

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Walnut Hill Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Along Mial Plantation Rd (SR 2509) at jct with Major Slade Rd (SR 2506) and Smithfield Rd (SR 2233) N/A not for publication

city or town Knightdale (nearest post office) X vicinity

state North Carolina code 037 county Wake code 183 zip code 27545

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Stacy A. Crow SAPO 8/28/07  
Signature of certifying official Date

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

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I, hereby certify that this property is:		
<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> See continuation sheet.		
<u>   </u> removed from the National Register		
<u>   </u> See continuation sheet.		
<u>   </u> other (explain):		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	25	5	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	2		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	4	4	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	31	9	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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

0

6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE: processing  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding  
RELIGION: religious facility  
FUNERARY: cemetery  
EDUCATION: school

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE: processing  
AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding  
FUNERARY: cemetery  
VACANT: not in use

7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival  
Late Victorian  
No style

foundation: brick  
walls: weatherboard  
board and batten  
roof: metal  
other: concrete block

See continuation sheet

**Narrative Description**

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

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)

- X 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.
X 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.)

- 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.
X G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Agriculture

Period of Significance
ca. 1860s - 1952

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Walden, W. S.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data
X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: Wake County Planning Department

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acreege of Property** approximately 157 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

X 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.)

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Kelly Lally Molloy and M. Ruth Little, consultants

organization Prepared for the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission date 4/3/2000

street & number P.O. Box 550 telephone 919-856-6310

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina zip code 27601

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

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)

---

**Property Owner**

---

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

name See attached

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

**SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION**

**Materials, continued**

**foundation:** stone  
concrete  
**walls:** German siding  
concrete-block  
metal  
tarpaper  
**roof:** asphalt  
**other:** N/A

**Narrative Description**

Located in southeastern Wake County community of Shotwell in Marks Creek Township, the Walnut Hill Historic District consists of two large farm complexes, the Mial-Williamson Farm and the Joseph Blake Farm. These complexes include approximately 157 acres on Mial Plantation Road (SR 2509) between its intersection with Major Slade Road (SR 2506) and Smithfield Road (SR 2233). Both farmsteads were originally a part of the Walnut Hill Plantation, founded by Thomas Mial, Sr. in the late eighteenth century and owned by interrelated members of the Mial, Price, Blake, and Williamson families for six generations. Comprised of forty buildings, structures, and sites, including family and tenant dwellings, agricultural and domestic outbuildings, community buildings, fields, pastures, and woodlands, the Walnut Hill Historic District depicts the post-Civil War development of one of the largest agricultural operations in the county, as well as the community life of this rural settlement.

With soils amenable to both cotton and tobacco cultivation, the gently sloping land of Marks Creek Township includes some of the most fertile farmland in Wake County. This section benefits from its location near the Neuse River and several major creeks, including the one for which the township was named. The Smithfield Road connected this section of the county with Raleigh to the north and the Johnston County town of Smithfield on the Neuse River to the south.

Formerly located about a mile west of the nominated district, the house that served as the seat of Walnut Hill plantation burned in 1973. However, despite this loss, other nearby properties still tell the story of the prominence of Walnut Hill. Two of these, the Walnut Hill Cotton Gin (NR 1986) and Oaky Grove (NR 1993) have already been listed in the National Register. The nominated district includes an additional core of buildings that retain their integrity and represent Walnut Hill's post-Civil War development (see figure 1 for a general map of the Shotwell area).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

With few exceptions, all of the buildings within the district--domestic, agricultural, and institutional--display the simple traditional forms of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Nearly all are of frame construction and rectangular in shape with gable and hip roofs. The oldest buildings, including the Frog Pond Academy (no. 3), Oaky Grove Methodist Church (no. 4), and Joseph Blake's office (no. 5a), display handsomely dressed granite foundations and chimneys. Granite is also found on other area buildings and sites of nineteenth-century vintage, such as the wall surrounding the site of the old Walnut Hill plantation house, the foundation of the Walnut Hill Cotton Gin, and the wall surrounding the cemetery of Oaky Grove Plantation (Wake County survey files).

The larger of the district's two agricultural complexes, the Mial-Williamson Farm, includes twenty-seven buildings and structures dating primarily from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The visual focal point of the Mial-Williamson Farm--and the entire district--is the Oaky Grove Methodist Church (no. 4). Built in 1876, this simple wooden church towers above all of the other buildings in the district. Marked by pointed-arch window and door openings, Oaky Grove is one of the earliest Gothic Revival churches in Wake County. Although located on Walnut Hill land, the church also served the families of other nearby farms and plantations.

Another important community building--the plantation school-- stands just west of the church. Built in the 1860s and named "Frog Pond Academy" by its pupils, this two-room building served as the schoolhouse for the children of A. T. Mial, as well as others in the community. The building features a handsome granite chimney, two five-panel front doors, and six-over-six sash windows. The old schoolhouse served as a tenant dwelling for most of the past century, except for the period from 1940-1952 when it housed the office for a branch of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station.

The main house on the property, a modest brick ranch (no. 2), was built in 1951 by Bailey and Sara Williamson. Around this house stand a number of agricultural and utilitarian buildings, including four tobacco-curing barns and two tobacco packhouses; two barns; an equipment shed; an oil shed; and several modern grain bins. With the exception of the round metal grain bins, these outbuildings display the simple rectangular forms and roof shapes that are traditional for farm buildings in Eastern North Carolina.

The Mial-Williamson Farm originally served as the home of six or more hired or share-cropping families who lived and worked on the farm. Two of the dwellings that housed these families at this location have been destroyed in recent years by natural disasters, but four others (including the old schoolhouse) still stand. Like the farm buildings, the frame dwellings of the farm's workers display the simple one-story, gable-roofed forms preferred for this type of housing throughout the state. Located across the Mial Plantation Road, the board-and-batten dwelling known as the "overseer's house" was built around 1875 to house the farm's overseer or manager. Although similar in design, the other two dwellings, which are located behind the Bailey and Sara Williamson House, were constructed in the 1930s (nos. 2g and 2o)

The Mial-Williamson compound is surrounded on all sides by fields associated with the farm. Beyond the fields to the east, the farm of A. T. Mial's half-brother, Joseph Blake, stands in an impressive grove of hardwoods (no. 5). Reached from Mial Plantation Road by a long drive through the grove, the Blake Farm consists of a farmhouse and eleven outbuildings. The front section of the house resembles countless North Carolina farmhouses with its triple-A roof and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

simple Victorian trim. A room in the rear ell is reported to date to the mid-nineteenth-century, the only portion of the original house on the site to survive a fire. Near the front of the house stands a one-room frame office building (no. 5a) of mid-nineteenth-century vintage--one of only a handful of this type of building still standing in Wake County. To the rear stands a significant collection of nineteenth-century domestic outbuildings, including a smokehouse, a board-and-batten building that appears to have been a dairy, a gazebo, and various storage buildings. Only a few of the farm's agricultural buildings survive--a mule barn, an equipment shed, and a frame tobacco-curing barn. Like the buildings on the Mial-Williamson Farm, those on the Blake Farm display traditional rectangular forms.

For the most part, official property lines serve as boundaries for the district. These property lines correspond with several geographical features that demarcate the district from surrounding properties. The district is marked on its western edge by a dirt farm road known as the "Old Mill Path." This path, which, as the name implies, originally led to a mill on Mark's Creek, separates the Mial-Williamson Farm owned by Bailey Williamson from acreage owned by other family members to the west. The Major Slade Road forms the northwest border of the district, while the Smithfield Road serves as the northeastern boundary. The southernmost bank of a farm pond on the Mial-Williamson Farm demarcates the southern boundary.

The Walnut Hill Historic District retains a high degree of integrity and essentially looks the same today as it did fifty years ago (Bailey Williamson, interview). Although suburban development is occurring nearby, thus far it is out of view of the nominated district. The district's nine non-contributing resources are generally farm-related buildings or structures that have been added within the past forty-eight years. Some farm buildings and dwellings have been altered with replacement siding, such as the addition of tarpaper or asphalt to their exteriors. However, these changes commonly took place on many Wake County farms in the mid-twentieth century and do not detract from the character of the district. The Joseph Blake House has been expanded with a rear addition and its roofline modified slightly with the addition of a cupola. One building on the Joseph Blake Farm has been moved from its original location and therefore is noncontributing. A tornado destroyed a row of mature hardwoods that once lined the road in front of Oaky Grove Methodist Church. More recent disasters, including fires, tornadoes, and hurricanes in the last decade, demolished several buildings in the district, including two tenant dwellings and a tobacco-curing barn on the Mial-Williamson Farm and several barns on the Joseph Blake Farm.

### Inventory List

#### Inventory List Key

C=Contributing  
NC=Non-Contributing  
B=Building  
S=Structure

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

1 1701 Major Slade Rd  
C-B  
ca. 1875

**Overseer's House.** This one-story, board-and-batten dwelling was built around 1875 to house the hired overseer or manager for the Walnut Hill farming operations. Topped by a gable roof, the main block of the house is divided by a large central brick chimney. The house has a shed-roofed porch, enclosed on one end, and two rear sheds across the back (the first, engaged under the main roof, appears to be original; the second is a later addition).

C-B  
early 20th c.

1a. Barn. Two-story frame, gable-front barn with side shed. Portions of the exterior have been covered with asphalt siding and tin. The barn served as both a mule barn and a tobacco packhouse and strip room (Bailey Williamson, interview).

NC-B  
ca. 1980s.

1b. Workshop. One-story, frame, side-gable-roofed workshop.

2 4305 Mial Plantation Rd

**Mial-Williamson Farm.** The Mial-Williamson Farm consists of a house (ca. 1951) and numerous farm buildings and tenant dwellings that were central to the operations of Walnut Hill plantation from the mid-nineteenth century through the middle of the twentieth century. Also included on this site are the Frog Pond Academy and Oaky Grove Methodist Church buildings (see numbers 3 and 4 below).

C-B  
house: 1951

The gable-roofed ranch house now at the center of this complex was built in 1951 by Bailey Williamson and his bride, Sara. The house, which is clad primarily in brick veneer, has a picture window and numerous casement windows. The main entrance, which is slightly recessed, is surrounded by vertical wood boards. The house's fireplace is vented by a large interior brick chimney.

C-B  
ca. 1940

2a. Barn. Originally located nearly a half-mile to the west near the seat of the Walnut Hill plantation, this two-story, frame grain barn was relocated to this site by prior to 1950.

C-S  
ca. 1930s

2b. Wellhouse. One-story, gable-roofed, concrete-block wellhouse.

NC-B  
ca. 1990

2c. Shed. Frame, gable-roofed shed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| C-B<br>ca. 1900   | <u>2d. Tobacco Curing Barn.</u> Square-notched log tobacco-curing barn with stone foundation and later tar-paper covering.  |
| C-B<br>ca. 1930s  | <u>2e. Tobacco Packhouse.</u> Two-story, frame tobacco packhouse with side shed. Covered with metal siding.   |
| NC-B<br>ca. 1980s | <u>2f. Mobile Home.</u> Modern mobile home placed on the site of an earlier tenant house.   |
| C-B<br>ca. 1930s  | <u>2g. Tenant House.</u> This side-gable-roofed frame tenant dwelling is clad in board-and-batten and vertical-board siding. The shed-roofed front porch has been screened-in.                  |
| C-B<br>ca. 1940   | <u>2h. Mule Barn.</u> Two-story frame barn built by the Agricultural Experiment Station. The barn stands on a concrete block foundation and is covered with modern vertical siding.             |
| NC-S<br>ca. 1980s | <u>2i. Grain Bin.</u> Round metal grain bin with conical roof.  |
| NC-S<br>ca. 1980s | <u>2j. Grain Bin.</u> Round metal grain bin with conical roof.  |
| NC-S<br>ca. 1980s | <u>2k. Grain Bin.</u> Round metal grain bin with conical roof.  |
| NC-S<br>ca. 1980s | <u>2l. Grain Bin.</u> Round metal grain bin with conical roof.  |
| C-B<br>ca. 1950   | <u>2m. Tobacco Curing Barn.</u> Frame tobacco-curing barn with attached, metal, open side shed.   |
| C-B<br>ca. 1920s  | <u>2n. Tobacco Curing Barn.</u> Frame tobacco-curing barn with two attached, metal, open side sheds.  |
| C-S<br>ca. 1930s  | <u>2o. Oil Shed.</u> Frame, shed-roofed building with vertical board siding.  |
| C-S<br>ca. 1940   | <u>2p. Equipment Shed.</u> Frame, shed-roofed open shed has entrance clad in weatherboard siding on one side and modern particle boards on two sides. Built by Agricultural Experiment Station. |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

C-B 2q. Workshop. Frame, gable-roofed workshop covered with metal siding.  
ca. 1930s

C-B 2r. Tenant House. One-story, frame, gable-roofed tenant dwelling covered  
ca. 1930s with asphalt siding.

C-B 2s. Tobacco Packhouse. Two-story, frame tobacco packhouse with  
ca. 1949 enclosed side sheds, covered with tar paper.

C-B 2t. Tobacco Curing Barn. Frame tobacco-curing barn with attached side  
shed. Covered with tar paper.

3 4305 Mial **Frog Pond Academy.** Reportedly named by school children for the  
Plantation Rd inhabitants of a nearby puddle, this one-story building survives as a very  
ca. 1860s rare example of a mid-nineteenth-century, plantation-based schoolhouse.  
C-B The two-room building sits on a stone foundation that has been  
underpinned in recent years with concrete. A large granite-block chimney  
is found on the east end. Each room has its own front door and two  
windows. Each wooden front door has five panels; windows are six-over-  
six sash. A rear ell was added in the 1930s, as was the German siding that  
covered the building's original board-and-batten siding.

The school was built in the 1860s by A. T. Mial for his children and the  
children in the neighborhood of Walnut Hill plantation. John J. Fray, a  
former captain in the Confederate army, came to Walnut Hill shortly after  
the Civil War to tutor the Mial children and soon became the local school  
teacher. Fray later taught at the Raleigh Male Academy.

It is unknown exactly how long the building served its original purpose.  
Some time in the late nineteenth century it was used as a tenant dwelling.  
It has served as such since that time, except for a brief period from 1940-  
1952 when it housed the office for the N.C. State Agricultural Experiment  
Station that was located on the farm during those years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

4 4305 Mial  
Plantation Rd  
C-B  
ca. 1876-1877

**Oaky Grove Methodist Church.** Oaky Grove Methodist Church is an excellent example of late nineteenth century vernacular church architecture. A. T. Mial hired contractor W. S. Walden to build this edifice for a sum of \$600 using materials purchased from the sash-and-blind store of Thomas A. Briggs in Raleigh. Although simply finished, the frame building displays the pointed-arch windows and front door that identify it as Gothic Revival style. The church, which is elevated on low granite-block foundation piers, was originally topped with a tall steeple that was destroyed by a fire in the twentieth century and later replaced with a smaller version.

The congregation of the Oaky Grove Methodist Church was founded in the 1830s by Rev. Bennett Blake on Oaky Grove Plantation land. It is unknown where the original building was located or what became of it. The current site of the church was described as “the site selected by the committee” in the builder’s contract, indicating that this was a new location for the building. Perhaps due to decreasing numbers, the congregation eventually moved their membership to the Methodist Church in the nearby early twentieth-century railroad community of Knightdale.

C-Site  
early 20th century

a. Oaky Grove Methodist Church Cemetery. This small cemetery does not appear to have been a primary burying ground for the church. Said to contain the graves of people who relocated to Wake County from Wilkes County and lived on the Mial-Williamson Farm, the families represented in the small yard include Auton, Pennell, Phipps, and Wall (Bailey Williamson, interview, June 1999). The graves date from the early twentieth century and are marked with modest manufactured marble stones.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

5 4609 Mial Plantation Rd **Joseph Blake Farm.** Set in a grove of mature hardwood trees, the Joseph Blake Farm includes a farmhouse built in stages from the mid-nineteenth-century to the present and a notable collection of nineteenth century outbuildings.

ca. 1860s; late 19th century; ca. 1920s; ca. 1980s; ca. 1990s.  
C-B

The original main house is said to have been built as early as the 1860s by A. T. Mial's half-brother, Joseph Blake. With the exception of one room (now the dining room in the rear ell), the house was destroyed by fire in the late nineteenth century. At that time, the dwelling's current main block, an I-house with a triple-A roof, was constructed. A rear addition was added in the 1920s, and the house was further expanded to the rear by the current owners several times in recent decades. The house features a full-facade one-story porch supported by Doric columns, six-over-six sash windows, and a quatrefoil vent in the gables. The porch columns and elaborate front door are said to have come from older houses in Raleigh that were demolished. The house's fireplaces are vented with two interior rear chimneys. A cupola was added to the top of the house in recent years.

Joseph Blake (1839-1902) was the son of Rev. Bennett Blake and his second wife, Scheherazade Price Mial Blake. Noted to be a farmer in the 1860 Census, Blake also served as the county surveyor for several non-consecutive terms from 1884 until his death in 1902 (Elizabeth Reid Murray memo). Mial family records indicate that Blake married Lucy Person of Franklin County, with whom he had three children (Ella Mial Williamson, unpublished family history).

C-B  
ca. 1870

5a. Office. This one-room, frame building sits on a granite foundation and is topped by a hip roof. The building, which is clad in plain weatherboards, has one four-panel door, an interior brick chimney, and a six-over-six sash window.

C-B  
early 20th c.

5b. Tobacco Curing Barn. Frame tobacco-curing barn with stone foundation, horizontal weatherboard siding in the upper-gables, and tar paper covering the walls.

C-B  
mid-to-late 19th c.

5c. Smokehouse. Unusually large, gable-roofed smokehouse with plain weatherboard siding and a board and batten door. Small windows added in recent years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

- 
- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| C-B<br>mid-to-late 19th c.           | <u>5d. Outbuilding.</u> One-room, board-and-batten building with a hip roof. The original use of the building has not been confirmed, but it may have been a dairy.  |
| C-S<br>ca. 1900                      | <u>5e. Gazebo.</u> Small hip-roofed gazebo with wooden floor and square posts.   |
| C-B<br>mid-to-late 19th c.           | <u>5f. Outbuilding.</u> Frame outbuilding of unknown use topped by a low hip roof and entered by two batten doors.   |
| NC-B<br>mid-20th c.                  | <u>5g. Shed.</u> Frame, shed-roofed outbuilding.   |
| C-B<br>late 19th c.                  | <u>5h. Equipment Shed.</u> Frame, gable-roofed open shed with storage room above apparently constructed with recycled heavy timber from an earlier building.   |
| C-B<br>early 20th c.                 | <u>5i. Outbuilding.</u> Frame board-and-batten outbuilding sits on a stone rubble foundation and is covered with vertical board siding. The building has a gable roof and one door.  |
| C-B<br>late 19th c.                  | <u>5j. Mule Barn.</u> Frame, double-crib mule barn with gable roof and side shed.  |
| NC-B<br>mid-19th c.; late<br>20th c. | <u>5k. House.</u> One-story, board-and-batten dwelling with gable roof. Originally a one-room building known as the "cook's quarters," this building was moved several hundred feet from its original location behind the main house to the bank of a nearby pond and expanded with a side room and rear shed. It is non-contributing due to its relocation. |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   7   Page  10 

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

6 C-site

**Walnut Hill Historic District Landscape.** With buildings constructed over the span of a century and a pattern of farm fields basically unchanged during the past five decades, if not longer, the Walnut Hill rural landscape depicts the post-Civil War development of one prominent family plantation.

As is typical of farms throughout the county, buildings are grouped together and surrounded by the farm's acreage. Most fields are bordered by low fences, although some are flanked by woods. While the Mial-Williamson Farm features a large collection of agricultural buildings, because it was not the seat of the farm this property includes only a few domestic outbuildings. The Joseph Blake Farm displays a significant collection of domestic buildings clustered around the farm dwelling, with farm buildings slightly more distant. In both cases, the complexes of buildings are surrounded by mature hardwoods.

The Walnut Hill rural landscape also serves to illustrate larger trends in the county's history: the construction of community buildings by major land owners in isolated rural areas; the decentralization of tenant dwellings and farm buildings affiliated with large agricultural operations after the Civil War; and the conversion from cotton production to bright leaf tobacco as a major cash crop by many farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section  8  Page  11

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

## SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Summary

Associated for six generations with the interrelated Mial, Price, Blake, and Williamson families, Walnut Hill, located in the Shotwell community of southeastern Wake County, ranked as one of the county's largest and most prosperous antebellum and post-Civil War agricultural operations. Walnut Hill was named as early as the late eighteenth century for a grove of walnut trees that once surrounded the antebellum home of the Mial family and retained that name well into the twentieth century. Although the house that served as the seat of the plantation burned in 1973, there remains a remarkable collection of buildings, structures, and acreage associated with Walnut Hill and the families that made it noteworthy. Consisting of two farms, the Mial-Williamson Farm and the Joseph Blake Farm, the nominated historic district includes dwellings, agricultural buildings, and community buildings that depict the prominent history of Walnut Hill, as well as approximately 157 acres of fields and woodlands that display historic field patterns and land use from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth-century.

The Walnut Hill Historic District qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance and under Criterion A for its agricultural significance. The period of significance begins in the mid-nineteenth century, corresponding with the approximate date of construction of the oldest buildings on these sites, and extends through 1952, the year the branch of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station at Walnut Hill closed after twelve years in service. While the period of significance extends two years past the usual fifty-year cut-off date, the Mial-Williamson Farm's service as a branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station--one of only a small number of these branches found in the state--merits this extension. Established in the late nineteenth century, North Carolina's progressive agricultural experimentation program benefitted farmers locally and statewide by providing practical information on such critical topics as pest and disease control, soil erosion, and ideal growing practices. The context for the Walnut Hill Historic District is established in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," a Multiple Property Documentation Form prepared in 1993. The most relevant historic contexts include: Civil War, Reconstruction, and a Shift to Commercial Agriculture (1861-1885); Populism to Progressivism (1885-1918); and Boom, Bust and Recovery Between World Wars (1919-1941). Additional agricultural context information is provided below. The architectural significance of the district relates to the following property types: farm complexes; outbuildings; houses; and institutional buildings.

### Agricultural Context

The State of North Carolina first became involved in agricultural research in 1877, when the General Assembly established the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Experiment Station. These entities were established "to create new knowledge of agriculture and to expand the technical base upon which farmers could operate" (Carpenter and Colvard, 4). A decade later the state's involvement in agricultural research broadened with the establishment of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (later named North Carolina State College and now called North Carolina State University), of which the Agriculture Experiment Station became an integral part

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   8   Page   12  

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

(Carpenter and Colvard, 20). Researchers served as faculty members at the college and students received hands-on experience conducting experiments under the tutelage of their professors.

The second such research institution founded in the nation (the first was in Connecticut), the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station's initial responsibility was to test fertilizers. However, that mission expanded within two decades of its founding to include the study of soils, field crops, weather, tobacco curing, horticulture, livestock, and poultry, among other subjects. The Station's research projects were funded by the state and the federal government. Information gained from the Station's research was released to the public, scientific community, and the press through a variety of bulletins that were printed and widely distributed (Carpenter and Colvard, 50). In addition, beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century the state's Agricultural Extension Service worked to spread information about developments in agriculture to the public through a state system of agricultural extension agents (Carpenter and Colvard, 142).

Although the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture have always been closely aligned, the two entities were officially combined and separated several times in the first decades of their founding. While there were attempts to coordinate research efforts, the two agencies operated separate research projects and released publications in the first decade of the twentieth century (Carpenter and Colvard, 103). The two agencies were consolidated under one director by an act of the General Assembly in 1911-1912 (Carpenter and Colvard, 87), although the roles of each agency in agricultural research remained somewhat confusing well into the twentieth century.

Early agricultural research in North Carolina was conducted in laboratories and fields on the State College campus. The Station purchased its first plot of land for field tests in 1885--ten acres adjacent to the North Carolina State Fairgrounds (Carpenter and Colvard, 28). By the turn of the twentieth century, the Department of Agriculture was exploring the creation of "test farms" throughout the state on which to conduct various types of research. The first N.C. Department of Agriculture test farm was established in 1900 on rented acreage in Robeson County (Carpenter and Colvard 104). The agriculture department soon invested in the purchase of farms in Edgecombe, Pender, and Iredell counties and by 1912 owned six farms throughout the state, each of which had a unique focus, depending on its location. Those farms acquired before the 1912 consolidation of the research functions of the agriculture department and the Agricultural Experiment Station, remained under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, while additional research sites simply became part of the Experiment Station. The 1942 annual report for the Agricultural Experiment Station lists the agency's various departments and research facilities (including "Central Station" in Raleigh, a dairy research station in Statesville, the McCullers Branch Station, and a soil conservation experiment station near Raleigh), noting that six additional "branch stations" throughout the state are "owned and operated by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and the employees on these farms are members of the Department of Agriculture Staff" (*Research and Farming*, 1942).

In their book, *Knowledge is Power*, William L. Carpenter and Dean W. Colvard, describe the 1940s as a dynamic period for the state's agricultural research programs: "Increased funding, wartime needs, better-trained personnel, and improved supporting departments all contributed to a bursting forth of research knowledge on which the expansion of agriculture could be based" (Carpenter and Colvard, 279). The branch stations continued to be a vital research tool during

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section  8  Page  13

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

this period. Late in this decade, the Station made efforts to unify all of the various experimental branches. In 1948, the Station's annual report, *Research and Farming*, was redesigned to include, among other changes, a list of all research sites throughout the state--without mention of each site's agency affiliation. North Carolina State College and the farms comprising "Central Experiment Station" were listed in Raleigh, with branch stations marked in Plymouth, Willard, Greenville, Wilmington, Eagle Spring, Rocky Mount, McCullers, Oxford, Statesville, Rural Hall, Hendersonville, Laurel Springs, and Waynesville. A map in the front of the report showed the location of most of these sites (*Research and Farming*, 1948).

In addition, the 1940s brought a dramatic increase in the number of research stations. At the beginning of the decade there were only eight branch research stations outside of Raleigh. By 1949, the number had doubled to sixteen research sites throughout the state (again, outside of Raleigh's Central Station)--a strong indication of the state's increased investment in agricultural research during this decade and a hint of a tremendous period of growth to follow in the succeeding decades (*Research and Farming*, 1949).

One of the new projects of this decade was the establishment of a Soil Conservation Experiment Station on 150 acres of Walnut Hill, the southeastern Wake County farm of Carl Williamson. This new station replaced an earlier soil conservation station that had been located in Statesville from 1930-1940. Although not the only research site to deal with soil conservation issues, this station at Walnut Hill, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, conducted soil studies specifically related to tobacco production in the lower piedmont--the region's largest cash crop. Under the supervision of T. L. Copley, who also taught at N. C. State, this station was established for "studying problems relating to the control of erosion on tobacco land and to the developing of soil conservation practices which do not injure the quality of tobacco" (*Research and Farming*, 1941, p. 60). Specifically, the soil conservation project tested various methods of terracing and types of crop rotation to enhance erosion control and thus, overall production. Results of these studies were published in several articles of the annual *Research and Farming*, as well as in a special bulletin entitled *Soil Management of Bright Tobacco in Lower Piedmont* (Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 392, January 1954). Although temporary, the Station at Walnut Hill was one of only two such branches in Wake County outside of Raleigh during this period and one of sixteen such sites statewide by 1949 (three years before it closed in 1952).

### Historical Background

The crossroads community known as Shotwell served as the hub of several prominent rural plantations associated with the Mial, Price, Blake, and Williamson families, each located about a mile or less from the crossroads (see figure 1). Named in the late nineteenth century for Confederate soldier Randolph Abbott Shotwell (1844-1885)--perhaps when a post office by that name was established in the community in 1883 (Murray, 596)--Shotwell was formed much earlier by the intersection of the Smithfield Road, which joined Raleigh and points north with the Johnston County town of Smithfield on the Neuse River and several local roads. Although once home to as many as four stores and a post office, the crossroads now boasts only one small store and dwelling, as well as a lodge building once used by local African Americans (Lally, 230).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

Both established in the late eighteenth century, the Shotwell-area plantations known as Walnut Hill and Oaky Grove evolved into two of the most prosperous agricultural operations in Wake County. In addition to being connected with adjacent lands, the two plantations were linked by marriage throughout most of their histories. Walnut Hill Plantation was founded in 1775 by Thomas Mial, Sr. (1736-1811) when he acquired 430 acres from Wake County planter Mallichi Hinton--land that Hinton had been granted from Lord Granville of England. Mial built a plantation house on a hill in a grove of walnut trees along what is now Mial Plantation Road (see figure 1) and lived there with his wife, Pheraby Parker Mial, and two children, Thomas, Jr. and Pheraby. The one-and-a-half-story, hall-parlor-plan house, which had been expanded several times in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, burned in 1973, although several outbuildings survive at the site. At Mial's death, his children inherited this and adjoining tracts. Thomas, Jr. (1799-1831), who eventually acquired his sister's interest, married Scheherazade Price (1805-1853) of Oaky Grove Plantation and lived with her at Walnut Hill (Wake County survey files).

About a mile northeast of Walnut Hill, Oaky Grove Plantation was founded in 1795 by Scheherazade's father, Thomas Price. The plantation, which included as much as 4,500 acres in Wake and Johnston counties, was in 1828 ranked the fifth highest in assessed value in Wake County. At his death in 1830, Thomas Price's substantial property, which included five mills and a store, was divided into six tracts. The homeplace tract of 455 acres, along with the plantation house, a ca. 1818 two-story, hall-parlor plan dwelling that still stands, although it was considerably remodeled at the turn of the twentieth century, was awarded to his youngest daughter, Fetney (1810-1836), and her husband Rev. Bennett T. Blake (1800-1882), a prominent Methodist minister. Price's older daughter, Scheherazade Mial inherited 690 acres adjacent to Walnut Hill (Oaky Grove NR nomination, 1993).

Scheherazade and Thomas Mial had one son, Alonzo Thomas, who was seven years old when his father died in 1831. Six years after her husband's death, Scheherazade married her sister's widower, Bennett Blake, and moved back to her homeplace of Oaky Grove. Known widely as an educator and minister, Blake operated Oaky Grove's farming operations and ran a store on the property. He also established Oaky Grove Methodist Episcopal Church on the Oaky Grove plantation in the 1830s and served as its minister for many years. Scheherazade and Bennett Blake had one child, Joseph, born in 1839.

His mother's remarriage left young Alonzo Mial the primary beneficiary of his father's Walnut Hill estate. The property, which then included over 1,300 acres, was operated by a manager until Alonzo came of age. A. T. Mial attended Hillsborough Academy from 1836-1839 and visited Price family relatives in Mississippi before settling into life as the owner/operator of a large family plantation in the mid-1840s. In 1850, A. T. Mial married Victoria LeMay, the daughter of a prominent Raleigh newspaper editor. The couple had six children between 1852 and 1865--Millard, Ella, Eliza, A. T., Jr., Leonidas, and Wilbur (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination, 1986).

During the 1840s and 1850s, A. T. Mial worked intently to increase his holdings. Through acquisition and inheritance, he assembled one of the largest antebellum and post-Civil War plantations in Wake County. By 1860, the Mials owned 2,240 acres (800 of which were improved) in Wake County worth nearly \$11,000, with additional acreage extending into adjacent Johnston County. That year his agricultural products included corn and livestock as well as about

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

60,000 pounds of cotton, the main cash crop, and his labor force consisted of thirty-three slaves (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination, 1986).

In addition to acquiring land during these years, Mial set out to improve the efficiency of his operations by constructing a large cotton gin house on his property. Built around 1845 and located about one-half mile east of his dwelling, this two-and-a-half-story building housed state-of-the-art equipment for its day and ginned Mial's cotton crop and the crop of many of his neighbors in southeastern Wake and northwestern Johnston counties (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination, 1986). The imposing gin house still stands on its tall granite foundation and was listed in the National Register in 1986 (see figure 1).

A. T. Mial sold his cotton in a number of different markets during the years he operated the plantation. Before the Civil War, Petersburg, Virginia served as his main market. After the war, Mial's markets expanded to include Norfolk, New York, and Liverpool, England. No doubt his lifelong interest in up-to-date agricultural methods, as well as his many state and national contacts, led him to serve as a delegate to the National Convention of State Agricultural Societies in 1856 and later as an active member of the North Carolina Grange (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination, 1986).

The Civil War seems to have done little to curtail A. T. Mial's prosperity. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century he owned as much as 2,700 acres planted in cotton, corn, and eventually some tobacco. Like other planters, he found labor for his post-war farming efforts from among the slaves he had formerly owned and others, both black and white, that he hired on a contractual basis. Initially he paid workers a wage plus housing and provisions for their work on their farm. However, like most other large-scale farm owners of the time, he eventually adopted a share-cropping system, where workers agreed to plant a certain amount of a crop or crops and received a share or portion of what they produced, as well as housing on the farm (Wake County MPDF, 52). Mial also hired a number of workers for wages to operate his cotton gin and assist in running the farm and his household. During this transitional period, Mial built small compounds of residences and farm buildings closer to the farm's fields for his workers, including the area included in the nominated district (no. 2). A modest dwelling referred to the overseer's house (no. 1) dates from this period. Several other tenant dwellings of late nineteenth-century vintage were located on this part of the plantation, but no longer stand (Wake County survey files).

Mial's post-Civil War construction projects were not solely related to his business. In the late 1860s, he built a small private school for the education of his children and others in the neighborhood (no. 3). Dubbed "Frog Pond Academy," this two-room building is one of a very few surviving community schoolhouses in Wake County from this period (Lally, 122). Mial hired John Fray, who later taught at the Raleigh Male Academy, to teach in the school (Murray, 305). After it was no longer used as a school, the building was used to house Mial's tenant families. In addition, Mial and other committee members of the Oaky Grove Methodist Church (including his half-brother, Joseph Blake) set out to build a new building for the congregation (no. 4) on a lot adjacent to the schoolhouse that Mial donated. For a sum of \$600 in 1876, the committee hired contractor W. S. Walden to construct a building according to the plans of one Mr. Moseley. The simple Gothic Revival edifice was to be thirty feet by fifty feet and finished inside and out in a "neat workmanlike manner" (Wake County MPDF, 145). Although its original steeple was destroyed by fire in the twentieth century and replaced with

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section  8  Page  16

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

a smaller version, the old church still towers over this section of the Walnut Hill.

Joseph Blake also built a house during this period on a parcel adjacent Mial's land (no. 5). Blake acquired this property in 1855 after A. T. Mial deeded a substantial portion of the land he had inherited from his mother to his half-brother for one dollar "in consideration for the love and affection" he had for him (Wake County Deeds). This property, along with several slaves, was to be claimed by Joseph Blake when he reached the age of twenty-one. That year, 1860, the U. S. Census recorded Joseph Blake as a farmer and landowner. The 1871 Bevers map of Wake County shows the home of "J. Blake" adjacent to the property of A. T. Mial and Bennett Blake, indicating that by that time he was a property owner of status. Joseph Blake married Lucy Person of Franklin County and the couple had three children. In addition to his farming interests, Blake served as county surveyor for several non-consecutive terms in the late nineteenth century until his death in 1902 (Murray memo to Kelly Molloy). Although much of Blake's house was destroyed by fire in the late nineteenth century, one room of the house, as well as Blake's office and a number of domestic and agricultural buildings from the period, still survive. The property was back in the Mial family's possession by the early twentieth century and was sold out of the family by Millard Mial to Wade Harris in 1920 (Wake County Deeds).

A. T. Mial, who was described by one local author as "an extensive and prosperous planter, a man of much prominence and influence, and who took a deep interest in political affairs, and indeed, in all that concerned the highest welfare of his county" (Amis, 207), died in 1897. His wife, Victoria, followed just a few years later. The map showing the division of the estate was drawn by Joseph Blake in 1902, just prior to his death (Wake County survey files). The couple's oldest son, Millard, inherited the 488-acre Home Tract and the 509-acre Gin House Tract (the eastern half of which is referred to in the 1902 survey map as the Church Tract) and continued to operate the farm and cotton gin (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination, 1986).

While cotton continued to be grown and ginned at Walnut Hill until the 1930s, tobacco slowly became the farm's main cash crop under Millard Mial's ownership, due primarily to the boll weevil infestation that ruined cotton crops throughout the county and state during this period (Bailey Williamson, interview). Tobacco was cured and prepared for market in at least seven barns on the Mial-Williamson Farm alone, with additional barns located on tracts nearby.

In addition to his work at Walnut Hill, Millard Mial served in many local and state elected offices, including that of register of deeds, county commissioner, state representative, and clerk of the Wake County Superior Court (Walnut Hill Cotton Gin National Register nomination). In his book about Raleigh, local author Moses Amis described Millard Mial as "numbered among the most intelligent, advanced, and prosperous agriculturists of the county" (Amis, 208). Millard died a bachelor in 1933, leaving his sister, Ella, the Gin House tract, including a significant portion of the nominated district.

Ella Mial Williamson, who had married Walnut Hill neighbor Captain Bailey P. Williamson in 1879, lived in the Williamson house, a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival dwelling, about a mile to the north of Walnut Hill on the Smithfield Road. (The house still stands at the corner of Smithfield Road and Poole Road--see figure 1). Ella's son, Carl, managed her farming operations until her death in 1941. Her will divided the property among her four children, although Carl eventually acquired the interests of his siblings. In addition to managing the farm, Carl Williamson served as

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

Raleigh's postmaster for many years (*Gold Leaf Farmer*, Feb. 15, 1973).

During the difficult years of the Depression, Carl Williamson allowed a portion of his holdings to be used as a branch of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. The Soil Conservation Experiment Station relocated to Wake County from Statesville, North Carolina in 1940 (*Research and Farming*, 1941; Bailey Williamson, interview). This branch station experimented primarily with erosion-control methods related to tobacco cultivation in the lower piedmont, including terracing and crop rotation. From 1940 through 1952, researchers T. L. Copley, Project Supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service, Luke A. Forrest, Soil Scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and W. G. Woltz, Professor of Agronomy for N. C. State Experiment Station, conducted research on about 150 acres of farmland at Walnut Hill, primarily around the old church and school site. The results of research conducted at the station were published in several articles in *Research and Farming*, the annual report for the North Carolina Experiment Station, as well as in a statewide bulletin in 1954 (Copley, Forrest, and Woltz, 1954). According to Bailey Williamson, a better-irrigated method of growing tobacco known as the "string-row method" was improved as a result of research at the station (Bailey Williamson, interview).

During the research phase, several families provided labor for the farming operation, living in several tenant houses on the farm. As part of the agreement with the Williamsons, the station used and maintained the farm's tobacco-related barns and built an equipment shed (no. 2p) and mule barn (no. 2h) on the site. In addition, the station paid a small amount of rent for use of the farm and provided much-needed erosion control as part of the experiments. The old schoolhouse (no. 3) served as headquarters for the station (Bailey Williamson, interview).

After the Depression, Carl Williamson and his family continued to grow tobacco and to improve the farm. In the 1950s, the Williamsons added the first irrigation system in the county, a system that included a series of farm ponds. In addition to tobacco, the farm also produced wheat, corn, soybeans, and cattle at various times (Bailey Williamson, interview). In 1951, Carl deeded a one-acre tract near the old church and school to his son, Bailey, and his new wife, Sara, as a wedding gift, on which the couple built a ranch house that same year. A decade later, Carl Williamson deeded the entire farm to his five children, who, for many years, managed the farming operation as Williamson Farms, Inc. The property has since been divided among the heirs, with Bailey and Sara Williamson acquiring the tracts that contain the old church and school and the old overseer's house. Bailey Williamson, who is a sixth generation owner of the property, has continued to farm until recently, growing primarily tobacco, wheat, and hay on land that has been in his family for generations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 18

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Amis, Moses N. *Historical Raleigh, with Sketches of Wake County and Its Important Towns*. Raleigh: Commercial Printing Co. Rev. edition. 1913.
- Bevers, Fendol, Map of Wake County, 1871.
- Belvin, Lynne and Harriette Riggs, editors. *Heritage of Wake County*. Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.
- Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1990.
- Black, David and Allison Black. "Walnut Hill Cotton Gin." National Register Nomination. 1986.
- Carpenter, William L. and Dean W. Colvard. *Knowledge is Power*. Raleigh: School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, North Carolina State University, 1987.
- Carroll, Gradel L. E., Sr. *They Lived in Raleigh: Some Leading Personalities from 1792 to 1892*. Volume I. Raleigh: Southwestern Copy Center [per author], 1977.
- Copley, T. L., Luke A. Forrest, and W. G. Woltz. *Soil Management of Bright Tobacco in Lower Piedmont*. Raleigh: Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 392, January 1954.
- Lally, Kelly A. *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*. Wake County Government, 1994.
- Lally, Kelly A. And Todd Johnson. "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941). National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993. Survey and Planning Branch, Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.
- Murray, Elizabeth Reid. *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*. Volume I. Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983.
- "Oakly Grove Church Silent." *Gold Leaf Farmer*. February 15, 1973.
- Research and Farming*, Annual Report of the Agricultural Experiment Station, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, 1941-1949.
- Survey and Planning Branch files on Walnut Hill, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section   9   Page   19  

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

Wake County. Minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Wake County. Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wake County Record of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

“Walnut Hill Magnificent.” *Gold Leaf Farmer*. February 15, 1973.

Williamson, Ella Mial. *Book of Record and Brief Family History of Ella Mial Williamson*. (Unpublished family copy using the format of Josephus H. Newton.) February 21, 1921.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 20

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

**SECTION 10**

**UTM References**

	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
<b>A</b>	731010	3957760
<b>B</b>	731300	3957340
<b>C</b>	731520	3957120
<b>D</b>	730720	3956820
<b>E</b>	730680	3957280

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Walnut Hill Historic District is shown with a dashed line on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Walnut Hill Historic District is drawn to include as many as possible of the historic resources and related acreage associated with Walnut Hill. The boundaries exclude large expanses of acreage without buildings that show this relationship.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page 21 Photographs

Walnut Hill Historic District, Wake County, North Carolina

---

**Photographs**

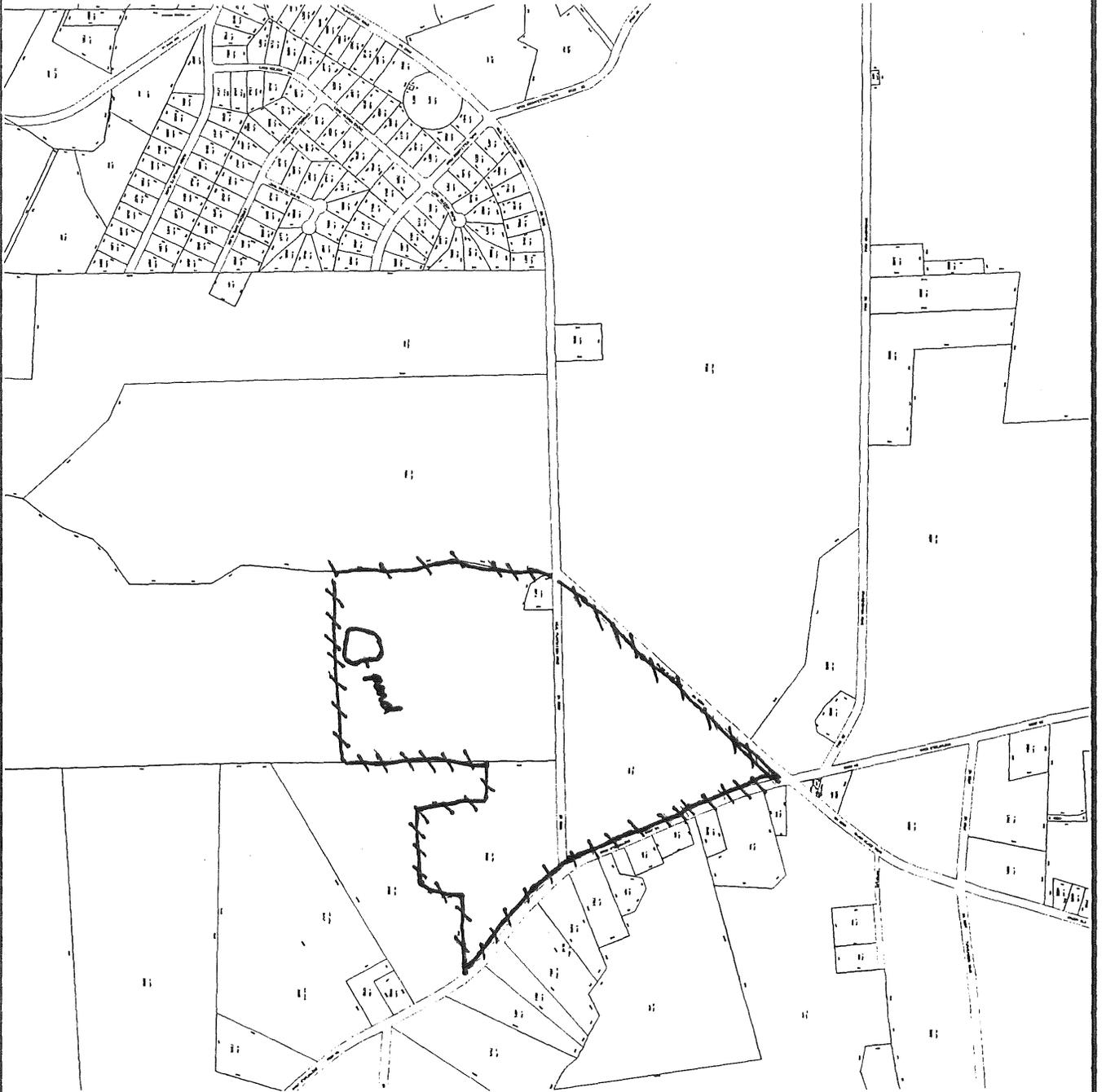
The following information applies to all photographs included in the Walnut Hill Historic District National Register nomination.

Walnut Hill Historic District  
Wake County, North Carolina  
Photographer: Ruth Little  
June 1999

Negatives on file at North Carolina Division of Archives and History

Letters below are keyed to the sketch map.

- A. Oaky Grove Methodist Church and barn, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the northwest.
- B. Overseer's House, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the southwest.
- C. Sara and Bailey Williamson House, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the northwest.
- D. Frog Pond Academy, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the northeast.
- E. Tobacco barns, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the east.
- F. Non-contributing grain bins, Mial-Williamson Farm, from the northwest.
- G. Oaky Grove Methodist Church, west view from the grove of the Joseph Blake Farm.
- H. Joseph Blake House and Office from the north.
- I. Dairy, Joseph Blake Farm, from the southwest.
- J. Documentary photo of Oaky Grove Methodist Church from the northeast.



Wake  
County  
Walnut Hill  
Historic  
District

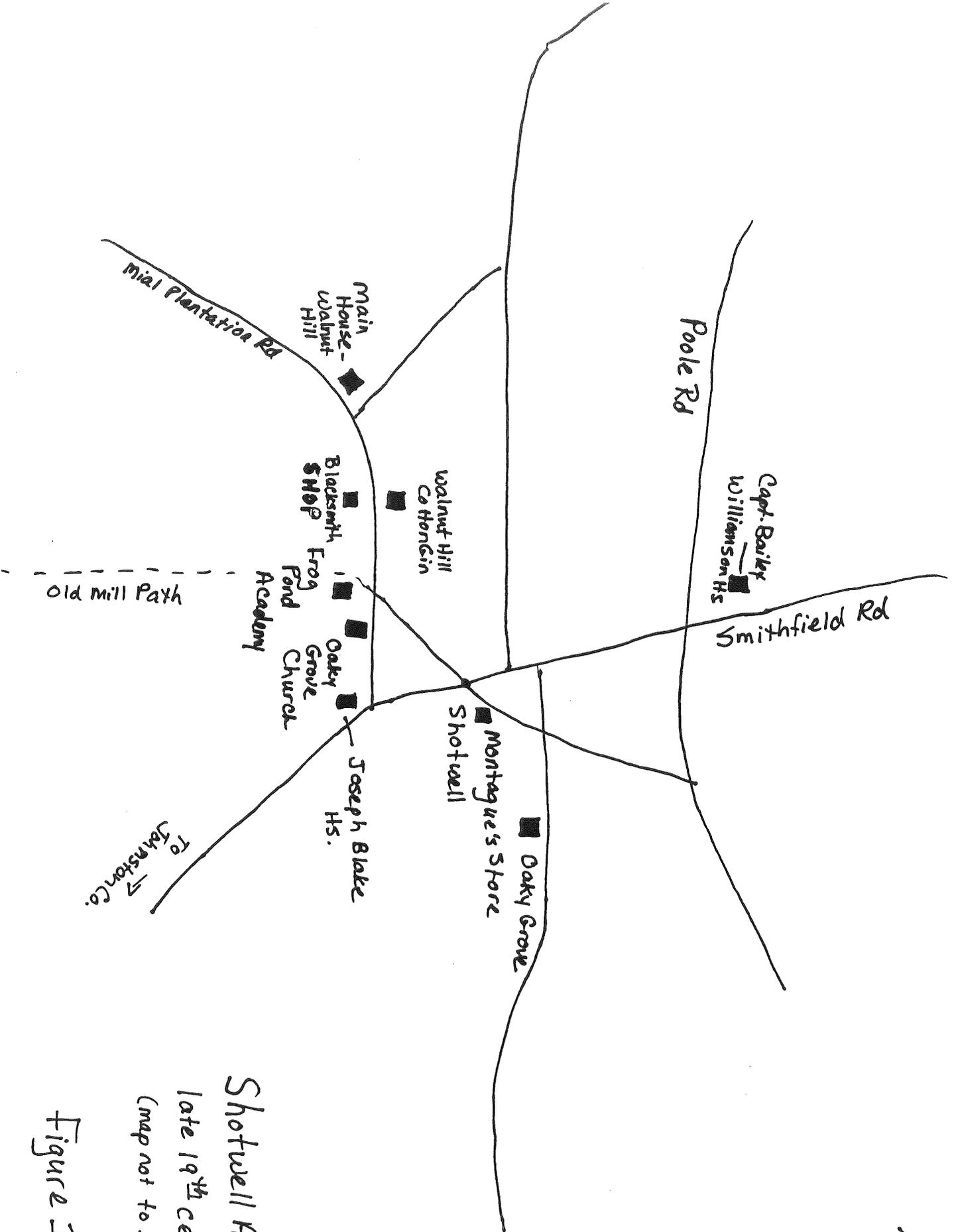
Information depicted hereon is for reference purposes only, and is compiled from the best available information. The State of North Carolina is not responsible for errors arising from the misuse of this map.

Name: PLANPUB  
Date: 08/04/99

Scale: 1"=1082'



↑N



### Shotwell Area

late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
(map not to scale)

Figure 1

Wake County

Walnut Hill Historic District  
A E: 731100 N: 395760  
B E: 731300 N: 3957340  
C E: 731520 N: 3957120  
D E: 730720 N: 3956820  
E E: 730680 N: 3957280

CLAYTON QUADRAN  
NORTH CAROLINA  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOG)

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCES  
NORTH CAROLINA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

