NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 10024-0018 (Oct. 1990)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Merrimon-Wynne House

other names/site number Merrimon House, Wynne Hall

2. Location

street & number 500 North Blount Street n/a☐ not for publication

city or town Raleigh n/a☐ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date 7/1/2014

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 8-25-14

Merrimon-Wynne House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/Events venue

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
Stick/Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls weatherboard
roof ASPHALT

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)
Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
Ca. 1875 and ca. 1910

Significant Dates
Ca. 1875
Ca. 1910

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Merrimon-Wynne House
Name of Property

Wake County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .45 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	713680	3962820	C			
B				D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia de Miranda and Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consultants, Inc. September 9, 2013
street & number P.O. Box 1399 telephone 919/906-3136
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Heynes Holding Company, LLC (Jodi Heynes)
street & number 300 W. Hargett Street, Unit 426 telephone 919-906-1026
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Description

The 1875 Merrimon-Wynne House at 500 North Blount Street in Raleigh, Wake County, is an imposing two-story Italianate-style frame dwelling with Eastlake-style detailing concentrated at prominent front and side porches. A ca. 1910 remodel notably added bay windows and made other changes at the exterior and interior. The house faces west in the midst of the historically residential North Blount Street, four blocks northeast of the State Capitol. Other houses in the area date from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century; most are also weatherboarded frame dwellings of two to two-and-a-half stories executed in a variety of architectural styles. The Merrimon-Wynne House occupies a flat parcel of nearly half an acre at the corner of North Blount and Polk streets. It has a large lawn on the north side and narrower lawns at its front, back, and south side.

The house originally occupied a two-acre parcel on the east side of nearby North Wilmington Street. At its original location the house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Merrimon House. The house was moved one block east and one half block south to the northeast corner of North Blount and Polk streets in 2008, where it now stands.

The weatherboarded house has a cross-gabled roof and somewhat irregular massing, with open porches at the front and north side, an enclosed porch at the rear, and a single-story, flat roofed modern addition behind the latter. Two interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise through the roof, one at the ridge of the north gable and one at the side slope of the south-facing gable. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The house stands on a new foundation of running bond brick with piers at the front and side porches. Original perforated wood screens span the spaces between piers.

The dwelling's four-bay facade has a projecting, front-gabled, single-bay wing at the left end; the front porch spans the remaining width of the facade. A bay window adorns the first floor of the gabled wing. Most windows throughout the house are tall four-over-four double-hung wood sash, topped with segmental arches. They generally appear singly, but those in the gabled wing and the face of the bay window are paired. There are also slender one-over-one segmental-arched windows in the sides of the bay window. A pair of round-arched single-pane windows in the peak of the gable wall light and ventilate the attic space. The front entrance to the house is in the left-most bay beneath the front porch and features a rectilinear double-leaf door set off by sidelights and a transom.

The south elevation reproduces the facade's pairing of a gabled wing with bay window at the left with three bays to the right, but the gabled section projects only slightly here.

Fenestration is similar to the facade as well, with a window in place of the front entry. The center window of the three-bay section on the first floor differs from the rest; it is round-arched with one-over-one sash. At the second story, a later, small bay (for a cupboard) is tucked into the shallow side wall of the gabled wing where it meets the rest of the facade, and a small, square, four-light window in its east side lights the space within. The south wall of the enclosed back porch and rear addition extends to the east and lacks fenestration.

The north elevation of the two-story main block of the house is also four bays wide and has a full-width hip-roofed porch, but the elevation overall has massing that differs from the facade and south side. One of the main roof's cross gables terminates at the north elevation, and that gabled wall merges with the side of the gabled wing at the facade. Windows are typical and placed symmetrically; they are not quite paired but are grouped in sets of two. A smaller round-arched pair pierces the gable, as elsewhere. To the left of the main block of the north elevation and stepped back into another plane is a one-story, one room rear wing, which is pierced by a single window, typical of those elsewhere on the main block of the house. Stepped back again, but very slightly, is the north side of the single-story rear addition. Two fixed-light windows pierce the west end of that wall.

The back of the house has a two-story gabled wall with just two bays. The paired attic windows appear here, as in all the gables, and the second-story windows are more widely spaced than on other elevations. The enclosed back porch is slightly inset from the corners of the house and extends across both the rear gabled wall and part way along the e4ast wall of the one-story wing to meet the east side wall of the north gabled section. A flat-roofed single-story rear addition is tucked beneath the modillioned eave of the original back porch. The addition has pairs of fixed-light, single-pane wood windows set high in the walls and flanking the inset back doorway. The back entry consists of a pair of full-light wood doors under a transom. The weatherboarded addition lacks eaves and is finished by a simple, plain cornice and plain cornerboards.

At the main block of the house, bold detailing abounds. Deep, modillioned eaves finish the roofline at the main cross-gabled roof and at the shallow hipped roofs of the three porches and two bay windows. Modillions are chamfered with ovolo and fillet moldings and raised panel end blocks. The eaves themselves feature ovolo, scotia, and fillet molding. Boxed gutters with scalloped detailing top the eaves at the non-gabled sides of the main roofline.

The original National Register nomination described the windows and porches well:

> The first and second-story windows are full length, running from baseboard to ceiling....The main block segmental-arched sashes are trimmed with heavy molded cornices, chamfered hood molds, flat paneled spandrels, and projecting keystones with bosses. Their bases are splayed outward in a series of pierced, strongly molded cyma reversa curves. The single round arched window, in the center of the first floor on the south, is similarly trimmed, although the spandrels are filled with tripartite foliate ornamentation. The bay windows are more simply framed, having chamfered unfluted pilasters capped by bulbous bosses. These windows stand on heavily molded, flat paneled bases with projecting plinths decorated with applied Greek crosses. The attic level windows, one pair to each elevation, are small rounded arches set within like-shaped trim.
>
> One of the most charming features of the exterior is the abundant ornamentation of the porches. The main porch...is three bays long and one bay deep. Three freestanding columns and two engaged columns rise from the strongly molded handrail of the pierced balustrade. The columns are chamfered rectangles enlivened by symmetrically placed bosses. Heavily scalloped brackets with large turned pendants span the space between the splayed capitals and the porch ceiling. Between each pair of brackets is a broad semi-circular scalloped drop with a richly carved center sunburst. The north porch, running along the north side, is one bay longer and composed of identical elements.

The rectilinear front entry door is less detailed than the porches and the other fenestration, but it has similar vividly molded panels in the lower part of the door under a glazed opening. It opens into a vestibule with a ceramic-tiled floor leading to identical paired doors flanked by sidelights with transom above. Inside, the house is arranged on a center hall plan with two rooms at each side; the porch enclosure created additional rooms at the back and maintained a center hall arrangement. Just inside the front doorway, an open-string stair rises along the hall's south wall. Turned and reeded balusters support a molded rail that springs from a squared newel that stands on a polygonal base. The stair and railing have a graceful curve at the base and at the approach to the second floor and attic landings. At the top of each flight, the wall to the right also curves to match the turn of the stair. A round-arched niche is in the concave wall near the landing at the second floor.

A complementary curved wall is at the first floor, to the left upon entering the house and just beyond a very wide trabeated Classical Revival archway into the front north room.

Squared, fluted columns stand on paneled bases and support a dentil cornice decorated with egg-and-dart molding. The curve of the wall is concave at the hall and projects into the back north room. Near the center of the wall, a single-leaf door leads into that room. It is typical of the original doors throughout the house: four-paneled and very tall with elongated upper panels. Their loftiness reinforces the verticality seen at the exterior in the elegant window height and elaborate trim. To the right, the curved wall terminates beneath the archway to allow entry into the front north room.

In that room, a chamfered flattened segmental archway opening frames the space in the bay window, which appears to be nearly all glass at the interior, thanks to the full-height windows in all three walls of the bay. In this room, as throughout the original main block of the house, architraves and high baseboards are heavily molded. Crown molding is much simpler, as is a picture rail. The original white marble mantel is missing from this front room, removed sometime before the house was moved. Its hearth remains, finished with white ceramic tiles. To the left of the hearth, a new cased opening with simple molding leads into the back north room. This space retains its marble mantel with center cartouche, all rendered in brown. The wall between the back north room and the one-story rear wing has been recently removed, and a cased opening, detailed as before, marks its former location. Single-leaf doors in the east wall of the one-story wing, and the south wall of the enclosed porch room lead to the addition and the center hall of the enclosed porch space, respectively.

At the south side of the first floor plan, the front room, like that on the north side, has a chamfered flattened segmental archway at the bay window. Its original mantel is intact and features elongated consoles supporting a flat-paneled frieze and end blocks with a framed mirror above. Doors flank the mantel; a double-leafed set on the left leads into the room behind, and a single door on the right does the same. The back room has a fireplace with green-tiled hearth and mantel with a flat-paneled frieze supported by Ionic colonettes. The doors from the front room are set into segmental archways without molding. The single round-arched window in the west wall does not reach the floor and features a flat-paneled spandrel below its sill. Single leaf doors in the east and north walls of the room lead to enclosed porch room and back of the center hall, respectively.

That section of the center hall, behind the stair, includes a round-arched double-leaf doorway, originally the rear door that lead to the back porch. It features arched, glazed openings over panels adorned with bosses. The architrave at the exterior side of the original rear door matches the typical exterior window treatment with a molded cornice, paneled spandrels, and splayed base. Between the rear wall of the hall and the back of the stairs is a chamfered flattened segmental archway subtly dividing the hall into two spaces.

Beyond the round-arched doors is the space of the new addition. It includes a catering staging room and rest rooms in support of the house's new function as an event center. Floors in the hall are oak; bathrooms have ceramic tile and the catering spaces have vinyl composite tiles.

At the second story, detailing generally matches that of the first floor. At the back of the main hall is a smaller hall that leads into a modern bathroom at the east and into the back south room on the south. The two south rooms retain identical original mantels. They are, in the words of the original nomination, "extremely plastic, curvilinear mantel[s]...heavily molded with broken, raised-paneled pilasters and an eclectic sinuous frieze relief." The tiled fireplace at the front north room has a mantel with a simple molded shelf on columns with high plinths. In the back room, the molded shelf stands on fluted columns and has a frieze with swag and a rope trim.

Originally, at both stories, doors to one side of each fireplace provided passage between front and secondary rooms. In some rooms, a door on the other side of the mantel opened into a closet. This arrangement now only survives at the rooms of the second story. The passage between the south rooms is south of the fireplaces and has a door at each room and a small closet in the passage. On the other side of the hearths, a closet serves the back south room. Between the north rooms, a passage without doors is north of the fireplaces while a closet for the back room is to the south.

Alterations

The ca. 1910 remodel included, according to a comparison of Sanborn map footprints, the addition of the bay windows and changes at the back of the house, possibly including enclosure of the back porch and an addition to subsume the "annex" building that stood behind the house. The back door would have been moved at that time from the location of the stairhall archway behind the stair. The bays were carefully detailed, inside and out, to match the original Eastlake-style detailing and proportions of the Italianate style of the dwelling. The front entrance, the Classical Revival trabeated archway just inside the doorway at the center hall, and several mantels are additions as well; whether they were made ca. 1910 or later is not precisely known. They are not, however, significant architectural features of the house as they do not reinforce the original architectural style.

Other changes can be dated to the last quarter of the twentieth century. These include the removal of an ornate, turned newel post with lions' heads on its four flat faces. A second-story gabled bay was removed; it was substantial, resting on the roof of the north porch,

and featured a kingpost truss in the gable, and likely dated to ca. 1910 as well. At some point, a porch on the south elevation was removed and the round-arched window there may have replaced a doorway. Asphalt shingles replaced the original slate roof covering on the entire roof. The white marble mantel from the north front room had been removed as well. The back of the house saw more alterations as well. Just before the 2008 move, rear additions included a small shed-roofed section on the south side of the porch enclosure, a smaller flat-roofed section at the southeast corner, a flat-roofed projection with, notably, one window that matches the typical windows on the main block of the house, and wood access ramps at the northeast end of the enclosed porch rooms.[1]

All rear additions standing at the time of the 1975 designation, along with the ramps, were demolished in conjunction with the 2008 move, although the original rear porch roof with modillioned cornice was retained and still remains. At its North Blount Street location, the house stands on a continuous brick foundation with running bonded brick piers at the porches, matching the dimensions and placement of the original and built in 2008. A major rehabilitation, reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office, updated and repaired the house in 2013. Everything extending beyond the modillioned cornice of the original porch is a 2013 addition; it wraps in an L-shape around the east and north sides of the enclosed back porch. At the interior, the wall between the north back room and enclosed porch room was removed; a cased opening the entire width and height of the wall was installed to indicate the location of the wall. A second wall in that enclosed porch room was removed entirely; the wall was added at an unknown date. A cased opening replaced a closet between the north front and back rooms. The closet opened into the back room and was to the north of the fireplace. A similar closet was removed from the back south room at the first floor, to the south of the fireplace. At the second floor, a wall in the bathroom behind the small hall at the back of the stair hall was removed; its date of installation was also unknown.

Integrity Assessment

The house is architecturally intact, retaining a very high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The rich and robust Italianate-style and Eastlake-style detailing from ca. 1875 and ca. 1910 remains at the interior and exterior with little alteration. The loss and enclosure of some architectural elements are not sufficient to reduce the presentation of either the Italianate style or the Eastlake decoration. The Classical Revival-style elements added to the house ca. 1910 do not overwhelm the original

[1] Photographs documenting the earlier appearance of the house are in the survey file for the house at the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

architectural character, but they do not contribute to the significance of the architectural design. Despite the move, the house also retains integrity of feeling and association. It is still located in its original neighborhood and therefore continues to be one of a number of dwellings built there by wealthy families in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth. The move did compromise the dwelling's integrity of location and somewhat compromised its integrity of setting. The original location was a larger parcel, even after it was subdivided in the early twentieth century, and the house stood on a hill there. The new setting lacks the height and surrounding space of the old. The house does, however, maintain its west-facing orientation and its position on a residential street dating to the late-nineteenth century. The original location is at the edge of the government mall; the street patterns and streetscape have changed dramatically on that block of North Wilmington Street, and the setting had already been compromised to some degree.

Archaeology Assessment

According to Dolores Hall, Archaeologist with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, the present location of the Merrimon-Wynne House on North Blount Street was previously owned by the State of North Carolina and was used as a parking lot. At the time the lot was constructed in the 1970s, extensive grading, earth removal and paving occurred and the original ground surface was severely altered. The general vicinity has recently been subdivided for further development. Based on the level of previous disturbance, staff of the Office of State Archaeology surmised that it is highly unlikely that significant archaeological remains are present at the location of this structure. An on-site visit to the location confirmed the absence of intact stratigraphy.

It is the office's determination that the relocation of the Merrimon-Wynne House to this site on North Blount Street has not adversely affected any archaeological resources that would have been eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and no additional archaeological investigation of the location is warranted.

Summary of Significance

The Merrimon-Wynne House is locally significant under Criterion C as an excellent, intact example of the Italianate residential style with very fine Eastlake detailing, particularly at the porch. It is one of the city's very best examples of both the Italianate style and of Eastlake decoration. The significant dates are ca. 1875, reflecting the initial construction by the Merrimons, and ca. 1910, the approximate date that the Wynnes added stylistically complementary bay windows at the front and south elevations. The property was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 when it stood at 526 North Wilmington Street, its original location. Because the house derives significance from its architectural design and it has been moved to a compatible residential location, it meets Criteria Consideration B for moved properties.

Historical Background

Augustus Merrimon, born in 1830 in Transylvania County, was a lawyer, judge, and Confederate Army officer before he moved to Raleigh in the 1860s. He established a law firm with Samuel Field Phillips and participated in state politics, becoming chairman of the executive committee of the state Conservative Party in 1868. In 1871, Merrimon and Phillips were directly involved in the impeachment trial of Republican Governor W. W. Holden; Merrimon was counsel for the impeachment's board of managers. He ran for political office and served in the U.S. Senate from 1873-1879, during which time he built his Raleigh house. Merrimon won appointment to the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1883 and from 1889 acted as the Chief Justice. He remained in that office until his 1892 death.[2]

Merrimon and his wife, Margaret Jane Baird Merrimon, purchased a two-acre parcel at the northeast corner of Wilmington and Polk streets in 1874 from Merrimon's law partner Samuel Phillips. The 1872 bird's eye map of Raleigh published by C. Drie shows the parcel, which extended eastward to a mid-block alley or street and northward about three-quarters of the distance up to Peace Street. Fronting the mid-block street is a collection of one- and two-story buildings. Samuel Phillips had been appointed solicitor-general of the United States in 1872 and moved to Washington. The 1870 census, which showed Samuel

[2] John Baxton Flowers and Mary Alice Hinson, "Merrimon House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1975, viewed online July 3, 2013 at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0031.pdf; "Augustus Summerfield Merrimon," in the Biographies of Western North Carolina Leaders in the Western North Carolina Heritage Collaborative Database, viewed online July 3, 2013 at http://toto.lib.unca.edu/WNC_biography/merrimon_augustus_summerfield.htm; Maud L. Merrimon, *A Memoir* (N.p, n.d), 70; Robert Delmar Miller, "Samuel Field Phillips: The Odyssey of a Southern Dissenter," North Carolina Historical Review 58 (1981): 263-280.

Phillips and his family living in Raleigh's East Ward census tract, listed the value of his real estate at $2,000 and the value of his personal estate at $3,000. In 1874, the Merrimons paid $6,000 for the parcel and buildings.[3]

An item in the October 9, 1875, edition of the Raleigh *Daily Sentinel* notes "work has begun on Senator Merrimon's fine residence." City directories from 1875 and 1881 list the family at "Wilmington nr Peace" and on "Wilmington between Polk and Peace." The parcel was eventually assigned the address 526 North Wilmington Street.[4]

In 1899, Margaret Merrimon and the executors of her husband's will sold the house to Louisa "Lula" Brookshire Page, wife of Allison Francis Page of Cary. Page died around 1900 and Lula Page remarried J. Stanley Wynne. Lula Wynne remodeled the house between 1909 and 1914; a comparison of Sanborn maps makes those changes evident.[5]

The earliest image of the house that has been identified is the footprint that appears in Raleigh's 1903 Sanborn map. That shows the front and north porches intact, the single-story rear section, an additional small porch filling the narrow ell at the east corner of the south elevation, and a two-story or second-story bay at the west end of the north elevation that was shallower than the porch there. The house lacks the bay windows seen today at the west and south elevations. Also visible in the 1903 map is a single-story, freestanding "annex" immediately behind the house. The footprint in the 1909 Sanborn is unchanged, but the 1914 map shows a rear addition with an irregular plan overlapping the location of the annex. The latter was likely incorporated into this rear addition, as the northeast corner of the addition appears to be in the same location as the north and east elevations of the annex. It had either been removed or shifted south by 2008, based on photographs of

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[3] Samuel F. Phillips and wife to Margaret J. Merrimon, August 5, 1874, Wake County Deed Book 38, page 531, viewed July 18, 2013, at http://services.wakegov.com/booksweb/genextsearch.aspx; C. Drie, *Raleigh 1872 Bird's Eye View*. Viewed July 14, 2013 at http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/11233/Raleigh+1872+Bird%27s+Eye+View/; Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004; J. H. Chataigne, *Chataigne's Raleigh City Directory 1875-1876* (N.p,, [1875]), 92, viewed online July 8, 2013, at http://library.digitalnc.org/cdm/ref/collection/dirwake/id/14816; and Charles Emerson & Co, *Raleigh Directory 1880-1881* (Raleigh: Edwards, Broughton, and Company, 1881) 118, viewed online July 8, 2013 at http://library.digitalnc.org/cdm/ref/collection/dirwake/id/11686.

[4] *Daily Sentinel* quoted in an addendum to the 1975 National Register of Historic Places Nomination form for the Merrimon House. The addendum page is in the survey file for the property at the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

[5] Margaret J. Merrimon, Lee S. Overman, and B. H. Merrimon to Mrs. Lula B. Page, 23 February 1899, Wake County Deed Book 153, Page 217, viewed online July 8, 2013 at http://services.wakegov.com/booksweb/PDFView.aspx?DocID=108079051&RecordDate=04/01/1899.

the older rear additions before they were demolished in that year. At the west end of the north side of the house, the two-story or second-story bay remains, but it has been expanded to the full depth of the porch. The shallow, single-story bay windows that survive at the facade and south elevations had been added by 1914, and the side porch on the south elevation had been replaced by a narrow, single-story room extending to the new bay at the west end of the elevation.[6]

The Wynnes deeded their house to nearby Peace Institute in April 1919. Peace Institute, a girls' school that evolved into Peace College and, very recently, the coeducational William Peace University, used the dwelling as a dormitory and later as the residence of the school's president. It was known during this period as Lula B. Wynne Hall or simply Wynne Hall. In the 1970s, the State of North Carolina purchased the house and used it for offices. In 2008, a state government-selected development company acquired the property as part of redevelopment of the North Blount Street area. The company moved the house to Blount Street in 2008. Current owner Heynes Holding Company, LLC, purchased the property in 2013 and rehabilitated the dwelling. The adaptive use project has put the dwelling into use an events venue.[7]

Architectural Context

Amid the momentous changes to life and society in North Carolina after the Civil War came a significant shift in architectural style. Across the state, the post-war years brought the successful reintroduction of modes only rarely seen before, as well as an increase in applied ornament. Copious variations of the latter were presented in popular planbooks, which in the early years after the war focused on three residential styles: the Second Empire, the Gothic Revival, and the Italianate. The influx of country residents into cities in post-war North Carolina included the wealthy, and they built new dwellings in town and in the latest fashions. The Italianate style, very popular across the country, appeared in Raleigh in the 1870s and 1880s. Eastlake-style ornament was applied to a number of Raleigh's Victorian-era dwellings of various architectural styles in the same period.[8]

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[6] Raleigh Sanborn Maps viewed July 14, 2013, at http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/sanborn.html.
[7] Flowers and Hinson; LNR Blount Street LLC to Heynes Holding Company LLC, June 17, 2013, Wake County Deed Book 15320, Page 331, viewed July 3, 2013 online at http://services.wakegov.com/Booksweb/GenExtSearch.aspx.
[8] Catherine Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture,* portable edition, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 326-327: David Black, "North Blount Street Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination (unsubmitted), 1977, viewed July 22, 2013, at http://www.rhdc.org/sites/default/files/Blount St NRHD.pdf.

Characteristics of the Italianate style include an overall verticality expressed chiefly in tall windows, upright massing, and detailing that reinforces the long line. Roofs are generally low-pitched with broad eaves adorned with brackets or modillions. Molded window hoods and architraves highlight fenestration often elongated by segmental- or round-arched tops. Single-story Italianate dwellings are rare, as two- and three-story houses better present the typical lofty Italianate stature. Italianate-style buildings sometimes feature a boxy cupola or slender squared tower to further increase height.[9]

Wealthy Raleighites of this period built northwest of the State Capitol along North Blount Street and on surrounding blocks, where some fine antebellum houses already stood. To the east, the new suburban—and more modest—neighborhood of Oakwood began to develop. Residents built Italianate-style houses in both areas beginning in the 1870s, but with a difference. The Oakwood examples tend to be middle-class dwellings inspired by planbook designs with Italianate features like bracketed eaves, segmental-arched windows, and modest window hoods. The finer houses of the Blount Street area are higher-style examples of a number of architectural modes. A surviving Italianate example on North Blount Street is the Andrews-Duncan House, more comparable to the Merrimon-Wynne House than are the simpler versions in the Oakwood neighborhood.[10]

Alexander B. Andrews built his fine Italianate-style house at 407 North Blount Street in 1874. It features two-and-a-half stories beneath a cross-gabled roof with deep, bracketed eaves. Segmental-arched windows occur singly, flanking paired sets of round-arched windows. Molded hoods highlight the fenestration, which includes an elaborate doorway with round-arched transom. The front porch is centered on three of the facade's five bays and features pairs and trios of chamfered posts with elaborately carved bases and caps. A heavy turned balustrade edges the porch. Two corbelled chimneys have fine brickwork, featuring recessed, round-arched panels that restate the style's verticality. Known today as the Andrews-Duncan House (NR 1972), it was designed by architect G.S.H. Appleget, recently relocated from New Jersey.[11]

Appleget also drew plans for the 1874 Italianate-style Estey Hall (NR 1973) at Shaw University on S. Blount Street. Estey Hall, while not a single-family dwelling, shares some details with the Andrews-Duncan House, including the cross-gabled roof and segmental-

[9] Virginia and Lee McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses,* reprint (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 211.
[10] Survey and Planning Unit, "Oakwood Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1974, viewed July 20, 2013, at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0062.pdf.
[11] Survey and Planning Unit, "Andrews-Duncan House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1971, viewed July 21, 2013 at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0003.pdf.

arched windows accented by surrounds. Estey Hall stands a commanding four-and-a-half stories tall; corner quoins and a cupola reinforce the verticality of the brick building.[12]

The Merrimon-Wynne House compares very favorably to these two Italianate-style buildings. It is a high-style example that looks more formal than the Andrews-Duncan House, thanks to modillions rather than brackets at the deep eaves, the very heavily molded architraves at the lovely segmental-arched windows, and the segmental arched bay windows adorned with bosses on the exterior and chamfered archways at the interior. Irregular massing adds to the liveliness of the overall composition. Also notable are the front and side porches, detailed identically with brackets, pendants, scallops, bosses, and sunbursts among the decoration. In addition to the fine Italianate feature of the house, this rich porch ornamentation at the Merrimon-Wynne House distinguishes it as among the city's best examples of Eastlake-style detailing.

Charles Locke Eastlake, a British architect, published a book in London in 1868 called *Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery, and Other Details.* The book was popular in England and a U.S. reprint came out in 1872, where it was likewise a hit. Eastlake's aesthetic favored the Gothic style, and his book on furniture and interiors influenced architectural embellishment in the United States from the mid-1870s through the 1890s. The style brought details drawn from furniture design into architectural treatment. A hand-tooled look characterized Eastlake-style detailing, although in many cases it would have been machine-made. Columns, posts, and piers were shaped with chamfered corners or turned profiles and adorned with bold, curvaceous forms like knobs and bosses. Decorative incisions enliven the flat surfaces, and heavy molding surrounds windows. Dramatic compositions of spindlework porch friezes are also associated with Eastlake design. It is most closely associated with both Queen Anne and Stick styles in domestic architecture, but it does also appear in conjunction with other Victorian-era modes, as seen in Raleigh [13]

Eastlake detailing is seen on porches along North Blount Street and in Oakwood on both high-style and vernacular dwellings of several Victorian-era styles. The detailing could be applied liberally or with rather more restraint. The Queen Anne-style Executive Mansion at Burke Square, bordered on the west by North Blount Street, has a number of Eastlake-style porches and balconies that exhibit intricately turned porch columns with blocky profiles grouped in pairs and trios with spindlework friezes. The mansion was designed in 1883 but

[12] Survey and Planning Unit, "Estey Hall," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1973, viewed July 20, 2013, at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0014.pdf.
[13] *Grove Encyclopedia of American Art,* s.v. "Eastlake Style;" Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to American Architecture* (New York: The New American Library, 1980), 62-64, 195; Marcus Whiffen and Fredrick Koeper, *American Architecture, 1607-1976* Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1981), 299-300.

construction went on until 1891. The ca. 1882 Hawkins-Hartness House (NR 1971) at 310 North Blount Street has a finely detailed Eastlake-style porch. Its rich decoration is a foil for the stark angularity of the house, whereas the proliferation of ornament at the Merrimon-Wynne House is in keeping with the elaborately outlined windows, eave modillions, and scalloped cornice. The Strong-Stronach House at 411 North Bloodworth Street in Oakwood, built ca. 1871 by Thomas Briggs, is a modestly detailed Italianate-style house with paneled chimneys, a bay window, and a bracketed cross-gabled roof. Its Eastlake-style porch is likewise plainer than that of the Merrimon-Wynne house, featuring widely spaced chamfered posts with decorative caps, carved panels at the balustrade, and a plain porch fascia. The Hoke-Broughton House at 426 North Person Street in Oakwood, also built around 1871, was a rare example of Gothic Revival domestic architecture in Raleigh, before the twentieth-century addition of stone veneer obscured its original appearance. The Hoke-Broughton house also once had an Eastlake-style porch, but it has been removed. Eastlake-style porches with chamfered posts and bosses survive at 503 and 511 E. Jones Street, two of the three Second Empire speculative houses built by Andrew Heck in Oakwood between 1871 and 1875. Around 1881, Caro and Robert Gray had a Stick Style house built at 530 North Blount Street. It features Eastlake-style chamfered porch posts and brackets, but it is a lesser example of the style. This variety, though, shows that the detailing was quite popular in Raleigh at the time.[14]

The combination of the fine execution of both the Italianate-style house and the Eastlake porch detailing sets the Merrimon-House apart from most of these examples. Only the porches on the Executive Mansion are as richly detailed as the Merrimon-Wynne House, but the execution of the Eastlake detailing takes a different approach, focusing on spindlework as opposed to bold ornament. Alterations to the Merrimon-Wynne have not detracted from its architectural integrity: the ca. 1910 bay windows are significant, as they reinforce the original architectural style with both Italianate and Eastlake details. The Classical Revival changes to the front entrance and at the interior, meanwhile, do not overwhelm the significant Italianate style of the house or the Eastlake detailing of the porches.

[14] Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2003), 118. Survey and Planning Unit, "Hawkins-Hartness House," National Register Nomination, 1971, viewed July 22, 2013 at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0017.pdf; 1974 "Oakwood Historic District" Nomination; Ruth Little Stokes, "The Heck Houses," National Register Nomination, 1973, viewed July 18, 2014, at http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0021.pdf; Black, 7.3.

Criteria Consideration B

Relocating the house did compromise its integrity of location. Other aspects of integrity, however, remain intact thanks to the retention of original architectural elements and through thoughtful planning of the move and rehabilitation. The dwelling has seen little loss of original detailing, materials, or configuration outside of its two significant dates. The foundation is a reconstruction of the original, using new materials. In preparation for the move, the rather muddled rear addition and access ramps were removed from the house. Additionally, the 2013 rehabilitation has rescued the house from a state of deferred maintenance and underuse. Relocation had been considered as early as 1973 in order to make way for anticipated development as the neighborhood shifted from residential to office.[15] Today, the house retains a very high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

In the move to North Blount Street, the Merrimon-Wynne House has been placed to reproduce its original setting as much as possible. The house again faces west on a historically residential street and is just one and a half blocks from its original location. The setbacks are rather different in the new location, however, and the house is now much closer to the street. Originally, it stood on a two-acre parcel, on a hill overlooking the land around it. Today, the Merrimon-Wynne House occupies a flatter, smaller parcel. There is a large north lawn that buffers the north-facing porch from its neighbor. Although the house was originally surrounded by open space, as early as 1903 construction of closely-spaced neighboring houses hemmed it in. Those houses also stood nearer to the street than did the Merrimon Wynne house in it original location, matching setbacks seen at the current site. The extent of that early-twentieth-century residential development in the area and the recent re-development of portions of the surrounding area made it impossible to find another parcel in the neighborhood that would better replicate the original setting. Still, the new location and setting evokes that early-twentieth-century period of residential development in Raleigh that produced substantial and finely detailed houses in a number of architectural styles in the North Blount Street area. Keeping the house in its original neighborhood helped retain much of its integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

[15] (Raleigh) *News and Observer,* February 11, 1973.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the Merrimon – Wynne House encompasses the entire legal parcel at 500 North Blount Street and the long-vacant parcel immediately to its north in Raleigh, Wake County. The tax parcel identification numbers are 1704810330 and 1704810431, respectively.

Boundary Justification

In order to create a compatible and appropriate residential setting for the Merrimon-Wynne House in its new location, the boundary encompasses both the parcel to which the house was moved in 2008 and a long- vacant parcel immediately to the north which the current owners purchased and incorporated into the landscaped yard. The combined parcels allow for more space for a north side yard, where the secondary porch on the house's north side remains.

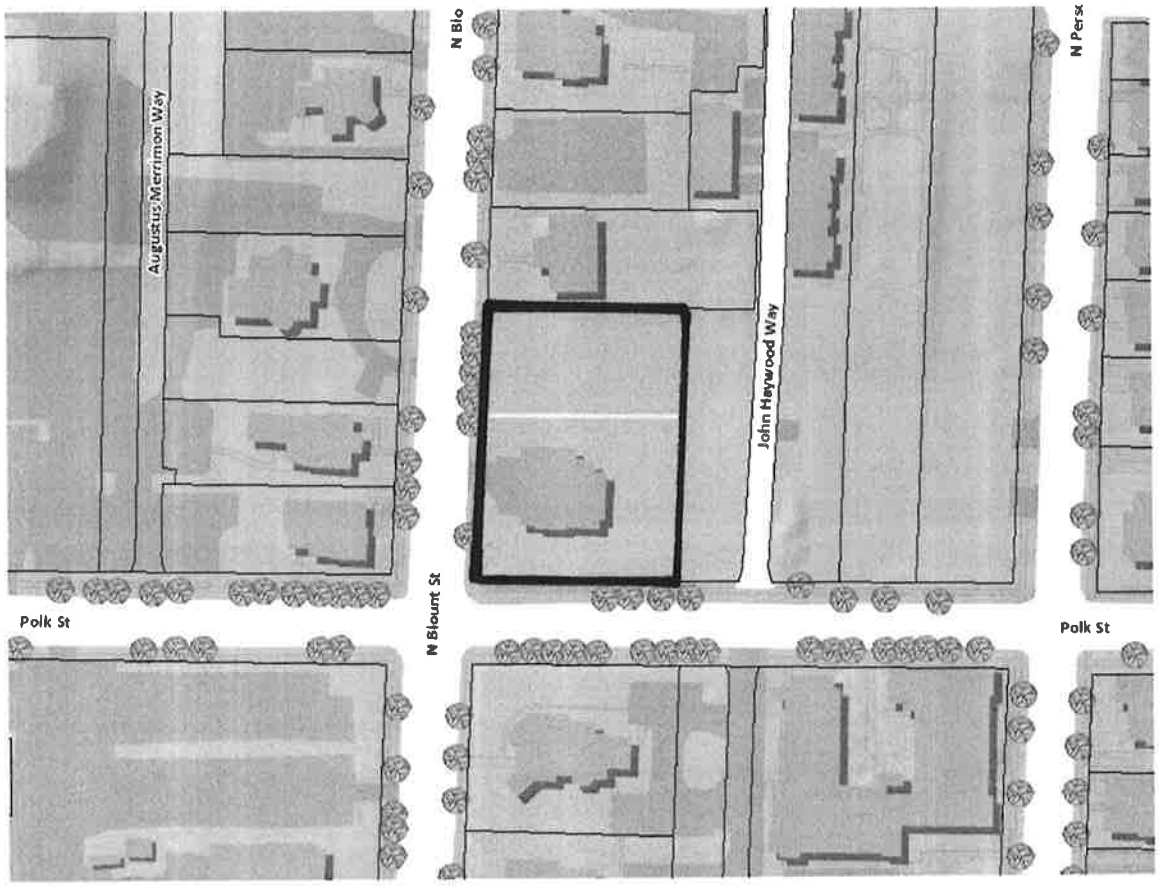
Photographs

All photographs are of the Merrimon–Wynne House, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. All original digital images are located at the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

All photographs were taken by Clearscapes Architecture + Art, 311-200 West Martin Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, March 2014.

See photo key on floor plans and site plan

1. Exterior, façade, looking east
2. Exterior, south elevation, looking northwest
3. Exterior, rear view, looking west
4. Exterior, north elevation, looking southeast
5. Interior, stairhall, looking southeast
6. Interior, stairhall, entrance foyer, and north front room, looking northwest
7. Interior, south front room, first floor, looking southeast
8. Interior, south back room, first floor, looking southwest
9. Interior, north rooms, first floor, looking northwest
10. Interior, south front room, second floor, looking southeast
11. Interior, south back room, second floor, looking northwest



Merrimon-Wynne House

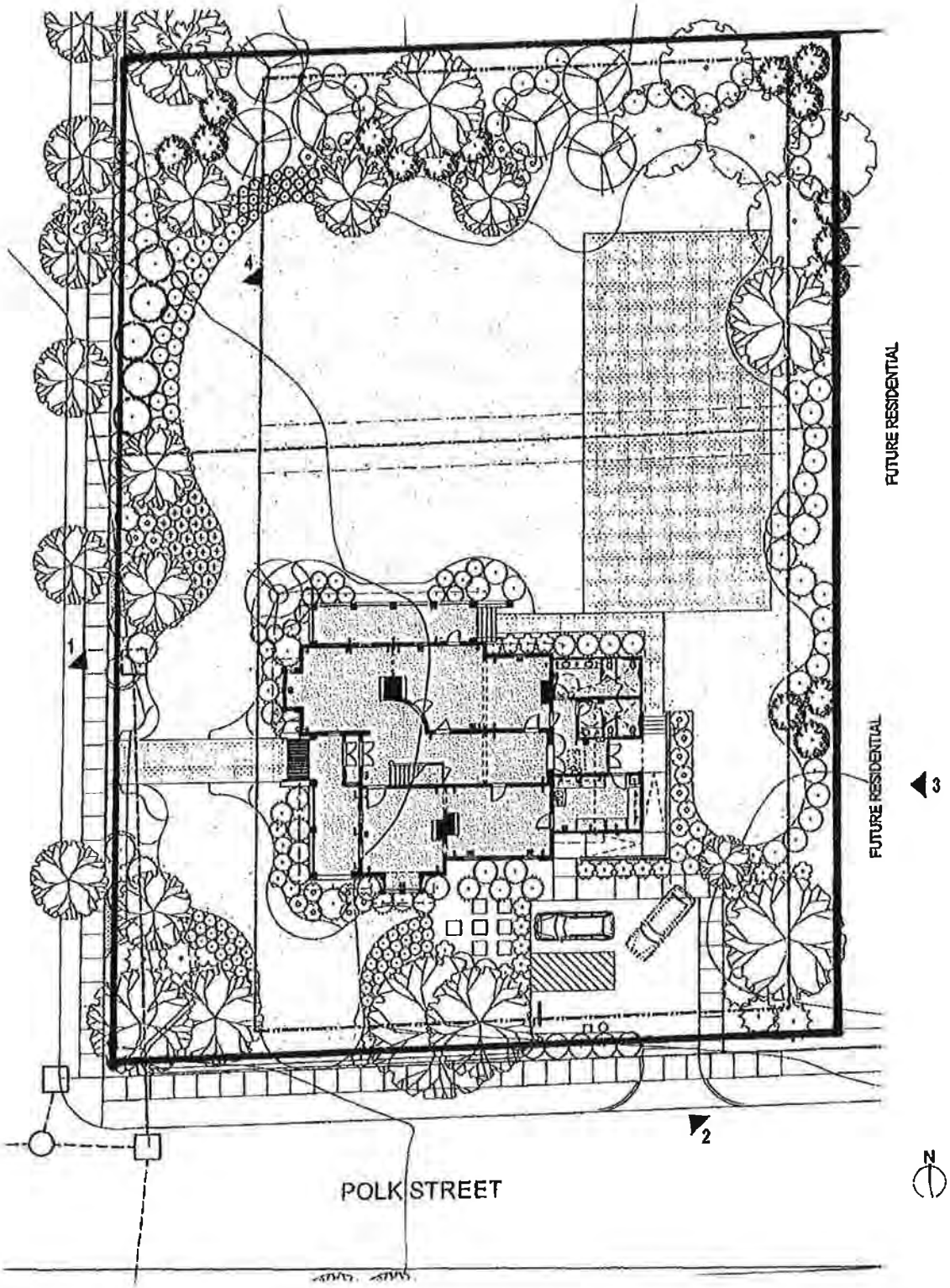
500 N. Blount Street, Raleigh, Wake County, NC

PINs for outlined parcels:
1704810431 (upper parcel) and 1704810330 (lower parcel)

National Register Boundary Map N↑

Note: National Register boundary includes both parcels and is outlined in a heavy black line.

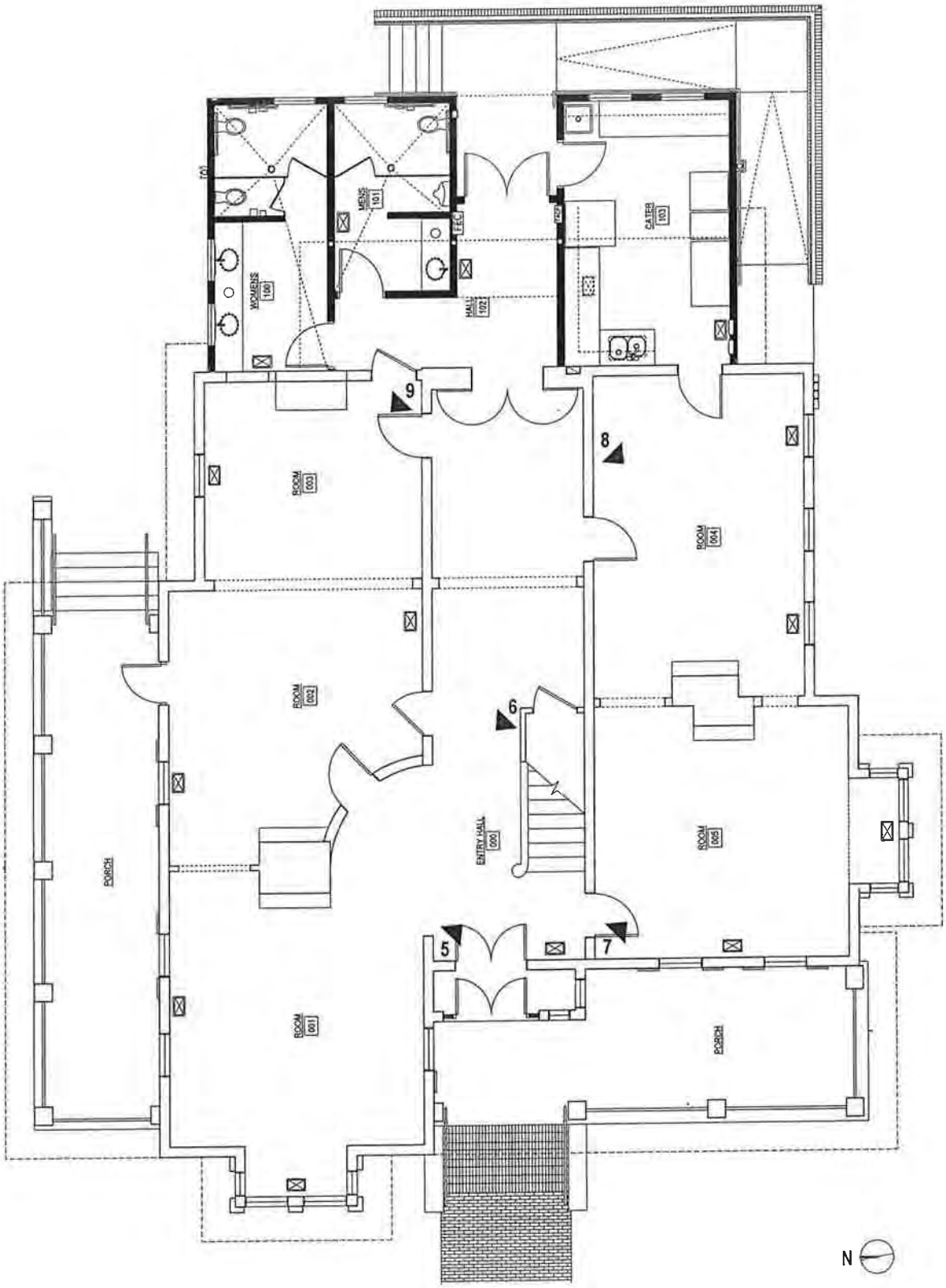
Merrimon-Wynne House - Site Plan
500 North Blount Street, Raleigh, NC 27604
Scale: 1" = 30'-0"



Site Plan and Photo Key

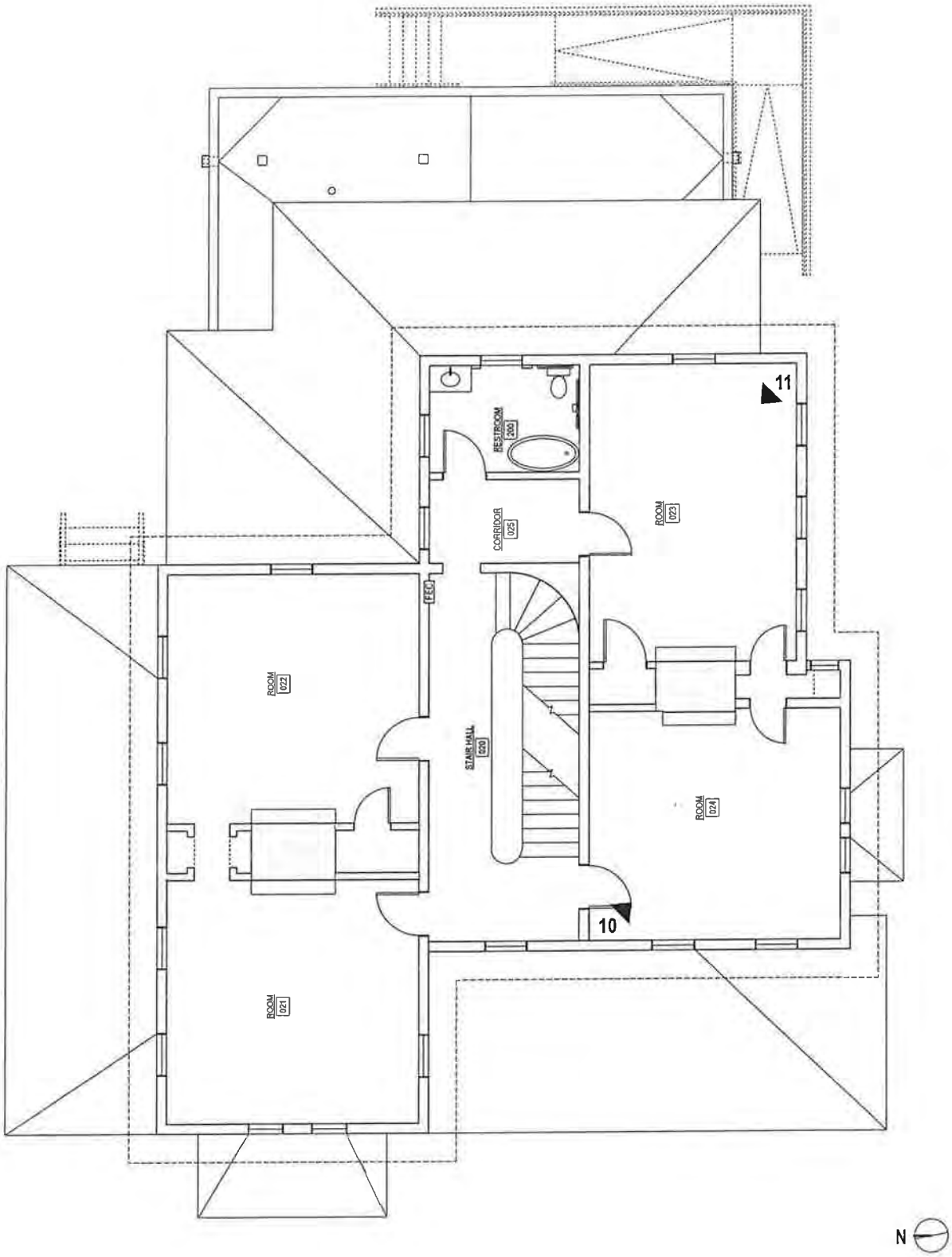
— National Register Boundary

Merrimon-Wynne House - Floor Plan
500 North Blount Street, Raleigh, NC 27604
Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0" Wake County, N.C.



First Floor Plan and Photo Key

Merrimon-Wynne House - Floor Plan
500 North Blount Street, Raleigh, NC 27604
Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0" Wake County, N.C.



Second Floor Plan and Photo Key

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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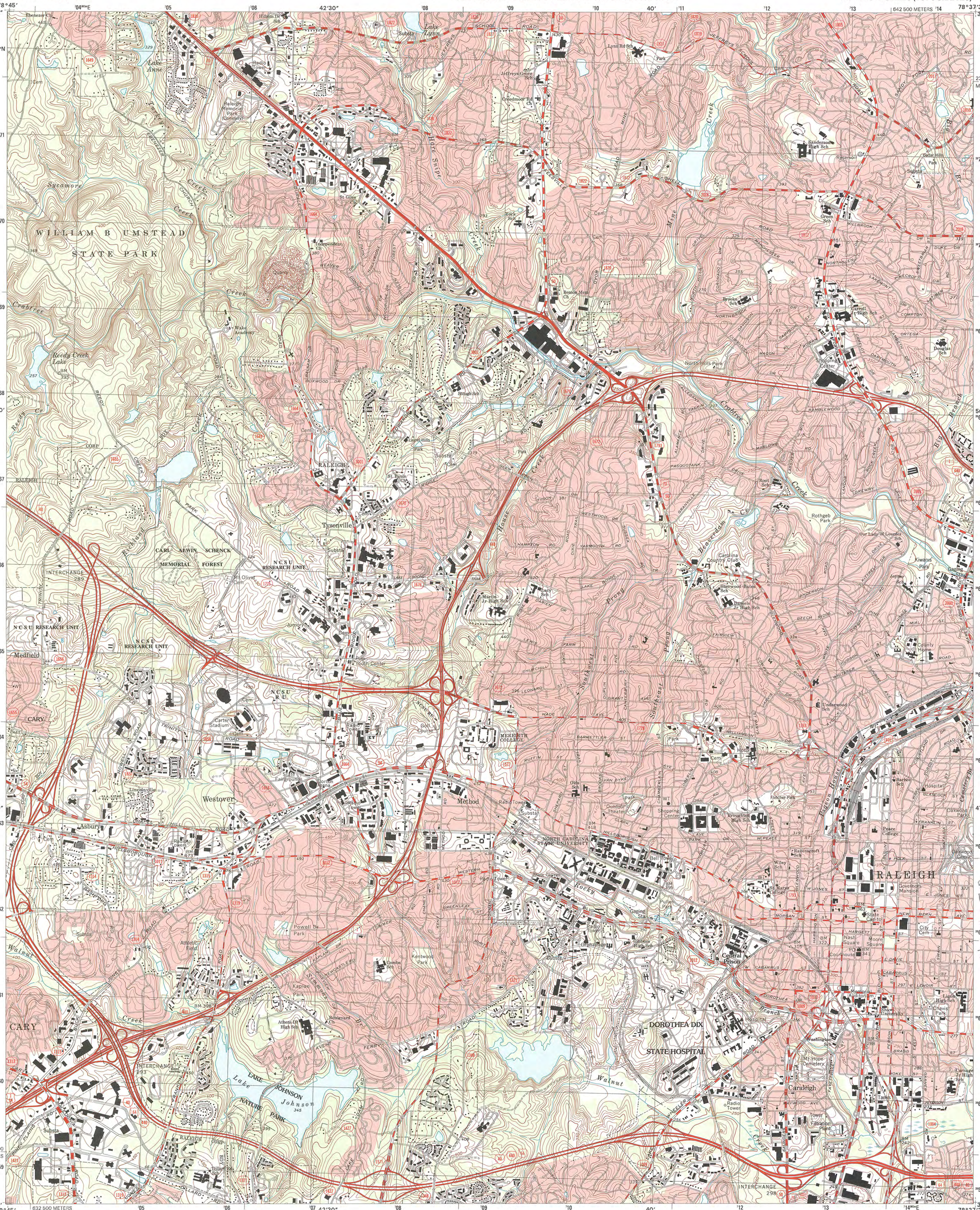
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Merriman-Wynne House
500 N. Blount St
Raleigh, Wake Co
Z:17
E: 713 680
N: 3962820
Raleigh West Quad

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 2002. Survey Control curent as of 1968
Boundaries current as of 2003

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 17S
2 500-meter ticks: North Carolina Coordinate System of 1983

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Houses of Worship, Schools, and Other Labeled Buildings verified 1968

MN GN
8½° 151 MILS
1° 21′ 24 MILS
UTM GRID AND 2004 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

U.S. National Grid
100,000-m Square ID
QV
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SCALE 1:24 000

KILOMETERS
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FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, SUBTRACT 1 FOOT)
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

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NC
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Southeast Durham
2 Bayleaf
3 Wake Forest
4 Cary
5 Raleigh East
6 Apex
7 Lake Wheeler
8 Garner

ADJOINING 7.5′ QUADRANGLES

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 2004

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface
Secondary highway hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

RALEIGH WEST, NC
2002

NIMA 5255 I SW - SERIES V 842

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EXIT

EXIT