

## **GROOME-SHEVEL BUILDING LOCAL LANDMARK NOMINATION**

**532-536 South Elm Street**

**Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

**Recommendation on Designation to Greensboro City Council**

**9-17-2019**

### **Summary statement of Significance:**

The Groome-Shevel Building is being proposed for designation because of its architectural and historical significance to the history of Guilford County, specifically due to its depiction of enterprise and urbanization during early development of South Elm Street as downtown Greensboro's commercial center. The 1897 Italianate façade and architectural features of the Groome-Shevel building exemplify the trends and styles of early twentieth-century commercial building practices in downtown Greensboro.

### **Seven Aspects of Integrity:**

**Location:** The Groome-Shevel Building remains in its original location and is surrounded by other historic buildings and features from its period of significance.

**Design:** The well-preserved Italianate architecture of the upper floors of the Groome-Shevel building exemplifies the design trends and styles of late nineteenth-century commercial building practices in the South Elm Street commercial district. The well-preserved storefronts, rebuilt after the 1936 tornado, have become part of the building's lengthy architectural history and are excellent examples of late nineteenth-century storefronts.

**Setting:** The late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century setting for the Groome-Shevel Building within the South Elm Street commercial district remains largely intact. The building serves as an anchor and landmark within its immediate setting which includes the blocks at the intersection of South Elm and Lewis Streets.

**Workmanship:** Both the interior and exterior architectural features and details of the Groome-Shevel building showcase a high level of craftsmanship and design.

**Materials:** Most of the original materials from the Groome-Shevel Building's late nineteenth-century construction and 1936 renovations are intact.

**Feeling:** The building was considered to retain sufficient integrity to qualify for a tax credit project; therefore, during its renovation, care was taken to preserve the feeling of the building.

**Association:** The Groome-Shevel Building currently retains sufficient integrity to exemplify its historical association with late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century commercial development of downtown Greensboro.