

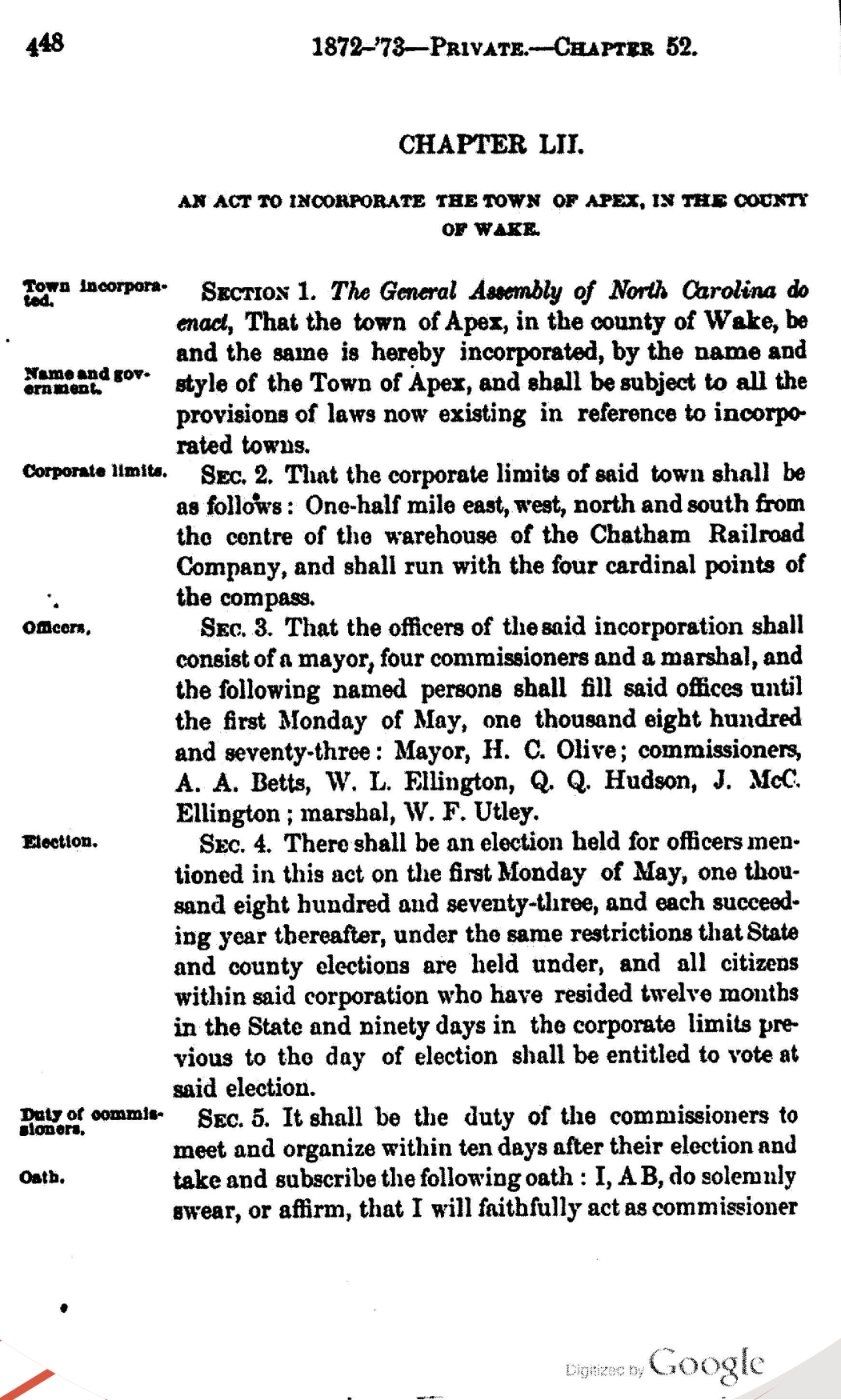
Town of Apex Government History

Apex was once a small community on the outskirts of North Carolina's capital city. Now a place all its own, Apex is a bustling town that lives up to its slogan, "The Peak of Good Living."

ACT TO INCORPORATE: FEBRUARY 28, 1873

On February 28, 1873, the North Carolina General Assembly passed "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Apex", officially establishing Apex as a municipality. The name "Apex" was selected in part to reflect its geographical position – the highest point – along a 30-mile section of the Chatham Railroad. The town at that time was one square mile, and around 300 residents called Apex home.

Prior to the town's formal incorporation, the downtown area was referred to as "Log Pond". The unique name was based on a small body of water filled with logs where steam engines would replenish their water supply on the way to Raleigh after climbing to the "peak" on the railroad.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST TOWN HALL

Apex's first Town Hall building, located at 237 N. Salem Street, was created as a true center of town government with political, judicial, economic, and cultural services. The building was constructed in 1912 and cost \$7,500. It housed public safety, the mayor's office, a jail, courtroom, open market and trading center, and an opera house. Today, that facility still serves the Apex community, operating as The Halle Cultural Arts Center.



OPERATIONS INCREASE TO MEET GROWING POPULATION

1917 marked a significant moment for Town leadership as they worked to bring electricity to the town through the creation of the Electric Utilities Department. Apex was a pioneer by offering this amenity, since many similar communities were waiting for private electricity to grow and spread past the few areas in Raleigh that offered electricity to homes and businesses.

The 1950 US Census counted just over 1,000 residents in Apex. As the town's population grew, additional services were provided by town staff to facilitate a greater quality of life. Not only did the population increase, but Apex's geographic footprint also grew for the first time in 1960 with two annexations into the town's corporate limits.

By 1970, the population had doubled to over 2,000, and more space was needed for the growing staff to support operations. A bond referendum was held to borrow \$600,000 for the construction of a larger town hall facility at 205 Saunders Street that would house several town departments.

NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS ADOPTED

Until the 1980s, Town departments operated separately, under the purview of the Board of Commissioners. In 1985, the Town's charter was amended to adopt the council-manager form of government, which combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed manager or administrator. Approximately 100 employees worked for the Town at that time. The charter was also later changed to rename the governing body from 'Board of Commissioners' to 'Town Council'.



PRESENT-DAY TOWN HALL CAMPUS IS CONSTRUCTED

From 1990 to 2000, Apex's population jumped from 5,000 residents to 20,000 residents. Again, meeting the need for expanded services and staff, the third (and current) Town Hall building was opened to the public in 2001. The address was assigned as 73 Hunter Street, with the '73' serving as an homage to the town's year of incorporation. Opened in that same year was the Apex Community Center, located next door to Town Hall. In 2021, the Senior Center was constructed on Town Hall campus.

The former Town Hall located at 205 Saunders Street was demolished, then rebuilt in 2010, in the same location that the Police Department stands today.

