

# RALEIGH HISTORIC PROPERTY DESIGNATION APPLICATION AND REPORT

1. **NAME OF THE PROPERTY:** (If historic name is unknown, give current name or give street address)

Historic Name Delaney Building

Current Name, or Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. **LOCATION:** 133 East Hargett Street Raleigh Wake  
street city and/or county

3. **LEGAL OWNER: Name** David P. and Irene T. Lane day phone 834-4271

Address 1601 Miller Street Raleigh NC 27610-3346  
street city state zip

4. **APPLICANT/CONTACT PERSON: Name** N/A day phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

5. **REASON FOR REQUEST:** N/A

6. **GENERAL DATA:**

a. Date of construction and alterations: 1926

b. Outbuildings: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  If yes, number \_\_\_\_\_

c. Approximate acreage or dimensions: .16 acre

d. Architect, builder, carpenter and/or mason: Unknown

e. Use: Original Offices Present Office/Restaurant

f. Is the property income producing? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

7. **CLASSIFICATION:**

a. Category: building(s)  structure \_\_\_\_\_ object \_\_\_\_\_ site \_\_\_\_\_

b. Ownership: private  public: local \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_

Number of resources within property:	Contributing	Non-contributing
buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
structures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
objects	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
sites	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

d. National Register of Historic Places status (check one): Entered (date) AUGUST 3, 1985 ;  
nominated: eligible  not eligible \_\_\_\_\_ ; not requested \_\_\_\_\_ ; removed (date) \_\_\_\_\_

e. Has the property been recorded during a historic survey by the City of Raleigh or the NC Historic Preservation Office? By whom and when A contributing building in the Moore Square Historic District nomination, August 1985.

8. **SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:** Raleigh Historic Properties Commission, Inc. date 5 Aug. 1992  
Post Office Box 829  
Century Station  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

9. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION:** (For items c., d., and e., please type or print on separate sheets of paper and attach to this application)
- a. **Photographs:** At least **TWO** current exterior black and white photographs of different views must be provided. Photographs **must** be labeled in pencil with the name of the building, structure, object or site, the address, and the date. Additional exterior or interior views and views of other structures on the property will be helpful. Color, black and white photographs and/or slides are acceptable for additional documentation.
  - b. **Maps:** Include a map showing the location of the property. A tax map with boundaries marked is preferred. A sketch map is acceptable but please note street names and numbers. Other structures on the property should also be shown. Include a "North" arrow.
  - c. **Justification for land to be designated:** Describe the physical appearance of the surrounding land area and its use.
  - d. **Architectural description and significance:** Describe the architectural features, additions, remodelings and alterations. Include a statement regarding the architectural significance of the building.
  - e. **Historical significance:** Note any significant events, personages and/or families associated with the property. Detailed family genealogies are **not** necessary. Please list any any additional sources of information.

10. **PLEASE RETURN TO:**

Raleigh Historic Properties Commission  
Post Office Box 829  
Century Station  
Raleigh, NC 27602

## Delaney Building

### 9.(c.) Justification for Land to be Designated

The proposed boundaries for the Delaney Building designation consist of the .16 acre tract on which the original 1926 building stands. The entire lot is necessary for inclusion in order to provide an understanding of the importance of the 100 block of East Hargett Street, the traditional black-owned business and entertainment district of Raleigh. It will also provide an appropriate setting for the building, which is threatened by adjacent commercial development. Since 1985, the property has been a contributing building in the National Register Moore Square Historic District.

### 9.(d.) Architectural Designation and Significance

The Delaney Building is located on the north side of the one hundred block of East Hargett Street, just one block south and east of Capital Square, in downtown Raleigh. The commercial structure shares a common wall with another building to its west while the east elevation faces an asphalt parking lot. Situated at the rear of the lot is an additional asphalt-covered area.

The two-story, flat-roofed, brick veneer building has a three-bay front elevation with two off-center entrances on the first floor. The single pane glass and wood frame doors demarcate the two halves of the building, 133 and 133-1/2. Above the doorways is a band of six boarded over transom windows, while two fairly recent windows adjoin the 133½ doorway. The first floor facade has undergone numerous alterations as tenants' needs have changed over the years. The original side entrance, 133, provided access to an interior staircase which led to the upstairs office spaces. Currently, vertical, painted, wood siding surrounds the side entry doorway. The interior of the ground-story has been altered, 133½ starting in the 1970s when the first restaurant "The Nineteenth Hole", was created. In addition to mid-twentieth century alterations, the rear elevation has two, frame, shed-like additions. One provides rear access to the building and the other functions as storage space.

The Delaney Building has two brick stringcourses, a datestone which is centrally located in the stepped parapet, and cast stone and terra cotta copings. Painted metal rain-spouts cling to the two brick pillars which flank the outer sides of the facade. The three uppermost windows are three over one, double hung sashes with standing brick lintels and painted cast stone sills.

The east elevation of the building is multi-colored, painted brick with no openings except for an indented upper-story portion where five windows exist. There are three pairs of wooden casement windows, above which are three transom lights. A horizontal row of brick headers separates the units from one another. Two additional metal double hung windows flank the perpendicular wall planes. The opposite side of the

structure, the west elevation, shares a common wall with another building.

The rear or north wall remains virtually unchanged with the exception of the previously mentioned shed additions. The metal upper and lower-story casement windows have brick lintels and sills. The brick wall is a five course common bond veneer.

Since the 1970s, the interior of the first floor has been altered to accommodate several dining establishments. The entry foyer which leads to the stairway has a painted pressed tin ceiling and painted, paneled walls. The upstairs has always housed offices for African-American professionals, primarily physicians and dentists. The drop tile ceiling was added around 1970 when Doctor Lane purchased the building.

The Delaney Building is the only remaining commercial structure built in the 1920s which comprised Raleigh's "Black Main Street". In the 1920s, East Hargett Street had established itself as the center of the African-American-owned businesses. Today, the majority of the buildings in the 100 block were built after the Delaney Building, they differ in ornamentation due to their post World War II construction dates. However, early twentieth century buildings do remain, but from a different era. At 119 E. Hargett is a three-story brick structure erected in 1914. Across the street, at 110, is a two-story, masonry, Italianate building constructed around the turn of the century. At the corner of E. Hargett and S. Blount streets is the three-story Montague Building, 1912 (Harris and Lee, Raleigh Architectural Inventory). Contemporary buildings, ones that were erected on other Raleigh streets in the 1920s share similar architectural features with the Delaney Building: Craftsman windows, simple brick veneers and stepped or flat roof lines. For example, buildings such as those in the 100 block of South Salisbury Street, built in the mid 1920s, and 222 E. Martin Street, erected in 1924, all illustrate a familiar architectural language which expresses the building's function, that of commerce. The Delaney Building, constructed by African-Americans, represents the height of black commerce in the 1920s.

#### 9.(e.) Historical Significance

The Delaney Building is historically significant for its association with the twentieth century African-American community in Raleigh, North Carolina. Throughout its history the building has housed numerous political, educational and cultural black institutions while providing access to information that otherwise may have been difficult to obtain. The structure itself is the last black owned commercial building on East Hargett Street dating from the pre-World War II era when the one hundred block was the focal point of African-American culture and business.

#### Historical Background

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries employment opportunities for

African-Americans were restricted to domestic services. However, one goal that derived from the Reconstruction Era was that of education as a means of self-improvement. The emergence of significant black institutions south of Capital Square became a crucial magnet in attracting African-Americans. For example, by 1890 one such institution, Shaw University, boasted a medical school, a pharmacy school and a law school. Slowly, a small professional class emerged amongst Raleigh's African-American community. Remaining in Raleigh, these professionals sought business and leadership opportunities. Some opened private medical practices while others led the community in educational and entrepreneurial ventures (East Raleigh-South Park Historic District nomination, section 8, page 9).

In the 1920s, an area devoted to African-American enterprises flourished in the one hundred block of East Hargett Street. As the "Black Main Street" prospered, an increasingly articulate elite of black professionals became more visible (East Raleigh-South Park Historic District Nomination, section 8, page 16).

One such member of the professional elite was Dr. Lemuel T. Delaney. A native of Raleigh, Delaney was one of nine children born to the Rev. Henry Beard Delaney, the first African-American bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Beard was also the vice president of St. Augustine's College while the chapel was constructed in 1896 and St. Agnes Hospital in 1909. His son, Lemuel, attended and graduated from St. Augustine's College, the Leonard Medical College at Shaw University and received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Upon his return to Raleigh, Dr. Delaney was the first black surgeon practicing his skill at St. Agnes Hospital. Delaney gained great stature in the black community in the 1920s and in 1926 purchased a lot on East Hargett Street and constructed a two-story commercial building (Wake Deeds, Book 302, page 153 and newspaper clippings, Vertical File, Richard B. Harrison Library).

During the following forty years, Dr. Delaney leased the office spaces to numerous important groups and associations which represented African-American interests. For a short while, spaces were leased by groups such as the N.C. Teacher's Association, the Baptist State Convention of N.C., the Richard B. Harrison Public Library (first public library for blacks in the area) and the State Department of Public Instruction (the Div. of Negro Education). By providing groups such as these with needed space, the educational, religious and political consciousness of the black community magnified its collective force. The exchange of ideas and services among the African-American community strengthened the culture as a whole.

In 1968, Dr. Delaney passed away and his wife Julia, who had taught at St. Augustine's College for many years, desired that the ownership of the building remain in African-American hands. Mrs. Delaney was a patient of Dr. David Lane. He agreed to buy it from the heirs on September 30, 1970 (Wake Deeds, Book 1948, page 613).

Dr. Lane continued to make the building available as a venue for important cultural, political and social intercourse among African-Americans. While a student at the Dentistry School at Howard University, Dr. Lane had been a waiter. Upon graduation he had secretly desired owning a restaurant. In the early 1970s the opportunity presented itself. With the removal of office spaces, the first floor was converted into an eating establishment. Dr. Lane and his family opened "The Nineteenth Hole", an after hours meeting place. The Lanes were and remain charter members of the Meadowbrook Country Club - the first black Country Club in Raleigh, created in the 1960s. (Mrs. Irene Lane, interview with author, June 3, 1992.)

After several years, Mr. and Mrs. Lane turned the business over to their younger son, Victor. He had been educated at the School of Dramatic Arts in Durham and encouraged young and old artists and photographers to exhibit their works in "The Artists' Corner". Victor Lane moved to New York City and since then the restaurant space has been leased to various tenants. The current lessee is Mrs. Banks, who has operated "Bank's Fine Foods" since the late 1980s. Upstairs, the elder son of the Lanes, David Jr., provides dental services like his father who retired in the 1980s.

### Bibliography

Lane, Dr. David P. Jr. Interview by author, June 9, 1992, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Lane, Mrs. Irene, Interview by author, June 3, 1992, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Harris, Linda and Mary Ann Lee. Raleigh Architectural Inventory. Raleigh: City of Raleigh Planning Department, 1978.

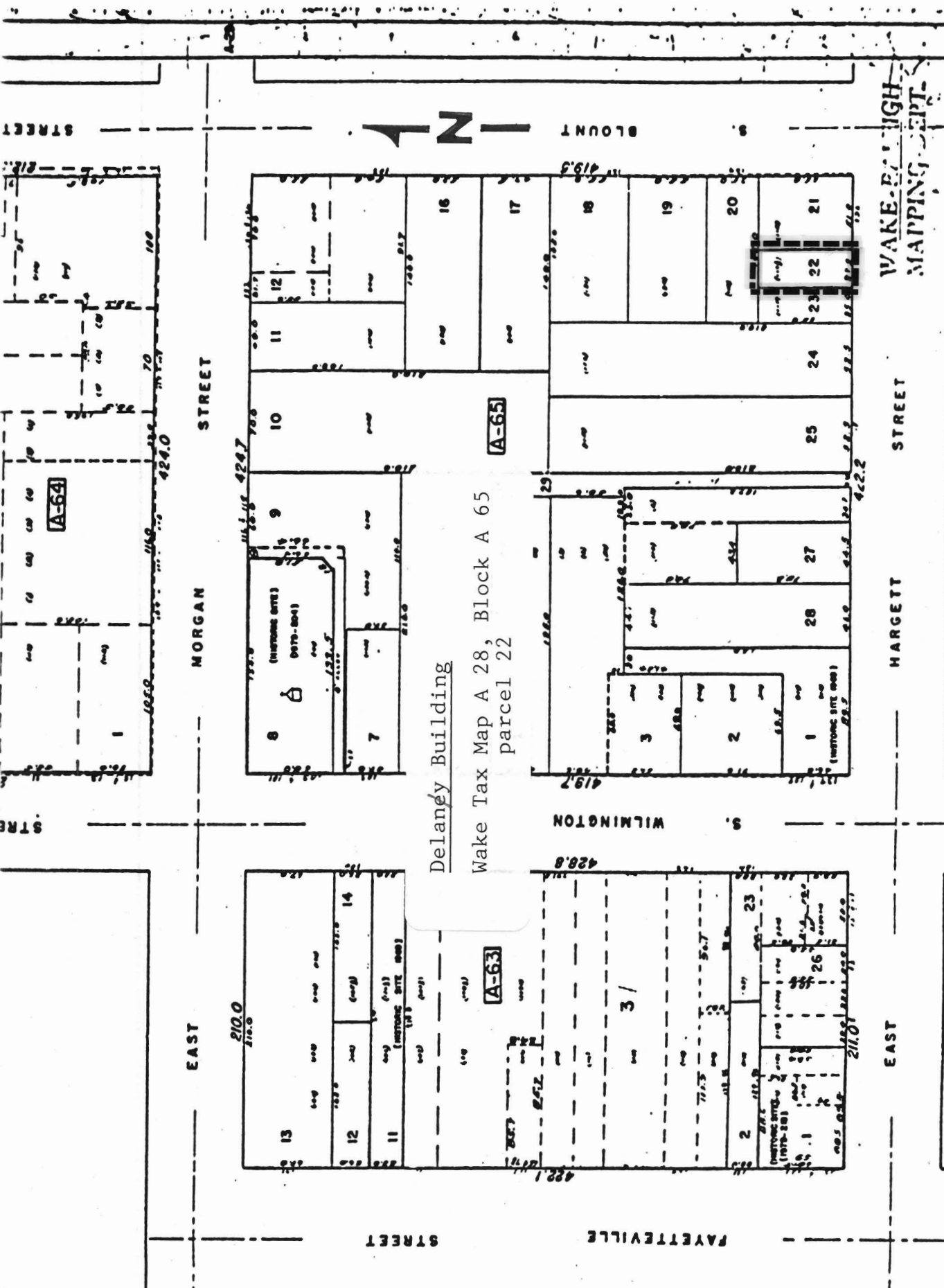
Newspaper clippings. Dr. Lemuel T. Delaney, Vertical file, Richard B. Harrison Library, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wake County Deeds

Wake County Plat Maps

Wake County Tax Records.

Wright, Eliot, Joyce M. Mitchell, Bruce Polk and Terri Myers. East-Raleigh-South Park Historic District National Register of Historic Places. August 1990.



EAST STREET

MORGAN STREET

WILMINGTON STREET

MARGETT STREET

424.0

1000

424.7

1000

424.2

1000

428.8

210.0

210.0

211.0

422.1



Delaney Building

Wake Tax Map A 28, Block A 65  
parcel 22

[A-65]

[A-63]

BLOUNT STREET

WILMINGTON

WAKE COUNTY HIGH  
MAPPING DEPT.

STREET

MARGETT

EAST

ZONE A NO. 28