

A W.S.S. Rigsbee-I.G. Kannon House *210 Academy Street*
Considered one of the oldest buildings in Wendell, this house originally served as the town’s school. It was moved to its present location and became a residence for the W.S.S. Rigsbee family. In 1926 Rigsbee sold the property to Isaac Kannon who later remodeled the house including reversing the interior stairway and adding to the original six rooms. Mr. Kannon, who in 1905 emigrated to the United States from Hamana, Lebanon, began his new life as a penniless immigrant peddler who could not speak or write English. He became a successful businessman opening Kannon’s Clothing Store in 1916 which is now the oldest continually family owned business in Wendell.

B Old Wendell Christian Church *141 N. Buffalo Street*
In 1910 some residents of Wendell meeting in the home of Mrs. R.B. Whitley decided to ask two ministerial students from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson to lead a revival. This marked the beginning of the Wendell Christian Church. Erected in 1914 this building served as a church until 1950. It then housed the town library until the new one was built and is now a place of business.

C E.V.Richardson-Hester House *5 N Buffalo Street*
This two story frame Queen Anne style house was originally owned by the E. V. Richardson family. It was acquired by Dr.J.R. Hester in the late 1920s. The house has been altered with vinyl siding and a one story addition, but in general retains its overall original form, including its wrap-around porch, front bay window and interior brick chimney. At one time Dr. Hester operated his medical practice in the small building to the rear of the house.

D J.R. Nowell House *15 S Buffalo Street*
Built in the 1870s, the Nowell house is one of only a few Italianate style dwellings in rural or small town Wake County. This small frame dwelling features elaborate sawn work porch ornamentation, typical Italianate window and door surrounds, paneled double front doors, and interior brick chimney. In the 1890s J.R. Nowell operated a store across the road from his home where he also ran the first Wendell Post Office.

E T. Roberts-W.L. Wootton House *26 W Third Street* This two story Queen Anne style house with hip and cross gable roof, wrap-around porch and two bay windows was built in 1904 by Tilton and Thaddeus Roberts with lumber cut from their family property on Poole Road west of Wendell. A turning mill was set up on this site and was used to fabricate the house’s original fretwork. In 1920 the house was purchased by W.L. Wootton. Mr. Wootton’s daughter Helen taught in the Wendell School for many years.

F W.R. Nowell Drugstore *4 S Main Street*
Probably constructed in the 1920s, this two story brick building is one of the largest commercial establishments in Wendell. Originally it served as the drugstore of W.R. Nowell and had a dentist’s office upstairs. Notable characteristics include the round arched window and door openings and the entrance set in the cutaway corner with mouse tooth trim.

G Hales-Tunnell-Bunn House *102 S Main Street*
Wendell Historic Landmark
M.F. Hales bought this lot in 1908 from the Wendell Land Company and built this large two story Queen Anne style house. It was purchased from foreclosure in 1922 by Broadus H. Griffin, proprietor of Raleigh’s Yarborough and Sir Walter Hotels. He gave the home to his sister Pattie Griffin Tunnel who operated the Wendell Florist here until the 1950s growing many of the flowers on the property. Though the house lacks the turned and sawn ornament seen on more elaborate

Queen Anne dwellings, the double-tier wrap around porch, hipped and gabled roofline, gabled roof dormer, and single story gabled ell express the style clearly.

H Bank of Wendell *1 S Main Street*
Built about 1917 this two story building is the most intact commercial building in Wendell. It is finished with brick veneer and ornamented with a corbelled cornice and arched window supports. The main entrance is set in a cutaway corner which forms a small entry porch supported by a single Doric column. The porch shelters the front door whose sidelights and transom are surrounded by decorative tile work spelling out “Bank of Wendell”. The bank was founded in 1907 by Wendell businessman R.B.Whitley who served as its president until his death in 1944.

I R.B Whitley Tobacco Auction Warehouse *21 E Third Street*
Built around 1919 the R.B.Whitley Tobacco Warehouse is one of the oldest tobacco warehouses still standing in Wake County. The building has been owned by the June Perry family since 1960 and now serves as a gun store. The common bond brick structure retains a large amount of the original fabric including a stepped parapet roof, round-arched windows on the side and rear walls, and many original skylights. In the rear section of the interior the wood truss frame is still exposed and the lines on the floor which marked the location of piles of tobacco are still visible. A few metal rings used to tie up horses are can be found on one of the exterior walls.

J W.C. Campen Livery Stable and Fertilizer Shed *102 Campen Street*
Probably built around 1915 this rectangular brick building served as a livery stable and was owned by W.C. Campen. Although somewhat altered in recent years , the building retains its distinctive double gable roof. A small store building facing East Third Street was added to the front probably in the 1920s or 1930s. Behind the former stable near the railroad tracks is a frame, metal covered structure on brick piers with gabled roof which stored the fertilizer Campen sold.

K Buchanan’s Service Station *102 N Main Street*
This Mission style inspired service station was built in 1935 by J.S. “Buck” Buchanan. The main block of the building is a three bay rectangular box with a front canopy. An L-shaped addition was made to the building in 1952. Notable characteristics include a metal tile-like roof and decorative metal ceilings inside the main block and outside under the canopy.

L Original Post Office *E Fourth & N Oakwood Avenue*
Built about 1890 by J.R.Nowell this two room frame store was the home of the first Wendell post office. The building was originally located on Buffalo Street across from the Nowell’s house but was moved to its current location and restored by the Wendell Historical Society in the late 1980s. The exterior is simply finished with plain weatherboard walls, double front doors, 4/4 sash windows, a stone exterior end chimney, gable returns and a diamond-shaped gable vent. The interior is sheathed with flat horizontal boards and retains the old post office boxes and a simple post and lintel mantelpiece. On July 15,1991, the 100th anniversary of the Wendell Post Office, the U. S. Postal Service authorized the use of a specially designed stamp cancellation and reopening of the old post office for the day.

M M.A. Griffin House *3720 Wendell Boulevard*
This large two story Victorian House was built around the turn of the century by Wendell educator M.A. Griffin. It served as his home and as a boarding house for students at Wendell Academy (formerly the Rhoades School). The house is detailed with Victorian decorative elements including a two tired wrap around porch with post and balusters, sawn gable trim, a variety of small ornamental windows in the gables, two bay windows, and a patterned slate roof topped by finials. Behind the house are several small domestic buildings which probably include a smoke house and a power plant for electricity.

N M.C. and Martha Todd House *3851 Wendell Boulevard*
Wendell Historic Landmark
The M.C. and Martha Todd “aeroplane bungalow” is perhaps the most noteworthy example of Craftsman style architecture in Wake County with its Oriental flavored, multi-planed roof, broad eaves with exposed rafter tails, banks of multiple windows and porch details. Built around 1920 for the Todds, the dwelling resembles the types of bungalows found frequently in California. There are only a few other examples of aeroplane bungalows found in North Carolina. Mr. Todd was a dedicated devotee of education and served as a local school board member and as a trustee of Atlantic Christian College. He was also a president of the Bank of Wendell and a two term mayor of the town. His wife Martha, a gifted musician, played the organ at the Wendell Christian Church for fifty-nine years. She lived in the house until she was 100 years old.

O Monk-Henderson Tobacco Company *115 E Third Street*
The Wendell Tobacco Market was the oldest in the County. Many of the forefathers of today’s town residents moved to Wendell to be near this market and escape the Granville Wilt which made growing tobacco in Granville County impossible. In 1919 Monk-Henderson Tobacco company was established with J.J. Henderson as it president. The company bought tobacco, removed the excess moisture from the leaves, packaged them in large barrels called hogsheads and sold and shipped the product around the world.

P Walter Burgess House *116 Dogwood Trail*
This Mid-Century Modern dwelling was designed by North Carolina architect Walter Burgess as his home in 1952. The 1500 square foot house is long and low with a multi-plane roofline. It features a massive end chimney of Wake County stone and vertical board and batten siding that is painted the original pine green color specified by the architect. The interior retains all its original plywood wall finishes and built-in cabinetry and furniture.

Q R.B.Whitley House *210 S Selma Road*
National Register of Historic Places
Wendell Historic Landmark

This large brick home called “Sunnyside” was built by R.B. Whitley in 1918. Before the family could move in, a world-wide flu epidemic struck and the house was needed for use as a temporary hospital. Mr. Whitley was instrumental in the founding of Wendell. He helped to establish the tobacco market and founded the Bank of Wendell. The two brick homes to the right of Sunnyside were built by Mr. Whitley for his daughters. He believed that brick buildings were more durable than wood buildings and used brick in his many rental and tenant houses throughout the area.

R Overhead Bridge *Selma Road and the RailroadTrack*
During the Great Depression of the 1930’s, the Franklin Roosevelt Administration created the Works Project Administration (WPA) to create jobs and help develop the nation. This bridge was constructed in 1938 by the WPA. It features simple Art Deco details of stacked vertical elements and balustrades with small Romanesque arches.

S W.H. Richardson House *384 E Fourth Street*
This could be the oldest house in Wendell. It was built in 1850 by William H. Richardson on land which was purchased by his family in 1801. While this is a simple, two-story frame dwelling, the house retains many of its mid-nineteenth century features inside the house. The rear kitchen, dining ell, and wrap-around porch were added around 1900. The property’s well was actually built as part of the house’s side porch. The house has its original detached kitchen and smokehouse behind the main house. At one time there was a second-story porch and door on the front of the house. Today, only the transom for that door remains.

Special thanks to the Town of Wendell.

For more information on the history of Wendell and the Wendell Historical Society go to www.wendellhistoricalsociety.com.

Revised and edited by Wendell Historical Society in 2013.

published in 1994 by Wake Co. Government.

NORTH CAROLINA authored by Kelly A. Lally

THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF WAKE COUNTY, descriptions by Mr. Baynes and descriptions from in 1983 by Wake County Genealogical Society. Site edited by Lynne Belvin and Harriette Riggs published information from THE HERITAGE OF WAKE COUNTY, Daniel A. Baynes, Eagle Scout, Troop 515, in 1994 with Wendell Historical Trail originally developed by

It is difficult to find your path to the future if you don't know where you have been.

Wendell Historic Trail



A project of the Wendell Historical Society,
P.O. Box 426, Wendell NC 27591
Revised February 2013


Wendell Historic Trail

To Raleigh

To Zebulon



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| A | W.S.S. Rigsbee-I.G. Kannon House | K | Buchanan's Service Station |
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| G | Hales-Tunnel-Bunn House | Q | R.B. Whitley House |
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| J | W.C. Campen Livery Stable | | |

 National Register Historic District

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

This map was created by the Wendell Planning Department and is for reference only. The Town of Wendell assumes no responsibility for errors or misuse of this map.
December 30, 2012