

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Latham - Baker House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 412 Fisher Park Circle not for publication

city, town Greensboro vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name B P Properties, a North Carolina general partnership

street & number c/o Brown Investment Properties, Inc. 440 West Market Street

city, town Greensboro vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Guilford County Courthouse

street & number #2 Governmental Center

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of
title Historic Architecture, Greensboro, NC has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch, N.C. Division of Archives & History

city, town Raleigh state NC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Latham-Baker house is situated on a hillside at 412 Fisher Park Circle, and overlooks the northwestern section of Fisher Park. The park itself is the focal point of one of the first planned suburban residential developments in the city of Greensboro,¹ and the neighborhood is currently being considered for designation as a locally zoned historic district.

The house was built and first occupied by Greensboro cotton broker J. E. Latham, his wife Maude Moore Latham, and their two children, May Gordon and James Edwin, Jr. in about 1913.² The house commands a spectacular view of Fisher Park, and occupies 1.9 acres, composed of five original tracts which were consolidated by J. E. Latham.³

The two-story structure is a regional adaptation of the Prairie School style of architecture developed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis B. Sullivan at the turn of the century. The low-pitched hip roof and the broad, projecting eaves suggest an oriental influence, and the house has a green terra cotta tile roof.

The horizontal lines of the house are established by the main entry, with leaded, beveled glass side lights and transom opening onto a single story tiled terrace. This horizontal appearance is further emphasized by a smooth granite belt course between the first and second stories, and by the use of linear granite sills and elongated granite window boxes.

The twenty room house, with full attic (with greenhouse), and basement, varies somewhat from the typical Prairie style house. The random-coursed rock-faced granite exterior complements the horizontal nature of the house, and is a departure from the more commonly used materials of frame, stucco, or brick. Other notable exceptions to pure Prairie style architecture are the dormers, and the use of double-hung windows instead of the casement type. The large-paned type window is used throughout the house and adds light and lightness to the massive structure.

The architect for the Latham-Baker house was Wells L. Brewer,⁴ who had established his architectural firm in Greensboro in 1900. He had the oldest architectural practice in the city when he designed the house. Wells L. Brewer was a native of Rochester, New York, and began his study of architecture in 1878. He was a member of the North Carolina Architectural Association and was associated in business with his son, R. W. Brewer.⁵

Andrew Leopold Schlosser was the stonemason for the construction of the Latham-Baker house. Mr. Schlosser came to Greensboro c. 1900 from Germany. His first major work was Emmanuel Lutheran College. Other works by Schlosser extant today are found at 912 North Elm Street, 900 North Eugene Street, 510 Prescott Street, 602 West Friendly Avenue, and 206 Bessemer Avenue. His masonry work was considered to be of the highest quality, and his services were sought-after by architects and builders throughout the state.⁶

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The house when built incorporated all the latest amenities, including central heating and forced air ventilation.⁷ The Rowe and Roach Company, Inc. furnished granite from a quarry at Mt. Airy, Surry County, for the \$40,000.00 home,⁸ and Austin Smith & Son, Contractors in Marble and Tile, most probably furnished the elegant work found in the numerous baths, kitchen, and solarium.⁹

The Lathams added a large bedroom and bath on the extreme south end of the structure c. 1916; there is a porte cochere running under this addition. It appears that the solid walnut panelled library and the two-story stairwell were also added at this time. Since the additions were made within two or three years after the family took up residence there, the property will herein be considered a single entity.¹⁰

The lines of the Latham-Baker house form an elongated ell. The original structure was basically square and no obvious changes were made when the south wing was added c. 1916. The main entrance to the house is from the tiled terrace on the eastern aspect of the house, facing Fisher Park.

A large entrance foyer is flanked by parlors to the north and south. Sidelights and the transom of the main entry are of beveled leaded glass in a stylized fleur-de-lis motif. The transom motif is repeated in the east windows of both parlors, and all three rooms have parquet floors. The entrance foyer has simple molded panels and the parlor walls are plaster. The north parlor has a white veined marble fireplace; its mantel is ornamented with a range of dentils and supported by scroll-shaped brackets. In the south parlor the fireplace is dark ruby colored marble and its mantel features a band of triangular carved trim.

The dining room adjoins the north parlor and the entrance foyer on their west sides. One notable feature of the dining room is the ceiling molding, a torus of pressed wood with a pattern of stylized scrolls and acanthus leaves surmounting a range of deeply incised beading. The kitchen and pantry are located to the west of the dining room.

Access to the upstairs is by means of an enclosed staircase between the foyer and dining room, or by a two story stairwell hall at the center of the ell.

This two story stairwell contains a walkaround balcony at the second level, supported by bracketed, squared columns that support architraves with full entablature, and the columns continue to the second level ceiling, where they end in a slightly deeper architrave with full entablature, scroll shaped modillions and cornices. The capitals are on a basic design of volutes and acanthus leaves. The stair and balcony balusters are tapered and delicately turned.

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To the northwest of the stairwell is the kitchen, which joins directly to the dining room. A solarium serves as a rear entrance to the house (western aspect) and adjoins the stairwell. The solarium once contained a pool for a small pet alligator.¹¹

The elegant solid walnut panelled library is located to the south of the stairwell. It has a parquet floor, as do many of the downstairs rooms, and a veined marble fireplace and hearth, of a type also found throughout the house. The walnut panelling has fluted pilasters with stars on the entablature. The south wing is terminated by the porte cochere on the main level. The existing main level contains 4,783 square feet (interior).

The second level revolves around the two-story stairway hall. A large dressing room is situated above the main entrance hall, and is flanked by two bedrooms, one above each parlor, each with a fireplace and a large windowbox.

The south bedroom has a black veined marble fireplace; its mantel has a decorative convex band and is supported by simple corbels. The north bedroom has a white veined marble fireplace ornamented with a range of geometric piercings and a fluted panel.

A third bedroom to the west is joined by additional bedrooms in the western wing. There is a lovely neoclassical skylight in the upstairs hall. Its tracery forms geometric swags and ovoid shapes. To the south of the stairway hall, above the library, is another bedroom, presumably added when the house was enlarged.

The bedroom above the porte cochere appears to be the sunniest room of the house and is perhaps the largest bedroom. It includes a green veined marble fireplace with a classic shell and floral motif on the mantel on the western wall directly above the gauged (segmental) arch, and has a bay window on the south wall. The bay, also of granite, projects from the second level and is supported by brackets below, which are also of granite. Each bedroom has a private bath with an arched recessed area for the bathtub. The heat outlets are concealed within the tile designs as ornate piercings. The second level contains 4,707 square feet (interior).

The carriage house, or three-car garage, is located southwest of the main house. It is constructed of granite, in the random-coursed rock-faced style of the house. It too has a smooth granite belt course between the first and second stories. There are three dormers and two chimneys in the carriage house, and the roof was originally of the same green terra cotta tile as the main house.

The second floor of the carriage house was used as servants' quarters and the interior is finished in the mode typical of modest Fisher Park houses of the period.

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The Latham-Baker house is situated on the crest of a gently sloping hill overlooking Fisher Park. The property has a frontage of 286 feet, affording a magnificent panorama of the park area. A low retaining wall in the same rock-faced, random-coursed granite style as the house runs along the entire front property line with openings for two sidewalk entrances and the driveway.

The Latham-Baker property is landscaped with a variety of trees and shrubs, including a fifty-two inch (diameter) willow oak by the driveway; a fifty-six inch willow oak on the south boundary; three other willow oaks of somewhat smaller dimensions; two deodar cedars (thirty inches and twenty-six inches); a twenty inch chinese pistache; a fourteen inch blue spruce; a thirty inch pin oak; two sycamores (of twenty inches and thirty inches) and numerous small ornamentals including dogwoods, redbud, crabapple, holly, and firs (including a thirty inch fir).

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Footnotes

1. James W. Albright, Greensboro 1808-1904: Facts, Figures, Traditions and Reminiscences (Greensboro: Joseph J. Stone & Co., 1904).

2. The Greensboro City Directory of 1915-1916 (Richmond: Hill Directory Company, 1916), lists the J. E. Latham address as 225 Park Place (now 412 Fisher Park Circle). The 1913-1914 City Directory shows their residence as 102 North Park Drive. It seems then that they took up residence in the house at 412 Fisher Park Circle after data was gathered for the 1913-1914 Directory. This could have been as early as 1912.

3. See the following deeds recorded in the Register of Deeds for Guilford County, North Carolina in Greensboro: Deed Book 200, Page 671 (1908); Deed Book 208, Page 644 (1909); Deed Book 210, Page 260 (1909); Deed Book 214, Page 291 (1909); Deed Book 252, Page 650, (1913).

4. Interview, 8 May 1982 with Mary Louise Donnell Deal, 1201 Country Club Drive, Greensboro, North Carolina. (Mrs. Deal's family lived on Simpson Street, adjoining the Latham property and she and May Gordon Latham Kellenberger were lifelong friends.); Interview (telephone), with James G. W. MacLamroc, 1981, also yielded Wells L. Brewer's name; Interview 9 May 1982 with Ruth Smith produced the information that May Gordon Kellenberger told her that Frank Lloyd Wright drew up the plans for the house. (Ruth Smith is a cousin of May Gordon Latham Kellenberger, and principle heir of her estate).

5. C. E. Weaver, compiler, Sketches of Greensboro, North Carolina, U. S. A. (Richmond: Central Publishing, 1917), p. 52.

6. Interview with Mrs. Susie Schlosser (telephone), 8 May 1982. (Mrs. Schlosser is daughter-in-law of Andrew Leopold Schlosser); Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal; Interview with James G. W. MacLamroc.

7. Interview with Ruth Smith.

8. C. E. Weaver, compiler, Sketches of Greensboro, North Carolina, U. S. A. p. 48.

9. Ibid, p. 46.

10. See photos labelled A and B; The fact that there was an addition is confirmed by interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal, and interview with Ruth Smith.

11. Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Unknown **Builder/Architect** Wells L. Brewer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Beautifully sited on a hillside overlooking Fisher Park, the focal point of Greensboro's first suburban development, the Latham-Baker house (1913) is a very rare example of a residential design in the Prairie idiom inspired by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. The Latham-Baker house is the only specimen of the style identified by a city-wide inventory of historic architecture conducted in 1976. The design of the house displays a pronounced horizontal emphasis, typical of the Prairie style, which is accentuated by the broad projecting eaves, the smooth granite belt course between the first and second floors, the granite window sills, and the elongated granite window boxes. The striking use of rough-cut, random-coursed granite for the walls, and of green tile for the roof, further distinguish this important residence. In contrast to the exterior of the house which was conspicuously modern at the time of its construction, the interior displays notable colonial revival detailing, including a lavishly embellished stairwell. The house was erected by James Edwin Latham (1866 - 1946), a Greensboro cotton broker who was prominent in the city's business and civic life, as well as in its physical development, throughout most of the early twentieth century. Latham's wife, Maude Moore Latham, and her daughter, May Gordon Latham Kellenberger, played pivotal roles in the reconstruction of Tryon's Palace at New Bern, the colonial capital and governor's residence originally completed in 1770. In addition to their key roles in this important endeavor, both Mrs. Latham and her daughter were active in virtually every major historical group in North Carolina. In 1932 the Latham house was purchased by Robert W. Baker. Baker's Blue Bell Company was the largest company in the United States manufacturing overalls exclusively for the wholesale trade.

Criteria Assessment:

A. The Latham-Baker house is associated with the early twentieth century growth of Greensboro, which increased its population nearly fivefold between 1900 and 1930. It is specifically associated with the development of Fisher Park, Greensboro's first and most prestigious early twentieth century suburb.

B. The Latham-Baker house is associated with James Edwin Latham, a Greensboro cotton broker prominent in a broad spectrum of civic and business activities in Greensboro; Maude Moore Latham and her daughter May Gordon Latham Kellenberger, both of whom played important roles in the reconstruction of Tryon's Palace at New Bern; and R. W. Baker, the president of the Blue Bell Company, the largest manufacturer of overalls for the wholesale trade in the United States.

C. The Latham-Baker House is a very rare example of a residential design in the Prairie idiom inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. It is the only specimen of the style found by an inventory of Greensboro's historic architecture conducted in 1976.

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In 1900 Greensboro was among the largest and fastest growing communities in North Carolina, but with a population of just over 10,000 it remained essentially a small town centered around the Southern Railway depot. The town was composed of a central business and adjoining residential areas, all of them within walking distance of the town's center. The new century, however, ushered in a thirty-year period of expansion in which Greensboro grew to become a city of regional importance; by 1930 it had attained a population of 53,000.¹

Greensboro had just begun this thirty-year ascent to regional prominence when James Edwin Latham (1866 - 1946) selected the community to make his home in 1904. Latham established J. E. Latham and Company, one of the most prominent cotton firms in the world. He was a member of the New York Cotton Exchange from 1903 until his death in 1946,² and an Associate Member of the Liverpool Cotton Association. His other business interests included a thriving real estate development company, and the Greensboro Warehouse and Storage Company. Latham was much interested in progressive farming methods, and was chairman of the Agriculture Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce; he was also a member of the Merchants and Manufacturers Club, and of Rotary.³ Latham was also responsible for the construction of the King Cotton Hotel and Greensboro's first Union Bus Station. He served on boards of directors of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, Dixie Fire Insurance Company, and the Pomona Manufacturing Company. He helped organize the firm of Southern Webbing Mills.⁴

Suburban development proceeded in tandem with Greensboro's impressive population growth during the 1900-1930 period. The first and most prestigious of Greensboro's suburban neighborhoods of this era was Fisher Park. At the turn of the century the area consisted of heavily wooded, low-lying terrain which had been annexed to the city in 1891 but had experienced little development.⁵

Captain B. J. Fisher, a Scottish immigrant who settled in Greensboro, had seen potential of this land for suburban growth and during the 1890s had purchased a large portion of the area.⁶ Fisher graded streets, laid out lots, and in 1901 donated 14 acres of land to the city along North Elm Street for use as Greensboro's first public park.⁷ Fisher donated the land for the park, which consisted of the banks of a small stream, provided the city would construct a road around the park.⁸ He envisioned a neighborhood centered around this park, and laid out large building lots overlooking the open space.

By 1910 Fisher Park had become Greensboro's latest fashionable neighborhood, attracting affluent families from older victorian neighborhoods such as the South Greensboro community along South Asheboro Street. Part of Fisher Park's attraction lay in the new domestic architecture displayed in the neighborhood. Houses were being built in the contemporary colonial revival and bungalow idioms which sharply contrasted with the victorian styles prevalent in residential districts closer to downtown.⁹

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It was entirely appropriate that when James Edwin Latham decided to erect a new home in 1913, he chose a large lot at the heart of Greensboro's most stylish neighborhood. Latham's choice of Fisher Park for his residence was also fitting because of the role he played in the neighborhood's development. Latham was responsible for subdividing and developing West Bessemer Avenue and Virginia Street, located in the northern part of Fisher Park. Latham's son, James Edwin Latham, Jr., is said to have planted the magnolia trees along West Bessemer that continue to grace the street and make it one of Greensboro's most pleasant residential thoroughfares.¹⁰

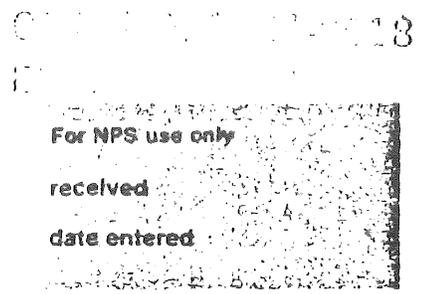
James Edwin Latham, Sr.'s contributions to Greensboro's public life were not confined to the city's commerce and suburban development. Latham was a member of the original board of directors for the Camp and Playground Association,¹¹ and he donated to the city much of the vast park land which today bears his name.¹² His extensive involvement in civic affairs also included his serving as chairman of the board of Sternberger Children's hospital, president and director of the Chamber of Commerce, director of the Community Chest, and director of the Stonewall Jackson Training School, the state's juvenile corrections facility located near Charlotte.¹³

Latham was a 32nd degree Mason and was instrumental in the erection of the Masonic and Eastern Star home. In 1892 he married Maude Moore of New Bern, and they had two children: James Edwin, Jr., who died of influenza in 1918 while in the army; and May Gordon, who married John A. Kellenberger in 1921.

For all his civic involvement, Latham was perhaps overshadowed by the ladies of his household, for it is through his wife, Maude, and his daughter May Gordon Latham Kellenberger that the Latham-Kellenberger names have become synonymous with philanthropic endeavors throughout the state, and most especially with the cause of historic preservation.

Maude Moore Latham is often cited as a driving impetus and financial cornerstone for the reconstruction of Tryon's Palace in New Bern. In 1945 she helped to persuade the state legislature to purchase the necessary land for the restoration. At the time of her death on April 8, 1951, she had contributed more than \$382,000.00 in trust funds and antiques to the restoration. By the terms of her will, more than \$1,250,000.00 was bequeathed to the Tryon Palace Commission to assure the complete restoration.

In addition to her tireless efforts on behalf of the Tryon Palace restoration, she was active in the Greensboro Woman's Club, the State Art Society, the Y. W. C. A., Euterpe Club, Wednesday Study Club, and the Dogwood Garden Club. She was particularly interested in historic organizations and was an active member of the Guilford Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the State Society of American Colonists, Daughters of Colonial



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Wars, United States Daughters of 1812, and the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims.¹⁴ Though her significance was perhaps more state than local, area residents recall vividly a dynamic, assertive woman who tackled projects with head-on vigor, and saw each project through to its successful completion.¹⁵ She was especially active with the city's planning and zoning commission, and generously endowed the Masonic and Eastern Star Home, as well as the Presbyterian Home for the Aged.¹⁶ She and her husband, James Edwin were both active members of the First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro located within a few hundred feet of the Latham-Baker house.

James Edwin Latham, Jr. was interested in nutrition, natural foods, and the out-of-doors. It was he who planted the magnolia trees which today line West Bessemer Avenue. Though he died during the influenza epidemic of 1918 while in the armed forces in Kentucky, the magnificent magnolia trees stand as a fitting memorial.¹⁷

Perhaps the culmination of the best of both of her parents was May Gordon Latham (Kellenberger). A diminutive woman who was not five feet tall, she nevertheless had a relentless perseverance about her that soon yielded results in any task which she took to heart.

Photographs taken when she was a student at Converse College (c. 1913) reveal a close group of friends, engaging in the usual college antics. The photographic record continued through Europe during the summer of 1914,¹⁸ when travel was abruptly ended by the outbreak of World War I. May Gordon Latham and her travel companions carefully negotiated their safe return home, where she soon became involved in the war effort.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918 she and John A. "Kel" Kellenberger, who later became her husband (c. 1921), organized a sort of "soup kitchen" and personally supplied nourishing meals to countless Greensboro and Guilford County residents who were stricken. After their marriage, May Gordon and John Kellenberger shared the house at 412 Fisher Park Circle with her parents. In 1931 they moved to their country home in Guilford County and it became their principle residence.¹⁹

May Gordon Latham Kellenberger also served as Executive Secretary of the American Red Cross Home Service Office. It was she who first received the news of her only brother's death and had the task of relaying that tragedy to her parents.²⁰

The Converse College Bulletin described her achievements and awards as follows:

"For forty years Mrs. Kellenberger has been identified with every movement of historical significance throughout the state of North

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Carolina, and has put efforts and funds into supporting many community causes--museums, civic beautification, educational and cultural projects, and charitable agencies and programs. . . . National honors accorded her include: the Louise duPont Crowninshield Award of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, for superlative achievement in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings significant in American history; a certificate of appreciation from the American Association for State and Local History for imaginative leadership; a certificate of appreciation from the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution; the Judge's Award from the American Association of Nurserymen; and the Fine Arts Award from Altrusa International. The State of North Carolina has honored her with commendations for her work on the Restoration (Tryon Palace), an award of appreciation from the Tryon Palace Commission, a Certificate of appreciation from the North Carolina Art Society, a citation and honorary membership from the North Carolina Beautiful, the Distinguished Citizen Award from the State of North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina Award and Medallion for Public Service. She received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award from Converse College, and is in Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

Mrs. Kellenberger is a member of numerous historical and heritage organizations, including the Daughters of the American Colonists, Daughters of Colonial Wars, Daughters of the XVII Century, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of 1812, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She is a member of countless state and local historical societies and cultural organizations, a charter member of the National Trust of Historic Preservation, and a member of the British and Scottish national trusts. She has served with the North Carolina Crippled Children's Commission. . . .

When May (Gordon Latham) Kellenberger was awarded a degree of Humane Letters from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, her contributions to her state and country were appropriately described: 'With deed devotion, unceasing labor and discerning encouragement whenever a thing of beauty was to be created or wherever a work of usefulness needed doing.'"²¹

In 1932 the Latham house was purchased by Robert W. Baker from J. E. and Maude Latham. In 1926 Baker's company, the Big Ben Manufacturing Company, purchased C. C. Hudson's Blue Bell Company (formerly known as the Hudson Overall Company). The resulting company was the largest single company in the United States manufacturing overalls exclusively for wholesale trade. Baker

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served as president of Blue Bell until December, 1936, when he was elected chairman of the board of directors and treasurer. He was elected honorary chairman of the board in 1948. Baker was a member of the Greensboro Whist Club, the Greensboro Country Club, the Merchants and Manufacturers Club and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.²² He died July 7, 1956.

Baker's wife, Penelope, occupied the property until 1980. In 1974 Mrs. Baker had transferred the property to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and had retained a life estate for herself. Upon her death in 1980 the property passed exclusively to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.²³

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Footnotes

1. Greensboro Department of Planning and Community Development, "Architectural and Historic Resources of the Fisher Park Neighborhood" (unpublished report, May, 1982), p. 4.
2. C. E. Weaver, compiler, Sketches of Greensboro, North Carolina, U. S. A. (Richmond: Central Publishing, 1917), p. 52.
3. Greensboro Record, April 16, 1946, "J. E. Latham, Prominent Business Leader, Dies After Lengthy Illness."
4. Greensboro Record, April 16, 1946.
5. Greensboro Department of Planning and Community Development, "Fisher Park Neighborhood," p. 2.
6. Greensboro Department of Planning and Community Development, "Fisher Park Neighborhood," p. 3.
7. Greensboro Department of Planning and Community Development, "Fisher Park Neighborhood," p. 3., and Ray Manieri, "From City Beautiful to City Useful: The Development of Civic Improvement Activities in Greensboro, North Carolina, 1900-1923" (unpublished paper, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, April, 1982), p. 2.
8. Manieri, "City Beautiful," p. 3.
9. Greensboro Department of Planning and Community Development, "Fisher Park Neighborhood," p. 4.
10. Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal, Greensboro, North Carolina, May 8, 1982. Mrs. Deal's family lived on Simpson Street in Fisher Park adjoining the Latham property. She and May Gordon Latham Kellenberger, the daughter of James Edwin Latham, were lifelong friends.
11. Ethel Stephens Arnett, Greensboro: The County Seat of Guilford. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955), p. 367.
12. Blackwell P. Robinson and Alexander R. Stoesen, History of Guilford County, North Carolina, USA, p. 193.
13. Greensboro Record, April 16, 1946.,

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14. Greensboro Daily News, 8 April 1951, "Mrs. J. E. Latham Dies Here at 79."
15. Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal.
16. Greensboro Daily News, 8 April 1951, "Mrs. J. E. . . ."
17. Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal.
18. Interview with Ruth Smith.
19. Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal.
20. Interview with Ruth Smith.
21. Margaret C. Thomas, editor, Converse College Bulletin (Spartenburg: Converse College, Summer 1976), vol. 87, number 4, pp. 4-5.
22. Greensboro Daily News, 8 July 1956, "R. W. Baker of Blue Bell Dies at 71"
23. Interview with John Kernodle, president of Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Albright, James W.. Greensboro 1808-1904: Facts, Figures, Traditions and Reminiscences. Greensboro: Joseph J. Stone & Co., 1904.
- Arnett, Ethel Stephens, Greensboro, North Carolina: The County Seat of Guilford. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.9

Quadrangle name Greensboro, N. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

1	7	6	0	8	8	0	0	3	9	9	3	5	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property includes the house, carriage house, and the 1.9 acre lot on which the house stands. See attached plat map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice Moore (Greensboro) consultant to the owners

organization freelance historical researcher

date May 28, 1982

street & number 721-B Church Street

telephone (919) 274-2727

city or town Greensboro, NC

state 27401

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

William J. King

date August 30, 1982

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

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Greensboro Record, 16 April 1946, "J. E. Latham, Prominent Business Leader, Dies After Lengthy Illness."

Greensboro Daily News, 8 April 1951. "Mrs. J. E. Latham Dies Here at 79."

Greensboro Daily News, 8 July 1956. "R. W. Baker of Blue Bell Dies at 71".

Interview with Mary Louise Donnell Deal (Mrs. Robert). 8 May 1982, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Interview with John Kernodle. Greensboro, North Carolina, 1981.

Interview (telephone) with James G. W. MacLamroc. 1981. Greensboro, North Carolina.

Interview (telephone) with Susie Schlosser (Mrs. Ignatius Valentine). 8 May 1982. Greensboro, North Carolina.

Interview with Ruth Smith (Mrs. G. Winston). 9 May 1982. Greensboro, North Carolina.

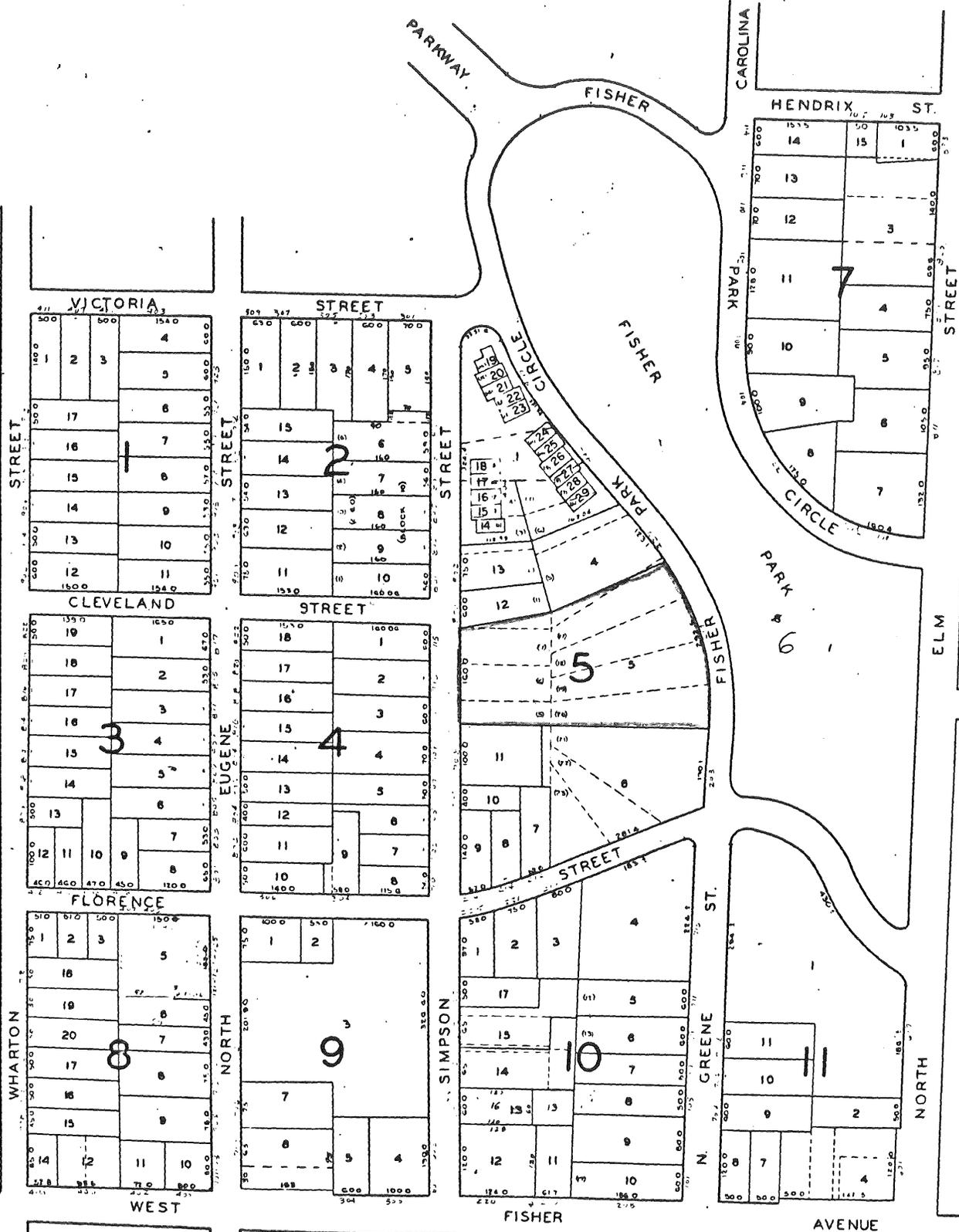
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14000.00

SHEET NO. 23

11000.00



SHEET NO. 22

SHEET NO. 13

REVISIONS

GUILFORD COUNTY TAX MAPS
GREENSBORO, N.C.

SHEET NO. 43

SHEET NO. 24

