

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
**Office of Archives and History**  
**Department of Cultural Resources**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House**

Raleigh vicinity, Wake County, WA1172, Listed 12/23/2005  
Nomination by April Montgomery and Ellen Turco  
Photographs by Ellen Turco, November 2004

See photo at the end of the nomination

**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 any 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 Blalock, Dr. Nathan M., House

other names/site number WA 1172

**2. Location**

street & number 6741 Rock Service Station Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Raleigh vicinity N/A  
state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27603

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<u>    </u> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<u>    </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u>    </u> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u>    </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u>    </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u>    </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u>    </u> other (explain): _____		

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
**Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
0	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
4	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

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
- HEALTH CARE: clinic
- DOMESTIC: secondary structure
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- 
- DOMESTIC: secondary structure
- 
- 
- 
- 

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block

roof asphalt

walls weatherboard

other stone

brick

**Narrative Description**

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

Blalock, Dr. Nathan M., House  
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina  
County and State

**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 a 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

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**Period of Significance**

**Circa 1910**

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Jacobs, William, builder

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Blalock, Dr. Nathan M., House  
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** .96

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 17 713190 3941385  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
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.)

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title April Montgomery and Ellen Turco

organization Circa, Inc date August 16, 2005

street & number PO Box 28365 telephone 919/ 834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

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### Additional Documentation

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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)

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### Property Owner

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

name Lynn and Diane Blalock

street & number 6741 Rock Service Station Road telephone 919.779.8676

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27603

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**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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Blalock, Dr. Nathan M., House  
Wake County, North Carolina

The Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House sits on a one-acre parcel on the northeast side of SR 2736 (Rock Service Station Road) in southeast Wake County, close to the Johnston County line. While the property has a Raleigh mailing address, it is closer to the Wake County town of Willow Springs, which is located six miles to the west. The lands surrounding the historic property are formerly agricultural lands now transitioning to residential use. Across SR 2736 from the Blalock property are subdivisions of single-family dwellings developed from the 1970s through the mid-1990s. The residences are on lots of approximately one-quarter of an acre. Southeast of the Blalock House is an open, grassy field of approximately fifteen acres. This tract is owned by members of the Blalock family but not included in this nomination.

The nominated parcel contains seven resources: the circa 1910 main house, five domestic outbuildings, and a low wall of stone and cement which is located within the road's right-of-way in front of the house. The wall is classified as a contributing structure for purposes of this nomination. The main house faces southwest and sits approximately fifty feet from SR 2736 within the loop of a semi-circular drive that travels behind the house. The house sits in an open grass yard and is flanked by a pair of mature trees. Shrubs surround the house's foundation and line the front walk. The various dependencies are arranged in close proximity to the house. Building locations and landscape features are shown on the site plan, attached as Exhibit A.

### Inventory List

**1. Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House circa 1910 Contributing**

The circa 1910 Dr. Nathan M. Blalock house is one of Wake County's most fully rendered examples of the Classical Revival style. The house retains outstanding physical integrity, although some updates were made in 1994 when the current owners took occupancy. These changes are noted below.

The two-story, double-pile house is topped by a hipped roof. Weatherboard siding covers the exterior, and the corners are marked by wide pilasters. Projecting from the main block is a full-height pedimented portico supported by two pairs of fluted wood Ionic columns. The portico's pediment includes an elaborate, classically-inspired frieze and a lunette window. This entry portico overlaps a one-story, hipped-roof porch that spans the length of the front (southwest) elevation and wraps around both side elevations. The one-story porch is supported by twelve plain columns with Ionic capitals on square wood plinths. Composition shingles cover the roof (the original slate roof was replaced in the mid-1970s). The house sits on a rusticated concrete block foundation and two tall, rusticated concrete block interior chimneys with exaggerated, flared concrete caps pierce the roofline.

Centered on the façade is a three-part entry with a full-view glass door flanked by decorative pilasters and single-pane sidelights. The entry is topped by a three-part transom with patterned,

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leaded glass. Above the first-story entry is a duplicate three-part entry leading to a graceful, curved, spindled balcony. The one-over-one, vinyl, double-hung window sash found throughout the house were installed by the current owners in 1994. Although these windows are not original, the sash configuration is identical to the originals. Four windows appear on the front elevation with two lighting the first floor and two above.

The dwelling's side (northwest and southeast) elevations are essentially the same with the exception of the fenestration pattern. Each side elevation consists of two bays. In each case, the rear bay projects slightly from the main block and is topped by a pediment with a lunette window. While the fenestration of the southeast projecting bay is limited to one one-over-one double-hung sash on each story and a lunette window in the gable, the northwest elevation has a more elaborate fenestration scheme. This elevation features six windows: a lunette in the gable end, two small one-over-one sash on the second-story and two larger one-over-one sash on the first story. Between the first-story sash is a fixed, rectangular stained-glass window with an urn motif. On both side elevations, the front bay includes a single one-over-one window on both the first and second stories.

Projecting from the rear of the house is an original, one story, shallow-pitched, hipped-roof section with a full-width shed-roof porch supported by simple square posts. Six windows are found on the one-story section, one on each side of the half-glazed entry door and two on each side. Two brick chimney flues pierce the roof. Above this section is a second-story gabled projection from the center of the main block, which, like the other gabled projections, features a lunette window in the pediment.

The interior of the Blalock House is finely finished with Classical Revival details employing early-twentieth-century updates of Greek Revival design motifs. Both first and second stories have large center halls. On the first floor, four sizeable rooms are sheltered under the house's main, hipped roofline and two rear rooms, along with three small utility rooms, are housed within the one-story hipped-roof section spanning the rear elevation (see floor plan attached as Exhibit B). Two-panel doors set in plain surrounds are found throughout the house, as are one-foot baseboards with molded tops. Original pine floors, refinished in 1994, remain throughout the house as does the original wall plaster. Ceiling plaster has been covered with a "popcorn" finish. Each of the house's eight fireplaces is unique. All have custom tile work and several have mirrored over-mantels.

The first floor has twelve foot ceilings, giving a bright and spacious feeling to the center hall that runs from the front to the back of the house. From the center of the hall rises a grand, open staircase that splits at a landing and continues to the second level as two separate staircases. The stair is anchored by two thick, round newel posts. A square-picket balustrade runs to the second floor. Another fine detail of the center hall is the robust two-tier raised-panel wainscot topped by a thick chair rail. Above it is a picture rail that is found throughout the first floor.

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The front and middle rooms on the south side of the dwelling housed Dr. Blalock's medical practice from circa 1910 through 1946, the date of his death. The front room is accessed from the center hall by a large set of paneled pocket doors. This room served as the office and examination room. A fireplace with contrasting bright and dark green one-by-five-inch glazed tiles is centered on the rear wall. The mantel shelf is supported by square pilasters and four brackets. Above the firebox is a mirrored over-mantel. To the right of the fireplace is a built-in cabinet with two glass doors atop eight drawers. Medical instruments and reference books, bottles of Dr. Blalock's Skin Ointment, medical and farm ledgers, and other objects related to Dr. Blalock's professional life are displayed on the shelves. On the wall between the fireplace and the cabinet is a circa 1910 oak box wall telephone. The telephone was originally located in the center hall but was moved to this location during the 1994 renovation. In the south corner of the room is Dr. Blalock's sturdy, oak roll-top desk. A manufacturer's tag reads, "Leopold Desk Company, Burlington, Iowa," which dates the desk to sometime between 1900 and 1937 (<http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us/genealogy/furniture.htm>). On the walls hang Dr. Blalock's medical degree and licenses as well as many old photographs including one of Dr. Blalock's parents Hugh and Christiana, an early-twentieth century portrait of Dr. Blalock, and documentary photos of the property showing a country store and mule barn, now demolished, located across SR 2736 from the main dwelling.

To the left of the office fireplace is a doorway with a two-panel door leading to what used to be the patient waiting room. Today it is used as a bedroom. This room features a mantel and mirrored over-mantel both supported by colonnettes. The rear room, originally a second or "servants" kitchen, was converted in 1994 to a large modern master bathroom and closet.

The two large, formal rooms on the north side of the house are the parlor and dining room. A second set of paneled pocket doors leads from the center hall to the parlor. The parlor is a mirror image of Dr. Blalock's office. Along the interior wall are a built-in, glass-over-drawer cabinet, an elaborate fireplace, and a two-paneled door leading to the middle room. Unique to this room, the fire box is surrounded by a mantel flanked by narrow colonnettes with sunbursts carved into rectangular capitals. Over the mantel shelf is a mirror set in a robust cushion molding. The tile surround contains one-by-five inch brown and green glazed tiles.

Behind the parlor is the dining room. The mantel and mirrored over-mantel is supported by graceful, elongated modillions. The fireplace surround is decorated with one-by-five-inch dark green tiles. Another built-in cabinet, this one for storing china, is located right of the firebox. The architectural highlight of this room is the original rectangular fixed stained glass window with urn motif set in the north wall. The maker is unknown.

Three small utility rooms occupy the rear of the one-story section. A second first floor bathroom is located behind the master bath. This bathroom is accessed via a doorway at the rear of the



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center hall. This room has been used as a bathroom since the mid-1950s when the first indoor bathroom was added to the house (Blalock Interview). The current fixtures were installed in 1994. Two small rooms are located behind the kitchen. They have always been used as utility rooms and today contain a pantry and laundry. The kitchen is in its original location; however, it was completely remodeled with new cabinetry and fixtures in 1994.

Due to the roofline, the upper story of the house contains less square footage than the first story. Two rooms are situated on either side of the center hall. A bathroom is located within the rear two-story pedimented projection. Second story ceiling height measures eleven feet. Baseboard, door and window surrounds are the same as those of the first floor. As is found on the first floor, each fireplace has a unique mantel. These mantels are more delicate than those on the floor below, featuring applied wreaths and garlands and attenuated fluted pilasters.

**2. Garage Circa 1975 Non-contributing**

Located to the rear of the house, this one-bay, front-gable garage is sheathed in beveled Masonite siding and covered with a composition shingle roof. The building rests on wood blocks which lift the frame building a few inches from the poured concrete floor. The garage essentially hovers over the floor. The garage was built by the current owner for his father in the mid-1970s.

**3. Smokehouse Circa 1950 Non-Contributing**

This one-story, frame, front-gable smokehouse is located next to the garage in the house's rear yard. This smoke house replaces the original on the same site. The weatherboard siding has been covered with rolled tar paper, although the siding remains exposed in the gable. The building sits on a continuous concrete block foundation. Rafter tails are exposed in the eaves and the roof is covered with 5-V tin over horizontal wood sheathing. The board-and-batten entry door is attached with triangular strap hinges. On the building's rear (east) elevation is a shed-roofed porch supported by cedar posts. This porch was added by the current owner around 1999.

**4. Old Well House Circa 1910 Contributing**

The well house, located south of the house, is the property's only brick structure. It covers the property's original well. The small front-gabled, rectangular, brick building is laid in common bond and surmounted by a composition shingle, shallow-pitched roof. The top third of the main block is covered with original wood plank sheathing with weatherboard siding in the upper gable.

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**5. New Well House Circa 1975 Non-contributing**

This well house is a very small gabled wood structure that covers the current well dug around 1975 when the original well went dry.

**6. Playhouse Circa 1910 Contributing**

This diminutive multi-gabled playhouse is covered with tongue-and-groove siding and surmounted by a composition shingle roof. A shed-roofed porch with three exposed rafter tails shelters the front board-and-batten front door. A four-light fixed window is situated in the south side elevation. The playhouse is located in the front yard and faces SR 2736.

**7. Wall Circa 1910 Contributing**

This low wall is located within the SR 2736 right-of-way in front of the house, and extends the length of the front yard between the driveway entrances. It is approximately two feet high and is composed of small fieldstones set in cement. It was built around the same time as the dwelling. The current owner recalls that construction dates are carved into the wall. The presence of these dates could not be confirmed.

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### Statement of Significance

Elaborately detailed inside and out, the circa 1910 Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House is one of Wake County's best remaining examples of the Classical Revival style known as "Southern Colonial." The house was designed by Benson builder William Jacobs as Dr. Blalock's family dwelling and medical office. The most distinguishing feature of this large, two-story, weatherboarded house is its grandiose full-height pedimented portico supported by two pairs of fluted Ionic columns. The entry portico overlaps a one-story, hipped-roof porch that spans the length of the front elevation and wraps around both side elevations. The interior of the house has ten rooms arranged around a center hall plan. Each room has a unique classically-inspired mantel piece. Original furnishings, medical records, and instruments related to Dr. Blalock's practice from ca. 1910 to his death in 1946 remain in the house. Two contemporary outbuildings, a well house and a children's playhouse, are contributing resources. A low stone and cement wall is a contributing structure. Three outbuildings on the parcel are non-contributing—garage, smokehouse, and well house.

The house and contemporary resources are eligible under Criterion C: Architecture. The dwelling was highly stylish for its time, especially in a rural area. The ambitious façade and house massing were a testament to the status of the owner as a locally prominent physician and gentleman farmer. The architectural significance of the Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House is established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," by Kelly Lally. Historic context for the house is presented in "Context 3: Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918)" (E.46-64). "Property Type 3B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918)" states the Dr. Nathan Blalock House represents one of the "more ambitious dwellings [that] were designed and constructed with colossal columned porticoes and abundant classical detail" (F.134). The dwelling displays a high degree of integrity from the period of significance as required by the registration requirements for Wake County houses stipulated on pages F.141-142. The period of significance is circa 1910, the year of construction of the house.

### Architecture Context

The architectural significance of the Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House is established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," by Kelly Lally. Context for the house is presented in "Context 3: Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918)" (E.46-64) and "Property Type 3B: Houses Built Between the Civil War and World War I (1865-ca. 1918)" (F.134).

While versions of house designs in the Classical Revival style appeared throughout the country in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, Wake County saw two distinct waves of this stylistic trend. The first movement spanned the years from the 1890s through the 1910s. These

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first-wave Classical Revival dwellings were symmetrical, featured massive, exaggerated central porticos, and were heavily ornamented on the interior and exterior with both idealized classical Greek and fanciful Queen Anne elements. Beginning around 1910 and through the 1940s the more academic Colonial Revival emerged. Wake County's Colonial Revival houses from this period tend to replicate three-part Georgian facades, and may feature Mount Vernon-inspired porches and classical entries (Lally 159). The circa 1910 Dr. Nathan Blalock House is firmly grounded in the earlier trend, identified by some architectural historians as the "Southern" Colonial Revival due to its physical expression of nostalgia for pre-Civil War plantation life, real or imagined, through the application of overstated porticoes (Bishir 417-423).

Fully-executed Classical Revival dwellings were not built in large numbers in Wake County, as the grand style was limited to those with the means to construct large, finely detailed dwellings. Modest one-story versions were typically built with hip- or pyramidal-roofs, symmetrical facades, dormer windows, and full-façade or wrap columned porches and trabeated entries. Two-story Classical Revival houses are more common in the county's cities and towns such as the 1912 William Royall Powell House in Wake Forest (a contributing resource in the Wake Forest National Register Historic District, listed 2004) and the 1903 Dr. Andrew Watson Goodwin House (a contributing resource in the Capitol Area National Register Historic District, listed 1978). Three early Classical Revival houses survive in the rural part of southern Wake County: the circa 1910 Dr. Blalock House, the circa 1906 James Beale Johnson House, located outside of Fuquay-Varina (listed in the National Register in 1991) and the circa 1905 Jones-Johnson-Ballentine House (a contributing resource in the Jones-Johnson-Ballentine Farms Rural Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1989), also near Fuquay-Varina. Each of these houses is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style in Wake County, with each displaying a variation of the characteristic monumental columned portico. The Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House compares most favorably in design, materials and integrity with James Beale Johnson House and the Jones-Johnson-Ballentine House and therefore merits inclusion in the National Register.

### Historical Background

In the years between the Civil War and World War I the rural areas of Wake County were comprised of family farms and small crossroads communities. While the average size of farms decreased during this period, the production of cash crops increased. These trends were a result of two factors: the expansion of the railroads, and the shift from cotton to tobacco as a primary crop. The railroad expansion increased the availability of goods, such as food products, being shipped-in. The arrival of these goods allowed farmers to drop their subsistence efforts and focus on cash crops, which they now had the opportunity to export.

In 1894 the price for cotton dropped to five cents a pound causing farms to turn to the cultivation of bright-leaf tobacco as their main cash crop. While tobacco was a more lucrative crop, it was

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also more labor intensive. In order to be profitable, farmers with large land holdings (greater than 500 acres) either sold off parcels until they had reduced their farms to a more manageable size, or went to a tenant-based farming system. The tenant-based farm allowed the land-owning farmer to continue to have all of his land in production without having to hire a substantially larger workforce. The growth of this form of farming caused the federal Census Bureau to develop a new category, "Tenant Plantation," for their 1910 census. By definition a Tenant Plantation was "a continuous tract of land of considerable area under the general supervision or control of a single individual or firm, all or a part of such tract being divided into at least five smaller tracts, which are leased to tenants" (Lally, *MPDF*, E.52).

The tenancy was by no means the predominant method of farming in the early twentieth century. In fact, the number of large farms dropped from 114 to twenty-seven between 1880 and 1920 (Lally *MPDF*, E.51). Dr. Blalock was fortunate, or wise enough to increase his land ownership during this era. By 1917 he owned more than 700 acres in Wake and Johnston counties. During his lifetime his farm would continue to grow to almost 1,000 acres.

The parcel being nominated has been in the Blalock family since 1863 when a 163-acre tract was purchased by Dr. Blalock's parents, Hugh and Christina Blalock. Deed records show that this parcel, lying on Middle Creek and Smithfield Road in the Panther Branch Township, were given to Dr. Blalock around 1885 as a gift from his parents (Blalock Interview). He farmed this land with a sister and soon thereafter with his first wife, Patti Smith. Dr. Blalock quickly began to add to his land holdings. In an 1889 agreement he received 3,600 pounds of lint cotton as annual rent from a tenant working a 303-acre tract, indicating that he had already likely doubled the size of the original tract (Wake County Deed Book 166, 544).

One of Dr. Blalock's first children died very young of unknown causes in the late 1880s. Descendants believe this tragic event spurred his interest in medicine and in 1890 Nathan Blalock earned his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland, which would become the University of Maryland in 1924. He then returned to his home in southern Wake County where he began his medical practice. Two rooms of the first floor of the circa 1910 homeplace housed his general medical practice where he saw adult and child patients between circa 1910 and his death in 1946. It is not known if Dr. Blalock maintained an office in his previous dwelling, but it is known that the doctor made house calls throughout his medical career. Dr. Blalock also marketed his own medicines from his practice and in local pharmacies. One of his most popular concoctions, according to family members, was his medicinal cream "Dr. Blalock's Skin Ointment." The ointment treated all varieties of skin ailments including eczema, poison ivy, bug bites and rashes (Blalock Interview). Bottles of the ointment, along with printed instructions, remain in the glass display cabinet in the house today.

The first house constructed by Dr. Blalock on his parcel was a two-story, T-plan, dwelling with the regionally common "Triple-A" roofline. Dr. Blalock likely constructed this house in the mid-

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to-late-1880s, shortly after his first marriage. This house was destroyed by fire around 1910. Almost immediately Dr. Blalock began building the current house. Family tradition holds that a builder named William Jacobs from Benson in neighboring Johnston County was hired to oversee the project. According to a 1964 *Raleigh Times* newspaper article about the house which drew on an interview with Dr. Blalock's son Eugene, then the house's owner, "as to the plan, size and such minor details, all that was left entirely up to Jacobs. About the only suggestion was that it be 'something nice and appropriate.'" The article noted that the house "bears marked similarities to several in the town of Benson that wear his brand" (*Raleigh Times*). While the Benson National Register Historic District, listed in 1985, includes five elaborate Classical Revival houses of approximately the same period as the Blalock House, no associations with Jacobs have been documented.

By 1917 Dr. Blalock had acquired a significant amount of land holdings totaling 700 acres in Wake and Johnston counties (Wake County Deed Books 324, 70; 104, 58). The 1910 Census identified seven tenant families on the property, five white and two black, who were not present on Dr. Blalock's 1900 Census record (Wake County Population Schedule). Both cotton and tobacco were being produced on the farm. Blalock continued to acquire land accumulating more than 1000 acres before his death in 1946.

Eugene M. Blalock (1899-1992), Dr. Blalock's third son, was deeded the house and the land surrounding it after his father's death in 1946. Eugene continued some farming operations but also began selling the family land. Eugene M. Blalock died in 1992 and left his house and remaining land holdings to his children. In 1994 one of Eugene's sons, C. Lynn Blalock, bought the house and an almost two-acre tract from his siblings. This parcel was subdivided again in 2005 to create a separate lot for a rental house which had been moved onto the rear of the property in 1994. Mr. Blalock and his wife Diane began renovating the house, updating the kitchen and adding baths, in the fall of 1993. They moved into the home in the spring of 1994 (Blalock Interview).

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### **Boundary Description:**

The boundary of the Dr. Nathan M. Blalock House is the .96-acre area shown on the accompanying tax map drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

### **Boundary Justification:**

The National Register boundary consists of the legal parcel on which the house sits. This is the intact portion of the home tract associated with the house since its construction circa 1910.



