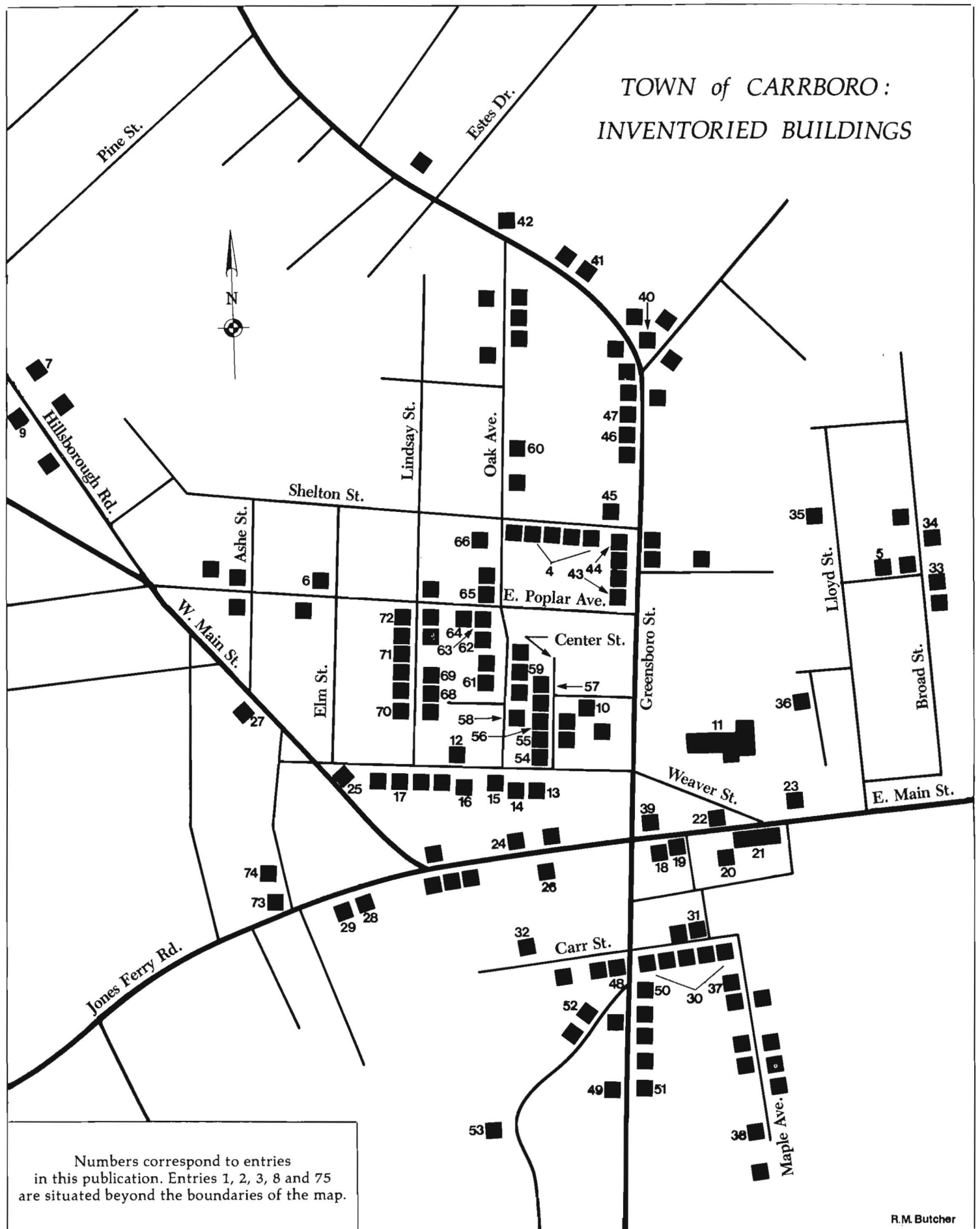


TOWN of CARRBORO : INVENTORIED BUILDINGS





10. 105 Short Street



12. 302 Weaver Street



11. Alberta Cotton Mill/Durham Hosiery Mills No. 4

10. House

105 Short Street

Although in a state of disrepair, this house, built around 1898 to accommodate workers in Thomas F. Lloyd's Alberta Cotton Mill, stands virtually intact. The typical mill house form of a one-room-deep main portion with a rear ell has a center hall plan and an interior chimney serving two fireplaces

back to back in one of the front rooms and a room in the ell. The other front room has an interior flue. The original sawnwork spandrels with encircled four-point stars decorate the simple posts supporting the shed-roofed front porch. Most of the detailing is concentrated at the roofline where the patterned pressed tin roof is defined by molded box cornices with returns and plain frieze boards below.

11. Alberta Cotton Mill/Durham Hosiery Mills No. 4

Northeast corner of Weaver Street and North Greensboro Street

In 1898, as his cotton gin and grist mill behind the depot prospered, Thomas F. Lloyd, at almost sixty years of age, embarked upon a new venture. With the issuance of \$75,000 of capital stock, he began the Alberta Cotton Mill, with which West End would develop into a full-fledged community, eventually named Carrboro. By the spring of 1899 the rectangular two-story building was completed, situated little more than 150 yards northwest of the depot. The standard mill construction utilizing a very heavy, slow-burning timber frame with chamfered supporting beams provided the large open interior spaces and strong floors necessary to accommodate the machinery. The red brick exterior is characterized by tall and narrow segmental-arched windows that admitted light and ventilation to the factory floors. This regular fenestration of double-hung windows with lintels and heavy wooden sills, along with a string course, emphasizes the building's horizontality. At the middle of the south side of the mill, a four-story tower containing a round-headed entrance, stairs and a 10,000 gallon water tank at the top added a vertical accent. Here, decorative corbelled caps enhanced the straightforward design. Elsewhere, ornamental features were limited to the heavy curved sawn rafter ends exposed in the deep overhang of the very low-pitched gable roof. A one-story power house extended from the northeast corner of the mill. To the north there was a 250,000-gallon reservoir, and to the southeast a one-story frame cotton warehouse. The surrounding lawn planted with hardwoods was punctuated by a small frame one-story office and four six-sided brick well houses (later fire hose houses) with knuckle joints and pyramidal roofs. East and northeast of the mill, on the same tract, Lloyd built twelve one-story frame houses for his laborers.

At first, Lloyd's cotton thread spinning operation occupied only the first floor of the

mill. In 1902 he leased the second floor to William E. Lindsay and Isaac W. Pritchard's Blanche Hosiery Mill. As Lloyd's enterprise grew, the Blanche mill had to move to new quarters so that the Alberta Cotton Mill could use the entire building. In March, 1909, Lloyd sold his company and the mill and grounds to Julian S. Carr of Durham. Having experienced twenty-five years of success with his textile industries in Durham, Carr was rapidly expanding his eleven-year-old Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation with the acquisition of small spinning and knitting mills, such as the Alberta Cotton Mill, throughout North Carolina. In 1913, Carr and his family bought the Thomas F. Lloyd Manufacturing Company, another textile mill built by Lloyd and others on the south side of E. Main St. in 1909 to 1910; Carr renamed this later building Durham Hosiery Mills No. 7.

The Alberta Cotton Mill became Durham Hosiery Mills No. 4 with several departments on its two floors. For several years, winding, warping and carding were carried out on the first floor, and spinning, knitting and finishing on the second. Eventually, all of the cotton thread department took up the first floor and the second story was used extensively for knitting children's cotton stockings. To keep up with the steadily increasing demand for cotton hosiery, Durham Hosiery Mills soon began expanding Mill No. 4. In 1912, the building was almost doubled in size with a two-story extension continuing the original design of the mill added to its west end. A two-story tower with narrow segmental-arched windows projects at the juncture of the new and old construction on the south elevation, balancing the original tower to the west. At the same time, a one-story brick wing with a rounded frame entrance hood was built on the southeast corner and a new, separate power house was erected northeast of the reservoir. Around 1918, the original power house wing on the northeast corner of the mill was enlarged to two stories, with a two-story tower projecting from its north elevation and a three-story tower from its south. The four mill towers all were built with

house for an apartment, all executed by Mr. Partin.

In 1945, Cliff Partin purchased the Carrboro Cash Store, the town's last true "general store," located in a building dating from 1888 on Lloyd St. Partin and his son, Wilbur, operated the business until 1954 when competition from modern stores forced them to close. (The store building was torn down around 1960.) In 1956, Cliff and Vinnie Partin moved from this house to the country southwest of Carrboro. Later, Mrs. Partin returned to Carrboro to an old house that she refurbished.

52. House

102 Old Pittsboro Road

This turn-of-the-century house is a fairly intact example of the one-story, one-room-deep form with a triple-A roofline that was so popular across North Carolina during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Detailing is restricted to the molded box cornices with returns, diamond-shaped attic vent, and patterned pressed tin covering the roof. An exterior chimney survives in one of the gable ends. The porch along one side of the rear ell has been enclosed. The most significant alteration to the house was its move to the present location. Originally, the house was situated a couple blocks away at the southwest corner of W. Main St. and S. Greensboro St. Information about its builder and early occupants has not been determined.

53. Sparrow House

116 Old Pittsboro Road

In the mid-1910s, Jody and Mattie ("Bob") Sparrow built a simple one-story, three-room frame house on this hillcrest. In the next decade, it was completely re-worked as the present one-and-one-half-story, brick-veneered bungalow with the splayed gable roof engaging the porch across the main facade. The sizeable surrounding tract actually is more significant in Carrboro's history than the house: At the close of World War I, the Sparrows built a concrete swimming

pool—a novelty at that time—northwest of the house, across the stream at the foot of the hill. A gravel parking lot was placed at the top of the hill and bath houses and concession stands (run by members of the Partin family) were built near the pool. Admission was charged, and Sparrow's Pool quickly became one of the major recreation spots between Burlington and Raleigh, supplementing Mr. Sparrow's income as an employee of the UNC power plant and Chapel Hill's inspections department. The pool remained open to the public during warm weather until around 1940. In 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bost purchased the property. They remodelled the interior of the house and removed the parking lot, bath houses and concession stands. They maintain the pool for their private use.

54. House

101 Center Street

The compact one-story form with the all-encompassing gable-front roof exhibited here is a typical variation of small bungalows. The recessed full-facade front porch with tapered box posts on brick plinths is among the most characteristic bungalow features. A shed addition has been built across the rear facade. Originally, a one-story house owned by the neighboring cotton and hosiery mill occupied the site; around 1920 that house burned and was replaced with the present structure. The builder and occupants of this house have not been identified. In the late 1970s the building was converted from a dwelling to offices.

55. House

103 Center Street

According to the Sanborn Insurance Maps, the history of this property is similar to that of the neighboring lot at 101 Center St.: 103 Center St. originally was occupied by a one-story dwelling that resembled the majority of houses on this street developed by the cotton and hosiery mill one block away. After a fire around 1920, that house was replaced by the present tiny structure. Off-



51. Partin House



53. Sparrow House



54. 101 Center Street



52. 102 Old Pittsboro Road



53. Sparrow's Pool



55. 103 Center Street

set shingles in the full-facade front gable embellish the diminutive cottage. The present owner of the house is noted for his small yard which he fills with flower beds every spring and summer.



56. 105 Center Street



58. 100 Oak Avenue



60. 404 Oak Avenue

56. House
105 Center Street

This house represents one of the variations of the simple one-story, one-room-deep houses with rear ells built by the Alberta Cotton Mill (and possibly augmented by the Durham Hosiery Mills when it bought the plant) for rental to its laborers. Here, the front porch is a simple shed extending just beyond the windows and supported by simple posts with spandrels. The spandrels are cut-out curved brackets inscribed with a



57. (Former) Elementary School



59. 202 Oak Avenue

circle containing a four-point star. The main block of the house is arranged in a center hall plan and furnished on the exterior with plain box cornices, frieze boards, and narrow corner boards.

The present owners of the house purchased it in 1981 and immediately embarked upon an extensive renovation that has entailed the preservation of the four main rooms and the replacement of the rear porch with a passive solar living room and a laundry and bathroom.

57. (Former) Elementary School
109 Center Street

As originally constructed around 1898 by the Alberta Cotton Mill, this house was in the ubiquitous one-room-deep form with a rear ell and a three-bay main facade. The siting of this house—at a slight angle to the street and out of alignment with the other

houses to either side—suggests that it was the first house built on this side of Center St. This typical mill house soon was adapted as the community's first school and served this function until around 1908 when the Carrboro Public School was built at 114 W. Main St. At that time, this building was reconverted to a house, occupied until around 1915 by Nannie Riggsbee Williams. In the late 1910s, the north gable end was extended so that the house now has a wide, four-bay facade. This addition may have been built expressly for industrial purposes. Shortly thereafter, the Durham Hosiery Mills, outgrowing its No. 4 mill as it increased production, installed additional looping machines (for joining the toe to the main body of socks and stockings) in this house. A few years later, after the mill was enlarged, the building was converted once again to a residence. The wide but shallow hip-roofed front porch features slightly chamfered supports and a railing with simple square-in-section balusters. The few alterations to the house include the application of asbestos shingles to the exterior walls.

58. House
100 Oak Avenue

This house, along with 200 and 202 Oak Ave., was built in the early 1920s by a local contractor, probably for speculative rental to mill hands. The house exhibits the one-story, one-room-deep form with a rear ell that was so popular throughout the 19th century and well in the 20th. Unlike most Carrboro examples of the type, however, this house has a very short rear ell that is only one room deep. The house was built with a center hall plan, an interior chimney serving two fireplaces—one each in the living room and kitchen—and wooden shingles sheathing the roof. The rear porch was enclosed shortly after construction; much later, the front porch was removed. Early occupants of the house included Bryan Hackney. Later the Cheek family lived here for many years. When the Cheek estate was being settled in the late 1970s and it was learned that a prospective buyer planned to

demolish it, the present owners purchased it for use as rental property. In the course of renovating the house, the new owners chose to accent its aspects they found most appealing. They restored the fireplaces and mantelpieces, refinished the pine flooring, doors and trim, and selected an exterior paint scheme that enhances the proportions of the house. For the necessary replacement of the roof, raised seam tin was used.

59. House
202 Oak Avenue

Built in the early 1920s by a local contractor, this house remains relatively intact on the exterior. The typical one-story, one-room-deep form with a two-room rear ell retains its front porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by slender tapered box posts resting on short brick plinths. After Oak Ave. was widened, the short fence was added for demarcation of the small front yard. Whether the contractor was privately commissioned or built the house for his own speculative sale or rental has not been determined. The present owner has cultivated his yard with carefully landscaped gardens that surround the house.

60. House
404 Oak Avenue

In recent years, this one-and-one-half-story house has undergone renovations that have modernized its exterior without destroying its original character. It is one of three originally very similar houses (with 400 and 408 Oak Ave.) built in a row on large lots around 1910. It is not known if these privately built houses were constructed by owner-occupants or for speculative sale or rental. They all exhibited the tall hip-roofed form with a center hall, two-room-deep plan and a shed porch across the rear elevation. In spite of the recent alterations, this house remains the most intact of the three, having retained both its original roofline and hip-roofed front porch with turned posts. In addition to enclosure of the rear porch, some of the fenestration has been replaced with single-

Center Street – Carrboro, NC, September 2017



101 Center Street



103 Center Street



105 Center Street



107 Center Street



109 Center Street



109 Center Street



201 Center Street



140 Short Street (Fitch Lumber)



103 Short Street



103 Short Street



104 Center Street



102 Center Street



Center Street looking north



201 North Greensboro Street (building demolished)