

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Louisburg Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number See Verbal Boundary description not for publication

city, town Louisburg vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Franklin 069 code

## 3. Classification

| Category                                     | Ownership                                   | Status                                              | Present Use                                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied      | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|                                              |                                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no              | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious         |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|                                              |                                             |                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. C. L. Gobble, Town Administrator / Multiple ownership

street & number The Town of Louisburg  
110 West Nash Street

city, town Louisburg state North Carolina 27549

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Franklin County Courthouse

street &amp; number 102 South Main Street

city, town Louisburg state North Carolina 27549

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Louisburg Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1985-1986 federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☒ fair

☒ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☒ moved

date ~~See Criteria Exception B.~~

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See continuation sheet

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Located in the northern section of Louisburg, a town of 3,328 (1980 Census), the Louisburg Historic District occupies the significant position in the evolution of residential architecture in the town. It contains noteworthy examples of distinctive major architectural styles from the 1800s through the 1920s. The majority of the 212 properties of the Louisburg Historic District are located in the area that comprised the original 1779 rectilinear plan of the town. Contributing to the cohesiveness of the district are street widths and block sizes that have remained the same since they were first laid out in 1779. In addition to the original town plan, the 168 acre Historic District encompasses a portion of the Louisburg College campus which is located at the northern point of the original town plan or on the old Town Commons; North Main Street on the north side of the college campus, and several east to west street extensions. The east to west street extensions include: Nash Street extended westward prior to 1860; Sunset Avenue, West Noble Street, Clifton Avenue and Person Street all extended early in the 20th century. The Central Business District of Louisburg, although located in the original town plan was not included within the district boundaries due to numerous changes made to storefront facades as well as demolitions. For instance, the courthouse, the focal point of downtown, built in the 1850s was remodeled in 1937 and again in 1968, altering the original form and removing the Greek Revival features. The commercial district does not contribute to the high degree of intactness and integrity present in the neighborhoods which surround the downtown area. It is for these same reasons that the residential area (Kenmore Avenue and South Main Street) on the south side of the Tar River was not included. Modern encroachments, demolition of houses and structural remodelings have contributed to the loss of the architectural history of these once fashionable early 20th century neighborhoods.

Ranging in size from the impressive Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Neo Classical style houses of North Main and Nash streets to the more modest Victorian and Bungalow style dwellings of the adjoining streets, the houses of the district embody the diversity and vitality one would expect in an expanding town from the period of the 1800s - 1920s. Particularly noteworthy are eight architectural styles: a few surviving transitional Georgian/Federal style structures that date from the late 18th and early 19th century; a combination of handsome Greek Revival and Italianate dwellings of the 1840s to the 1860s; a well finished and varied assortment of late 19th and early 20th century Queen Anne style residences; a fine collection of modest late 19th and early 20th century one and two-story frame Victorian style dwellings; an impressive grouping of early 20th century Colonial Revival style houses; four stately illustrations of the Neo Classical style that was popular from 1900 to 1914;

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and a sampling of well executed as well as modest Bungalow style dwellings of the 1910s to the 1920s. Also located in the district are three handsome brick churches, a frame Gothic Revival church, and the "old campus" of Louisburg College.

These early houses of Louisburg were typically frame construction with the exception of one solid brick, two-story, single-pile house built around 1847. The styles represented illustrate popular architectural trends of a specific period with traditional interpretations and local variations characteristic to other North Carolina piedmont houses. The vast majority of architecture in Louisburg was the work of practical builders and not schooled architects. They used the models in builders and architects guides but translated them into locally appropriate forms. This was the traditional method of construction throughout the piedmont area.

While brick was used in commercial buildings as early as 1896, it was not until 1913 that brick began to be used in residential structures. There are only a small number of brick Colonial, Dutch and Georgian Revival style houses of the 1920s in the historic district. Granite which exists in vast quantities in Franklin County, was never a popular building material in Louisburg although there are four stone houses present in the district: three identical stone cottages (#155, #166, #162) erected in 1922 and another stone house (#186) constructed between 1945 and 1948.

The district is located on a gradual incline that rises northward from the Tar River. The great unifying element of the district is its tree cover of hardwoods, primarily oaks. The street trees have matured into a verdant canopy of vegetation which shades much of the district. The oak groves, the location of Louisburg College, also serves as a unifying element. Large lot sizes, cut granite and fieldstone low walls, and deep setback, particularly along North Main Street contribute to the overall character of the historic district.

There are no definite boundaries that divide the neighborhoods within the historic district. The wealthiest and most prominent Louisburg families have always lived along North Main Street, where the majority of the larger houses were constructed. Some prosperous plantation owners developed their land holdings and built houses on the perimeter of the original town plan. Between 1890 and 1915 as the tobacco and cotton market prospered and the demand grew, these estates were divided and developed as house lots and streets were extended to service the newly formed neighborhoods in the early 20th century.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Georgian-Federal

The Louisburg Historic District contains a few surviving

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houses from the late 18th and early 19th century. These earliest houses were initially built in the Georgian style - typically a one-and-a-half story frame house with flush gables beneath a side gable roof. They follow characteristic hall and parlor plans as in the Patterson-Pinnell House (#37, ca.1820-1843) and side hall plans as in the Shine-King House (#90, ca.1800) and the Milner-Perry-Boddie-Dennis House (#14, ca.1779). Beaded siding and double shoulder chimneys as seen on the Milner-Williams-Person House (#174, ca.1798-1830) are also distinguishing features of the Georgian style. Perhaps the earliest surviving house in the historic district is the Milner-Perry-Boddie-Dennis House (#14), built according to tradition before the town was founded in 1779. The future of this house is somewhat uncertain due to its current state of deterioration but the Georgian portion of the present dwelling was the house of Patewills Milner, who sold the original 100 acres for the site of Louisburg. As families became larger and more money was available, these small Georgian houses were expanded, spilling over into the later Federal architectural period. The Federal style in Louisburg appears to be limited to the expansion of these earliest houses. The most notable example of Federal style architecture is seen in the handsome gable front addition made around 1830 to the Milner-Williams-Person House (#174). Characterized by lightness of applied ornamentation, the Federal influence is most commonly seen on interior features, particularly the mantel, which is often divided into three elements and decorated with a medallion or reeding motif.

Greek Revival-Italianate

The 1840s saw the introduction of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles in Louisburg. The Greek Revival style originated in England as a result of increased public awareness of Grecian forms of culture and architecture. The style first gained popularity in New England and later spread to the South. The square, boxy-proportions and simple classical detailing remained popular in the south until after the Civil War, long after it had been abandoned in the North for other Romantic architectural styles of the 19th century. The later Italianate style was not as popular as the Greek Revival Style. Only two houses located in the district exhibit heavy Italianate influence.

The 1850s saw the construction of numerous notable houses of the Greek Revival style, a few still remaining. Among the finest surviving examples is the Williamson House (NR), (#29, ca.1850-1857) a Greek Revival cottage that is still owned by descendants of the original family. The center hall plan interior, the most common of the Greek Revival plans, displays a remarkably intact finish consisting of wide baseboards, simple mantels and paneled doors.

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Exceptional to the house are the original marbelized baseboards in the hallway and the woodgrained mantels and doors seen throughout the house.

North Main Street was the site of five new two-story frame Greek Revival structures constructed between 1855 and 1859 for some of Louisburg's wealthy merchants and professionals: Brown-Boddie-Allen House (#51, ca.1854), Malone-Holden House (#200, ca.1855), Fuller-Malone-Parham House (#88, ca.1857), Main Building of Louisburg College (#170, ca.1857), and Spencer-Allen House (#50, ca.1859). The builder for two of these houses: Malone-Holden House (#200, ca.1855) and Fuller-Malone-Parham House (NR), (#88, ca.1857) was regional builder Albert Gamaliel Jones of Warren County. Gamaliel Jones also built the Main Building (#170, ca.1857) of Louisburg Female Academy, one of the most massive structure in the region and an unusually well-preserved example of Greek Revival institutional architecture.

The Italianate style was not a very popular style in Louisburg. There are however two houses which exhibit Italianate features. The Davis-Allen-Ford House (#208, ca.1840-1861) is an asymmetrical two-story frame dwelling with overhanging eaves, windows with elaborate crowns and a central square tower. The Dr. J.B. Clifton House (#210, ca.1865) is embellished with pendants in the roof cornice and an entrance featuring a heavily molded and bracketed door surround.

There were other builders active in Louisburg between 1850 and 1887, unfortunately records are scarce concerning their works. According to local newspaper advertisements there were four builder/architects or carpenters advertising in Louisburg at that time: Thomas Raney and George Williamson advertised in the American Eagle in 1860 and were general carpenters.<sup>1</sup> Raney had previously completed the work started by Albert Gamaliel Jones in 1855 on the Malone-Holden House (#200). J.R. Brummitt, an architect and undertaker was advertising in the Franklin Courier in 1872.<sup>2</sup> Samuel Green took over the "old Brummitt Shop" in 1887 after Brummitt's death in 1873 and converted it into a "carpenter's shop."<sup>3</sup> Conway and Beacham were partners in a "Coach Factory and carpenter shop" during the 1880s.<sup>4</sup>

### Victorian Style

Widespread occurrence of the Victorian style of architecture did not appear in Louisburg until the last decade of the 19th century. The major use of the Victorian was as applied decoration to houses of traditional vernacular design. A large number of these simple house forms having one or two frame stories, a front hipped roof porch, center hall plan, one room deep and one or more rear ells were constructed after 1890 and remained popular forms

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into the early 1920s. The applied decoration was in the form of turned posts, spindles and sawn scrolls to porches; brackets to roof cornices and eaves; louvered window blinds; and woodshingles in the gable ends. These decorations became popular due to the increasing availability of machine-shop-made architectural elements. Some typical dwellings of this style are the Barrow-Wilson House (#177, ca.1890), Winston-Allen House (#91, ca.1897), Pleasants-Ferguson-Collier House (#82, ca.1900-1904) and Battle-Beam House (#163, ca.1908).

There is an even more noticeable impact of the industrial age on the interior finish, where machine produced beaded tongue and groove wainscoting dramatically changed interior treatment. It was not until the advent of planing mills in the 1880s that beaded tongue and groove wainscoting was manufactured in quantity. This boarding became the standard method of interior finish in Louisburg for both ambitious and modest houses well past 1900.

Queen Anne

Louisburg was booming in the 1890s and early 1900s from its newfound wealth in the tobacco and cotton marketing industry. That prosperity is reflected in the numerous Queen Anne style houses of that period. It is the Queen Anne style that predominates the finer houses of the Louisburg Historic District. The Bailey-Yarborough House (#87, ca.1895), perhaps more than any other surviving dwelling, epitomizes the richness and variety of style preferred by home owners at this time. The asymmetrical massing, the circular tower and use of several wall materials (german siding and wood shingles) illustrates the Queen Anne aversion to smooth wall surfaces and symmetry. The most noteworthy interior is found in the Hughes-Watson-Wheless House (#89, ca.1900), which features the most ornate staircase in Louisburg - no less than four different spindles rise from the stringer adorned with bead work and an intricate scroll design. More typical of the Queen Anne style house are the Former Rectory-St. Paul's Episcopal Church (#111), Hughes-Tucker House (#95), Pleasants-Holmes House (#116) and Collie-Best-Taylor House (#75). All display the style's definitive asymmetrical massing and feature a variety of woodshingled gables, dormers, and wrap-around porches. The interiors are generally finished in a restrained manner focusing on sliding double doors and the same symmetrical surrounds and beaded tongue and groove and paneled wainscoting that are common to both ambitious and modest houses of this period. Mantels are generally reserved with overmantels found only in the front parlors. Stained glass is used sparingly.

The arrival of the 20th century saw little measurable change in the Louisburg housing stock until 1905. In the next two decades two styles supplemented the still fashionable Queen Anne style: Neo Classical and Colonial Revival.

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Neo Classical

Between 1900 and 1915 much money was being made in the town and the wealthiest of these merchants built houses to showcase their wealth. Four houses of the grandiose Neo Classical Revival style were erected in Louisburg. This style had become the rage of the nation since the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Whereas the Greek Revival style is based on the studied and linear severity of Grecian architecture, the Neo Classical style is borrowed from the exuberant and showy Roman forms. Its chief characteristics are colossal porticos supported by massive classical columns, elaborate and heavily dentiled cornices, the predominate use of the Corinthian Order (however in Louisburg, the Ionic Order was the most popular) and the use of leaded and beveled glass. The most elaborately finished house of this style is the Hicks-Perry-Bland-Holmes House (#49) designed by the Louisburg architect/engineer M. Stuart Davis around 1914. The house features a characteristic two-story portico with massive Ionic columns plus a full-width classical one-story porch, dentil molding in the porch frieze and an entrance framed by a leaded glass fanlight and side-lights. The interior is just as handsomely finished and has a fine inlaid, patterned hardwood floor. Another Neo Classical style house that is significant to the district is the Egerton-Pruitt House (#131, ca.1905). This house sits on a hill and commands an impressive view of the downtown area. It also features a grand open-arms staircase, the only one in Louisburg.

Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival term refers to the entire rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses of the Atlantic seaboard. The Georgian and Adam influenced styles form the backbone of the revival with secondary influences from upper Atlantic Dutch Colonial prototypes. The typical Colonial Revival house is characterized by a classic box form with a porch and cornice featuring restrained classical detailing.

The Allen-Bruton House (#52, ca.1908), one of the earliest Colonial Revival houses built in the district reflects the combined influence of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The Queen Anne influence is seen in the asymmetrical house form, varied window placement and size, and the use of stained glass windows; while the Colonial Revival influence is evidenced from the dentiled cornice and classical porch treatment. Significant to this house is the impressive and extensive use of stained glass and one of the most handsomely finished interiors of the historic district. Other houses characterized by the "classic box" Colonial Revival form are the Furgurson-Hicks House (#130, ca.1908), the McKinne-

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Beam House (#152, ca.1913), and the Malcomb McKinne House (#151, ca.1922). These houses feature typical classical detailing such as leaded glass fanlights and sidelights, plain cornices and Tuscan columns on the porches. The Dutch Colonial Revival style characterized by its unmistakably Dutch gambrel roof trademark, is illustrated in the Shaw-Ragland House (#182, ca.1882-1921).

The finest example of the Georgian Revival style, another subtype of the Colonial Revival era is the exceptional Pleasants-Yarborough House (#114) designed by Raleigh architect, Howard Satterfield in 1927.

Bungalow

The late 1910s until the Great Depression saw development of the Bungalow style in Louisburg. Popularized on the West Coast and derived from house types in India, this style takes several various forms, although in Louisburg most follow one of two forms: a one or one-and-a-half story house with either gable end or gable front roofs with engaged porches. The more ambitious ones are brick. Consistent on the more ambitious houses are dormers, the use of wood shingles for gables and dormers, triangular brackets in the eaves, windows containing a multi-pane sash above a single lower sash, and battered porch pillars or piers. The year 1919 saw the completion of the first and the finest bungalow in Louisburg, The Alsbrook-McKinne-Washington House (#144). This handsomely executed house features a large three bay dormer on the north and south elevations, woodshingles in the gable ends and on the porch frieze and a typical side porte cochere. The interior, as is characteristic of other bungalow interiors, is informal in plan and displays a modest finish. Exposed ceiling beams accentuate two of the downstairs rooms. Equally ambitious but on a smaller scale is the Julia Scott House (#85, ca.1923-1930).

The stock market crash in 1929 halted construction in Louisburg as it did throughout the region. Even with the economy returning to normal in the 1940s, building within the district never regained the momentum it experienced in the pre-depression era. The N.F. Freeman House (#186, ca.1945-1948) a handsome one-and-a-half story stone house does deserve mention since it is one of only four stone houses in the district and is a design of local architect/engineer M. Stuart Davis. The year 1930 saw the close of Louisburg's prosperous boom time that was destined not to be recaptured.

The 1950s ushered in the arrived of suburbs in Louisburg in addition to the construction of a by-pass (Bickett Boulevard), which skirts the east side of the district. These elements combined to relieve most of the development pressures on the Historic District from commercial interests and modern encroachments. The majority

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of modern buildings in the district do compliment the overall character of the historic district by repeating large lot sizes, deep setbacks, and compatible architectural styles. The intrusive elements are primarily a scattering of traditional ranch style brick houses that became popular in the 1950s and the modern buildings on the campus of Louisburg College (some of which illustrate good modern architectural design but do little to enhance the earlier historic buildings on the campus). The presence of modern construction does not significantly detract from the cohesiveness evident in the historic houses and open spaces within the district's boundaries.

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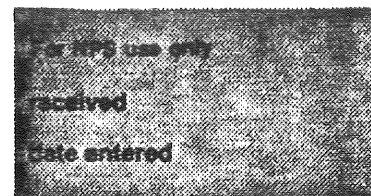
Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>"Local Advertisements", American Eagle, 15 September 1860.

<sup>2</sup>Franklin Courier, 15 November 1872.

<sup>3</sup>The Franklin Times, 4 February 1887.

<sup>4</sup>The Franklin Times, 29 November 1880.

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LOUISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY: PREFACE

The following is a statistical analysis of the contributing and noncontributing properties in the district, organized by resource type. The district consists of 137 houses, 63 outbuildings (garages, smokehouses, and storage buildings), 4 churches, 2 commercial buildings, 4 college buildings, 6 structures (primarily fences), 1 carriage block (#89), and 1 site built during the period of significance (pre-1936). It contains 50 houses, 22 outbuildings, 2 commercial buildings, and 5 college buildings built after the period of significance. The total resource count is 210 contributing buildings, 6 contributing structures, 1 contributing object and 1 contributing site, and 79 noncontributing buildings.

|                      | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| BUILDINGS            |                     |                        |
| DWELLINGS            | 137                 | 50                     |
| OUTBUILDINGS         | 63                  | 22                     |
| COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS | 2                   | 2                      |
| CHURCHES             | 4                   | 0                      |
| LOUISBURG COLLEGE    | 4                   | 5                      |
| STRUCTURES           | 6                   | 0                      |
| OBJECTS              | 1                   | 0                      |
| SITES                | 1                   | 0                      |
|                      | <u>218</u>          | <u>79</u>              |

Although 37.6% of the resources in the district are labeled noncontributing, the district does not have the appearance of a high incidence of non-historic resources. The noncontributing houses are, for the most part, not visually jarring, but blend unobtrusively into the historic streetscapes. By far the majority of the 50 noncontributing dwellings are frame or brick one or two-story single family houses which were built after 1936, but continue the scale, forms, materials, and even, in many cases, the Colonial and Classical Revival styles of the earlier dwellings. Most of these houses are labeled "F" for fill. They could not be excluded from the boundaries of the district because they are scattered among the historic houses. The outbuildings of the noncontributing dwellings are also considered noncontributing. The second largest category of noncontributing resources are the post-1936 buildings on the Louisburg College campus. These are large brick buildings of modern design which are quite different in character from the pre-1936 college buildings.

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132. Harris House (Fk248)  
107 Elm St.: 1922  
C

This modest gable front frame house was erected around 1922 (SM) for the Harris family. The weatherboarded bungalow features a front (east) facing gable roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter beams along all the elevations except the rear. A rear wing addition obscures the original roofline on this elevation. A hip roof porch with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter beams is carried by battered wooden columns on top of brick piers. A porte cochere is attached to the south side of the porch. Paired six over six double sash windows within flat surrounds are found on the front and side elevations, and a smaller paired six over six sash window is featured in the gable of the front elevation. Completing exterior features consist of interior chimneys and a small square window on each side elevation. The interior is modestly finished with plaster walls, flat surrounds, and simple mantels. There are no outbuildings.

- 133-136. Two-Room Rental Houses (Fk249-252)  
111, 115, 117, 201 Elm St.: 1900-1915  
C

These four modest two-room frame houses were constructed between 1900 and 1915 for use as rental property. It is not known for whom they were constructed but by the 1920's each house was individually owned. According to Gray's 1882 Map of Louisburg the location of the houses then was owned by R.F. Yarborough (#59) and Henry Crenshaw (#131). Each house is a single-pile, three bay structure massed beneath a side gable roof. The original weatherboarding has been covered with asbestos shingles or aluminum siding. The houses located at (#135) 117 Elm St. & (#136) 201 Elm St. feature central interior chimneys and rear (west) wings. #136 has been enlarged with two front (east) shed dormers and has a multi-bay porch supported by modern iron railings extending across the front elevation. #135 features a shed entrance bay porch supported by modern iron columns. The house located at 115 Elm St. (#134) features flush side gables and a tin shingled roof pierced by interior chimneys. A shed roof one-bay porch is carried by vernacular square posts and the rear (west) elevation is enlarged by an ell. The house located at 111 Elm St. (133) features a shed roof porch supported by modern iron railings. The original Victorian turned posts are still visible attached to the main block of the house. A side (north) wing was added in the 1940's and the rear (west) elevation