

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY OF Willis G. Briggs, Elizabeth Briggs Pittman,

Annie G. Briggs, James E. Briggs, and his wife, Agnes S. Briggs

LOCATED AT 220 Fayetteville Street

IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC SITE.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Sites Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic site; and

WHEREAS, on the 16 day of April, 1968, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, by the Historic Sites Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic site; and

WHEREAS, said hearing was advertised and the property owners of the property hereinafter described were notified by certified mail of the date and purpose of said public hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH THAT:

Section 1. The Property of Willis G. Briggs, Elizabeth Briggs Pittman,

Annie G. Briggs, James E. Briggs, and his wife, Agnes S. Briggs

Located at 220 Fayetteville Street

in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a historic site. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

BRIGGS HARDWARE BUILDING. 220 FAYETTEVILLE STREET.

BOOK 1883 PAGE 296

FIRST TRACT: Lying and situate on Fayetteville and Salisbury Streets, in the city of Raleigh, and known in the plan of said city as part of lot No. 131, and bounded as follows:

BEGINNING on Fayetteville Street, at the northeast corner of lot No. 115, running thence west with said lot to Salisbury Street, thence north with Salisbury Street, 32 feet to formerly Williamson, Upchurch and Thomas corner; thence east with their line to Fayetteville Street, thence south 32 feet to the beginning, and being the land conveyed to Thomas H. Briggs, by John D. Primrose and others 7th November 1873, by deed recorded in book 36, at page 709, Registry for Wake County and subject to party wall agreement by Charles Keuster and wife, and said Thomas H. Briggs, dated 18th day of February 1874, registered in book 37, at page 405, said registry.

SECOND TRACT: Situated on South Salisbury Street and beginning at S. E. corner of lot No. 1 as shown in a map of parts of City lots Nos. 116, and 132, in the plan of the City of Raleigh as recorded in book 120, page 707, registry of deeds office for Wake County, and runs thence south with west side of Salisbury Street forty feet two inches to the N. E. corner of lot No. 3, said map; thence west with line of said lot No. 3, two hundred ten feet to the N. W. corner of said lot No. 3, in Mrs. W. W. Holden's line; thence north with her line forty feet two inches to the S. W. corner of Lot No. 1 said map; thence east with line of lot No. 1 two hundred ten feet to the beginning, and being lot No. 2 in the aforesaid map as recorded in book 120, at page 707 said register's office and being the same land conveyed by John T. Pullen, Commissioner to T. H. Briggs, and J. A. Briggs, by deed dated 1st August 1892, registered in book 125, at page 309, Registry for Wake County.

Section 2. No building or structure located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished or materially altered unless and until a sixty-day (60) written notice to the Historic Sites Commission of the intent to demolish or materially alter said structure, and the elapsing of said sixty-day (60) period.

Section 3. That all owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be indexed under the property owner's name in the grantor index in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County as provided by Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina.

Section 5. City administration and the Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic site by action of the Historic Sites Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh, provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right of way adjacent to said property.

Section 6. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Adopted: 6/16/69

CERTIFICATION

I, Mary D. Lassiter, City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a ordinance duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 16th day of June, 1969

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 26th day of June, 1969.



Mary D. Lassiter
City Clerk and Treasurer

Filed for Registration at 10:05 o'clock
A.M. JUN 26 1969 19 and
Registered in the Office of the Register of
Deeds of Wake County, North Carolina,
In Book 1883 Page 295

Louis J. Forrest, Jr. J. A. Rowland
REGISTER OF DEEDS, 19

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
 COUNTY: Wake
 ENTRY DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
 COMMON: Briggs Hardware Building
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 220 Fayetteville Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth
The Hon. Ike F. Andrews
 COUNTY: Wake CODE: 183

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check one)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check one or more as appropriate)		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: T. H. Briggs & E. Briggs, President
 STREET AND NUMBER: 220 Fayetteville Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Wake County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
 STREET AND NUMBER: East Capitol and Independence Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina
 COUNTY: Wake
 ENTRY NUMBER
 DATE
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check one)

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Briggs Hardware Building is a brick structure, four stories in the front half, three stories in the rear. It stands in a commercial row and is three bays wide extending through the full block to the rear. The roof is enclosed in a parapet wall punctuated by chimney stacks, and is typical of this type of building being a shallow "W" shape in section.

The first floor of the building's distinctive front elevation has been reworked with large plate glass windows. On the right, a tall door with a single glazed panel provides access to a stair to the upper floors. A wide entablature, with end consoles tops the first floor. It has a deeply molded architrave, a chain motif on the frieze, and a heavy molded cornice supported by undercut modillions embellished with applied floral forms. The consoles are flat-paneled and have lion's head bosses.

The fenestration of the upper three floors shows marked diminution. The plate glass sash windows have upper convex corners with corresponding surrounds that are deeply molded. Each window is surmounted by a wide hoodmold with central lion's head motif topped by a heavy, simply molded cornice. Over each cornice, except on the fourth floor, appears a centrally placed rondel. The surrounds are completed by heavy flat sills with narrow drop-blocks at each end.

Vermiculated quoins, with convex inner corners, define each edge of the facade, and a massive entablature crowns the building, bearing a curvilinear pediment. The architrave is enriched with dentils, the frieze carries a lion's head motif, and the overhanging cornice is supported by large, molded brackets, a pair beneath each cornice end block, and a single one between the center and flanking bays. The pediment bears this inscription:

1874
BRIGGS
BUILDING
HARDWARE

Atop each cornice end block is a large urn with a rondel finial.

The rear elevation has irregular, reworked fenestration on the first floor and a central doorway. The two upper floors have marked diminution or their segmental headed four-over-four sash windows with corresponding brick arches,

The interior of the Briggs Building has a plan that varies from floor to floor. The basement is an open room and has a brick floor. The first floor is open as well, as this is where business is conducted and it serves as a conduit for pedestrian traffic between the two streets which the building spans. It has a diapered pressed tin ceiling, bounded by an attacked entablature with an egg-and-dart architrave, and a wide pebbled frieze with foliated scroll design. The ceilings of both the first and second stories are interrupted by large rectangular openings which form a well for the third story skylight. This well has since been filled in, the holes being covered over with flooring. However, on the first floor, the solid wood handsomely arcaded balustrade around the opening survives

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

Although all windows which once occurred on the side elevations are now bricked in, a few still retain their reveals and soffits, as inner wooden trim identical to that which is used on the front and rear facade windows of the upper floors. A turned, engaged molding with turned finials occurs at the edge of the reveals and soffits. A heavy molded sill completes the surround.

The upper floors are variously partitioned, providing several large rooms on each level. Most partition doors have been removed, and of those that remain, most consist of four flat panels. Generally, doorways are surmounted by three-light rectangular transoms, and door architraves consist of two simply molded parts. The third story skylight is still present, though partially covered over. The fourth floor has its own small skylight.

Two sets of stairs ascend to the upper floors along the north wall in straight flights. They both have closed wells, and heavy molded handrails supported by heavy turned balusters terminating in thick turned newels. However, the rear stairs extend from the basement to the second floor, while the front stairs extend from the first to the fourth floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (check <i>One or More as Appropriate</i>)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1874			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The Briggs Hardware Building is the only nineteenth century commercial building that survives essentially unchanged on Raleigh's main street. Its rich red brick facade accented by bold metal trim—including handsome quoins, cornice, parapet, and window surrounds—together with its continuity of use and family ownership, make it one of Raleigh's most important architectural and historic landmarks.</p>			
<p>Briggs Hardware was opened in 1865 in a smaller building, located at the present site, by Thomas H. Briggs in partnership with James Dodd; Briggs was a successful Raleigh businessman with a contracting firm and large real estate holdings. Despite the tribulations of the reconstruction years, the period from 1865 to 1870, according to an 1879 account, was one of intensive building and commercial expansion. Reconstruction leaders "sowed greenbacks broadcast, and prudent and far-sighted business men came behind them and reaped a golden harvest." During these "flush times," the writer continued "Handsome stores and dwellings rose rapidly, and enterprise was manifested in many ways." Family tradition has it that Briggs was able to begin his enterprise with gold and silver coins he had buried in lead pipes near the edge of town during the war. Whatever his source of money, this "prudent businessman's" concern flourished, selling a wide variety of merchandise from soap to guns.</p>			
<p>A new building, begun in 1872, was finished in 1874, as memorialized in the parapet inscription. Shortly after this James Dodd retired from the partnership, and Briggs formed a partnership with his two sons, James and Thomas H., Jr. An advertisement in the 1875-1876 Raleigh City Directory shows "Thos. H. Briggs & Sons" as the purveyors of "Hardware, Cutlery, House Furnishing Goods, Wagon and Buggy Material, Best Cook Stoves, Leads/Oils, Colors and Glass. Raleigh, N.C." The family also operated a concern in carpentry and building on West Street at the corner of Hargett Street, and Briggs constructed a number of buildings in Raleigh. The 1880-1881 directory (published in 1879) listed Briggs's merchandise as including "hardware, stoves, tinware, house furnishing goods, also sash, doors and blinds;" the 1883 entry was simplified to "hardware." Family history records that when Thomas Briggs died in 1886, "all businesses in Raleigh closed to honor him and a public memorial service was held in the Tucker Building Auditorium."</p>			

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8 The business has remained in the Briggs family, handling much the same variety of merchandise. In 1915, according to James E. Briggs—now president of the company, who began working there in that year—a glass street window front was put on. Partitions and some other interior details have been altered as well. The upper floors of the building served a number of uses. Family tradition reports that Thomas Briggs the younger in 1890 rented an upper floor to the Oak City Guard, "the Governor's Guard," for practice, for \$12.50 a day, with the stipulation that they not perform any "double quick drills" that might shake the building. According to J. E. Briggs, the city's first YMCA used space in the upper floors, as well as a Catholic church congregation, the Raleigh Little Theater, and a number of attorneys and insurance companies. In the 1920s buggy whip stock gave way to Fiske tires; the present merchandise includes primarily toys, hardware of all kinds, and some seeds and other garden supplies. The normal range of modern merchandise is stocked, but the store is widely known throughout the city as a source of traditional items seldom carried by other businesses. Briggs Hardware is one of the few downtown commercial concerns that has neither opened branches in suburban shopping centers nor moved out of downtown altogether. In 1972, Briggs ran an advertisement in the Raleigh News and Observer with the headline, "WHEN IS BRIGGS LEAVING DOWNTOWN?" followed by a summary of its history and the conclusion that "We want to stay around at least; another 107 years if it's only to see 'what the heck will happen next.'"

V. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant.

Aulis, Jack. "Briggs: A Durable Citadel," Raleigh News and Observer, September 24, 1972.

Briggs Family History, no date, in Historic American Buildings Survey folder at School of Design, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Raleigh City Directories, 1875-1876, 1880-1881, 1883.

Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. Raleigh: The Junior League of Raleigh, Inc., and the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission, Inc., 1957.

13. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		35 ° 46 ' 39 "	78 ° 38 ' 25 "	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 28 August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, Division of Archives and History

Date: 28 August 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS