

WAKE COUNTY, NC 52
LAURA M RIDDICK
REGISTER OF DEEDS
PRESENTED & RECORDED ON
11/21/2008 AT 09:49:43

BOOK:013306 PAGE:01178 - 01183

Instrument prepared by: Raleigh City Attorney's Office
Brief description for Index: NC State Fair Commercial and Education Bldgs
Parcel Identifier: 784449935
Mail after recording to: City Planning Department
PO Box 590, Raleigh NC 27602
Attn: Martha Hobbs

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE


**AFFIDAVIT OF CORRECTION OF TYPOGRAPHICAL OR OTHER MINOR
ERROR**
[N.C.G.S. 47-36.1]

The undersigned Affiant, being first duly sworn, hereby swears or affirms that the Raleigh City Council Ordinance (1990) 565 adopted on 5/1/1990 and recorded in Deed Book 4708, Pages 0923-925, Wake County Registry, contained the following minor error:

The ordinance did not include a statement of the owner(s) of record of the subject property on the date of adoption of the ordinance. Affiant makes this Affidavit for the purpose of correcting the above-described instrument by noting the said property owners of record, to wit: **State of North Carolina**.

Affiant is knowledgeable of the agreement and the intention of the parties in this regard. Affiant is employed as Planner II for the City of Raleigh Planning Department.

A copy of the original instrument is attached as Exhibit 1.



Affiant
Martha Daniel Hobbs

State of North Carolina County of
Wake

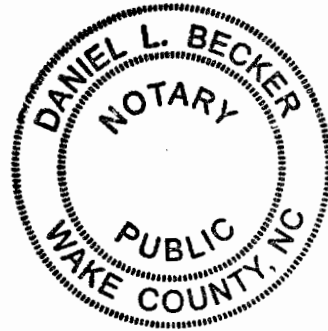
Signed and sworn to (or affirmed)
before me, this the 4 day
of November,
2008

My Commission Expires 7-6-2010.

My Commission Expires:

Daniel L. Becker
Notary Public
Daniel L. Becker

(Affix
Official/No
tarial Seal)



BK4708PG0923



000032

City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

REGISTERED
DEED
REGISTRATION

90 MAY 23 AM 9:39

KENNETH W. WILLIAMS
REGISTER OF DEEDS
WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF WAKE)

I, Gail G. Smith, City Clerk of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of Ordinance (1990) 565 adopted by the Raleigh City Council in their meeting held May 1, 1990, to be effective May 15, 1990.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 18th day of May, 1990.

SEAL

Gail G. Smith

Gail G. Smith

City Clerk & Treasurer

EXHIBIT 1

BK4708PG0924

ORDINANCE NO. (1990) 565

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING North Carolina State Fair Commercial & Education Buildings, NW corner of intersection of Hillsborough Street and Blue Ridge Road IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC PROPERTY.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Properties Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

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

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, on the 1st day of May, 1990 a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, by the City Council of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

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

Section 1. The property designated as North Carolina State Fair Commercial & Education Buildings, in the planning jurisdiction of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Property. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

North Carolina State Fair Commercial & Education Buildings, NW corner of intersection of Hillsborough Street and Blue Ridge Road, buildings and connecting archway only.

Section 2. Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, architectural, archaeological significance, or any combination thereof are as follows:

The exterior of the stucco-covered Mediterranean Revival-style North Carolina State Fair Commercial and Education Buildings, built in 1928 and designed by the Raleigh architectural firm of Atwood and Weeks, with John W. Hudson as contractor, including the connecting archway, all towers, glazed terra cotta, ornament, pilasters, agricultural symbols, light fixtures, tile roofs, windows, grilles, flagpole brackets, doors, and all other exterior materials, details, and appurtenant features on the buildings described in Section 1.

Section 3. No building, site, structure or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and

BK 708 PG 0925

until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or its successors.

Section 4. No building, site, structure or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission or a period of one hundred eighty (180) days has elapsed following final review by the Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period of time required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it maybe amended hereafter).

Section 5. All owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence shall be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

Section 7. City administration and the Historic Properties 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 property by action of the Raleigh Historic Properties 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 Properties Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

Section 8. In the event any building, site, structure, or object is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

Section 9. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Adopted: May 1, 1990

Effective: May 15, 1990

Distribution: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Planning Department (2)
Inspections Department (3)
Raleigh Historic Properties Commission
Wake County Tax Supervisor
Property Owner and/or Occupant
Registrar of Deeds



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**Yellow probate sheet is a vital part of your recorded document.
Please retain with original document and submit for rerecording.**



**Wake County Register of Deeds
Laura M. Riddick**

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 North Carolina State Fair Commercial & Education Buildings

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of junction of Blue Ridge Road
and Hillsborough Street not for publication

city, town Raleigh vicinity of

state North Carolina code county Wake code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name North Carolina Department of Agriculture
The Honorable James A. Graham, Commissioner

street & number 1 West Edenton Street

city, town Raleigh vicinity of state NC 27611

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wake County Court House

street & number Fayetteville Street

city, town Raleigh state NC 27601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

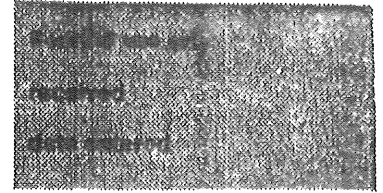
Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Commercial and Education Buildings of the North Carolina State Fair, a pair of large rectangular exhibition halls conceived as a single structure and sharing a unified facade, have been an architectural landmark in Raleigh since their construction in 1928. The stucco-covered Mediterranean Revival Style buildings, designed by the firm of Atwood and Nash, are located on a gentle rise at the intersection of Hillsborough Street (NC 54) and Blue Ridge Boulevard and face southeast. The Commercial and Education Buildings and Dorton Arena (NR, 1974) both address Hillsborough Street and are located at the front of the large fairgrounds complex occupying over three hundred acres. The immediate building grounds are an unpaved parking lot (see enclosed site plan). Eight sheets of blueprints, dated April 11, 1928, survive in the possession of the fair management.

The Commercial and Education Buildings, which appear as a single building because of their unified facade and design, are a large rectangular complex of two buildings, 504 feet in length and 80 feet in depth. The Commercial Building is essentially freestanding from the Education Building, separated therefrom by an open passage but linked on the southeast elevation by the towered entrance. It occupies the northeastern third of the overall complex. The Education Building comprises the remaining two-thirds of the total complex. The somewhat deteriorated buildings are built of 6" clay tile covered with finished stucco, giving their elevations a rough cast. The principal architectural finish appears on the front elevation and is reserved for the twin, tower-flanked entrances and the central frontispiece (not an entrance) carrying the slogan "State Fair" in multi-colored glazed terra cotta. The left entrance opens into the Education Building while the right entrance opens into the open passage between the two blocks. The elevations have a treatment of recessed bays, achieved by projecting pilasters, which continues on the northeast and southwest side elevations of the buildings. The rear, northwest elevation is quite utilitarian in appearance and largely repeats the fenestration on the front elevation. Here can be seen elements of the flat roof which covers the entire structure, recessed below and behind the handsome terra cotta tile mansard roof which originally encircled the elevations and now remains in place only on the Commercial Building and towers.

The front elevation, dominated by the towered entrances, is symmetrically arranged to either side of the central shaped gable frontispiece (photo 1). Between it and the towered entrances to each side are four recessed bays defined by projecting pilasters which, like the walls of the building, rise directly from the ground to the cornice. Alternating pilasters are fitted with brackets supporting flag poles which even now, without flags, animate the facade. These were originally terminated by a "Gilt-leafed copper ball." Each twelve-foot wide bay contains three pivoted metal vertical rectangular windows containing six panes each. Beyond the towered entrances, the elevations of the facade are divided into twelve bays, again marked by pilasters with trios of four-pane pivoted metal windows. A molded wood cornice carries across the top of all these bays. The frontispiece in the center of the facade has a tablet-like design with a shaped, curved top ornamented by three ball-shaped cast stone terminals. (The uppermost terminal is now fallen.)

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(photo 2) A multicolored glazed terra cotta shield in the upper portion carries the monogram initials "NC". Below it is a glazed terra cotta archway. It rises from the ground and features guilloche ornament in the pilasters which rise to the spring point. The slogan "STATE FAIR" --flanked by rosettes--appears in the curve of the arch which supercedes the tympanum. It contains a handsome tableau centered on a bull's head flanked by a bough of cotton to the left and a stalk of tobacco to the right. These three elements, representing the primary agricultural interests in the 1920s, are linked by a swag which drapes from the bull's head, across the front of the bough and stalk to the edges of the recess where they are held by rosettes, slightly smaller than those which appear in the arch. According to tradition the blank face of this archway served as the backdrop for the board on which the activities of the day were posted during the fair season.

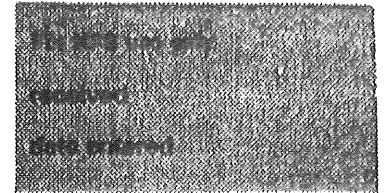
The twin towered entrance pavilions are essentially identical and will be described as one (with the differences noted at the end). (photo 3) Each projects 5'2" in front of the elevation and consist of square-in-plan towers flanking a tablet-like form--repeating in larger scale the aforementioned frontispiece--containing the principal entrance. This are slightly recessed and outlined by two concentric arches illuminated with sockets for 75 and 60 twenty-five watt bulbs, respectively. These illuminated arches also appear on the northwest, interior side, of the pavilion. Originally there were rope twist colonettes, to a height of six feet, at the base of the illuminated arches but these have mostly been lost.

The reveals of the entrance are also decorated with rectangular panels of like-illumination. The archway itself is flanked by free-standing twisted turned glazed terra cotta columns, rising to foliate decorated Corinthian capitals and once supporting globe lights. The columns remain in place but are no longer functional. Neither are light bulbs any longer placed in the sockets of the archway. The top of the entranceway, like the frontispiece, is finished with ball-shaped terminals at the outer edges and more elaborate cone-shaped ornaments at the top.

The pair of towers which flank each entrance are themselves symmetrical in their composition. They have a three-level treatment finished by a decorative stuccoed brick and a molded wood cornice, and are covered by a hipped tile roof whose apex is ornamented with a ball finial. At the first story level there are paired window openings with projecting sills and decorative wrought iron grills. Over the years most of these windows--once used for ticket sales--have been closed up and today only two of the metal grills remain in place (on the northeasternmost of the four towers). There is a single window opening on the first story level on the outside elevations of the four towers. These too were fitted with grills and have been either closed up or the window glazing painted over. Above them there are single windows on the second story level--one still containing its original four-over-four sash. A single window is also centered on the front second story level. These again are fitted with metal grills and all four remain in place on the southeast elevation. The upper, third level of the towers have paired archheaded openings on

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the front and outside elevations which were originally open, giving the impression of a belfry. Centered between the openings on the front elevation are brackets which support(ed) flag poles, three of which remain in place.

The northeasternmost of the two entrances precedes the open passage between the Education Building and the Commercial Building. It is now fitted with chain-link gates. Pairs of wood doors in both ends of the two blocks forming the passage are sheltered by flat-roof metal and wood decks which carry across the passage. The southwest entrance pavilion is fitted with a large glazed fanlight above solid replacement doors.

The northeast end of the building has an eight-bay division. It has a large entrance in the third bay from the back corner of the building (the second bay to the right of center). It has pairs of wood board-and-batten doors with cross bracing in the lower blind panels and six panes of fixed glazing in the upper half. There is no fenestration in this bay. Each of the other seven bays contains two window openings holding pivoted four-pane metal windows.

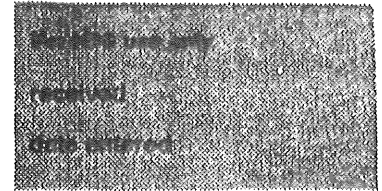
The southwest end of the Education Building has a four-bay division formed by projecting pilasters. In the center of each bay are single door openings holding modern replacement doors. These are, in turn, sheltered by modern, incompatible, simple pent roofs supported by braces. There is no fenestration on this elevation.

As noted earlier, the rear, northwest elevation is basically utilitarian in appearance. The fenestration arrangement seen on the front elevation is duplicated here. In a position directly opposite the front southwest entrance pavilion is a large opening, now partially enclosed, across the top third. It is fitted with handsome paired board-and-batten wood sliding doors, each having applied cross-shaped braces in the three symmetrical panels. They appear to be original and are fitted with decorative iron hinges. This entrance is sheltered by an unattractive pent roof similar to, and probably contemporary with, those on the southwest elevation.

There is a secondary entrance in the center rear elevation of the Commercial Building whose paired wood doors also appear to be original. They are somewhat shorter than the above-referenced doors and have cross-shaped boards in the lower section below six panes of glazing. They too are attached with decorative hinges. Another simple, unattractive pent roof shelters this entrance. The doors are the same as those in the southwest end of the Commercial Building, opening into the open passage. The paired doors on the northeast end of the Education Building, opening on the passage, are taller and are board-and-batten construction and fitted with cross-shaped braces in the upper and lower panels. They too appear to be original. The spaces between the doors and to either side have been fitted, in recent years, with six stuccoed planters.

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The interior of both buildings are large single spaces with poured concrete floors. The Commercial Building has an added wainscot of inexpensive plywood sheathing up to a height of approximately eight feet. Above, the exposed brick tile walls are painted.

There is a brick enclosure in the south corner with office and service rooms and a stair up into the tower. There is a separate outside entrance to those rooms from the passage. The towers are fitted with office/service rooms which are now mostly used for storage. Across the passage there is a stair up to offices on the second-story level in that tower. In the Education Building there are men's and women's restrooms in the first level of the towers. The second-story level is long since closed off.

The roofing system in both buildings is exposed to view and has been reworked over the years. The roof of the Education Building consists of steel framing with wood timbers stretching from girder to girder with a wood deck. The roof of the Commercial Building is also steel frame.

In the 1980s the decorative tile mansard roof was removed from the Education Building and replaced by an inexpensive dark metal fascia. Plans at present are for the tile roofing on the Commercial Building to be restored. The next phase of restoration calls for the removal of the metal fascia and the restoration of the tile roof on the Education Building.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** Atwood & Weeks, architects
John W. Hudson, Jr., contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

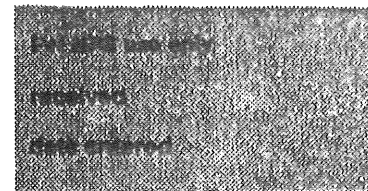
The North Carolina State Fair Commercial and Education Buildings, a handsome, although now faded, Mediterranean Revival style exhibition hall, occupies a signal place in the agricultural and architectural history of the state. The economy of North Carolina has long been dominated by agriculture and, in promotion and celebration of that tradition, the North Carolina Agricultural Society began sponsoring annual fairs in 1853 on a site in east Raleigh. In 1873, the fair was moved to a site in west Raleigh where it remained until 1925 when control of the fair passed to the State. The buildings at both these sites have long since been lost. These buildings then are not only the oldest permanent (and extant) structures associated with the autumn fair, but they are also the first important exhibition halls erected at the new site where the fair has been held annually since 1928. The vast rectangular stucco-covered halls, trimmed with terra cotta tile and dominated by a pair of tower-flanked entrances, are among the largest Mediterranean Revival style buildings in the state. They were designed by the local firm of Atwood and Weeks which designed a number of buildings for the State in the early 20th century. Since October 1928, when the fair opened its inaugural exhibitions in these buildings, they have symbolized that annual autumn event for the people of North Carolina--an image and memory shared, since 1955, with the J. S. Dorton Arena (NR).

Criteria Assessment

- A. The North Carolina State Fair Commercial and Education Buildings are emblematic of the preeminent role of agriculture in the North Carolina economy and the tradition of state agricultural fairs which began in 1853 under the auspices of the North Carolina Agricultural Society.
- C. Designed by the local firm of Atwood and Weeks, these buildings are distinguished examples of Mediterranean Revival style architecture, a rarity in North Carolina, and are among the oldest extant exhibition halls standing in the state.

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The North Carolina State Fair Commercial and Education Buildings date from 1928 and the establishment of the third and present state fairgrounds. All three sites have been located in Raleigh, but only the third has been owned and operated by the State.

The first fair was held in 1853 under the auspices of the North Carolina Agricultural Society. The Society, which boasted a membership of the state's most progressive farmers, regarded the fair as its primary avenue for promoting scientific agriculture. The first fair site was a modest 16 acres in east Raleigh. It hosted the fair from 1853 until 1860, and after the Civil War from 1869 until 1872. In 1873, a new, larger site was opened in west Raleigh. This site, also operated by the Society, hosted a fair annually from 1873 until 1925. The fair eventually outgrew both its second site and the financial resources of the Society. After the 1925 fair, control of the event was passed to the State. A new site was constructed, forcing the cancellation of the fair in 1926 and 1927. The third site has hosted the fair annually, except for the war years of 1942 through 1945.

The most important facilities of the third site were the adjacent Commercial and Education Buildings, which served as the main exhibit halls. In general, the two structures have divided exhibit space along the lines suggested by their names. The Commercial Building has exhibited business concerns such as fertilizer companies, farm equipment, appliances, and so forth, while the Education Building has displayed such activities as 4-H and North Carolina State Extension. In recent years the two buildings have also hosted a year-round flea market, which is held every weekend except during fair activities.

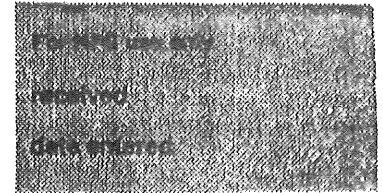
The North Carolina State Fair has remained one of the State's leading educational, cultural, and social events for well over a century. The Commercial and Education Buildings are the oldest historically significant structures on the complex and continue to play an important role in promoting and educating North Carolina to its citizens.

The adjacent Commercial and Education Buildings, which share a common entrance, date from the 1928 establishment of the present fairgrounds. They were designed to serve as the main exhibition halls of the new fairgrounds and have been alternately known as the Main Exhibition Hall or the Main Exhibition Buildings since their construction.

Until 1928, the fair was operated by the North Carolina Agricultural Society. The Society was founded in 1852 and boasted a distinguished membership that included Paul Cameron, the richest man in the state; former North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin; Doctor John F. Tompkins, editor of the Farmer's Journal; and Lexington physician Thomas Holt, one of the south's most progressive farmers. The Society was devoted to progressive, scientific agriculture and the promotion of industry in the state.¹ The fair was designed to be the primary avenue for the expression of these goals.

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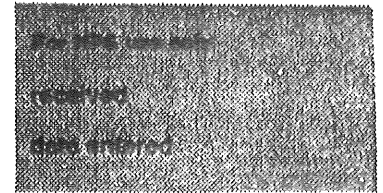
The first state fair was held October 17 through 21, 1853, on a 16-acre site in east Raleigh. The facilities were modest with the largest building, the Farmers and Mechanics Hall, measuring 75 feet by 30 feet. Fairs were held at this site through 1860 when the Civil War forced a cessation. The fair resumed in 1869 at the original site. From its inception, the annual event blended educational and instructional² activities with more entertainment-oriented attractions such as bands and parades.

By the early 1870s, the Agricultural Society recognized that it needed more room and newer facilities for the fair. After 1872, the original fair site was sold and a 55-acre site was purchased in west Raleigh, several miles from the previous location. The second site is near the present site of North Carolina State University. A new fair complex was constructed in time for the 1873 fair. The centerpieces of the new fairgrounds were a general exhibition hall, which measured 250 feet by 44 feet, and a three-story grandstand, which seated 6,000. This second site housed the fair annually through 1925 with two exceptions. In 1884, the fair was replaced by a month-long North Carolina Exposition, held on the fairgrounds,³ while in 1918, the fair was cancelled due to the nationwide influenza epidemic.

With the availability of a new and larger complex, the State Fair expanded its offerings. Educational, cultural, and instructional activities continued to play an important role in the fair's popularity. However, entertainment activities gradually equaled, if not surpassed, education as the primary component of the fair. Music, parades, bands, sports, military drill units all became popular features of the fair. Fair week became the social highlight of the year, as many of the state's social elite continued to comprise the leadership of the Agricultural Society. The midway, with its carnivals, circuses, and games of chance, became ensconced in the fair's framework by the 1890s. Featured speakers at the fair included one president, Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, and one perennial hopeful, William Jennings Bryan⁴ in 1907. In 1903, the fair hosted a massive reunion of Confederate veterans.

By the early 1920s, it was apparent that the annual event had outgrown both the capacity of the second fairgrounds site and the financial resources of the Agricultural Society. In 1924, the Society asked for aid from the city and the state. Governor Angus McLean appointed the first State Fair Board. After negotiations among the Agricultural Society, the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, and the State, it was decided to turn the fair over to the State, cancel the 1926 fair, and build new facilities on a new site. The second fair site was sold at a 1926 auction for just over \$300,000, paying off the indebtedness of the society. The state legislature authorized the purchase of 200 acres, several miles⁵ west of the second site, and construction began on the third state fair complex.

Construction of the new complex forced cancellation of the 1927 fair in addition to that of the previous year. On September 15, 1928, it was announced that the main exhibit hall, later called the Commercial and Education Buildings, had been

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completed and turned over to the state. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Atwood and Weeks and was built by the fair's general contractor, John W. Hudson, Jr. The firm of Atwood and Weeks of Durham, North Carolina, was formed by Thomas C. Atwood, an engineer, and H. R. Weeks, an architect. Mr. Atwood was consulting engineer to the University of North Carolina during the period 1920 through 1943 and is credited with the design of nine buildings on the campus of the University as well as the remodeling, in 1939, of Alumni Hall. Mr. Atwood also collaborated with the architect Arthur C. Nash on the design of a number of buildings in the central Piedmont.

Architectural plans dated April 1928 show that the exhibit hall was originally conceived to house swine and cattle facilities. This decision was changed and swine and cattle barns were built on the other side of the fairgrounds. The exhibit hall, termed "a beautiful structure" by a Raleigh newspaper, was soon filled to capacity by exhibitors. The first truly State Fair opened October 22, 1928, with a crowd estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000. The exhibit hall was the centerpiece of the opening night, "gaily decorated with flags and hundreds of electric lights."⁶

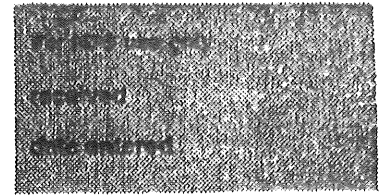
The fair was operated by the State Fair Board until 1931 when it came under the control of the Department of Agriculture. For several years during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the state leased operation of the fair to George Hamid. In 1937, newly elected commissioner of agriculture, W. Kerr Scott, later governor and United States senator, fulfilled a campaign promise and returned the fair to the control of the Department of Agriculture. That same year he appointed J. S. Dorton manager of the fair, a position he filled with distinction until 1961.⁷

Despite these changes, the Commercial and Education Buildings continued to serve similar functions. The first year of the operation exhibitors included vocational exhibits, home demonstration, 4-H, horticulture, culinary, and others. A poultry facility occupied one wing of the building in 1928. Construction of a poultry barn in 1929 freed that portion of the building. By the early 1930s, the hall was referred to as the Commercial and Education Buildings and the exhibits reflected that distinction. In 1938, for example, exhibitors in the Commercial Building included such business concerns as Chilean Nitrate, Swift Fertilizer Works, Weil Fertilizer Works, the Bennett Advertising Agency, Statesville Flour Mills, and Raleigh newspaper The Progressive Farmer. The Education Building continued to focus on such concerns as home demonstration, 4-H, nursery and flower exhibits, and other similar educational exhibits.⁸

The State Fair survived the Depression without closing its doors. The Second World War forced a cessation of the fair from 1942 until 1945. Since the end of the war, the fair has undergone considerable expansion and construction. It has continued to blend educational, cultural and entertainment activities, as it has since its inception. In 1948, President Harry Truman made a visit to the fair during his

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National Park Service

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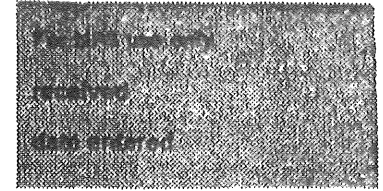
election campaign. That same year, the James Strates Shows began an association with the fair that continues to this day. President Gerald Ford became the third president to address the fair when he made a 1976 campaign appearance.

The construction of a number of new modern buildings has expanded the fair's exhibition capabilities. In 1955, the architecturally significant J. S. Dorton Arena was completed. Other facilities have been constructed in the 1970s and 1980s. The Commercial and Education Buildings have maintained their importance as exhibition facilities. Commercial and business concerns continue to display their services and products in the former while the latter continues to house such activities as Home Economics, youth groups, and North Carolina State University Extension. In the late 1960s, the fairground facilities were opened for year-round use. Since that time these two buildings have housed a large and popular flea market, open every weekend of the year except for those weekends when fair activity precludes other uses.

One North Carolina historian has written that "few events display better the diversity, vitality, and essential optimism of the people of North Carolina than that week long carnival, exhibition, and extravaganza known as the North Carolina State Fair."¹¹ Despite the advent of sophisticated late twentieth century entertainment media, the fair has continued to increase in popularity and remains a statewide institution. Although the Commercial and Education Buildings have been somewhat superseded by modern, more glamorous facilities, they retain their historical importance as the oldest significant structures on the third fairground site. They remain an integral part of the fair complex and continue to fulfill the original mandate of the state fair--to educate and inform North Carolinians about the variety of their State.

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- ¹ Cornelius Oliver Cathey, Agricultural Developments in North Carolina, 1783-1860 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1956), 77, 81-83; Melton A. McLaurin, "The Nineteenth Century North Carolina State Fair as a Social Institution," North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. LIX, No. 3 (July, 1982), 213-215, hereinafter cited as McLaurin, "The Nineteenth Century North Carolina State Fair." An Agricultural Society of North Carolina was founded in 1818, with the same goals as the latter Society. It was premature, however, and quickly disappeared. The 1852 Society is considered a distinct organization.
- ² Elizabeth Reid Murray, Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Vol. I (Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983), 294-297, 560-561; Register (Raleigh), October 19, 22, 1853.
- ³ News and Observer (Raleigh), October 21, 1928: The One Hundredth North Carolina State Fair Premium List, October 9-14, 1967 (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Agriculture, 1967), 6-8, hereinafter cited as State Fair Premium List.
- ⁴ McLaurin, "The Nineteenth Century North Carolina State Fair," 217-224; State Fair Premium List, 7-9.
- ⁵ State of North Carolina, Public Laws and Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly at Its Session in 1927 (Charlotte: Observer Printing House, Inc., 1927), 560-561; News and Observer (Raleigh), October 21, 1928.
- ⁶ News and Observer (Raleigh), September 15, 1928, October 21, 1928, October 22, 1928; Architects Plans, April 11, 1928, North Carolina State Fair Exhibit Hall.
- ⁷ Lynne V. Belvin and Harriette Riggs (eds.), The Heritage of Wake County, North Carolina, 1983 (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company in cooperation with the Wake County Genealogical Society, 1983), 17-18.
- ⁸ Department of Agriculture Records, State Fair Division, Archives and History, Raleigh, Boxes 1-2; Information supplied by Mr. Sam Rand, of the State Fair; News and Observer (Raleigh), October 21, 1928; October 13, 1929.
- ⁹ State Fair Premium List, 7-10.
- ¹⁰ State Fair Premium List, 9-10; information supplied by Mr. Sam Rand.
- ¹¹ McLaurin, "The Nineteenth Century North Carolina State Fair," 213.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.77 acres

Quadrangle name Raleigh West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification The property being nominated, as shown on Wake County Tax Map 520-3, with a scale of 1"=200', is outlined in red. It is a portion of the N.C. State Fair tract, being only the Commercial and Education Buildings and the unpaved parking areas between the buildings and the streets, Hillsborough St. & SR 1664 (Blue Ridge Rd.).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Statement of significance, criteria evaluation, and architectural description by Davyd Foard Hood; historical research report by Jim Sumner, staff, Division of Archives & History

organization State Historic Preservation Office **date** January, 1987

street & number 109 E. Jones Street **telephone** (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh **state** NC 27611

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Pinf.

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** April 28, 1987

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

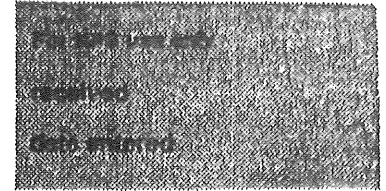
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



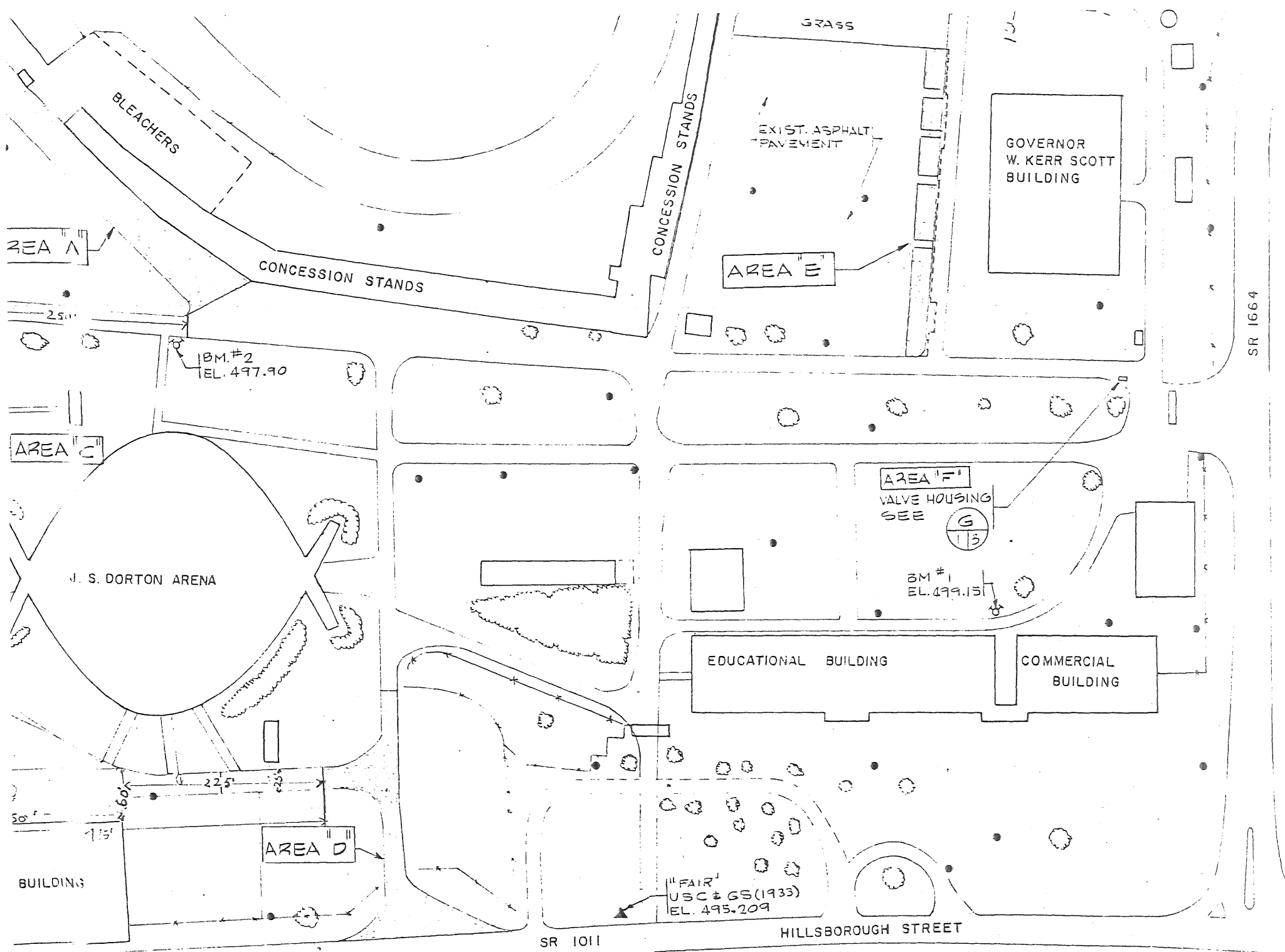
Continuation sheet

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SR 1664

N.C. State Fairgrounds, Raleigh N.C. Site Plan 1980

45,000

745

750

137.5

SR 1664

520-2
STATE FAIR (120001002)

379-A

CITY LIMIT LINE RUNS BETWEEN 7
SOU

264.2

300.8

3

2.07AC.

550

1.60AC.

FF RD

840±

143.90±

172.20

2

WOLF SUMMIT
COAL CO.
14.38 AC.

pond



