



NHL Executive Summary



Photo Credit: *Raleigh News and Observer*, 2021

Name of Property: Josephus Daniels House (Wakestone) (Masonic Temple of Raleigh) NHL (withdrawal of designation)

City, State: Raleigh, NC

Period of Significance: 1920-1948

NHL Criteria: 2

NHL Theme: Political and Military Affairs after 1914

Previous Recognition: Designated a National Historic Landmark on December 8, 1976

National Historic Context: Military, Communications, Politics and Government

NHL Significance:

- The Georgian Revival mansion located in Raleigh, North Carolina, also known as Wakestone, was the home of Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy during President Woodrow Wilson's administration. Construction on the house began in 1920 and Daniels lived in the home until his death in 1948. Daniels



served in his post in the Navy from 1913–1921, which included a number of significant changes in naval policies such as education for illiterate or poorly educated sailors, opening the Naval Academy to enlisted men, and reforming the naval prison system. He was also owner and editor of the *Raleigh News and Observer* for more than 50 years. After his death, the Masonic Order acquired Wakestone and it served as the Order's Temple.

Integrity:

- After the house fell into disrepair, the Masonic Order of Raleigh sold it to Beacon Street Development. The Josephus Daniels House was demolished in July 2021 and has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].

Owner of Property:

Beacon Street Development Project (Jim Wiley, President)

Acreeage of Property: Approximately 3 acres

Origins of Nomination:

The NHL Program in Interior Region 2 (legacy NPS Southeast Regional Office) was made aware of the Masonic Order of Raleigh's desire to have the local historic designation withdrawn to allow it to be sold in 2010. Decrease in Masonic membership and activities had led to the building falling into disrepair. After local designation was withdrawn, the sale of the property commenced.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

By withdrawing the NHL designation of this property which no longer meets the criteria for designation, the NPS will be demonstrating its willingness to maintain the integrity of the list of properties of exceptional national significance in the nation's history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of November 30, 2023): None.

Landmarks Committee Comments: None.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the withdrawal of the National Historic Landmark designation for the Josephus Daniels House in Raleigh, North Carolina, because the property has lost its historical integrity and the qualities which originally led it to be designated as an NHL.

Advisory Board Recommendation: