

WAKE COUNTY, NC 139  
LAURA M RIDDICK  
REGISTER OF DEEDS  
PRESENTED & RECORDED ON  
10/22/2009 AT 12:31:29

BOOK:013734 PAGE:01249 - 01253

**ORDINANCE NO. (2009) 637**

**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE DR. M. T. POPE HOUSE IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK**

**WHEREAS**, the property located at 511 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, is owned by Dr. M.T. Pope House Museum Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, on the 4th day of August, 2009, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chamber of the Avery C. Upchurch Municipal Complex, Raleigh, before the City Council of the City of Raleigh and the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic landmark; and

**WHEREAS**, all requirements of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:**

**Section 1.** The property designated as the Dr. M. T. Pope House, in the planning jurisdiction of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

The property located at 511 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC, owned by Dr. M.T. Pope House Museum Foundation, that property described as Parcel I in deed book 12653, page 488 recorded in Wake County Registry, comprising approximately .09 acres.

**Section 2.** Those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological and/or cultural significance or any combination thereof are as follows:

The two-story brick house and the .09 acre upon which it sits. The Dr. M. T. Pope House is architecturally significant within the context of African American cultural resources as a rare and early example of a front-gable structure originally constructed of brick, for the use of expensive materials of high-quality, and for its stylish workmanship. The house is historically significant as the last structure in its original location illustrating the presence of a middle and professional class of African-American families along S. Wilmington Street, for its association with Dr. M.T. Pope as an African-American physician and Trustee of Shaw University, and his wife and daughters as prominent and influential figures in the State. Mrs. Delia H. Phillips Pope was a beautician and sister of Mary E. Phillips a respected educator for whom Phillips Elementary School in Raleigh is named. After receiving undergraduate degrees from Shaw University and master's degrees from Columbia University in New York, Evelyn Pope became director of the School of Library Science at North Carolina Central University in Durham and Ruth Pope became a respected school teacher in Chapel Hill.

**Section 3.** No portion of the exterior features of any building, site, structure, or object (including walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, pavement, paths, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission or its successors; provided however that the Raleigh Planning Director or designee may approve certificates of appropriateness for minor works as listed in the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission.

**Section 4.** No building, site, structure, or object (including walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, pavement, paths, or any other appurtenant features), trees, nor above ground utility structure located on the hereinbefore described property that is designated in this ordinance may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission or a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days has elapsed following final review by the Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period of time required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it maybe amended hereafter); provided however, that demolition may be denied by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission in the event that the State Historic Preservation Officer determines that the building, site, or structure has statewide significance as provided by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14.

**Section 5.** The Raleigh Historic Districts Commission shall have no jurisdiction over the interior features of the property.

**Section 6.** All owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence shall be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

**Section 7.** This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

**Section 8.** City administration and the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic landmark by action of the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh provided, should the owners of the hereinabove described property not consent to the erection of said sign on the described premises, City administration and the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

**Section 9.** In the event any building, site, structure, or object designated by this ordinance is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of the City of Raleigh, this ordinance shall automatically be null and void.

**Section 10.** Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

**Adopted:** September 1, 2009

**Effective:** September 1, 2009

Distribution: Department of City Planning  
Inspections Department  
Raleigh Historic Districts Commission  
Wake County Tax Assessor  
Property Owner and Occupant (if not the owner)  
Registrar of Deeds



*City Of Raleigh*  
North Carolina

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)  
COUNTY OF WAKE)

## CERTIFICATION

I, Ralph L. Puccini, Assistant Deputy Clerk of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina,  
do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of City of Raleigh  
**Ordinance No. (2009) 637** adopted September 1, 2009.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto set my hand and have caused the Seal of  
the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 23, 2009.



  
Ralph L. Puccini  
Assistant Deputy Clerk

Raleigh Department of City Planning  
 One Exchange Plaza  
 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
 Raleigh, NC 27602  
 919-516-2626

[www.raleighnc.gov/planning](http://www.raleighnc.gov/planning)

Fee	_____
Amt Paid	_____
Check #	_____
Rec'd Date:	_____
Rec'd By:	_____
Completion Date:	_____

**(Processing Fee: \$257.00 - valid until June 30, 2009 - Checks payable to the City of Raleigh.)**

## RALEIGH HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

This application initiates consideration of a property for designation as a Raleigh Historic Landmark by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission (RHDC) and the Raleigh City Council. It enables evaluation of the resource to determine if it qualifies for designation. The evaluation is made by the Research Committee of the RHDC, which makes its recommendation to the full commission. The historic landmark program was previously administered by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission but has been transferred back to the city; procedures for administration by the RHDC are outlined in the Raleigh City Code, Section 10-1053.

Please type if possible. Use 8-1/2" x 11" paper for supporting documentation and if additional space is needed. All materials submitted become the property of the RHDC and cannot be returned. Return completed application to the RHDC office at One Exchange Plaza, Suite 300, Raleigh or mail to:

Raleigh Historic Districts Commission  
 PO Box 829 Century Station  
 Raleigh, NC 27602

1. Name of Property (if historic name is unknown, give current name or street address):

Historic Name: Dr. M.T. Pope House

Current Name: Dr. M.T. Pope House

2. Location:

Street 511 S. Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NC PIN No.: 1703763722

(Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

3. Legal Owner of Property (If more than one, list primary contact):

Name: M.T. Pope House Museum Foundation  
 Address: 511 S. Wilmington Street  
 City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27601  
 Telephone No: (919) (833)-(4633) Fax No. (919) (821)-(7667)  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner):

Name: Rebecca O. Spanbauer for Circa, Inc.  
 Address: P.O. Box 28365  
 City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27611  
 Telephone No: (919) (834)-(4757) Fax No. (919) (834)-(4756)  
 E-Mail: [amontgomery@circa-inc.com](mailto:amontgomery@circa-inc.com); [rspanbauer@cardinalpres.com](mailto:rspanbauer@cardinalpres.com)

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1900

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: 0

Approximate lot size or acreage: 0.09 acres

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Unknown

Original Use: domestic/residential

Present Use: institutional/museum/educational

6. Classification:

## A. Category (check all that apply):

Building(s)  Structure  Object  Site

## B. Ownership

Private  (non-profit)

Public  Local  State  Federal

## C. Number of contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	1	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination Form, October 1999,  
Kenneth Joel Zogry/Consultant

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E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 1999	Nominated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Determined Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Determined Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Nomination Not Requested <input type="checkbox"/>	Removed <input type="checkbox"/> Date:

7. Reason for Request: \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Is the property income producing? Yes  No

9. Are any interior spaces being included for designation? Yes  No

10. Supporting Documentation (Attach to application on separate sheets. Please type or print):

A. Photographs/Slides:

At least two sets of current exterior archival-grade photographic prints (minimum print size 5"x7") of all facades of the building and at least one photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources. If interior spaces of the property are being considered for designation, please include two sets of photos for these features. Prints may be created by using archival-grade black and white film photography and processing or digital photography. The minimum standard for a digital print is 5x7 at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch (ppi). This translates into a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350. Digital images must be printed with an acceptable ink and paper combination as determined by the National Park Service. This list can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/policyexpansion.htm#digital> All photographs must be labeled with the name of the structure, address and date the photograph was taken with pencil or archival-approved photo pen. In addition to prints, all digital images should be submitted on a CD-R in TIF or JPG format. Any additional exterior or interior views and views of other structures on the property (color, black and white, or slides) will be helpful.

B. Map:

Please include a map showing the location of the property. A sketch map is acceptable, but please note street names and number. Any other structures on the property should also be shown. Please include a "North" arrow. Map should be no larger than 11" x 17". A tax map with boundaries marked is preferred, which can be found at:

<http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>.

C. Architectural Significance:

Describe the property, including exterior architectural features, additions, remodelings,

and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings and landscape features. If the owner is including interior features in the nomination for the purpose of design review protection; describe them in detail and note their locations. Include a statement regarding the architectural significance of the property.

D. Historic Significance:

Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Include all major owners. Note if the property has ever been recorded during a historic building survey by the City of Raleigh or by the NC State Historic Preservation Office. If so, who and when? (See application item 6.D.) Please include a bibliography of sources. Information regarding prior designations can be found by contacting the Survey & Planning Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office at 919/733-6545 or at: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/spbranch.htm>.



Section 10A: Photographs



NW corner



SW corner



Façade view (looking at NW corner)



South/Side elevation



North/Side elevation



Rear/East elevation



SE/Rear corner



Front entry (façade/west elevation)



Front entry and porch detail



Circular window detail (north/side elevation)



Window details (north/side elevation)



Rear shed detail



Site view from rear elevation (looking west)



Site View (looking SE at corner of S. Wilmington St. and Cabarrus St.)



Site View (looking south down S. Wilmington St.)

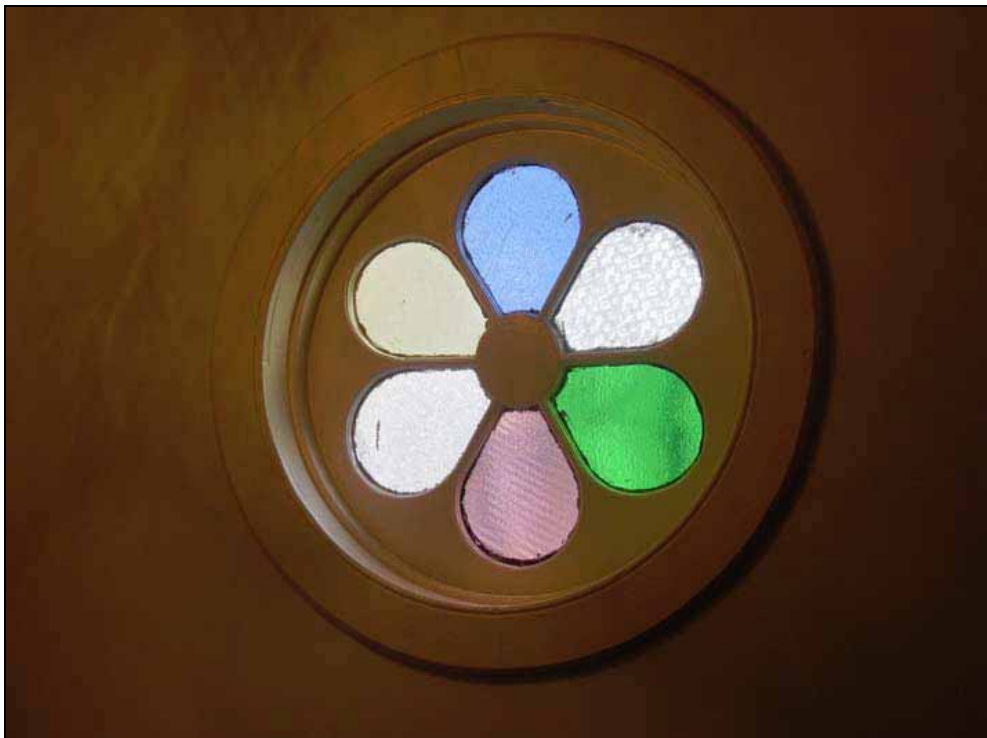


Site view (looking north up S. Wilmington St.)





Front Entry



Petal Window – Front Hall



Downstairs Hall



Downstairs Newel Post



Original Telephone



Dr. Pope's Office Sink



Dining Room and Parlor



Downstairs Parlor Window



Upstairs Newel Post

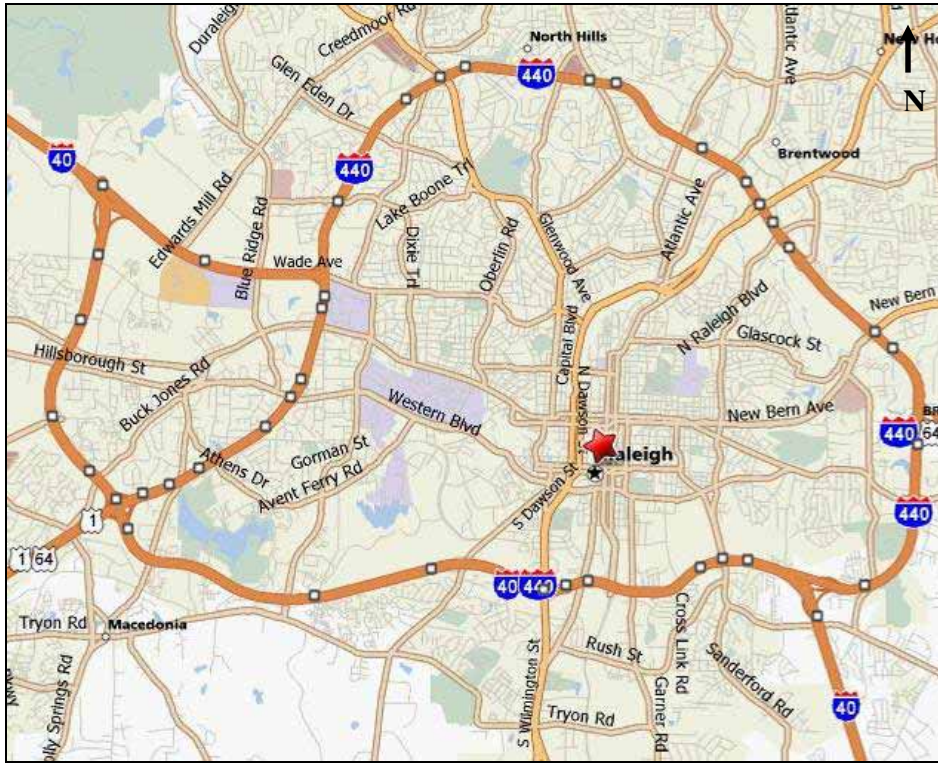


Upstairs Sun Parlor

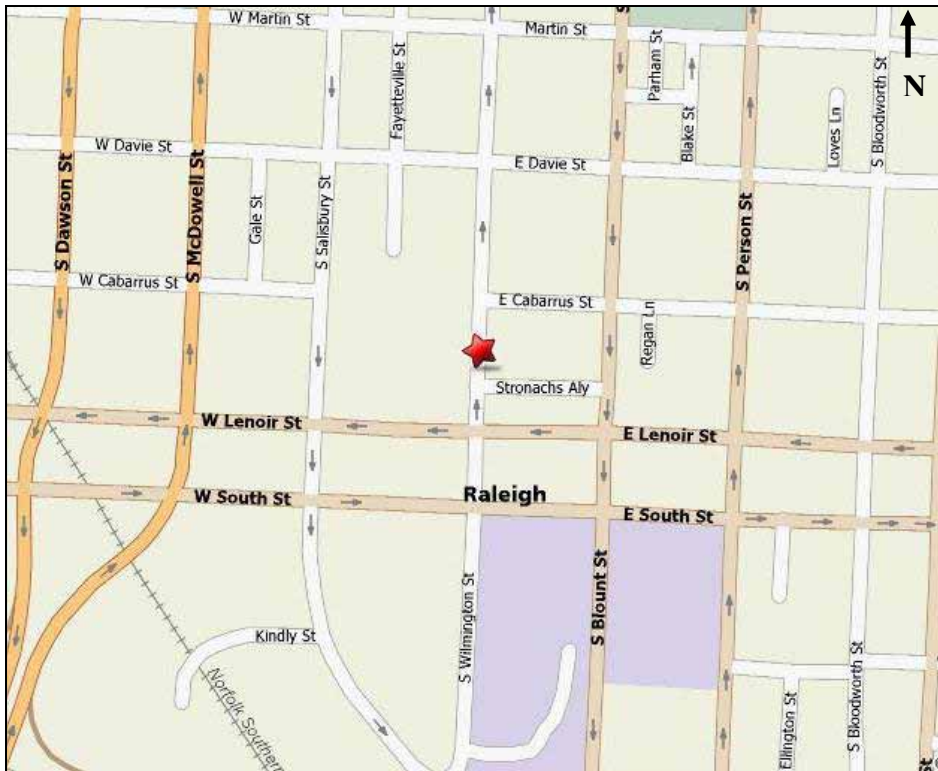


Original Bathtub – Upstairs Bath





Location Map 1



Location Map 2



Section 10C: Architectural Significance

\* See attached National Register Nomination Form

Section 10D: Historic Significance

\* See attached National Register Nomination Form

National Register Nomination Form: Addendum (March 2009)

Since the date of listing in the National Register of Historic Places on November 22, 1999 there have been changes to the setting of the Dr. M. T. Pope House. In February 2006 the Raleigh Convention Center that stood across Wilmington Street from the Dr. M.T. Pope House was demolished. The demolition was part of a plan to complete a Fayetteville Street Renaissance; the main component of which was to re-open the street to vehicular traffic, completed in the summer of 2006.

The Dr. M.T. Pope House hugs its western property line with Wilmington Street. It is immediately surrounded by a narrow band of grass on all sides with a thick row of hedges that border the Wilmington Street sidewalk. A fig tree is located on the north side in front of the petal window. In the rear yard there is a dirt area sufficient for parking two vehicles. Based on property maps, it is unclear whether the shrubs and trees that line the eastern property line are part of the Pope House parcel or the adjacent parking lot.

The exterior and interior of the Dr. M.T. Pope House remain as described in the nomination. The metal grates that cover the first floor windows are not mentioned in the nomination, but were likely present at that time.

The historical association of the Dr. M.T. Pope House as the last structure in its original location illustrating the presence of a middle and professional class of African-American families along South Wilmington Street remains. The significance of Dr. M.T. Pope as an African-American physician, and the significance of his wife and daughters as prominent and influential figures in the State also continue. In 2000, the year following the National Register listing, Ruth Pope, the last living daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Pope, died in Raleigh.

The property is also significant for its architecture. Architecturally, within the context of African American cultural resources, the house is a rare and early example of a front-gable structure: originally constructed of brick, and using expensive materials of high-quality and stylish workmanship for both the exterior and the interior. A house built originally of brick is exceedingly rare among all of the resources in the eight African American communities surveyed by the commission during the late 1980s.

Boundary Description

The landmark boundary will follow the boundaries of the parcel identified as PIN # 1703763722. This parcel is historically associated with the house since its construction date c.1900.

ates Department of the Interior  
al 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 an 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 Dr. M.T. Pope House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 511 S. Wilmington Street  Not for publication

city or town Raleigh  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27601

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffery J. Crows SHPO 10/12/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of 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 official/Title Date

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

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

W. F. Pope House  
Name of Property

Wake, NC  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property  
(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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
HEALTH CARE/ Medical Office

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Two-story, gable-front

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
roof Other: Built-up  
other

Narrative Description

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

3. 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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

1900-1949

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Pope Family Archives, Pope Founda

M. F. Pope House  
Name of Property

Wake, NC  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .10 acre

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 713463 39611801  
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.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Joel Zogry/ Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date May 1, 1999

street & number 2501 Greenway Avenue telephone (919) 783-8335

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27608

#### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Evelyn B. and Ruth P. Pope Charitable Foundation

street & number P.O. Box 18135 telephone (919) 870-5007

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27619

**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 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 Reduction Projects (1024-0013), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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M. T. Pope House  
Wake County, NC

### 7. Narrative Description

The 1900 M. T. Pope House stands on the eastern side of South Wilmington Street, on the north side of Stronach's Alley in downtown Raleigh, surrounded on three sides by commercial parking lots, and facing the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center. The house is located in a bustling commercial district, with a multi-story office building to the northwest. A tight row of shrubs and a sidewalk separate the house from South Wilmington Street. The two-story, brick building is a simple yet refined example of a southern urban middle-class dwelling of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century.

The exterior of the Pope House is constructed of brick in common bond, accented with painted wood trim. The overall form of the house is rectangular, with the end of the gable roof facing South Wilmington Street. The main structure is two bays wide and three bays deep. A two-story front porch, added about 1920, includes a partially enclosed entrance (ca. 1940) of brick on the first floor with a side door leading out to the open portion. The second floor of the porch features a "sun parlor" clad in weatherboard. There are two one-story shed additions on the back. The first, of brick, is two bays wide and one bay deep, and is part of the original structure. The second, of cinderblock clad in vinyl siding, is one bay wide and one bay deep, and was added about 1940. The windows of the main structure are two-over-two with decorative brick arches above. The exception is a round six-pane colored glass "petal" window on the first floor of the north façade. The windows of the original shed addition are smaller two-over-two and the windows of the ca. 1940 addition are six-over-six. The second story sun porch also features six-over-six windows. There is one interior chimney near the roof's ridge that originally served a furnace and a smaller interior chimney in the original shed addition that served the kitchen stove. Each gable end of the roof has louvered vents with peaked heads for ventilation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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M. T. Pope House  
Wake County, NC

### Interior

The Pope House is entered through the ca. 1940 enclosed brick vestibule on South Wilmington Street, which leads to the original wood front door partially glazed with plate glass. The interior plan is side-hall on both floors, with a wide stair hall on the northern side, and two large rooms on the southern side of the main hall. The original shed addition on the first floor contains a kitchen, and a small hall which had been enclosed as a patient examining room early in the century. In addition to two large bedrooms, the second floor includes the original bathroom at the back of the stair hall of the main structure, and the sun porch on the front on the house added about 1920.

Although the house was renovated ca. 1940 and partially restored in 1998, it retains much of its original interior finish. All interior milled woodwork including the corner block paterae and window sash are original, as are the heart-pine paneled doors and impressive stair newel post, turned balusters, and carved hand rail. A pair of large pine paneled pocket doors separate the parlor from the dining room on the first floor. The heart-pine floors on the second floor are original, and those on the first floor, damaged by leaking water, were replaced to match the originals in 1998. Other original interior features include the colored-glass of the "petal" window in the first-floor stair hall, copper-plated door hinges and knobs, copper-plated and brass lighting fixtures, a wooden servant call box and copper call buttons, and a small hand sink in what had been the patient examining room.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

M. T. Pope House  
Wake County, NC

### Integrity Statement

The 1900 Dr. M. T. Pope House retains its historic exterior character, and has continued in its original primary use as a dwelling. It also retains its original interior plan, and most of its original interior finish. Aside from the porch and shed additions described, the only major changes have been the replacing of kitchen and bathroom fixtures in ca. 1940 and again in 1998, and the replacing of the pine floor on the first floor, deteriorated plaster, and broken window glass in 1998. The mechanical systems were also replaced in 1998. The structure is now owned by a charitable trust established by Evelyn B. and Ruth P. Pope, daughters of M. T. Pope, and will be used in the future as either adaptive office space or as a museum of African American heritage in Raleigh.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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M. T. Pope House  
Wake County, NC

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Summary

The 1900 M. T. Pope House is significant to the city of Raleigh as the last surviving structure from a once-thriving middle and professional class African American neighborhood, created in the capital city at the beginning of racial segregation at the turn of the twentieth century. For much of this century Raleigh had several such viable and active African American communities (now largely gone), which contained important educational and religious institutions and thriving commercial areas. Built by Dr. M. T. Pope, an African American physician and entrepreneur, this house is associated with an important period of history in Raleigh, and is significant to the area's social history and ethnic heritage. The Pope House stands today as a stalwart sentinel to both the worst and best of American society: it represents racial intolerance and segregation, but also the strength and dignity of those who refused to be subjugated by bigotry.

#### **Historical Background and Social History / Ethnic Heritage Contexts**

Dr. Manassas Thomas Pope was born in 1858 in Rich Square, Northhampton County, North Carolina, to parents who were free persons of color. Apparently Dr. Pope was descended from both African Americans and European Americans, as his father is described as being of "bright yellow complexion" (1851 Freeman Papers of Jonas Pope, Pope Family Papers). Nothing is known of Dr. Pope's early life, though he graduated with a degree in medicine from the Leonard Medical School at Shaw University in Raleigh in 1885. After practicing for a few years in Henderson, North Carolina, Dr. Pope moved to Charlotte, where he and two other men formed the Queen City Drug Company in November of 1892 (Hanchett, 128; Queen City Drug Company Incorporation Agreement, Pope Family Papers). This grew to be one of the most successful African American businesses in Charlotte during the 1890s.

In July of 1898 he enlisted in the 3rd North Carolina Voluntary Infantry as an officer and surgeon, and served during the Spanish-American War until he was discharged in February of 1899. Dr. Pope returned to Charlotte after the war, but for

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reasons that are unknown he decided to move to Raleigh, where he was living by early June of 1899. He set up practice first at 403 Fayetteville Street, and later moved his office to 13 East Hargett Street (Maloney's, 225; Enlistment and Discharge Papers and Business Card, Pope Family Papers).

By 1900 he completed construction of his residence at 511 S. Wilmington Street (Maloney's, 225). About 1905 he married Delia Haywood Phillips, whose family was prominent in the African American community in Raleigh (her sister, Mary E. Phillips, was a respected educator for whom Phillips Elementary School in Raleigh is named). Dr. and Mrs. Pope had two daughters: Evelyn B. Pope, born 1909, and Ruth P. Pope, born 1910 (Pope Interview, 11/12/98). Delia Pope apparently worked as well as her husband; in 1919 she completed the course in hair treatment offered by the well-known African American beauty products entrepreneur, Madame C.J. Walker (Certificate, Pope Family Papers). During his later life Dr. Pope served as a Mason, "prominent laymen" of First Baptist Church in Raleigh, and as a Trustee of Shaw University (*News & Observer*, 11/16/34; Pope Family Papers). Dr. Pope died in 1934, and Mrs. Pope passed away in 1962.

Both Evelyn and Ruth Pope received undergraduate degrees from Shaw University, and both also received master's degrees from Columbia University in New York. Evelyn Pope became director of the School of Library Science at North Carolina Central University in Durham, and Ruth Pope became a respected school teacher in Chapel Hill (Various Documents, Pope Family Papers; Pope Interview, 11/12/98). Both retired and moved back to the family home at 511 S. Wilmington Street, where Evelyn Pope died in 1995. Ruth Pope now resides in an area nursing home.

The choice of location for the house Dr. Pope built in 1900 was not capricious. The years between 1896 and 1900 in North Carolina were among the darkest in the state's history, as the Democratic Party mounted a White Supremacy Campaign which led to African American disfranchisement and Jim Crow segregation (Escott, Chapter 10). According to the well-known Delaney sisters, friends of the Pope family, segregation in Raleigh began informally by 1896, and soon took hold (Delaney et al, 63-84). It is not known when racially restrictive covenants were first written into

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deeds in Raleigh, though historian Thomas Hanchett notes that the practice began in Charlotte in 1901 (Hanchett, 149). Though no written evidence survives, it seems clear that Dr. Pope built his house in the best place he was allowed -- at the edge of what became known as the "Fourth Ward," a neighborhood of middle class and professional African American families (the house also stood near the perimeter of an another black area known as "South Park," located to the south). As Ruth Pope remembers, the neighborhood included the homes of several doctors, dentists, and lawyers, as well as St. Ambrose AME Church (now destroyed), and a small private African American hospital (also destroyed). In addition, these prominent black homes faced the back of the prominent white homes that fronted Fayetteville Street (now destroyed), with S. Wilmington Street serving as a buffer zone between the two neighborhoods (Pope Interview, 11/12/98).

According to historian Richard Mattson's 1988 report for the Raleigh Historic Properties Commission entitled, "The Evolution of Raleigh's Black Neighborhoods in the 19th and 20th Centuries," the two factors which most determined the spatial development of the black community in Raleigh after the Civil War were the availability of cheap land and the emergence of prominent black institutions in close proximity to each other southeast of the Capitol. As this took place, and as the bonds of segregation tightened around the black community towards the close of the 19th century, East Raleigh and Southside (south of Davie Street) became distinct African American neighborhoods. As Mattson found, many African Americans were attracted to these neighborhoods because of the institutions that existed there -- Shaw University was located only two blocks away from the Pope House. Pope's neighborhood and other African American sections of Raleigh were home to merchants and professionals who were drawn not only by the universities, but also churches and black owned businesses (such as those along E. Hargett Street where Pope's office was located).

As southeast Raleigh developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries both by choice and Jim Crow custom as a predominately African American area, S. Wilmington Street became a transition zone between the worlds of black and white. This was particularly true of the 500 block where the Pope House stands, as city directories for the period show that the residents to the north of E. Cabarrus Street were almost exclusively white, while the residents to the south of E. Lenoir Street, who lived in South Park, were predominately black.

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Despite the indignity of being restricted as to where he could build a house because of his race, Dr. Pope erected a fine residence. Two stories high and constructed of brick, the gable end of the rectangular house faced S. Wilmington Street, to make best use of the narrow city lot. The first floor consisted of a spacious side hall that contained an elegant colored-glass "petal" window and substantial staircase with a beautifully carved newel post and turned balusters. The hall apparently served as a waiting room for Dr. Pope when he saw patients in the house during the 1920s, and later the family used it as a sitting room (Pope Interview, 11/12/98). To the left of the hall were a large parlor and a dining room, which were separated by a pair of paneled sliding pocket doors. Behind the dining room was a kitchen, and next to it at the rear of the hall was a small examining room. The second floor had the same overall plan, with two large bedrooms over the parlor and dining room, and a bathroom at the end of the hall. About 1920 Dr. Pope added a sun porch on the second floor over the front entrance. The woodwork in the house was the best available at the time, and the hardware was copper-plated. The house was both piped for gas and wired for electricity, as the existing fixtures attest. Another refined touch was the electric servant call bell system, with copper buttons in the main rooms, which was used in the early decades of the century when the family employed a maid (Pope Interview, 11/12/98).

The Dr. M. T. Pope House stands alone today, surrounded by commercial parking lots on three sides. Even the fine houses of Raleigh's prominent white families, which once faced Fayetteville Street and turned their backs on the Pope House and its neighborhood, are long gone and replaced by the Raleigh Civic and Convention Center Complex, the first of several urban renewal projects in the area begun in the 1970s. The middle-class African American neighborhood, of which the Pope House was once part, began to disintegrate in the 1960s, as the Civil Rights Movement and the growth of suburbia drew families elsewhere (*News & Observer*, 10/3/75; Pope Interview, 11/12/98). The listing of this house on the National Register of Historic Places, and its continued presence in a now stark commercial urban environment, will remind generations to come of the dark days of segregation as well as of the strength and dignity of those who excelled in spite of it.

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### 10. Geographical Data

The nominated property, at 511 S. Wilmington Street at the corner of Stronach's Alley, measures 44 feet east and west, 92 feet north, and 91 feet south. The boundary is delineated as tax parcel 3722 on the attached Wake County GIS map #PUB2, drawn to a scale of 1"= 100'.

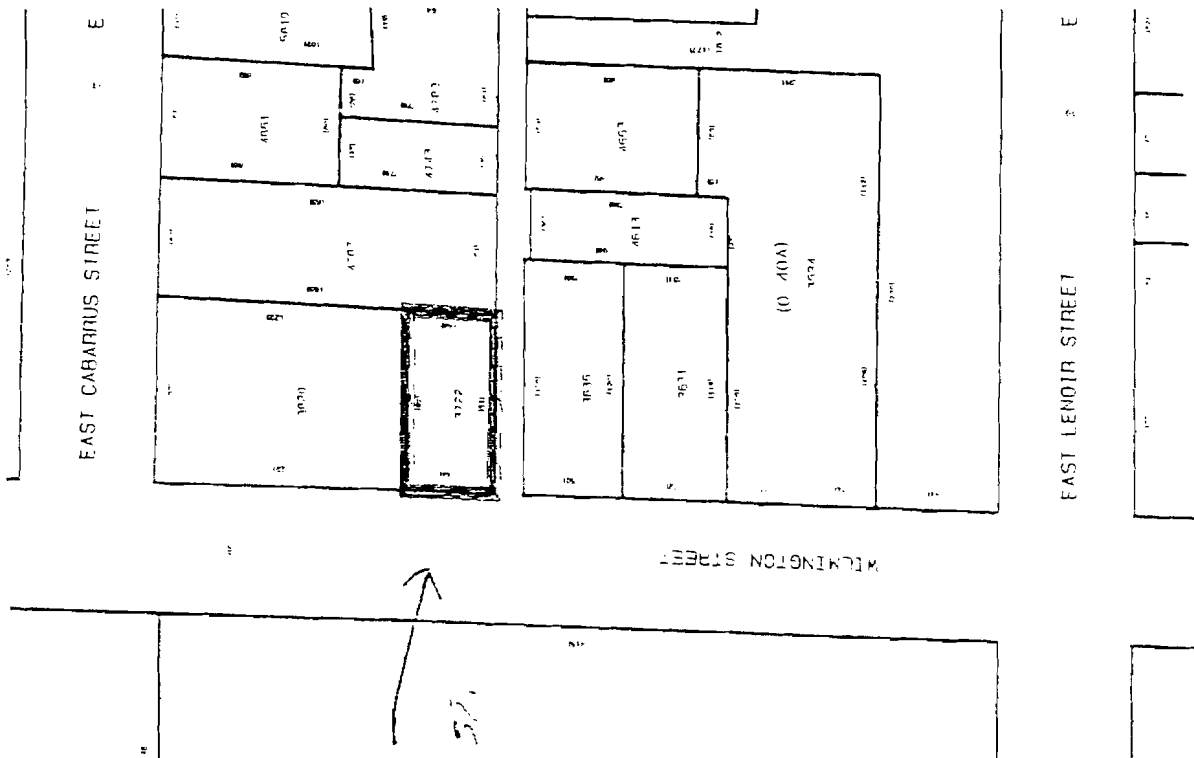
### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the original site of the 1900 M. T. Pope House at 511 S. Wilmington Street.

Wake County

Tax Map

M. I. Post House  
51 S. Wilmington St.  
Raleigh, NC



1"=100'

Wake County

GISPUB2  
Feb 25, 1999

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