Yarborough as a house carpenter. (1920 Censes, 1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

C Carriage Shed. c. 1915. Front-gabled frame cottage she with plain siding, flanking sheds.

2121 Lee Avenue
c. 1911
C
Stephens-Mullis House. 1 ½-story pyramidal cottage with flanking side gable wings, interior chimneys, plain siding, 2-over-2 original sash windows, and a wraparound hip-roofed porch with slender classical columns and replacement railing. The glazed door with wide sidelights is apparently original. The north porch bay was enclosed by Mrs. Mullis to serve as beauty shop about 1955. A dinning room was added to the south side. Emma Stephens was an early owner; her son Clifton was a house painter in 1920. Thomas R. Mullis, a salesman of agricultural equipment, and his wife Louise purchased

the house c. 1945. It is still owned by the family. (1920 Census, 1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni, owner interview)

2125 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C

Gerald House. 1 ½-story pyramidal cottage with side gable wings, a front cross-able, interior chimneys, plain siding and original 2-over-2 sash windows. Gables are finished with scalloped shakes. The hip porch is supported on classical columns. This was the long-time home of the Gerald family. (1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

C Garage. C. 1950. Front-gabled garage with plain siding.

NC Shed. c. 1970. Small side-gabled shed with plywood siding.

**2200 block
Lee Avenue,
West side**

2200 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C

House. Tri-gable 1-story house with pedimented gables, original 4-over-4 sash windows, a glazed and paneled door and a hipped porch. The porch has replacement posts and the walls and trim are covered with vinyl. Kenneth F. Phillips, a glazier, was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

NC Shed. c. 1980. Small gabled shed with T-111 siding.

2204 Lee Avenue
c. 1910
C

House. 1-story pyramidal cottage with side gable wings. German siding, original 2-over-2 sash windows, and a hipped porch with original polygonal columns on square bases. The house now serves as a day care center and has a side shed addition. Andres M. Frye, a painter, was owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

NC Garage. c. 1970. Front-gable garage and carport with plywood sheathing.

NC Shed. c. 1990. Small gambrel-roofed building with plywood sheathing.

NC Shed. c. 1990. Small gabled shed with plywood sheathing.

2206 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
NC-alt.

House. Side-gabled bungalow with full engaged porch, shed dormer, original Craftsman door, and original 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows. Alterations consist of replacement porch posts, some replacement sash, brick veneer on the side, and vinyl siding on the façade. George W. Temple, a traveling salesman, was owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

NC shed. c. 1980. Flat-roofed frame and metal vehicle storage building.

**2200 Lee Avenue,
East side**

2203 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C **House.** Large side-gabled bungalow with plain siding and large wraparound engaged porch with replacement posts and railing. Other features are exposed rafter tails, eave brackets, interior chimneys, and 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows. Groce D. Alton was owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

2205 Lee Avenue
c. 1930
C **House.** 1-story front-gabled Craftsman-style brick house with a 4-over 1 Craftsman sash window and a hipped front porch with original brick and wood posts. Stancil Buchanan was owner-occupant in 1950. (1950 CD)

NC Garage. c. 1970. Front-gabled 2-car garage with stuccoed walls.

2200 block
Lee Avenue

Vacant Lot.

2217 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
C **House.** 1-story front-gabled bungalow with pedimented gable with a louvered window, curved rafter tails, German siding, and 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows. Other features are interior chimneys and an engage porch with brick piers and paired battered wood posts. Jesse J. White, owner of Jonesboro Dry Cleaners, was owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

2219 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
C **Dr. Blue House.** 1-story hip-roofed bungalow with front cross-gable and recessed porch with original brick and granite piers and replacement posts. Alterations include a south side addition, replacement sash windows, and vinyl siding on walls and trim. Dr. Blue had the house built. (1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

C Garage/Playhouse. C. 1925. Contemporary hip-roofed garage with plain siding and 4-over-1 Craftsman sash windows. An early finely-finished playhouse of diminutive classical style is attached to the side of garage. The hip-roofed structure has plain siding and an engaged classical porch with pedimented gable.

NC Garage. c. 1970. Front-gabled, 2-car garage with fiberglass sheathing.

NC Carport. c. 1970. Freestanding metal carport.

**2300 block
Lee Avenue,
West side**

2300 Lee Avenue
c. 1941
C **S & S Esso Service Center.** 1-story side-gabled brick service stations with south side front-gabled garage that extends to rear, front display window, side and rear metal casement windows. The building is basically unaltered. Ernest Sloan built and operated the filling station and garage during his lifetime. His son Ernest Jr. now operates the garage as Sloan's Garage. The filling station no longer operates. (1950 CD, owner interview)

- 2300 block
Lee Avenue **Vacant Lot.** An early 20th century frame house stood on this lot until recent years. It still retains picturesque hardwood trees.
- 2300 block
Lee Avenue **Vacant Lot.** An early 20th century frame house stood on this lot until recent years. It still retains picturesque hardwood trees.
- 2300 block
Lee Avenue,
East Side**
- 2301-2303 Lee Ave. **Duplex.** 1-story side-gabled 4-bay duplex with asbestos siding, 6-over-6 sash windows, and corner recessed porches with plain posts. Samuel Womble was the owner-occupant in 1950, and apparently rented out the other unit. (1950 CD)
- 2305 Lee Avenue
1930s
C **Denson Grocery and Filling Station.** 1 ½ story side-gabled frame store with tall gabled canopy extending to the front shelter gas pumps. Original features are the glazed and paneled front door and 1-over-1 sash windows in the façade. The building has a flat-roofed north side garage addition, a large concrete block garage addition to the rear, and siding. John H. Denson operated a grocery and filling station here in 1950. (1950)
- C Garage. c. 1935. Front-gabled garage with German siding.
- NC Shed. c. 1950. Small front-gabled shed covered in vinyl siding.
- 2400 block
Lee Avenue,
West Side**
- 2402 Lee Avenue
c. 1925
C **House.** 1-story front-gabled Craftsman-style house with plain siding, side chimney, 1-over-1 sash windows, and a porch with original posts and railing. Mrs. Margaret White, widow of J. Albert White, was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)
- 2404 Lee Avenue
c. 1915
C **House.** 1-story pyramidal cottage with side-gable wings, a front cross-gable with decorative window, plain siding, tall interior chimneys, an original double glazed and paneled door, and 2-over-2 sash windows. The house has lost the front porch that is indicated on the Sanborn Map. Garland G. Ivey was the occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)
- 200 block
W. Main Street,
North side**
- 202 W. Main St.
c. 1882,
mid-20th c.
C **Pierce-Seawell House.** The oldest house in the Lee Avenue Historic District, the frame I-House, two stories tall and one room deep, has plain siding, original corner boards, a wide fascia and wide eave returns, and large 6-over-6 sash windows. Two rear exterior chimneys are original, while the west 1-story wing is an early addition. A 1 ½ story rear ell is also an early addition. Under Hosea Jackson's ownership the original entrance was replaced with the current Colonial Revival style entrance, and the original porch was

removed. At this time an arcaded rear porch was added. The lushly landscaped grounds occupy three town lots. A tea room in the house is known as “Paradise Gardens.” Railroad official Frank Pierce built the house. Prominent Jonesboro attorney Aaron Ashley Flowers Seawell, Jr. (1864-1950) lived here in the 1920s and attorney Hosea M. Jackson from 1930 until at least 1950. The house is now owned by Jackson heirs.

C Carriage House. late 19th c. Front-gabled carriage house with pedimented gable and German siding. This was remodeled with the addition of a casement window and a new door in the mid-20th century as a law office and is now a gift shop.

C Rental House. c. 1945. 1-story side-gabled house with plain siding, 6-over6 sash windows, and a gabled front sing with small flanking porches. Hosea Jackson created this rental house by combining two old outbuildings.

C shed. c. 1930. Side-gabled shed with German siding and 2 front doors, with east side addition and shed porch addition.

NC Carport. c. 1985. Free-standing wooden gabled carport.

212 W. Main St.
1960
NC-age

Covington Clinic. Striking mid-twentieth century Modernist style doctors’ office building of one-story, flat-roofed form, with orange brick walls and full-length plate glass windows. The street façade features sawtoothed brick construction with narrow windows, while the west side, facing the parking area, has large expanses of glass. The entrance is sheltered by a porch with boxed supports. Filigreed-tile screens give privacy to a small courtyard flanking the entrance. Dr. M. Cade Covington built this as his medical office in 1959-1960.

**300 block
W. Main Street,
North side**

300 block
W. Main St.

Vacant Lot. A house stood on this lot until recent years. The lot retains shrubs and trees.

300 block
W. Main St.

Vacant Lot. A house stood on this lot until recent years. The lot retains shrubs and trees.

314 W Main St.
1975
NC-age

Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church. Brick Georgian Revival-style sanctuary of front-gabled form, with quattrastyle portico and three-stage steeple. The freestanding sanctuary stands east of the older sanctuary.

316 W Main St.
c. 1950
C

Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church. Georgian Revival-style front-gable church of brick veneer, three bays wide and six bays deep. A wooden Doric Quattrastyle portico protects the entrance. Round-arched stained glass windows with concrete trim illuminate the sanctuary. The building rests on a raised basement, and a rear cross-gabled 2-story wing contains the educational sing. The Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church was organized in 1869 on this site. The late 19th century frame sanctuary stood on this site until

construction of the building in 1950. A 2-story gabled brick educational annex was added to the rear of the sanctuary about 1985.

**300 block
W. Main Street
South side**

303 W. Main St.
c. 1925
C
Nannie Williams House. Intact 1-story hip-roofed bungalow with bracketed eaves, plain siding, 6-over-1 sash windows, and a partially engaged hip porch with heavy paneled posts and original railing. Mrs. Nannie M. Williams had the house built by a contractor named James A. McBryde. (1930 CD, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

307 W. Main St.
c. 1915
C
House. 1-story L-shaped vernacular Queen Anne-style house with an ornate pedimented front gable with scalloped shakes, a louvered ventilator and ornate bargeboard. Other features are plain siding, 2-over-2 sash windows, interior chimneys, and a wraparound hipped porch with original, eccentric classical columns on octagonal plinths. The porch has been enclosed with the exception of the entrance bay. Gurley, sec-treas of Carolina Sash Weight Co., was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

C Shed. c. 1930. Front-gable shed with plain siding.

309 W. Main St.
c. 1939
C
Jonesboro High School Teacherage. Colonial Revival-style 2-story brick veneered house, 5 bays wide, with a side-gable roof with end chimneys. Other features are an entrance with transom and sidelights, and entrance porch with paired Doric columns and a Chippendale railing, and replacement sash windows. The house was built as a teacherage for Jonesboro High School, located one block west. The house now operates as the Jonesboro branch of the Lee county Library. (1950 CD, Pezzoni)

300 block
W. Main St.
Vacant Lot. Now use as a parking lot for Jonesboro Heights Baptist church, located across the street.

317 W. Main St.
c. 1920
C
James R. Dalrymple House. Large 1 1/2-story classical revival-style frame house with a side-gabled roof with pedimented gables, a wide shed dormer, and a wraparound porch with bowed corners supported by Doric posts. The entrance has a transom and sidelights, and original 20-over-1 sash windows illuminate the main sotry. James R. Dalrymple, owner of Dalrymple's Men's clothing store in Jonesboro, was the original owner,. (1930 SM, 1950 CD, Pezzoni)

C Garage. c. 1930. Front-gable garage with plain siding.

C Storage Building. c. 1915. Gabled one-room building with wide eave returns and vinyl siding.

**400 block
W. Main Street,
North side**

400 W. Main St.
c. 1925
C

House. 1-story hip-roofed bungalow with a hipped dormer, wide bracketed eaves, and an engaged porch with replacement wrought-iron posts. Other features are an original entrance with sidelights, traceried upper sashes in the façade windows, and replacement 1-over-1 sash elsewhere. Aluminum and vinyl siding covers the walls and trim. Colton A. Godfrey, a laborer with Gunn Veneer and Lumber, was the owner-occupant in 1950. (1930 SM, 1950 CD)

C Shed. c. 1930. Hip-roofed shed with plain siding.

404 W. Main St.
c. 1952
C

Leslie P. Cox House. Large, handsome 2-story brick Colonial Revival-style house, five bays wide. Features include gable-end chimneys, 6-over-6 sash windows, a modillion cornice, and an entrance with a traceried transom, fluted pilasters and a dentil cornice. The 1-story rear wing is apparently original. Leslie P. Cox, president of L. P. Cox Co., general contractors, in Jonesboro, built this as his own residence. (1950 CD)

NC-age. Shed. c. 1980. Small; gabled frame shed with plywood siding, side shed porch.

**300 block
W. Raleigh Street,
South Side**

319 W. Raleigh St.
ca. 1895
C

House. 2-story elaborate Queen Anne style house with beveled (first floor, under the porch) and synthetic siding. High-hipped roof with a front gable that overhangs a two-story bay window and inset balcony. The main gable and subsidiary gables have elaborate milled decoration. One-story wraparound hip roofed porch with front gable at entrance and turned posts with sawn brackets. Features two-over-two sash windows and a brick chimney with decorative cap.

NC-age. Garage. ca. 1960. Side gabled, two-car with end room frame garage.

Statement of Significance:

The Lee Avenue Historic District in Sanford (historically Jonesboro), Lee County, is a eight-block linear historic district, primarily residential, that contains the most historically significant sections of the town of Jonesboro, one of Lee County's oldest towns. The small town, founded in 1860 as a stop on the Western Railroad, peaked as an agricultural market and manufacturing center in the 1890s. Although eclipsed by the town of Sanford in the early twentieth century, Jonesboro retained its distinct identity until it was annexed to Sanford in 1947. Stretching along the four block-length of Lee Avenue, a residential street that connected the town of Jonesboro to the town of Sanford, three block of West Main Street, and one block of South Academy street to the corner with West Raleigh Street, the L-shaped district consists of forty-three historic houses built from the early 1880s to 1952, as well as the historic 1950 Jonesboro Heights Baptist church and two historic filling stations built in the 1930s- 1940s. the period of significance begins with the ca. 1882 construction of the Pierce-Seawell House, and I-House, and extends to 1952, the date of the prominent Leslie P. Cox House.

The Lee Avenue Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a significant collection of houses, commercial, and institutional buildings in Jonesboro built during the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries that reflect distinct architectural styles and house types and the skill of Lee County's building artisans. A distinctive type of pyramidal cottage with flanking gabled wings, a favorite house type of the early twentieth century in Jonesboro, is a dominant house type in the district, where eight of them stand in the 2100 to 2400 blocks of Lee Avenue. A fine collection of frame and brick craftsman-style bungalows were built among the earlier houses in the 1920s and 1930s. Skilled local contractor Leslie P. Cox's two residences are located in the district. The first is a 1910s Foursquare, the second a brick Classical Revival house built about 1952. One of the most distinguished residences in the district is a large Colonial Revival-style brick house built in 1941 for Lonnie Thomas by Cox.

The historic district is documented in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Lee County, N. C. ca. 1800-1942," by J. Daniel Pezzoni, 1993. Applicable historic contexts are Urbanization and Agricultural/Industrial Expansion in Lee County, 1880-1919 (pages E29-30) and Urbanization and Agricultural/Industrial Expansion in Lee County, 1920-1942 (pages E35-36). The applicable property type is Residential: Houses, domestic Outbuildings, and Residential Landscapes (page F39-42). The resources in the historic district meet the registration requirements for residential buildings (page F42-43).

Historical Background:

Jonesboro was founded in 1860 when the Western Railroad from Fayetteville passed through the area on its way to the coal fields at Egypt, on the Deep River in Chatham County. Jonesboro was the highest point on the rail line between Fayetteville and the Deep River. In 1871 the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad attempted to run a line through Jonesboro to connect to the Western Railroad, but prominent landowner Newton Robinson Bryan found the idea of a second railroad objectionable and prevented the railroad's acquisition of the land. Two-and-one-half miles north, the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line acquired land and built their track. A new town-Sanford-developed at the junction. ("Historical Sketch of Jonesboro," single page history, Railroad House Historical Association, Sanford.) In 1879 the Western Railroad was reorganized as the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway Company (CF & YV). A Sanford newspaper editor later commented that "The crossing of the Seaboard Air Line (i. e. Raleigh and Augusta Air Line) and the building of Sanford absorbed much of the energy and material that would have built Jonesboro." (Pezzoni, *The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 48-49.)

In the late 1800s both Jonesboro and Sanford developed as manufacturing and market centers due to the lumbering and naval stores production created out of the long leaf pine forests that blanketed the county, as well as cotton that was being produced in Lee County's sandy soil. By the mid-1890s Jonesboro's turpentine distilleries had shut down due to the depletion of the County's forests, but cotton marketing and manufacturing became a significant activity at this time. Nine cotton gins operated in or near the town and several cotton mills were built in town during the late 1800s. (Ibid., 46-47)

A comparison of the town plans of Jonesboro and Sanford hint at Jonesboro's origins as an almost "accidental" railroad town and Sanford's deliberate orientation to the railroad. Jonesboro's earliest town map, drawn in 1902, shows a gridded town plan that was laid out at an unknown date. (Map of Jonesboro, 1902, Framed copy in the Jonesboro History Museum, Lee County Library, Jonesboro branch.) Its large lots and lack of intersecting streets reflect its quasi-rural nature, in contrast to the more densely developed grid pattern of the adjacent town of Sanford. The plan of Jonesboro exhibits a lack of orientation to the railroad. The tracks of the earliest railroad, the Cape Fear and Yadkin valley Railroad, extended northwest-southeast through the town between the major streets. Sanford's earliest core, located around the 1871 depot (known as the Railroad House) of the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line, has blocks of commercial buildings facing the tracks. The plan of Jonesboro may reflect a more rural approach to development among the town's earliest landowners. A second railroad, the Atlantic and Western Railroad, was chartered in 1899 in Sanford and reached Jonesboro by about 1902, skirting the northeast edge of the commercial section, two block north of Main Street. (*The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 104)

Lee County was formed in 1907 out of adjacent Moore and Chatham counties, with the new courthouse located equidistant between the railroad depots of Jonesboro and Sanford, which still vied in importance as the two principal towns in the county. The courthouse still stands in its rural (now suburban) location, one of the only rural courthouses in North Carolina. By 1910 Jonesboro had a population of 800, and boasted sawmills, corn mills, a sash and blind company, a planing mill, a pottery company, and a plow and stove factory. In 1911 a disastrous fire destroyed almost the entire business district, leaving only one brick building standing. By this time Jonesboro's growth was being overshadowed by Sanford, and as that town grew from a population of 367 in 1890 to 2282 by 1910, Jonesboro languished. Some of the businesses were never rebuilt. Jonesboro's population in the late 1930s held at 838, only slightly larger than in 1910. (Population listed on 1938 State Highway Map, Lee county, N. C. state Archives.) Nonetheless, Jonesboro continued to have an independent existence until 1947, when its dwindling population caused it to be annexed by Sanford and to become known as Jonesboro Heights. (*The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 137; Census abstracts, North Carolina State Library, Raleigh.)

Commercial activity in Jonesboro took place along Main Street on the two blocks between Lee Street and Dalrymple Street, and along Carthage Street, parallel to Main Street one block to the south. By 1920 the northern end of Lee Street, where the courthouse was located, was known as Lee Avenue, and the southern section of the street, located within the historic district, became Lee Avenue as well in later years. It will be called Lee Avenue throughout this nomination. In 1902 the CF & YV depot stood one block south of Main Street, and the Atlantic & Western depot stood one block north. (Map of Jonesboro, 1902.) Civic and religious institutions were located along West Main Street. The junction of Main and Lee streets was one of the town's most important intersections, with the Presbyterian church on the northeast corner, the Barnes Hotel on the southwest corner, and the Pierce-Seawell House on the northwest corner. Only the Pierce-Seawell House still stands. Late twentieth century commercial buildings occupy the other corners of the intersection. The Jonesboro Baptist Church occupies its historic location at the northeast corner of West Main and Baptist streets (now Woodland Avenue), and the Jonesboro Methodist Church is still at its historic location at the southwest corner of West Main and Academy streets. (Map of Jonesboro, 1902.) Beside the Methodist Church stood the

Jonesboro Graded School, later the high school. The Presbyterian Church and the school have been demolished; the Baptist and Methodist churches have newer sanctuaries on the same sites.

Houses of the earliest and most prominent townspeople stood along Main Street. One of the oldest buildings in Jonesboro is the Pierce-Seawell House at 202 W. Main Street in the Lee Avenue Historic District. The frame I-House was built by Franklin Pierce, a railroad official, in the early 1880s. Prominent attorney A. A. f. Seawell, Jr., who became state attorney general and a state Supreme Court justice, made his home here during the 1920s. Hosea M. Jackson, an attorney who served as a state legislator, owned the house from 1930 until his death. Jackson converted the carriage house into his law office (*The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 226.).

Another prominent street was S. Academy Street, which connected W. Main and W. Raleigh streets. Three other late nineteenth century houses stand on these streets at the south end of the district. The Jonesboro Methodist Parsonage, 2511 S. Academy Street, was built about 1885 on the southeast corner of W. Main and S. Academy streets as the parsonage for the Jonesboro Methodist Church, located at the opposite corner. The stylish two-story gable ell house with bay window and porch served as the parsonage until 1952, when it was moved a short distance south to its present location. Next door at 2517 S. Academy Street stands the John Barnes House, a two-story I-House built about 1886. According to local tradition, the house incorporated portions of the 1870s teacherage of the Jonesboro Academy, which stood across the street. One of the largest and most stylish Queen Anne-style houses in Jonesboro stands at 319 W. Raleigh Street. The picturesque two-story hip-roofed Queen Anne-style house with cross-gables, a bay window, a recessed balcony, a wraparound porch, and ornate sawnwork bargeboard trim was built about 1895 for the George Avent family.

Lee Avenue, the major north-south street in Jonesboro, connected Jonesboro to Sanford, and became a distinguished residential street in the early twentieth century. The avenue extended north to the courthouse and county jail located four blocks north of the historic district. Most of the grid streets shown in the 1902 map intersecting Lee Avenue were never actually constructed (Map of Jonesboro, 1902.). Lots along Lee Avenue extend deeply to the rear and only two streets immediately north of Main Street, Humber and Globe Streets bisect Lee Avenue (Map of Jonesboro, 1902.). The Seaboard Coast Line (CF & YV) Railroad tracks run at the rear of the lots along the east side of Lee Avenue, with an abandoned street, Fayetteville Street, along the tracks. The 1938 state highway map of Lee County shows Lee Avenue as US Highway 421 between Jonesboro and Sanford, thus providing business for the S & S Esso Station and the Denson Grocery and filling Station, built in the 2300 block of the street in the 1930s and early 1940s. (1938 State Highway Map, Lee County). House numbers along Lee Avenue are in numerical order from north to south, probably because the street numbers were assigned by the city of Sanford after Jonesboro was annexed. In the 1960s a new road, Horner Boulevard, was constructed from the courthouse to the southeast as the US 421 bypass around Jonesboro. By the late 1960s Lee Avenue was designated as State Highway 78 (1938 State Highway Map, Lee County; 1967 State Highway Map, Lee County, N. C. State Archives.).

The 1900 census of Jonesboro lists six houses on Lee Avenue, and by 1910 twelve houses stood on the avenue (*Corner, Jonesboro, Lee County, N. C. V.II, 1908-1947, 32.*). The most significant building constructed on Lee Avenue was the Tenny Inn also known as Tinney Inn, the birches, San Jo Hotel, built in the 2000-2100 block ca. 1901 by merchant and banker Sion Buchanan. The rambling two-and-one-half story frame inn, of ornate Queen Anne style, contained some twenty guest rooms, with polygonal turrets and two-story gingerbread porches on three sides. Its large lot contained a pond and several latticework gazebos. The resort, operated under several different names, dominated Lee Avenue until 1921 when it burned (*The History & Architectural of Lee County, 74-75; Comer, Jonesboro, Lee County, Vol. II, 61.* One of the gazebos was later moved to the rear yard at 2010 Lee Avenue, where it stood until the late 1990s. Interview with occupant Anne Mathis, October 2001.).

Around the Tenny Inn a group of comfortable, middle-class dwellings were erected in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The 2100 block of Lee Avenue between the site of the Tenny Inn and West globe Street (known as Vance Street in 1930) retains fourteen of the nineteen houses along the street that appear on the 1930 Sanborn Map (1930 Sanborn Map, Sanford, including Jonesboro). Twelve of the houses – 2109, 2109a, 2113, 2115, 2117, 2120, 2121, 2125, 2200, 2204, 2404, and 307 W. Main Street—are pyramidal cottages, gable-and-wing type houses, or tri-gable type houses built from ca. 1908 to ca. 1920. None of these appear to predate 1900. The pre-1900 houses along Lee Avenue were probably workers' cottages that have disappeared.

An unusually high concentration of building artisans lived in these homes and probably built them (Lee County Census, Population Schedule, 1910, 1920). Leslie P. Cox, a twenty-two-year-old building contractor, built himself and his young wife a Foursquare type house at 2006 Lee Avenue about 1917. S. H. Phillips, a glazier, apparently lived in the tri-gable house at 2200 Lee Avenue in 1910. John Yarborough, a house carpenter, lived in the pyramidal cottages at 2117 Lee Avenue in 1920. Clifton Stephens, house painter, lived in the pyramidal cottage at 2121 Lee Avenue in 1920. George Hunt, owner of a lumber mill, lived at 2120 Lee Avenue, one of the largest pyramidal cottages, in 1920. In addition to these artisans' houses that still stand, house of others associated with the building trade have been demolished. William L. Thomas owned a planning and sawmill on the railroad tracks in the 2200 block of Lee Avenue, at the rear of the houses. Thomas's large frame house stood in the next block of Lee Avenue, facing West Humber Street, formerly Buffaloe Street, but has been demolished. Alexander Hunt, lumberman, lived beside George Hunt in 1920, in a house that may have been demolished. Julius M. Gunter, Walker S. Brooks, and Herndon Dew, all house carpenters, also lived in unidentified houses in this section of Lee Avenue in 1920 (Lee County Census, Population Schedule, Town of Jonesboro, 1920. N. C. State Archives). Although every sizable town has artisans, it is interesting that Jonesboro's were concentrated along Lee Avenue. This may be due to the presence of the Thomas Lumber mill and the adjacent Jonesboro Sash and Blind Company. Owners and employees of these establishments, as well as builders who used their products, built houses in the vicinity of the mills. The Tenny Inn, the largest and most architecturally embellished building of the era in Lee County, was probably constructed by these artisans with materials from these mills, and was a catalyst for the construction of surrounding houses (Interview with Lee County historian James Van Comer, October 2001).

In the 1920s and early 1930s, many of the remaining building sites along Lee Avenue were filled with eighteen brick and frame Craftsman-style bungalows. Located at 1916, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2001, 2009, 2015, 2021, 2114, 2116, 2122, 2206, 2203, and 2205, 2217, 2219, and 2402 Lee Avenue, these houses reflect the substantial, settled nature of their early owners. Among the early owners of these Craftsman houses were William M. Holt Sr., who founded Holt Supply Company, dealer in agriculture machinery; H. F. Ohler, a pharmacist; Gertrude Arnold, widow of merchant Daniel Arnold; Dr. Roy Sowers; and Dr. Blue.

Historic Architecture Context:

The Lee Avenue Historic District contains residential housing forms that reflect the architectural evolution of Lee County from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. In the early twentieth century, Lee County builders broke out of the rigid symmetry of traditional construction and adopted more complex shapes with projecting wings, bay windows, turrets, and hip-and-gable roofs. Much of this activity took place in Jonesboro, where several lumber mills, a sash and blind factory, and a number of builders were located. The best remaining example of this creative Queen Anne vernacular in the district is the Avent House, 319 W. Raleigh Street. The juxtaposition of the high hipped roof, two-story center bay window, a one-story wraparound porch, upper recessed balcony, and multiple cross-gables with ornate sawnwork bargeboard create an exuberant Victorian era composition. The era of experimentation in Lee County peaked with Jonesboro merchant Siion

Buchanan's Tenny Inn built about 1901 on Lee Avenue. The rambling resort hotel featured two-story verandas and octagonal turrets with conical roofs and large Queen Anne windows. Inverted heart-shaped gable vents provided eccentric decorative accents. The author of Lee County's comprehensive architectural history pronounced the Tenny Inn the most splendid of Lee county's turn-of-the-twentieth century buildings (*The History and Architecture of Lee County*, 74-75).

In the early twentieth century the range of house types available to county homebuilders broadened. While most prosperous farmers and merchants continued to prefer the two-story, one-room-deep house type known as the I-House, represented in the Lee Avenue district by the ca. 1882 Pierce-Seawell House and the 1886 John Barnes House, a new one-story two-room-deep house began to appear throughout Lee County. A favorite version of this type in Jonesboro had a pyramidal hipped roof form with gabled front and side projections. The pyramidal cottage was an extremely popular house type in North Carolina in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Apparently the tall pyramidal roof provided relief from the summer heat. While the form remained constant, the size and architectural elaboration varied from small, plain tenant houses to large farm houses and town houses with grand wraparound porches and ornate decorative trim. Eight examples of this type stand in the 2100 and 2200 block of the Lee Avenue Historic district. These are comfortable middle-class houses with picturesque rooflines and spacious porches. The houses are perhaps the best collection of pyramidal cottages in Lee County, and reflect the inventive collaboration of a group of local contractors using lumber and ready-made windows, doors, and other trim produced in mills located in the 2200 and 2300 blocks of Lee Avenue along the railroad tracks (See Thomas Mill and Jonesboro Sash & Blind Co. on the 1930 Sanford Sanborn Map, sheet 13).

The most important builder who has been definitively documented in the Lee Avenue District is Leslie P. Cox, active from the 1910s to the 1950s. The residence that he built for himself at the beginning of his career – a ca. 1917 frame foursquare, 2006 Lee Avenue, and the large and distinguished two-story brick ca. 1952 Colonial Revival style house that he built for himself at the end of his career at 404 W. Main Street – stand at each end of the district. By the 1950s L. P. Cox Company General Contractors dominated the local construction trade and had extended its operation through the Carolinas and Virginia (*History and Architecture of Lee County*, 152-153). The prolific Jonesboro carpenter team of James A. and Napoleon McBryde and builder Duncan Buie may have built some of these houses (*History of Architecture of Lee County*, 86). James A. McBryde is believed to have built at least three of the substantial bungalows in the district: the ca. 1925 Nannie M. Williams House, 303 West Main Street; the 1927 Roy G. Sowers House, 2122 Lee Avenue; and the 1928 Gertrude M. Arnold House, 2116 Lee Avenue (*History and Architecture of Lee County*, 158).