

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Burke	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Magnolia Place

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Junction of I-40 and U.S. 64

CITY OR TOWN:  
Morganton (Tenth Congressional District, The Hon. James Broyhill)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Burke	CODE 023
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Harry Lee Wilson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
c/o Lazarus

CITY OR TOWN: Morganton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Burke County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Union Street

CITY OR TOWN: Morganton	STATE North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:                     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Magnolia Place is a large, imposing brick mansion of unusual configuration resulting from the innovative fashion in which the popular temple form was employed to unite an earlier Federal house with a Greek Revival enlargement. The Federal block, facing east, is a two-story structure of brick laid in Flemish bond, resting on a low foundation of stone. It is five bays wide and two deep and probably had a gable roof running parallel to the facade. An exterior chimney rises at each end. Originally all the openings of the main facade were surmounted by flat stone arches, but the central entrance and some of the windows have been bricked up, probably at about the time of the Greek Revival addition. The early windows contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and six-over-nine at the second.

The Greek Revival section, also of brick laid primarily in Flemish bond, is one bay deep and extends two large bays west from the rear of the first house. Its completion more than doubled the size of the building and changed its orientation from east-west to north-south. Both sections are covered by a common gable roof, its ridge running east-west. The angle between the old and new sections is filled by a long full-height porch on the north (now front) side of the newer section, which is engaged under the roof. This treatment makes a rectangular temple form out of what would otherwise be an L-shaped composition. Supporting the roof over the porch are three very large, fluted unacademic Doric columns. Heavy masonry pilasters, painted white, define the corners of both sections of the structure and separate the bays of the Greek Revival section, repeating the scale and rhythm of the porch columns. They support a wide, plain frieze and molded cornice that carries beneath the pediments of east and west ends. The tympana are brick in common bond. The rather deep overhang of the roof is accented by a simple, inverted wave-pattern sawn bargeboard that continues along the sides as well. The openings of the Greek Revival section have symmetrically molded frames with corner blocks; windows contain twelve-over-twelve sash, with striking diminution of fenestration. The large double doors with transoms and sidelights occur in both bays on the north side, serving the porch; a smaller but similarly treated entrance in the northeast bay of the older section also opens on to the porch. The second-level windows above these doorways are triple ones. A brick kitchen is connected to the south side of the Federal block by a breezeway.

The first floor of the Federal portion retains some of its simple three-part molded architraves but has no original mantels. Each second-floor room has an interesting three-part Federal mantel with fluted pilasters and sunbursts on the center tablet and end blocks. The two first-floor rooms of the Greek Revival portion (one a dining room and the other a parlor) have handsome, Asher Benjamin-style mantels, each with a fluted architrave with corner blocks, behind fluted pilasters supporting a plain frieze. A graceful Federal stair, possibly moved from the older portion of the house, rises over the parlor mantel from north to south, giving the curious arrangement of having a working fireplace beneath the stair. (A central chimney serves this block of the house.) Throughout the Greek Revival section are symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Place is an impressive Greek Revival temple form house incorporating in unusual fashion an earlier Federal structure. It is one of an important group of antebellum mansions in the Catawba River valley and is of particular local historical significance because of its connection with the notable Avery and Walton families.

For forty years before the Civil War, there flourished along the Catawba River valley a plantation society of wealth, culture, and political connections remarkable in western North Carolina. This group produced a number of impressive late Federal and Greek Revival houses, one of which is Magnolia Place.

John Henry Stevelie, builder of the older portion of Magnolia Place, was born in 1747 in Switzerland. About 1818 he moved to a plantation near Morganton which he had purchased from Daniel Morgan and built a brick house, now the eastern section of the building. Stevelie, a merchant, served as a state senator from 1804 to 1806 and died in 1821.

Clarke Moulton Avery, builder of the impressive Greek Revival section of Magnolia Place, was the second child born to Isaac Thomas Avery, master of Swan Ponds, another major Burke County plantation. Clark graduated from the state university in 1839 and returned home to become a planter. In 1841 he married Elizabeth Tilghman Walton, daughter of Thomas George Walton, master of Creekside, the most ambitious plantation house in the county. In 1847 Walton sold his son-in-law 915 acres which included Stevelie's brick house. (No deed record of Walton's obtaining the property survived the 1865 burning of courthouse records; local tradition has it that financial reverses caused Stevelie to lose his plantation.) Avery and his wife soon enlarged the house to more than twice its original size and named it "Magnolia Place" because of the trees in the yard, most of them now gone. Although he took an active part in local politics, Avery did not seek public office; however, he adopted a secessionist stand as the Civil War drew near and was elected a delegate to a secession convention to be held on February 28, 1861. That convention failed to receive enough support to convene.

On April 17, 1861, the companies of the first regiment of North Carolina troops volunteered and by May 16, had been formed into a regiment at Raleigh. Company G, the Burke Rifles, was one of the ten companies of this regiment

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and Avery was made its commander. This company participated in Big Bethel, the first real battle of the Civil War. Avery was commissioned colonel early in 1862 and was captured at New Bern the same year. He was exchanged and returned to active duty in the late fall of 1862. General Dorsey Pender is reported to have remarked of Avery's service: "If all the Colonels were Averys, our army would indeed be invincible." Avery was wounded at Gettysburg (where his brother Isaac E. Avery died), and was later mortally wounded on May 6, 1864, and died six weeks later. In Clark's History of the North Carolina Regiments, Avery is referred to as ". . . a brave and faithful officer, a true friend, and the knightliest of men."

Magnolia Place was bought from Elizabeth, Avery's widow, by their daughter, Martha Phifer, in 1873, and it remained in her family until the twentieth century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.  
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen.  
 Burke County Records, Burke County Courthouse, Morganton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Burke County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	43'	08"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		81°	39'	18"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9.9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 6 February 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title State Historian/Administrator

Date 6 February 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Phifer, Edward W. "Saga of a Burke County Family" (parts I, II, and III),  
The North Carolina Historical Review, vol. XXXX, no. 3 (July, 1962).

