

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC North Blount Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER see boundary description

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

CODE

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 various-see list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Wake County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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Verbal Description of Boundaries

Begin in the northwest corner of Jones and North Person Streets, travel west to the intersection of Jones and North Blount Streets, then north to the intersection of North Blount and Lane Streets, then west approximately 175 feet to the middle of the block. Follow the rear property lines of 301 and 309 North Blount Street north to the center of North Street. Then travel west on North Street to its intersection with North Wilmington and north on the line of North Wilmington Street to Peace Street. Follow Peace Street west to Halifax Street, then travel north on Halifax Street to East Franklin Street. Travel east on East Franklin to the eastern property line of 212 East Franklin Street. Follow the east property line of 212 East Franklin Street to its south end, then follow its south line west to the rear line of 726 North Blount. Follow the rear property lines of 726 and 724 North Blount south to the rear property line of 217 Pace Street, then east to the northeastern corner of 223 Pace Street. Then go south along the eastern boundary line of 223 Pace Street to Pace Street. Travel approximately 50 feet west to the eastern property line of 218 Pace Street. Follow this property line south to the rear property lines of 630 and 612 North Blount Streets and along them to the northwest corner of the lot to the east of 211 Peace Street. Follow the lines of this lot east and south to Peace Street. Travel west of Peace Street approximately 50 feet to the east property line of 214 Peace Street, then south in a parallel line to the middle of Polk Street. Then travel east on Polk Street to North Person Street. Follow North Person Street south to the point of beginning, excluding the properties at 401 and 407 North Person Street.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The North Blount Street Historic District is a six-block stretch of North Blount and the adjoining streets which includes remaining elements of Raleigh's premier residential neighborhood of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is roughly defined by the Executive Mansion, which is included on the south, the edge of the Government Mall on the west, the northern border of Peace College on the north and North Person Street and the Oakwood National Register Historic District on the east. This area is largely coterminous with a locally-designated historic district.

North Blount Street and North Person Street are major traffic arteries in and out, respectively, of the government area. East Peace Street is the major east-west artery north of the government area and East Jones and East Lane Streets are the through streets east and west in the south portion of the district.

In the south end of the district near the Executive Mansion, and in the northwest corner around Peace College are concentrations of sizeable, high-style frame and brick structures. Less pretentious and generally newer dwellings make up the rest of the district's fabric. With few exceptions, existing houses have suffered only minor exterior alterations and are in fair to excellent condition. Setbacks vary considerably, from isolated house centered in generous lots to others set close to each other and to the street.

There is a substantial number of trees within the district, especially large oaks and magnolias. Care has been taken to preserve trees where house have been demolished. The grounds of Peace College and the Executive Mansion are well-landscaped and carefully kept. At the south end of the street are long stretches of brick sidewalk, and there is granite curbing throughout the neighborhood.

Visually and historically, the Executive Mansion and the intersection of East North and North Blount Streets are the mutually-dependent southern focal points of the district, containing the finest residences and views. The north side of the 200 block of East Lane also contains an important row of early-twentieth century Georgian Revival homes that provide an appropriate setting for the Executive Mansion, as well as creating a corridor connecting the Blount Street area to Oakwood.

The 400 and 500 block of North Blount have suffered most from the demolition of buildings and the paving of lots for parking. Particularly diminished are the east sides of these blocks. The only major structural intrusions in the district, garden apartments and a small office building, are also located in the 500 block.

North of Peact Street in the "new" portion of Blount Street, that annexed after 1907, the streetscape is largely continuous, with the exception of several empty lots near the west corner of Pace and North Blount Streets. The residences in these blocks are a combination of middle-sized Late Queen Anne houses and larger Georgian Revival, Bungaloid and other early twentieth century dwellings.

The infrastructure of North Wilmington Street has been almost entirely destroyed by mall construction. Only on the east side of the street are there any remaining buildings, the most important concentration being at the intersection with Peace Street,

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where there is a node of structures including the Merrimon, Jordan and Harp Houses and Peace College.

The appearance and grouping of the structures within the district reflects the historical development of the area since the early nineteenth century. During the antebellum period the North Blount Street vicinity, like other peripheral areas of the city, contained substantial, scattered suburban homes. Of these, the Lewis-Smith House (NR) at 513 North Blount is a good example. Built about 1855, the house is a handsome, cubical, two-story frame Greek Revival structure. It is one of two major examples of this style remaining in Raleigh. A very academic, two-story, pedimented tetrastyle portico, Greek Ionic over Greek Doric, fronts the building and is its most distinguishing feature. Other Greek Revival elements include the window surrounds, corner strips and pilaster panels, all obviously derived from Asher Benjamin pattern books. A slightly incongruous note is struck by the simple, bracketed cornice, which is Italianate in flavor. Semi-octagonal bays on either side of the house are early twentieth century additions. Moved from its lot on North Wilmington Street in 1974, the house occupies lots formerly containing the Senator Josiah Bailey and Andrews-McKimmon Houses.

In the northwest corner of the district is an institutional remnant of its antebellum condition, the Peace College Main Building (NR), whose massive Greek Revival form provides the visual terminus for North Wilmington Street. The eleven-bay brick building, begun in 1858, features a four-story, pedimented portico composed of four enormous, three-story Doric columns resting on heavy basement piers. The pavilions on either side of the portico are punctuated by regularly-spaced brick pilasters and there are paired brackets in the cornice and pediment. The Main Building is flanked by Georgian Revival and modern Neo-Georgian structures over which it retains its visual dominance.

Post-Civil War suburban development on North Blount began at the intersection of North and North Blount Streets. On these four corners were built four of the district's finest and grandest houses, three of which still exist. Like the antebellum houses, these residences were set on sizable lots and had associated outbuildings.

The earliest of the group, the Heck-Andrews House (NR) at 309 North Blount, is an extraordinary two-story frame Second Empire style house with an imposing three-story tower. Typical of this style, influenced by the architecture of the rebuilding of Paris under Napoleon III, is the concave, slate-shingled mansard roof with bold, pedimented dormers on the front and side elevations. The tower projects from the center of the front elevation and is also topped by a high mansard roof, this time convex, with a tiny, balustraded deck. An elaborate, eclectic veranda stretches across the front elevation with paired, chamfered posts and a low mansard roof. On either side elevation are pairs of highly-ornamented rectangular bay windows.

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On the northwest corner of the intersection, set well back from the street, stands the Andrews-Duncan House (NR), 407 North Blount. Built for Alexander Boyd Andrews about 1873, this boxy, two-and-a-half-story Victorian Italianate frame dwelling has broad gables and cross-gables with long returns and deep eaves. Supporting the eaves are pairs of highly sculptural brackets. Two large, panelled chimneys with corbelled stacks figure prominently in the building's silhouette. A rectangular porch with paired, and at the corners tripled, posts fronts and central three bays of the house. The windows have segmental-arched hood moldings, except for the central windows of the front elevation on the second and third levels, which are pairs of Roman-arched openings under a single broad hoodmolding.

In the southwest corner of the Andrews-Duncan property stands the venerable white oak tree known as the Henry Clay Oak. Also on the Andrews-Duncan property, at the rear, is a small, square, four-gabled house with cupola that was originally an outbuilding.

Until 1967, when it was razed, the northeast corner of the intersection was occupied by the W. J. Hawkins House, a fine Second Empire style residence of the 1870s.

The Hawkins-Hartness House (NR) at 310 North Blount, built for Mr. and Mrs. Alexander B. Hawkins in 1882, presides over the southeast corner of the intersection. The latest of the great houses at that intersection, it is a grand but severe two-and-a-half-story pressed-brick Queen Anne style residence. Dominating its assymetrical plan of bold masses with dramatic angles and projecting elements is an unusual, four-story tower with a cross-gabled, jerkin-headed roof with splayed eaves.

Apart from dormer windows and a sawtooth molding that embellished the eaves and windows, the long veranda and porte-cochere that skirt the house are its only applied ornament. According to family tradition, these were added at the request of Mrs. Hawkins, who considered the building's lines to be too stark. The heavy, turned posts are similar to those of the Executive Mansion. Behind the house is a small, brick servants' quarters

Other attractive and substantial houses were built in the Blount Street area in the 1870s and 1880s. Set back from North Wilmington Street on a rise is the Augustus Merrimon House (NR), begun in 1875. This handsome, Victorian Italianate suburban villa is notable for its strongly-molded ornament. The two-and-a-half-story frame structure has two major porches, one supporting a cantilevered wing on the north elevation and another on the right side of the west elevation. Both porches have sawtooth brackets with pendants on the posts, and sawtooth-edged fan ornaments. A heavy course of widely-spaced modillions embellishes the building's cornice and is repeated in the cornice of the porches and on the west bay window. The predominant segmental-arched windows have bold surrounds and hood moldings topped by relief keystones and a projecting architrave.

The house at 417 North Blount, built in 1878 for Mrs. Betty Strange, is an excellent example of the eclectic, Victorian, middle-class home of the late 1870s. This two-story,

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clapboarded dwelling has a basically t-shaped plan with later additions in the front and on the north side. The gables of the north, south and west elevations are splayed at the ends and have arched, cut-out inserts with spiky pinnacles that pierce the ridge. Behind these are board-and-batten-sided gable ends, each with a single, half-hexagonal-arched window. On the first story of each gabled elevation is a half-hexagonal bay window with bracketted cornice. Above them, the second-level windows have projecting, open-bedded pediments supported by brackets. The porch has single, chamfered posts set on pedestals and a balustrade of urn-shaped balusters.

Also on the west side of North Blount is the Norris-Heart House, an Italianate residence built in 1879 and remodelled in Colonial Revival fashion in 1928.

On the east side of North Blount Street is the Gray House, 530 North Blount, probably built in 1881 for Caro and Robert Gray. Like the Strange House, the Gray House is a good example of middle-class eclectic Victorian building. However, the Gray House partakes more of the Eastlake/Neo-Grec mode, with its very angular, reeded brackets and skeletal siding overlay of flush boards. An unusual feature is the small fans at the intersection of elements of this overlay. The Gray House is frame, two-and-a-half-stories, with an irregular cross plan. There are two front porches, one on either side of the cross gable. The larger, south porch contains the main entrance and fronts the main elevation. The north porch is smaller, set in the angle of two wings. Both porches have bracketted, chamfered posts set on pedestals with a balustrade between. There are two bay windows, a semi-hexagonal one on the west elevation and a rectangular one on the south. The roof is splayed at the ends and the gables have triangular inserts with vertical cut-outs.

Also of this period is the Harp House at 119 East Peace Street, whose property once included the entire block. Essentially a farmhouse, the structure is frame, two-stories under a gable roof with a cross-gable containing a Gothic Revival vent. A porch across the front is bracketted.

The finest residence built in the district in the late nineteenth century was the Executive Mansion (NR). Erected between 1883 and 1891, the stately Queen Anne style residence is centered on one of the city's original squares, Burke Square. Unlike typical Queen Anne structures, the Executive Mansion is largely symmetrical, a carefully-balanced composition. Its two-and-a-half-stories are faced with pressed brick and trimmed with quoins and flush string courses of North Carolina sandstone. Large verandas, porches and a porte-cochere, of a Moorish flavor, all with bulbous, turned posts, surround and ornament the building pile. The complex roof is a combination of a central mansardic section with a number of subsidiary gables and dormers. Colored slate shingles cover the roof with rich, decorative patterns.

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Wide brick sidewalks around the mansion square and on its grounds are laid with paving units contemporary with the house, some of which are incised with the names of the convicts who made them. A brick and wrought-iron wall has been added to the grounds in recent years.

Another fine structure of the 1880s, now demolished, was the Pace House, an 1888 Chateausque/Queen Anne structure which sat on the southeast corner of the intersection of Polk and North Blount streets.

From the construction of the Executive Mansion to after the turn of the century, a number of moderate-sized Queen Anne structures were built in the area. One of the earliest surviving ones is the corner house, 501 North Blount, probably built about 1895 for U. S. District Attorney Claude Bernard. This two-story, frame house has a corner veranda and a charming square tower with a large, circular window..

Presiding over the corner of North Wilmington and East Peace Streets is the Dr. T. M. Jordan House of about 1898. The handsome, two-and-a-half-story, Late Queen Anne House has a high, slate-shingled, hipped roof with cream brick corbelled chimneys. Two closed gables and a small dormer ornament the roofline. A veranda sweeps around the two street elevations, pushing out into an octagonal bay on the corner.

Perhaps the most characteristically Queen Anne House in the district is located at 607 North Blount. Built about 1900, the two-and-a-half-story frame house is a picturesque composition of assymmetrically-arranged solids and voids. A large, closed gable with Palladian window, and a panelled porch gable are balanced with a two-story, gable-roofed bay window. On the north side of the house is an unusual cross-shaped chimney. Various portions of the house are covered with narrow siding, shingles or fielded panelling.

At the rear of 612 North Blount is the Leonidas Polk House (NR), a circa 1890 two-story Queen Anne frame house that was moved from a nearby site on North Person. Although somewhat altered, the house has an interesting polygonal turret and shingles on the second level.

During the period from 1900 to 1925 a good selection of Georgian or Colonial Revival houses was built within the neighborhood. The earliest editions are frame, essentially Late Queen Anne houses with details derived from American Georgian and Federal architecture.

The earliest of these structures is the Marshall Strong House of about 1898. The two-story frame house at 630 North Blount has a two-story, pedimented tetraprostyle portico with paired, colossal Ionic columns. This portico is supplemented by a one-story porch that, alternating Ionic and Doric columns, crosses the front elevation behind the larger columns. The doorway is elliptically-arched and has sidelights and a fanlight.

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At 422 North Blount is the Lee House of about 1900. Two-and-a-half-stories tall, it has a high, hipped roof with two prominent chimneys. Across the front elevation is a wide veranda with stubby, Ionic columns on pedestals. The door surround is an off-center Serliana with an open-bedded triangular pediment. This motif is echoed by the single front dormer and in the open-bedded pediment of the second-level window.

Originally at 410 North Blount, and recently moved to the east side of North Person Street, is the Garland Tucker House. Built about 1914, this magnificent, frame Georgian Revival edifice is fronted by a projecting, semi-circular portico with four colossal Ionic columns. (Though once vital to the streetscape it is now beyond the confines of this district.)

From 1915 to nearly 1930, a series of red brick Georgian Revival houses were built within the district. These have in common a gable-roofed rectangular plan, sometimes with dormers, a more or less elaborate door surround or portico, and in several cases a colonnaded side or rear porch.

One of the first and crudest of the brick Georgian Revival houses is the Judge Manning House at 715 North Blount, built about 1915. The house is a large, plain box with shed-roofed dormers and a veranda of square columns across the front. In the ends of the gables are modified Palladian windows.

Also one of the earliest examples, but undoubtedly one of the most accomplished and powerful in its design is the Andrews-London House at 301 North Blount, built about 1916, the work of J. M. Salter. The house has a quality of massive grace created by its bulk, the use of a Greek Doric order for the door surround and side porch, and by the oversized triglyph frieze of the cornice. A somewhat atypical cross-gable repeats the open-bedded pediment of the door surround.

The Bryan Grimes Williams House at 221-223 East Lane, built about 1927, has the most dramatic entrance of the brick Georgian Revival Houses--a two-story tetraprostyle portico of colossal, fluted Doric columns with embellished capitals.

At the north end of the district is the General Metts House of about 1925. This interesting residence has brick quoins and a shallow, elliptically-arched portico at the top of two curving flights of steps. Two other well-composed Georgian Revival brick houses in the area are the Pell House at 111 East North of 1925, with prominent dormer windows and a Tuscan-colonnaded porch, and the Bailey-Bunn House of 1922 at 302 North Blount, an attractive arrangement of Georgian Revival motifs.

Two houses that combine Georgian Revival with strongly Bungaloid features are located at 606 and 612 North Blount. 606 North Blount, circa 1910, is a one-and-a-half-story frame house under a wood-shingled gambrel roof. Across the front is a board veranda with widely-spaced Tuscan columns and French doors. A cross-gable in the front



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elevation contains a large Palladian window. 612 North Blount is two stories, frame, asymmetrically-massed with a red tile roof. Its bays and dormers have a triglyph frieze. Across the front is a veranda, half-enclosed, with exposed rafter ends and short Ionic columns on pedestals.

Facing North Person and East Polk Streets, the Murphey School is an example of Public School Classical. The 1916 portion is a rather plain but attractive three-story brick structure. However, the 1927 classroom addition includes a one-story auditorium wing that is faced by a pedimented, tetraprostyle Tuscan portico.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES: chiefly Civil War-World War II

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Blount Street Historic District includes the surviving fabric of Raleigh's most fashionable residential district of the post-Civil War era. Within its boundaries are a number of the finest homes built in Raleigh in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the homes of prominent people in the life of the capital city and the state. Greek Revival, Victorian Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne styles are all represented by excellent examples in the district, which also contains a rather good collection of Georgian Revival houses. Eight individually-designated National Register properties are located within the neighborhood, and another, the Capehart House, is soon to be moved there.

Despite selective demolition of houses in the district by the State Property Office and the use of a considerable amount of land for surface parking, North Blount has retained a remarkable degree of continuity. This is principally due to the quality of the remaining structures, including many of secondary significance, and the presence of linking elements such as stretches of brick sidewalk, granite curbs and the numerous great oaks and magnolias. The North Blount Street area has been threatened and frequently harmed in recent years, but it is not past hope for revival.

When the original plan for Raleigh was laid out in 1792, North Street formed the northern boundary of the city. Since the capital grew slowly, most of the present Blount Street district remained in a semi-rural condition during the antebellum period.

Colonel William Polk was one of the earliest private landowners in the area, purchasing land from the state in 1800 on which he built an elegant Federal style home about 1815. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, Polk served as the first president of the State Bank in Raleigh. Polk's house sat directly in the line of Blount Street and had to be moved to the east side of the 400 block in 1872 in order that the street might be continued.

Colonel Polk's son-in-law, Congressman Kenneth Rayner, entertained his friend and colleague Henry Clay at the late Colonel's home on a visit in 1844. During the stay Clay composed his famous letter to the National Intelligencer stating his opposition to the annexation of Texas without the permission of Mexico. Although this stand likely cost Clay the presidency, he defended it with the statement that, "I would rather be right than president." According to local tradition, Clay wrote the letter under a great white oak tree that stands in the southwest corner of the Andrews-Duncan property.

Several suburban villas were built in the area during the antebellum years. Across from the future site of the Executive Mansion was the block containing the residence

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of engineer T. D. Hogg. Hogg's house faced North Wilmington Street and was surrounded by outbuildings and gardens that filled the entire block. On the northeast corner of North Wilmington and North Streets stood the home of Episcopal Bishop R. T. Lyman, known as the House of the Oak for a large oak tree in the yard. Filling the block where the Hawkins-Hartness House now stands was the home of Mrs. Mary Bryan and its associated gardens. These are all now gone.

One antebellum residence that has survived is the home of Dr. Augustus Lewis. Lewis purchased 3.36 acres of land north and west of the Polk House from Kenneth Rayner in 1854. About 1855 he erected a large and relatively sophisticated Greek Revival house facing east on North Wilmington Street. In 1912 the house was purchased by Dr. Charles Lee Smith, former president of Mercer University, president of the Edwards and Broughton Printing Company and a trustee of the University of North Carolina. The house was moved to North Blount Street in 1974, to make way for the government mall. <sup>3</sup>

A block further north, Peace Institute was incorporated in 1858, taking its name from William Peace, a Raleigh merchant who donated land at the end of Wilmington Street for a site and \$10,000 for the construction of a building. The ambitious Greek Revival edifice was nearing completion when the Civil War broke out. It was commandeered by the Confederate Army in 1862 as a hospital, floors hastily being constructed within the shell of the building and window openings covered with painted cloth. After the war the building housed regional offices of the Freedmen's Bureau. In 1872 Peace Institute opened under private ownership in the refurbished structure, the direct ancestor of modern Peace College. <sup>4</sup>

The development of North Blount Street as a fashionable residential address paralleled Raleigh's recovery from the Civil War and Federal occupation. As an observer noted in 1887, "Raleigh began its real growth in 1870." <sup>5</sup> The decade of 1860-1870 saw an increase of 63 percent in the city's population. <sup>6</sup> A number of new institutions located in Raleigh, expanding its role as the center of state government and of education. Shaw University opened in 1865, St. Augustine's College in 1868 and the State Penitentiary in 1870. In 1870 the Raleigh Female Seminary, one of the predecessors of Meredith College, was opened in the former Polk House on North Blount. <sup>7</sup> In a very rural state, Raleigh offered one of the more cultured environments available. <sup>8</sup> Its 1880 population of 9,265 ranked it as the second largest city in North Carolina. At the same time, since it was a rather small town, state officials, professionals, businessmen and local luminaries tended to congregate in a few neighborhoods. Located in close proximity to the State Capitol and to downtown, North Blount Street was a favored location.

Among the first major houses built in Raleigh after the Civil War, and one which set the tone for subsequent building on North Blount, was the Heck-Andrews House at 309 North Blount. On May 31, 1869, Mrs. Jonathan Heck purchased a lot on the southwest corner of North and Blount Streets from Kenneth Rayner and his wife. Mrs. Heck's contr

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with builders Wilson and Waddell called for "a three-story house with tower, slate and french roof . . ." to be erected after plans drawn by the architect G. S. Appleget. The result was an extraordinary Second Empire residence which included such amenities as a self-operated waterworks that pumped water by means of hydraulic rams from a spring three blocks away to a tank atop the house. Heck was a West Virginia lawyer, and an industrialist who was active in developing Raleigh after the war.<sup>10</sup>

The Hecks were followed on Blount Street by railroad executive Alexander Boyd Andrews, who purchased a lot on the northwest corner of North and Blount Streets in April, 1873, from R. S. Pullen. The Andrews-Duncan House was probably built shortly thereafter. The existence of drawings for a very similar Victorian Italianate house by architect Appleget strongly suggests that he was also the designer of the Andrews-Duncan House. A resident of North Blount Street at the turn of the century, Mrs. Marshall Delancey (Mattie Bailey) Haywood, remembers Andrews as ". . . a great, big, fat man. He was vice-president of the Southern Railroad, and he is the one-under his regime—who opened up the western part of North Carolina. . . . This Southern Railroad, under Col Andrews' supervision, would get bills passed through the Legislature. . . . Colonel Andrews was really the forerunner. It was his brain, so they always said, that opened up the mountains of North Carolina with the Southern Railroad."<sup>12</sup>

Relatives and descendants of A. B. Andrews were responsible for a number of the finer homes on North Blount. Andrews built the handsome eclectic Victorian house at 417 North Blount for his widowed sister, Mrs. Robert Strange, in 1878.<sup>13</sup> Andrews's uncle, Dr. William J. Hawkins, the president of the Citizens National Bank, built a large, Second Empire style dwelling in the late 1870s at the northeast corner of North and Blount Streets, a house that was razed in 1967.

W. J. Hawkins also built the Hawkins-Hartness House at 310 North Blount. His brother, Florida planter Dr. Alexander B. Hawkins, purchased the former home of Mrs. Mary B. Bryan on the southeast corner of the intersection in 1881. As Mrs. Haywood, the Hawkins' great-niece, has recounted, "When they were here on one trip, they decided they'd like to have a house here, a home here, so they bought the land which had the Bryan House on it. It was an old frame house with beautiful lines and my great aunt, Mrs. Hawkins, loved it. She wanted Dr. William Hawkins to have it restored that winter. They went back, thinking it would be restored and that they would have it to live in in the summer when they came back. Lo and behold, when they came back, that monstrosity was there that Dr. William Hawkins had planned. This big, brick house. My aunt was very disturbed because she liked the other, but they had to live in this. It was all right because it was well-built, well-planned and everything, and we had happy times in it, so it turned out all right."<sup>14</sup>

One of the home's interesting features was a 6,000 gallon rainwater cistern with filtering system, water from which was furnished to successive occupants of the Executiv

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Mansion. "The Governor's Mansion, which was just to the south of the house, had a governor every four years that sent over Uncle David . . . and Uncle David came over there with his cedar bucket and toted the water over to the Mansion for them to drink. When that governor would end his regime, Dr. Hawkins would call up the next governor and invite him to have water from the cistern."<sup>15</sup> The Hawkins-Hartness House was also joined with the other three house at the intersection in a private sewer system.<sup>16</sup>

Mrs. Hawkins' niece, Miss Mattie Bailey, inherited the house when Dr. Hawkins died. She sold it and built the Georgian Revival home at 302 North Blount for herself and her niece in the sideyard. Later the Hawkins House was occupied by North Carolina Secretary of State James Hartness. Miss Bailey's<sup>17</sup> nephew, William Bailey, built the Georgian Revival house at 213 Lane Street about 1916.

Col. Andrews' son Graham, a banker and Raleigh mayor, built the Andrews-London House, an accomplished Georgian Revival structure designed by Raleigh architect J. M. Salter, on the south half of the Heck property about 1916.<sup>18</sup> His brother, attorney Alex Andrews, purchased the Heck House in 1921.

Messrs. Hawkins and Andrews collaborated in the building of the original Murphey School in 1887. This was a two-story<sup>19</sup> frame structure that sat on the site of the present school and burned in 1914.

Among other prominent families on Blount Street were the C. T. Baileys (not related to the other Baileys). Reverend C. T. Bailey, Senior, was the editor of the powerful Baptist newspaper, the Biblical Recorder. His home was at 513 North Blount Street, and all that remains of it is a date stone set near the street. C. T. Bailey, Junior, was a Raleigh postmaster and built the small house at 507 North Blount. The other Bailey son, Josiah W. Bailey, succeeded his father as editor of the Biblical Recorder and served in the United States Senate from 1930 to 1946. Josiah Bailey built a new home at 513 North Blount for himself and his bride Edith Pou, who had grown up in the house at 430 North Blount.<sup>20</sup>

Another fine residence in the neighborhood is the Victorian Italianate Augustus Merrimon House at 526 North Wilmington Street, begun in 1875. Merrimon was a major post-Civil War figure: a lawyer, judge, United States Senator and State Supreme Court Chief Justice. In 1871 he was one of the counsel of the board of managers in the impeachment trial of Governor W. W. Holden.<sup>21</sup>

Behind 612 North Blount is the historically significant Leonidas L. Polk House, moved from North Person in 1965. Polk was the editor of the Progressive Farmer, president of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and was instrumental in the establishing of the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College (now North Carolina State University).<sup>22</sup>

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North Blount Street's fashionableness was given a boost in 1883 when it was decided to build the new Executive Mansion in Burke Square. Well-known Philadelphia architect Samuel Sloan and his assistant Gustavus A. Bauer were the designing architects. Sloan died in Raleigh in 1884 and the work was completed by Bauer. Much of the construction, including the manufacture of brick for the building, was carried out by convict labor under the direction of Colonel William G. Hicks, an architect and engineer and the superintendent of the State Penitentiary. The first governor to occupy the mansion was Daniel G. Fowle, who moved in on January 5, 1891.<sup>23</sup>

A great number of new residences were built in the North Blount Street vicinity around 1900 and in the two decades after. North of Peace Street, known as the "new" part because it was not annexed to the city until 1907, both sides of North Blount filled rapidly. Mrs. Elodia Yancey, the daughter of the Harp family that owned most of the land in the block on which that house stood, built a home for herself at 603 North Blount. She also erected a rental unit at 605 North Blount and subdivided the contiguous property. At this point the street was probably at the height of its popularity, a mix of a few great older homes and many well-built modern ones.

Still, Blount Street maintained much of the gentility of the Old South. As a former resident has reminisced, "I once heard culture described as 'what you have learned and forgotten.' And I guess that's what Blount Street had."<sup>24</sup>

The more substantial families lived, Mrs. Haywood remembers, ". . . a very formal life, just as we lived over in the Hawkins House, just as Col. Andrews' family lived. In those days people had plenty of servants, had good food, nice parties, and the Hecks had a beautiful Victoria just like Col. Andrews' and the one we had--my uncle had--and a pair of horses. I remember those horses wo well. They were black horses, but they had a fishnet that covered them, made them very attractive . . . sort of circus-like. . . . When the horses trotted and then stood still, it would shake and then there would be no flies around to disturb them."<sup>25</sup>

In the most literal sense, North Blount Street was a small-town neighborhood. And as befitted such a neighborhood, Blount Street residents maintained close social contacts, whether for sewing parties, smokers, tea suppers or elegant evening receptions. Their children grew up together, often married each other, and sometimes built their own homes in the area.<sup>26</sup>

The neighborhood school was the Murphey School at the corner of North Person and Polk Streets. When the original frame edifice burned in 1914, it was replaced in 1916 with a larger brick structure designed by J. M. Kennedy. A classroom and auditorium addition was constructed in 1927.<sup>27</sup>

A partial listing of the residents of the neighborhood in the period 1900-1920 is

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indicative of North Blount Street's quality and appeal: State Treasurer Ben Lacy at 539 North Blount; Senator Josiah W. Bailey at 513 North Blount; Raleigh mayors William Russ at 540 North Blount, Graham Andrews at 301 North Blount and J. W. Wynne at 526 North Wilmington; Southern Railroad Vice-President A. B. Andrews at 407 North Blount; Episcopal Bishop Joseph B. Cheshire at 105 East North; Judge Robert Winston at 406 North Blount, and Crawford Biggs at 410 North Blount; State Supreme Court Justice James Manning at 717 North Blount; State Adjutant General J. V. B. Metts at 730 North Blount; Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer at 211 Peace Street; dancer Vivian Moncure, a successor to Isadora Duncan, at 525 North Blount; Jane McKimmon, originator of home demonstration work in North Carolina, at 512 North Blount; author Frances Patton at 530 North Blount and Fannie Heck, president and organizer of the Women's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention at 309 North Blount.

During the Depression years of the 1930s North Blount Street began to receive considerable competition from new suburban developments surrounding the city, particularly Hayes-Barton. While Blount Street did not entirely lose its fashionableness, very few new homes were built there. As old residents died or moved to modern homes, the large, older houses were frequently subdivided into apartments.

As part of the Heritage Mall plan for state government office development, the State Property Office began to aggressively acquire real estate on North Blount in 1969. A number of houses were subsequently demolished and their lots converted to parking. Those remaining buildings owned by the state have, for the most part, been transformed into offices for state agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth C. Waugh, North Carolina's Capital: Raleigh (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1967), p. 41.

<sup>2</sup> Nina H. Covington, Guidebook of Raleigh, N.C., Historical and Descriptive (Raleigh: Capital Printing Company, 1924), p. 13, p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> Survey and Planning Unit, Division of Archives and History, Lewis-Smith House, unpublished statement of significance. Raleigh, North Carolina, 1971.

<sup>4</sup> Catherine Cockshutt, Peace College. An unpublished statement of significance. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Unit, 1973.

<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, The City of Raleigh: Historical Sketches from its Foundation (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1887), p. 67.

<sup>6</sup> Writers' Program of the Works Progress Administration in the State of North Carolina. (Raleigh: Sesquicentennial Commission, 1942), p. 36.

<sup>7</sup> Johnson, Mary Lynch, A History of Meredith College (Raleigh: Meredith College, 1956), p. 20.

<sup>8</sup> Marie Gangemi, Transition in Abeyance: Urban Growth in Raleigh, N.C., 1880-1900, M. A. Thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1975, p. 8.

<sup>9</sup> Charles M. Heck Collection (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History), plate XXV, hereinafter sited at Charles M. Heck Collection.

<sup>10</sup> Survey and Planning Unit, the Heck-Andrews House (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1971), an unpublished statement of significance.

<sup>11</sup> Survey and Planning Unit, the Andrews-Duncan House (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1971), an unpublished statement of significance.

<sup>12</sup> Wakefield Junior Historian Club, interview with Mrs. Marshall Delancey Haywood, (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, 1968), unpublished transcript, hereinafter sited as Wakefield Junior Historian Club, Haywood interview.

<sup>13</sup> Norris, Elizabeth, unpublished notes on North Blount Street in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.

<sup>14</sup> Wakefield Junior Historian Club, Haywood interview.



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- 16 Charles M. Heck Collection, plate XXV.
- 17 Linda Harris, Raleigh Historic Districts: Capital Square, Blount Street (Raleigh: Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, 1976), p. 45.
- 18 Unpublished material in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
- 19 Jennie Barbee, Historical Sketches of the Raleigh Public Schools (Raleigh: Barbee Pupils' Association, 1943), p. 43, hereinafter cited as Barbee, Historical Sketches.
- 20 Unpublished material in the files of the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.
- 21 John B. Flowers, III and Mary Alice Hinson, Augustus Merrimon House (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Section, 1975), an unpublished statement of significance.
- 22 Sherry Ingram and Jack Zehmer, Executive Mansion (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Section, 1970), an unpublished statement of significance.
- 23 John B. Flowers, III and Ruth Little-Stokes, Leonidal L. Polk House (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Section, 1976), an unpublished statement of significance.
- 24 Lucy Daniels, "Life was Serene and Orderly, Sweet with Things Past," Raleigh Times, August 15, 1959, p. 11, 12, hereinafter cited as Daniels, "Life was Serene."
- 25 Wakefield Junior Historian Club, Haywood interview.
- 26 Daniels, "Life was Serene and Orderly, Sweet with Things Past," p. 11, 12.
- 27 Barbee, Historical Sketches of the Raleigh Public Schools, p. 43.
- 28 Wakefield Junior Historian Club, Haywood interview and City Directories.

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## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 31.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

E-17/713380/3963040

A 

1,7	7	1,3	7,8,0	3,9	6,3	0,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				

B 

1,7	7	1,3	7,8,0	3,9	6,2	1,6,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				

C 

1,7	7	1,3	5,2,0	3,9	6,2	1,8,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				

D 

1,7	7	1,3	3,8,0	3,9	6,2	8,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Description and Significance prepared by David Black, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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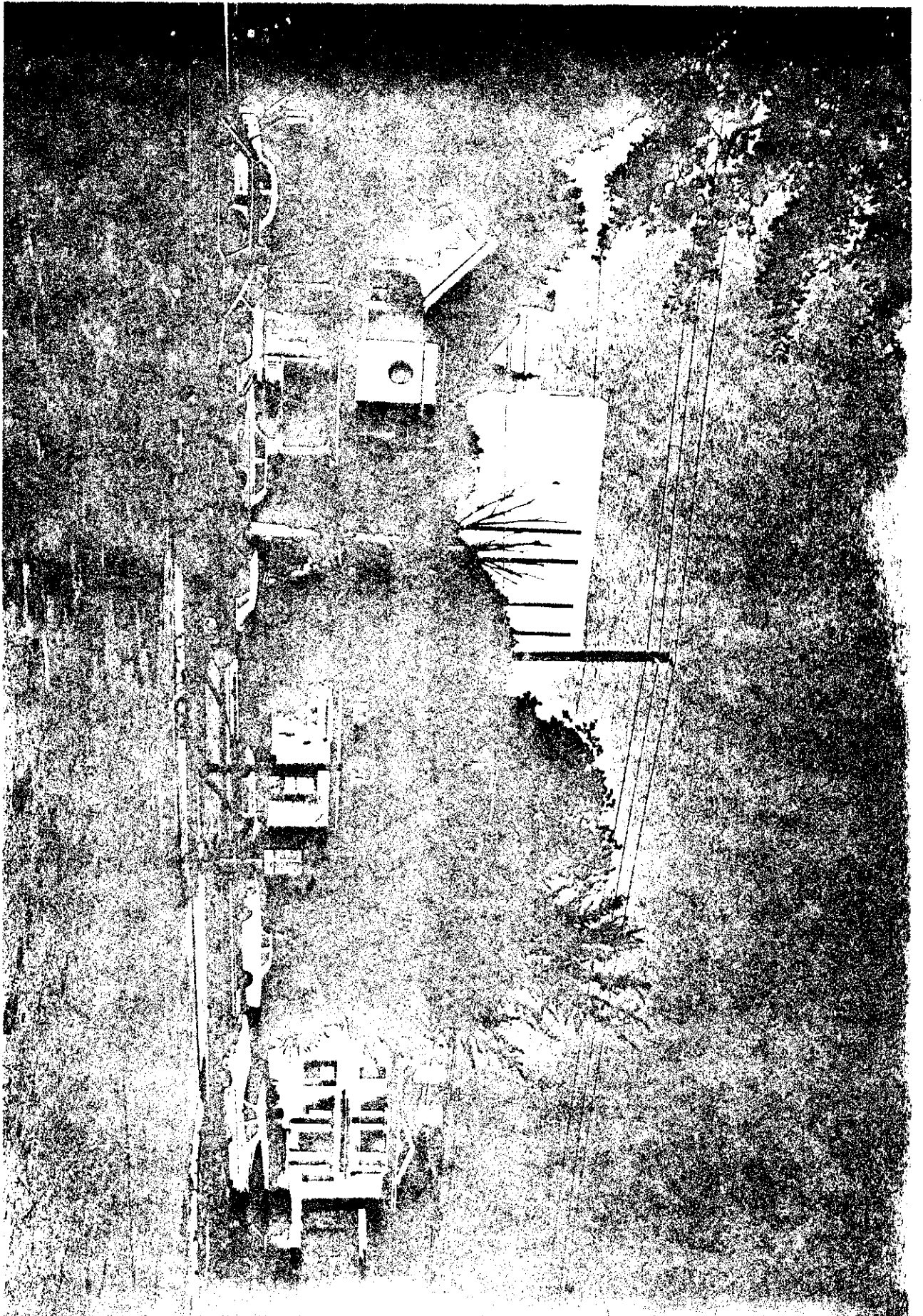
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## 1. NORTH BLOUNT STREET: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The North Blount Street Historic District is a six-block stretch of North Blount and the adjoining streets which includes remaining elements of Raleigh's premier residential neighborhood of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is roughly defined by the Executive Mansion, which is included on the south, the edge of the Government Mall on the west, the northern border of Peace College on the north and North Person Street and the Oakwood National Register Historic District on the east.

North Blount Street and North Person Street are major traffic arteries in and out, respectively, of the government area. East Peace Street is the major east-west artery north of the government area and East Jones and East Lane Streets are the through streets east and west in the south portion of the district.

In the south end of the district near the Executive Mansion, and in the northwest corner around Peace College are concentrations of sizeable, high-style frame and brick structures. Less pretentious and generally newer dwellings make up the rest of the district's fabric. With few exceptions, existing houses have suffered only minor exterior alterations and are in fair to excellent condition. Setbacks vary considerably, from isolated house centered in generous lots to others set close to each other and to the street.

There is a substantial number of trees within the district, especially large oaks and magnolias. Care has been taken to preserve trees where houses have been demolished. The grounds of Peace College and the Executive Mansion are well-landscaped and carefully kept. At the south end of the street are long stretches of brick sidewalk, and there is granite curbing throughout the neighborhood.

Visually and historically, the Executive Mansion and the intersection of East North and North Blount Streets are the mutually-dependent southern focal points of the district, containing the finest residences and views. The north side of the 200 block of East Lane also contains an important row of early-twentieth century Georgian Revival homes that provide an appropriate setting for the Executive Mansion, as well as creating a corridor connecting the Blount Street area to Oakwood.

The 400 and 500 block of North Blount, east side, have suffered most from the State-sponsored demolition of buildings and the paving of lots for parking. Particularly diminished are the east

sides of these blocks. The only major structural intrusions in the district, garden apartments and a small office building, are also located in the 500 block.\*

North of Peace Street in the "new" portion of Blount Street, that annexed after 1907, the streetscape is largely continuous, with the exception of several empty lots near the west corner of Pace and North Blount Streets. The residences in these blocks are a combination of middle-sized Late Queen Anne houses and larger Georgian Revival, Bungalow and other early twentieth century dwellings.\*\*

The infrastructure of North Wilmington Street has been almost entirely destroyed by mall construction. Only on the east side of the street are there any remaining buildings, the most important concentration being at the intersection with Peace Street, where there is a node of structures including the Merrimon, Jordan House and Peace College.

The appearance and grouping of the structures within the district reflects the historical development of the area since the early nineteenth century. During the antebellum period the North Blount Street vicinity, like other peripheral areas of the city, contained substantial, scattered suburban homes. Of these, the Lewis-Smith House (NR) at 513 North Blount is a good example. Built about 1855, the house is a handsome, cubical, two-story frame Greek Revival structure. It is one of two major examples of this style remaining in Raleigh. A very academic, two-story, pedimented tetrastyle portico, Greek Ionic over Greek Doric, fronts the building and is its most distinguishing feature. Other Greek Revival elements include the window surrounds, corner strips and pilaster panels, all obviously derived from Asher Benjamin pattern books. A slightly incongruous note is struck by the simple, bracketed cornice, which is Italianate in flavor. Semi-octagonal bays on either side of the house are early twentieth century additions. Moved from its lot on North Wilmington Street in 1974, the house occupies lots formerly containing the Senator Josiah Bailey and Andrews-McKimmon Houses.

\* Since this nomination was prepared, the Lucy Catherine Capehart House (C. 1898, N.R.) that was in danger of demolition was relocated from its site at 403 North Wilmington Street to the northeast corner of Blount and Polk Streets. This rescue of a historic resource was the result of a new conscientiousness of the importance of the District by the State Properties Office.

\*\* Since this nomination was prepared, the 600 and 700 blocks of North Blount Street, west side, has suffered five demolitions of turn-of-the-century houses by Peace College. L.L.H.

In the northwest corner of the district is an institutional remnant of its antebellum condition, the Peace College Main Building (NR), whose massive Greek Revival form provides the visual terminus for North Wilmington Street. The eleven-bay brick building, begun in 1858, features a four-story, pedimented portico composed of four enormous, three-story Doric columns resting on heavy basement piers. The pavilions on either side of the portico are punctuated by regularly-spaced brick pilasters and there are paired brackets in the cornice and pediment. The Main Building is flanked by Georgian Revival and modern Neo-Georgian structures over which it retains its visual dominance.

Post-Civil War suburban development on North Blount began at the intersection of North and North Blount Streets. On these four corners were built four of the district's finest and grandest houses, three of which still exist. Like the antebellum houses, these residences were set on sizable lots and had associated outbuildings.

The earliest of the group, the Heck-Andrews House (NR) at 309 North Blount, is an extraordinary two-story frame Second Empire style house with an imposing three-story tower. Typical of this style, influenced by the architecture of the rebuilding of Paris under Napoleon III, is the concave, slate-shingled mansard roof with bold, pedimented dormers on the front and side elevations. The tower projects from the center of the front elevation and is also topped by a high mansard roof, this time convex, with a tiny, balustraded deck. An elaborate, eclectic veranda stretches across the front elevation with paired, chamfered posts and a low mansard roof. On either side elevation are pairs of highly-ornamented rectangular bay windows.

On the northwest corner of the intersection, set well back from the street, stands the Andrews-Duncan House (NR), 407 North Blount. Built for Alexander Boyd Andrews about 1873, this boxy, two-and-a-half-story Victorian Italianate frame dwelling has broad gables and cross-gables with long returns and deep eaves. Supporting the eaves are pairs of highly sculptural brackets. Two large, panelled chimneys with corbelled stacks figure prominently in the building's silhouette. A rectangular porch with paired, and at the corners tripled, posts fronts and central three bays of the house. The windows have segmental-arched hood moldings, except for the central windows of the front elevation on the second and third levels, which are pairs of Roman-arched openings under a single broad hoodmolding.

In the southwest corner of the Andrews-Duncan property stands the venerable white oak tree known as the Henry Clay Oak. Also on the Andrews-Duncan property, at the rear, is a small, square, four-gabled house with cupola that was originally an outbuilding.

Until 1967, when it was razed, the northeast corner of the intersection was occupied by the W. J. Hawkins House, a fine Second Empire style residence of the 1970s.

The Hawkins-Hartness House (NR) at 310 North Blount, built for Mr. and Mrs. Alexander B. Hawkins in 1882, presides over the southeast corner of the intersection. The latest of the great houses at that intersection, it is a grand but severe two-and-a-half-story pressed-brick Queen Anne style residence. Dominating its asymmetrical plan of bold masses with dramatic angles and projecting elements is an unusual, four-story tower with a cross-gabled, jerkin-headed roof with splayed eaves.

Apart from dormer windows and a sawtooth molding that embellishes the eaves and windows, the long veranda and porte-cochere that skirt the house are its only applied ornament. According to family tradition, these were added at the request of Mrs. Hawkins, who considered the building's lines to be too stark. The heavy, turned posts are similar to those of the Executive Mansion. Behind the house is a small, brick servants' quarters.

Other attractive and substantial houses were built in the Blount Street area in the 1870s and 1880s. Set back from North Wilmington Street on a rise is the Augustus Merrimon House (NR), begun in 1875. This handsome, Victorian Italianate suburban villa is notable for its strongly-molded ornament. The two-and-a-half-story frame structure has two major porches, one supporting a cantilevered wing on the north elevation and another on the right side of the west elevation. Both porches have sawtooth brackets with pendants on the posts, and sawtooth-edged fan ornaments. A heavy course of widely-spaced modillions embellishes the building's cornice and is repeated in the cornice of the porches and on the west bay window. The predominant segmental-arched windows have bold surrounds and hood moldings topped by relief keystones and a projecting architrave.

The house at 417 North Blount, built in 1878 for Mrs. Betty Strange, is an excellent example of the eclectic, Victorian, middle-class home of the late 1870s. This two-story, clapboarded dwelling has a basically t-shaped plan with later additions in the front and on the north side. The gables of the north, south and west elevations are splayed at the ends and have arched, cut-out inserts with spiky pinnacles that pierce the ridge. Behind these are board-and-batten-sided gable ends, each with a single, half-hexagonal-arched window. On the first story of each gabled elevation is a half-hexagonal bay window with bracketed cornice. Above them, the second-level windows have projecting, open-bedded pediments supported by brackets. The porch has single, chamfered posts set on pedestals and a balustrade of urn-shaped balusters.

Also on the west side of North Blount is the Norris-Heart House, an Italianate residence built in 1879 and remodelled in Colonial Revival fashion in 1928.

On the east side of North Blount Street is the Gray House, 530 North Blount, probably built in 1881 for Caro and Robert Gray. Like the Strange House, the Gray House is a good example of middle-class eclectic Victorian building. However, the Gray House par-



takes more of the Eastlake/Neo-Grec mode, with its very angular, reeded brackets and skeletal siding overlay of flush boards. An unusual feature are the small fans at the intersection of elements of this overlay. The Gray House is frame, two-and-a-half-stories, with an irregular cross plan. There are two front porches, one on either side of the cross gable. The larger, south porch contains the main entrance and fronts the main elevation. The north porch is smaller, set in the angle of two wings. Both porches have bracketed, chamfered posts set on pedestals with a balustrade between. There are two bay windows, a semi-hexagonal one on the west elevation and a regular one on the south. The roof is splayed at the ends and the gables have triangular inserts with vertical cut-outs.

Also of this period is the Harp House at 119 East Peace Street, whose property once included the entire block. Essentially a farmhouse, the structure is frame, two-stories under a gable roof with a cross-gable containing a Gothic Revival vent. A porch across the front is bracketed.\*

The finest residence built in the district in the late nineteenth century was the Executive Mansion (NR). Erected between 1883 and 1891, the stately Queen Anne style residence is centered on one of the city's original squares, Burke Square. Unlike typical Queen Anne structures, the Executive Mansion is largely symmetrical, a carefully balanced composition. Its two-and-a-half-stories are faced with pressed brick and trimmed with quoins and flush string courses of North Carolina sandstone. Large verandas, porches and a porte-cochere, of a Moorish flavor, all with bulbous, turned posts, surround and ornament the building pile. The complex roof is a combination of a central, mansardic section with a number of subsidiary gables and dormers. Colored slate shingles cover the roof with rich, decorative patterns.

Wide brick sidewalks around the mansion square and on its grounds are laid with paving units contemporary with the house, some of which are incised with the names of the convicts who made them. A brick and wrought-iron wall has been added to the grounds in recent years.

Another fine structure of the 1880s, now demolished, was the Pace House, an 1888 Chateausque/Queen Anne structure which sat on the southeast corner of the intersection of Polk and North Blount Streets.

From the construction of the Executive Mansion to after the turn of the century, a number of moderate-sized Queen Anne structures were built in the area. One of the earliest surviving ones is the corner house, 501 North Blount, probably built about 1895 for U. S. District Attorney Claude Bernard. This two-story, frame house has a corner veranda and a charming square tower with a large, circular window.

\* The Harp House was destroyed by Peace College in 1977. L.L.H.

Presiding over the corner of North Wilmington and East Peace Streets is the Dr. T. M. Jordan House of about 1989. The handsome, two-and-a-half-story, Late Queen Anne House has a high, slate-shingled, hipped roof with cream brick corbelled chimneys. Two closed gables and a small dormer ornament the roof line. A veranda sweeps around the two street elevations, pushing out into an octagonal bay on the corner.

Perhaps the most characteristically Queen Anne House in the district is located at 607 North Blount. Built about 1900, the two-and-a-half-story frame house is a picturesque composition of assymetrically-arranged solids and voids. A large, closed gable with Palladian window, and a panelled porch gable are balanced with a two-story, gable-roofed bay window. On the north side of the house is an unusual cross-shaped chimney. Various portions of the house are covered with narrow siding, shingles or fielded paneling.

At the rear of 612 North Blount is the Leonidas Polk House (NR), a circa 1890 two-story Queen Anne frame house that was moved from a nearby site on North Person. Although somewhat altered, the house has an interesting polygonal turret and shingles on the second level.

During the period from 1900 to 1925, a good selection of Georgian or Colonial Revival houses was built within the neighborhood. The earliest editions are frame, essentially Late Queen Anne houses with details derived from American Georgian and Federal architecture.

The earliest of these structures is the Marshall Strong House of about 1898. The two-story frame house at 630 North Blount has a two-story, pedimented tetraprostyle portico with paired, colossal Ionic columns. This portico is supplemented by a one-story porch that, alternating Ionic and Doric columns, crosses the front elevation behind the larger columns. The doorway is elliptically-arched and has sidelights and a fanlight.

At 422 North Blount is the Lee House of about 1900. Two-and-a-half-stories tall, it has a high, hipped roof with two prominent chimneys. Across the front elevation is a wide veranda with stubby, Ionic columns on pedestals. The door surround is an off-center Serliana with an open-bedded triangular pediment. This motif is echoed by the single front dormer and in the open-bedded pediment of the second-level window.

Originally at 410 North Blount, and recently moved to the east side of North Person Street, is the Garland Tucker House. Built about 1914, this magnificent, frame Georgian Revival edifice is fronted by a projecting, semi-circular portico with four colossal Ionic columns. (Though once vital to the streetscape, it is now beyond the confines of this district and is located in the adjoining Oakwood Historic District.)

From 1915 to nearly 1930, a series of red brick Georgian Revival; houses were built within the district. These have in common a gable-roofed rectangular plan, sometimes with dormers, a more or less elaborate door surround or portico, and in several cases a colonnaded side or rear porch.

One of the first and crudest of the brick Georgian Revival houses is the Judge Manning House at 715 North Blount, built about 1915. The house is a large, plain box with shed-roofed dormers and a veranda of square columns across the front. In the ends of the gables are modified Palladian windows.\*

Also, one of the earliest examples, but undoubtedly one of the most accomplished and powerful in its design is the Andrews-London House at 301 North Blount, built about 1916, the work of J. M. Salter. The house has a quality of massive grace created by its bulk, the use of a Greek Doric order for the door surround and side porch, and by the oversized triglyph frieze of the cornice. A somewhat atypical cross-gable repeats the open-bedded pediment of the door surround. Today the Andrew-London House is the Capital Area Visitors Center, operated by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

The Bryan Grimes Williams House at 221-223 East Lane, built about 1927, has the most dramatic entrance of the brick Georgian Revival Houses -- a two-story tetraprostyle portico of colossal, fluted Doric columns with embellished capitals.

At the north end of the district is the General Metts House of about 1925. This interesting residence has brick quoins and a shallow, elliptically-arched portico at the top of two curving flights of steps. Two other well-composed Georgian Revival brick houses in the area are the Pell House at 111 East North of 1915, with prominent dormer windows and a Tuscan-colonnaded porch, and the Bailey-Bunn House of 1922 at 302 North Blount, an attractive arrangement of Georgian Revival motifs.

Two houses that combine Georgian Revival with strongly Bungaloid features are located at 606 and 612 North Blount. 606 North Blount, circa 1910, is a one-and-a-half-story frame house under a wood-shingled gambrel roof. Across the front is a board veranda with widely-spaced Tuscan columns and French doors. A cross-gable in the front elevation contains a large Palladian window. 612 North Blount is two stories, frame, asymmetrically-massed with a red tile roof. Its bays and dormers have a triglyph frieze. Across the front is a veranda, half-enclosed, with exposed rafter ends and short Ionic columns on pedestals.

\* The Manning House was destroyed by Peace College in 1979. L.L.H.

Facing North Person and East Polk Streets, the Murphey School is an example of Public School Classical. The 1916 portion is a rather plain but attractive three-story brick structure. However, the 1927 classroom addition includes a one-story auditorium wing that is faced by a pedimented, tetraprostyle Tuscan portico.

## 2. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The North Blount Street Historic District includes the surviving fabric of Raleigh's most fashionable residential district of the post-Civil War era. Within its boundaries are a number of the finest homes built in Raleigh in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the homes of prominent people in the life of the capital city and the state. Greek Revival, Victorian Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne styles are all represented by excellent examples in the district, which also contains a rather good collection of Georgian Revival houses. Nine individually-designated National Register properties are located within the neighborhood.

Despite selective demolition in the 1960s and early '70s of houses in the district by the State Property Office and the use of a considerable amount of land for surface parking, North Blount has retained a remarkable degree of continuity. This is principally due to the quality of the remaining structures, including many of secondary significance, and the presence of linking elements such as stretches of brick sidewalk, granite curbs and the numerous great oaks and magnolias. The North Blount Street area has been threatened in recent years, but since 1977, there has been hope for revival since State government has adopted a policy of preservation and adaptive use.

## 3. BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Blount Street Historic District were drawn in 1975. The district lines are contiguous with the adjoining Oakwood Historic District on the east, excluding the State Motor Pool and a small commercial area. The district is anchored on the south by the Executive Mansion and on the west boundary is the back of the lot lines of the houses that face Blount Street north to Peace Street. North of Peace Street, the west boundary of the district includes all of the Peace College (Main Building, 1872 N.R.) campus; the north boundary is Franklin Street (the limit of the early twentieth century urban development) and the east boundary is the back lot line of the properties that face Blount Street.

The Blount Street Historic District, excluding the northernmost, two blocks, is part of a 26-block State government area. Directly west of the historic district is a contemporary State Government complex. In 1977, the State Properties Office and Council of State adopted a "Blount Street Policy" that outlined a program of restoration, relocation of endangered historic buildings, landscaping, and beautification. Please refer to the attached map for clarification.

#### 4. NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES IN THE BLOUNT STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

There are two (2) noncontributing structures in the Blount Street Historic District. One is a 1960s three-story apartment block and one is a one-story imitation colonial office block. Both are in the 500 block of Blount Street on the west side.

There are 38 contributing or pivotal buildings in the Blount Street Historic District. There are 20 supportive in the Blount Street Historic District, most of which are on the side streets. There is a total of 58 pivotal, contributing or supportive buildings in the Historic District. With the two noncontributing, this makes a percentage of approximately 1/30 noncontributing buildings in the Historic District.

The physical description and historical significance sections of this report are extracted from a National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form by David Black, Architectural Historian. This nomination was completed by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Section in 1978, but never submitted to the National Register.

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