

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Norburn Terrace
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
216 Lafayette Street
CITY, TOWN
Raleigh
STATE
North Carolina
VICINITY OF
Fourth
CODE
037
COUNTY
Wake
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth
CODE
183

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Elizabeth Lassiter
STREET & NUMBER
308 Mulberry
CITY, TOWN
Raleigh
STATE
North Carolina
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Wake County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Fayetteville Street Mall
CITY, TOWN
Raleigh,
STATE
North Carolina 27601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Raleigh Inventory
DATE
1978
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
City of Raleigh Planning Department
CITY, TOWN
Raleigh,
STATE
North Carolina 27602
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

Norburn Terrace is an imposing, towered brick house, surrounded by 1.3 acres of terrace land and overgrown plantings. It is a basically conservative T-shaped dwelling given a bolder more ambitious character by a dominant tower and elaborate porch.

Located upon a knoll, the two story, three bay house presents a symmetrical composition and was originally designed to face the main traffic artery, then known as Louisburg Road. The T-shaped house is built entirely of handmade brick, laid in five to one common bond. It sat originally upon brick piers with latticed brick infill. An unusual red chalky coating can still be found on the bricks' surface, and probably was an original and early cosmetic treatment designed to imitate the more expensive pressed brick.

The conservative form of the house is enlivened by an octagonal tower that rises as a central pavilion on the main facade entrance and culminates in a wooden, octagonal stage with steeply peaked roof. The tower is clad in imbricated shingles and weatherboard, and is lit by round-arched windows above the broached base. The spire roof is adorned with louvered gablets.

Most typically Victorian is the decorative porch composed of a spindle frieze and turned balusters, which has two tiers at the entrance and one story across the front and north side. The south section of the front porch has been enclosed. A bay window extends from the gable end. The entire composition is capped by a complex gabled and hipped roof with pedimented dormers, and crowned by a balustrade. Two brick interior chimneys with corbelled caps penetrate this roof. Modillions underline the eaves and raking cornices, and a corbel table appears directly beneath the eaveline.

The fenestration found on Norburn Terrace is varied. Although most windows are typically two over two sash located within segmentally-arched surrounds, the first story also contains a number of one over one Queen Anne type windows consisting of one large light, surrounded by small colored lights, which are particularly beautiful when viewed from the interior.

A rear kitchen wing is attached to the eastern end of the building. This simple gabled brick building was originally connected by a breezeway to the main house. This practice of separating kitchen and house was very common in the South. Originally, cooking was done over a wood stove; however, the kitchen has since been remodeled, ca. 1930.

The interior of Norburn Terrace is simple, symmetrical, and generously proportioned. Large double entrance doors open onto a wide central hall. The plan has a central hall two rooms deep with the front ones larger. The first floor originally contained a library, law offices, bedroom, parlor/living room, a pantry and detached kitchen, while the second floor contained four bedrooms, and a bathroom added c. 1910. Although the house was built to accommodate electricity, each room was heated by its own coal fireplace.

The first floor contains many rich details including four neo-classical mantels complete with mirrors, tiles, Ionic columns, and choice hardwoods. There is also stained and leaded glass, and gracious arched doorways. The second floor is reached by a centrally located rear stairway. The original newel post and balusters remain and are of typical mass-produced Victorian design. The four bedrooms contain nearly identical mantels, which are much simpler than the ones on the first floor. The second story porch can be reached from this floor, as can the small tower room. All floors are wood, approximately 3" wide,

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and the average ceiling height is about thirteen feet.

The romantic impact of the house is also achieved by its extensive grounds, which contain meandering walks, willows, and cedars, a variety of shrubs and a small winding stream. Various outbuildings still remain, including the wash house, wood house well and servants' quarters, to which the original smokehouse was added in the forties to make a rental unit. A kitchen garden was usually planted behind this small dwelling which originally housed two servants, a cook and a yardman. Although the property was never farmed for a cash crop, there was a barn which contained farm equipment and animals as well as a chicken coop.²⁹

Today Norburn Terrace's original acreage is considerably diminished and its once cherished landscaping is no longer intact, however, it still remains an unforgettable Raleigh landmark, and a memorial to Herbert Norris who helped create so many Raleigh institutions we take for granted today.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. G. Bauer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Norburn Terrace, c. 1898, was commissioned by Herbert E. Norris, prominent Wake County politician, attorney, judge, and humanitarian. Family tradition states that the handsome late Victorian home was designed by Adolph Gustavus Bauer, best known for his work on the North Carolina Governor's Mansion.

Architecturally, Norburn Terrace represents the Victorian concept of a suburban estate. It is a decorative, yet conservative combination of eclectic Victorian elements with traditional southern symmetry, on both its interior and exterior. The large brick house is intimately integrated with its original terraced landscape and is one of the few real suburban estates remaining in Wake County. A distinguished local landmark, the house itself is remarkably little changed from its original construction.

Criteria Assessment

B. Associated with Herbert E. Norris, an important figure in Wake County history. A prominent attorney, Norris also served in the North Carolina House of Representatives, as well as serving as the judicial solicitor in the Sixth and Seventh Districts. While serving in the state legislature, he was one of five members who drafted the General Assembly bill creating the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Raleigh, now North Carolina State University. Later, he started a movement for the founding of the Home for the Aged and Infirm and lent support to this institution until his own death in 1923. Associated by tradition with Adolph Gustavus Bauer, a prominent architect in the late 1800s in Raleigh.

C. Norburn Terrace is one of the few remaining examples of the suburban estate in Raleigh. A sophisticated late Victorian brick house, Norburn Terrace is intimately related to its unusual terraced landscape. Its elegant eclectic detailing is still intact on both its interior and exterior, and today presents a uniquely whole vision of turn-of-the-century architecture and lifestyles.

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In 1892 Thomas Argo conveyed approximately fifteen acres of land on the east side of Louisburg Road in Raleigh to Herbert E. Norris, a prominent Raleigh attorney. According to tradition the tract at that time contained an unfinished house which Argo had begun ten years earlier but never completed because of his wife Kate's death in 1886. The unfinished structure had been called Argo's Folly, and evidently it was demolished or removed by Norris.¹

In 1899 Norris completed the construction of a Victorian-styled house on Louisburg Road. He commissioned architect Adolphus Gustavus Bauer to design the house and to landscape the extensive grounds. Bauer had come from Philadelphia to Raleigh in 1883 to assist Samuel Sloan in the planning and construction of the state Executive Mansion. In Raleigh he also designed the Baptist Female University (destroyed) and the Old Raleigh High School (destroyed).²

Norris named the new house and grounds Norburn Terrace, a name from the first syllable of Norris and his wife's maiden name, Burns. With its terraced lawns, pools, winding walks, and a variety of plants, Norburn Terrace reflected the Victorian tastes in architecture and landscape.³

Like his new home Herbert E. Norris was a distinguished part of the community and the holder of a state-wide reputation. Born in 1859 on a farm in Wake County, he was educated at county subscription schools and graduated from Trinity College in Randolph County in 1879. He then read law under George V. Strong of Raleigh and was admitted to the bar in 1881. At that time he lived at Apex where he farmed as well as practiced law. He also served as attorney to Durham and Southern Railway Company and played a valuable role in bringing the railroad to Apex, a step which greatly improved the town's economy.⁴

Norris was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1885.⁵ There he was one of a committee of five selected by the State Farmer's Convention who drafted and pushed through the General Assembly the bill creating the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Raleigh (now North Carolina State University) which opened in 1889. He married Emma Burns in 1890, and two years later he ran for the North Carolina House again but was defeated. He and his wife moved to Norburn Terrace in 1900.⁶ Norris was elected to the North Carolina Senate in 1903.⁷ In the following year he was in a movement to change the financial management of county affairs and worked for the construction of a new Wake County courthouse which was completed in 1915. He also started a movement for the founding of the Home for the Aged and Infirm in the county and continued to lend his support to the institution. In 1910 he was elected solicitor of the Sixth Judicial District and was elected to the Seventh District in 1914. "His home," wrote a biographer in 1919, "is one of the most attractive in Raleigh surrounded by a large picturesque lawn and landscape and there he and his family enjoy the advantages of country and city combined."⁸

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Norris died in 1923 intestate, and three years later his wife was allotted one-third of his property "including the dwelling house lately occupied as his last residence."⁹ In 1929 Mrs. Norris sold a portion of the estate "exclusive of Emma B. Norris's dower estate on which she and her son and family lived" to J. Crawford Biggs and M. Allen for \$12,400. When she died in 1940 the entire estate passed to Biggs and Allen as set forth in the 1929 agreement.¹⁰ They conveyed portions of the tract, including the house, to E. V. Benton and C. W. York and Son, 1940-1941.¹¹

Benton and York and Son then sold the property to W. D. Orr and his wife Addie in 1941.¹² Orr died in 1962, but by this time the house was in his wife's name.¹³ Mrs. Orr died in January, 1977, and the house passed to Paul, one of her thirteen children.¹⁴ Paul Orr also died the following December so the house passed to his six surviving siblings.¹⁵

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FOOTNOTES

1. Wake County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, Deed Book 121:6, hereinafter cited as Wake Deed Book.
2. Elizabeth Culbertson Waugh, North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh (Raleigh: Junior League of Raleigh, 1976), 149, 157.
3. "Norburn Terrace," an unpublished manuscript, Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, N.C. Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, 2.
4. North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. deRoulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), IV, 93-94.
5. John L. Cheney, Jr., ed., North Carolina Government 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History, (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975), 465.
6. Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, 94.
7. Cheney, ed., North Carolina Government, 481.
8. Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, 94.
9. Wake County Estate Records, Herbert E. Norris, 1923, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
10. Wake Deed Books 568: 374; 851: 325.
11. Wake Deed Books 851: 325; 856:69.
12. Wake Deed Book 865: 293; 874: 103.
13. Inheritance Tax Records, Box 8, p. 61. Wake County Deed Book 87, p. 191.
14. Wake County Estate Records, Addie F. Orr, 77-8-58.
15. Wake County Estate Records, Paul Orr, 77-E-1266.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cheney, John L. Jr. ed. North Carolina Government 1585-1974: A Narrative and Statistical History. North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1975.

Connor, R. D. W. et al. North Carolina Biography. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	[1,1,7]	[7,1,4]	[2,1,0]	[3,9]	[6,3]	[4,7,0]	B	[]	[]	[]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	D	[]	[]	[]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house and lots are currently associated. See attached.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Janet Silber, Consultant; Joe Mobley, Researcher
Linda Harris, Private Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch
Division of Archives and History

DATE
10/9/79

STREET & NUMBER
109 East Jones Street

TELEPHONE
733/6545

CITY OR TOWN
Raleigh,

STATE
North Carolina 27611

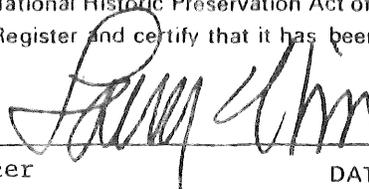
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 1, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Harris, Linda. "Norburn Terrace", an unpublished manuscript. Raleigh: City Planning Department, date (?)

Hill's Directory Co. Raleigh City Directories. Richmond, Va: Hill's Directory Company, Inc., 1905-6, 1913-14, 1917, 1922-23, 1930, 1933-1941, 1945.

Lassiter, Elizabeth. Interview March, 1979.

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings from file of Elizabeth Norris, copies can be found in the files of Norburn Terrace.

Elizabeth Norris. Interview March, 1979.

Survey and Planning Branch. "Norburn Terrace", an unpublished manuscript. . Raleigh: Archeology and Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History.

Wake County Records. Wake County Courthouse. Raleigh, North Carolina.
Subgroups: Deed Books, Estate Records, Inheritance Tax Records, Will Books.

Waugh, Elizabeth. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. Raleigh: Junior League of Raleigh, 1976.

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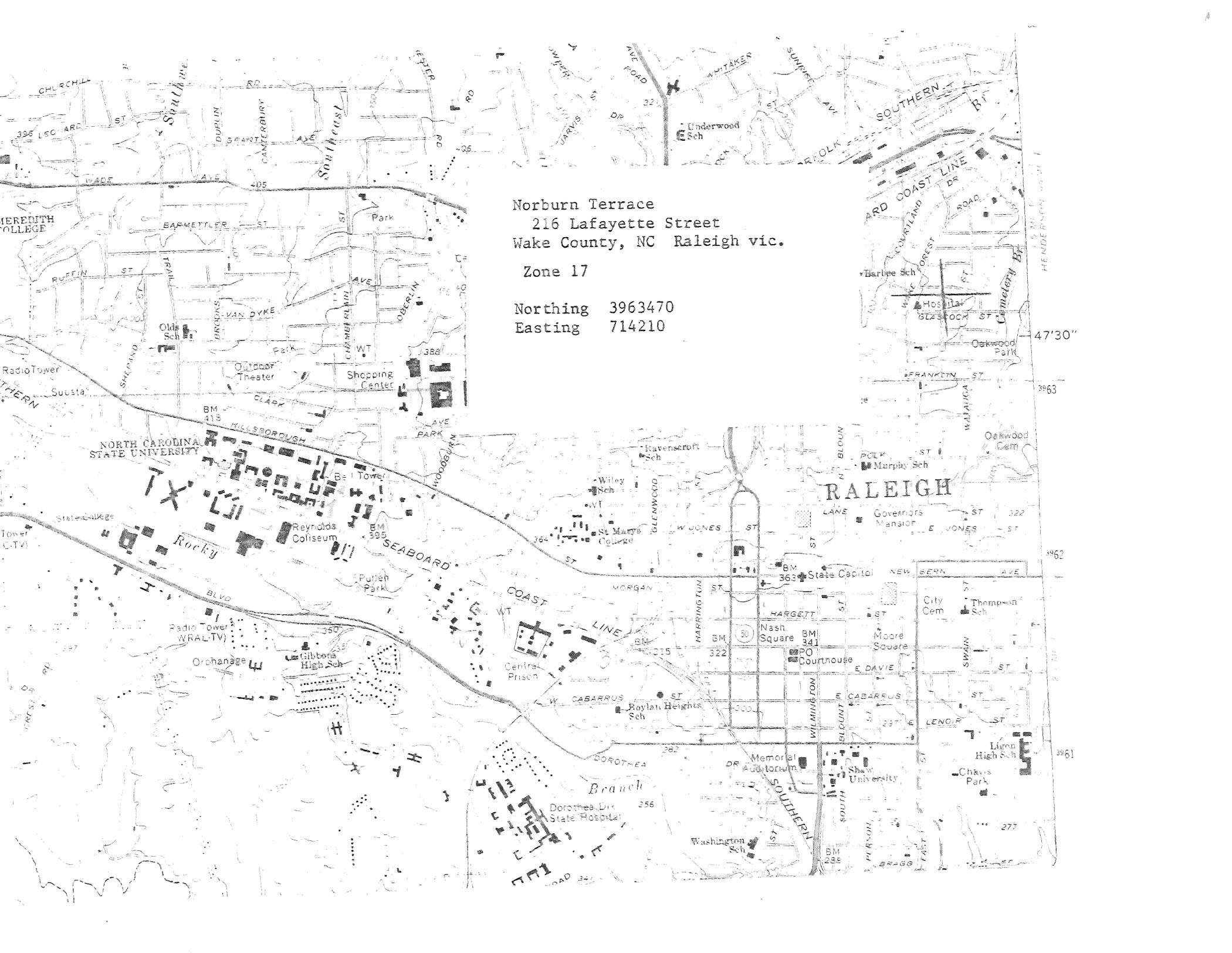
Tract 1

BEGINNING at a stake on the south side of Lafayette Road extended to a width of 50 feet (see book of maps 1938, page 70 of Wake County) at the northeast corner of the lot conveyed to E. V. Denton by deed of J. Crawford Biggs and wife and Murray Allen and wife, dated October 2, 1940, and recorded in Book 851, page 325 in the office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County (Said lot heretofore conveyed to said Denton being herein after called the Denton lot): thence in an easterly direction 60 feet along the south side of Lafayette Road to a stake; thence 175 feet in a southerly direction parallel with the eastern line of the said Denton lot to a stake; thence in an easterly direction 5 feet at a right angle with the last line to a stake; thence 40 feet in a southerly direction at a right angle with the last line to a stake in the southern line of the H. E. Norris home place to a stake at the southern corner of the said Denton lot; thence in a northerly direction along the eastern line of the said Denton lot 228 feet to the point of BEGINNING, being a part of the land conveyed to J. Crawford Biggs and Murray Allen by Thomas H. Calvert and H. R. N. Simms, Commissioner, by deed dated February 3, 1929, and recorded in Book 568, page 374 of Wake County, and being the same property conveyed to E. V. Denton by J. Crawford Biggs et als by deed dated November 30, 1940, and recorded in Book 856, page 69 of said Register.

Tract 2

BEGINNING at the northeastern corner of the lot conveyed to P. G. Fox by deed of the parties of the first part of even date herewith, said corner being 255 feet east of Wake Forest Road and on the south side of Lafayette Road widened 50 feet, as shown on the plat of Lafayette Subdivision recorded in Book of Maps 1938, page 70 of Wake County; running thence southwardly along the eastern line of the Fox lot 228 feet to a stake on the line of the Herbert E. Norris home place, making an angle with said road of 88 deg. 40 min.; thence northwardly 228 feet to an iron stake on the south side of Lafayette Road, parallel with the first line; thence westwardly along the south side of Lafayette Road 151.5 feet to the point of BEGINNING.

This is a part of the dower tract of the late Emma Burns Norris



Norburn Terrace
216 Lafayette Street
Wake County, NC Raleigh vic.

Zone 17

Northing 3963470
Easting 714210

47'30"

3963

3962

3961



