

ORDINANCE NO. (2017) - 753

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING **FISHER'S BAKERY & SANDWICH COMPANY** IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK

**WHEREAS**, the property located at 1519 Brookside Drive, Raleigh, NC, is owned by Meetinghouse Properties, LLC; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of the Raleigh Historic Development 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 Development Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

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

**WHEREAS**, on the 5th day of September, 2017, 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 Development 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 Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, 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 1519 Brookside Drive, Raleigh, NC, owned by Meetinghouse Properties, LLC, that property described in deed book 15401, Page 1465 recorded in Wake County Registry, comprising approximately 0.8 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 primary building with its 1-story flat-roofed office and warehouse section and the taller 1-story factory section with partially exposed basement on sloping grade and the approximately 0.8 acre upon which it sits. The Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company building housed a long-lived local company with a regional reach. It expanded from a home-based business to occupy a post-war complex combining a factory, warehouse, and offices. The company was born of a Piedmont tradition of sandwichmaking as a cottage industry and grew along with the city of Raleigh into a

thriving corporation with a few dozen employees and customers in three states. The Brookside Avenue building represents the successful business built by Karlie Keith Fisher and the company's contribution to local industry in Raleigh in a period of such growth.

Architecturally, the mid-twentieth-century post-war period was a time of industrial growth in the city of Raleigh. The Modern architectural movement influenced the look of industrial buildings, and a few are significant designs by some of the city's best architects of the period. The more architecturally significant buildings tended to be plants combined with main offices; the city's many distributorships generally feature less distinctive designs. The Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company building is more on par with those that housed distributorships, which tended to be simpler buildings with Modern details. Fisher's flat roof, metal awning windows, and sheltering eaves all evoke Modernism, but the building lacks a strong architectural idea. It is, however, typical of the period and very intact. In this way, it is evocative of the post-war years, which were marked by the growth of industry and the proliferation of such buildings in Raleigh.

The important architectural features include: common-bond brick veneer walls at the front and sides and painted concrete-block at the rear; metal-sash awning windows and overhanging eaves finished with metal trim; main entrance with a concrete stoop and sidelights framing the partially glazed wood door; horizontal lights of windows, door and sidelights; projecting eave at the center three bays sheltering the front entry and stoop; letters affixed to the building spelling out the company name; brick planter lining the base of the front wall of the hyphen connecting the two sections and the west wall of the office/warehouse section; tall main-floor windows that flood the factory floor with light; exposed basement smaller windows set at ground level and two single-leaf doors; rear facade at-grade loading dock recessed under the main roof.

A detailed architectural description and history is found in the 2017 Raleigh Historic Designation application and report and is hereby referenced.

**Section 3.** No portion of the exterior features of any building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, signs, 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 Development 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 Development Commission.

**Section 4.** No building, site, structure, or object (including windows, doors, walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, pavement, paths, signs, 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 Development 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 Development 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 Development 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 Development 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 Development 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 Development 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: October 3, 2017**

**Effective: October 3, 2017**

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

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

www.raleighnc.gov/planning

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

(Processing Fee: \$266.00 - valid until June 30, 2011 - 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 which in turn makes its recommendation to the City Council. 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: Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company  
Current Name: The Commissary

2. Location:

Street 1519 Brookside Drive, Raleigh NC 27604  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
NC PIN No.: 1714152812  
(Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

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

Name: Meetinghouse Properties, LLC  
Address: 2108 Clark Avenue  
City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27605-1606  
Telephone No: ( ) ( ) - ( ) Fax No. ( ) ( ) - ( )  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: Cynthia de Miranda, MdM Historical Consultants for Raleigh Hist. Dev. Comm.  
Address: PO Box 1399  
City: Durham State: NC Zip: 27702  
Telephone No: (919) (906) - (3136) Fax No. ( ) ( ) - ( )  
E-Mail: cynthia@mdmh.com

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations:  
1952, 1979, ca. 2015

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: n/a

Approximate lot size or acreage: .8 acres

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Frank B. Simpson, architect

Original Use: commercial kitchen

Present Use: commercial kitchen

6. Classification:

A. Category (check all that apply):

Building(s)       Structure       Object       Site

B. Ownership

Private       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):

2006 Update Raleigh Historic Architecture Survey, by Ruth Little

E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered Date:	Nominated <input type="checkbox"/>
Determined Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:	Determined Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Nomination Not Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removed <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
Significant changes in integrity since listing should be noted in section 10.B. below.	

7. Reason for Request: To ensure preservation of architectural fabric; to recognize significance of building's history.

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 Go to: <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/photopolicy/index.htm>. 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 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. Boundary 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 and Planning Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) at 919-807-6570, 919-807-6573 or at: <http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/spbranch.htm>.

E. Special Significance Summary:

Include a one to two paragraph summary of those elements of the property that are integral to its historical, prehistorical, architectural, archaeological, and/or cultural importance.

A. Photographs/Slides:



*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, facade, view SW.*



*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, east elevation, view SW.*

*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company  
Landmark Designation Application*



*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, rear elevation, view N.*



*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, rear refrigeration rooms, view W.*





*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, bakery wing, view SE.*



*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, interior at offices, view NE.*

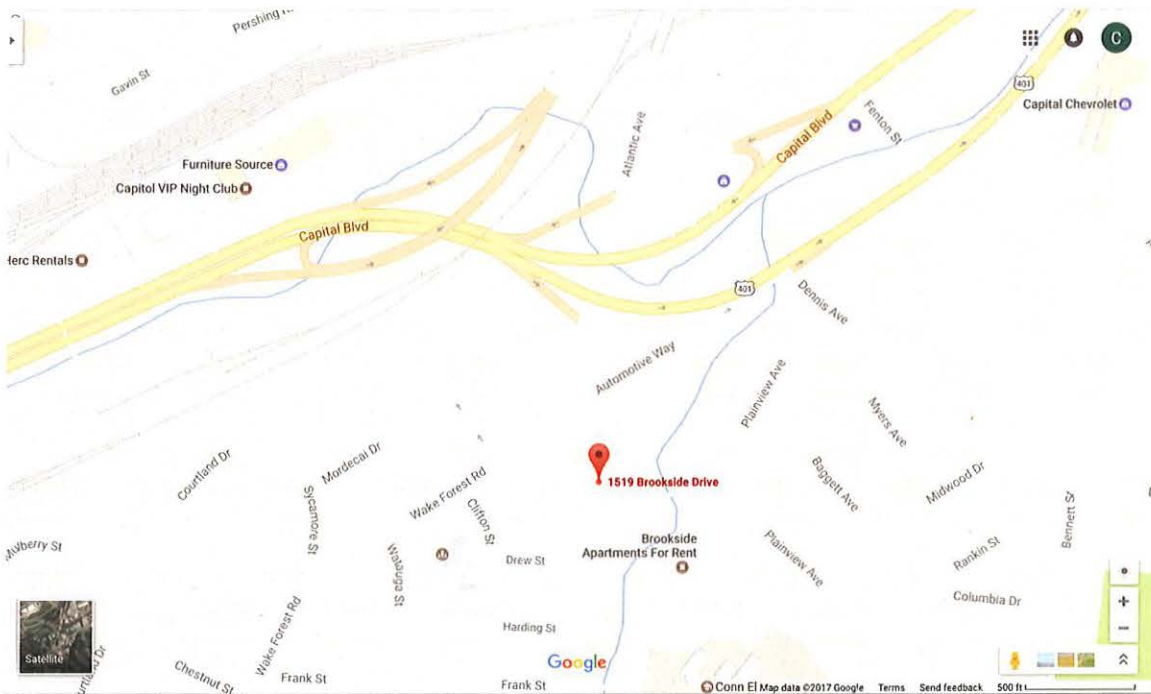


*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, interior at hyphen, view N.*

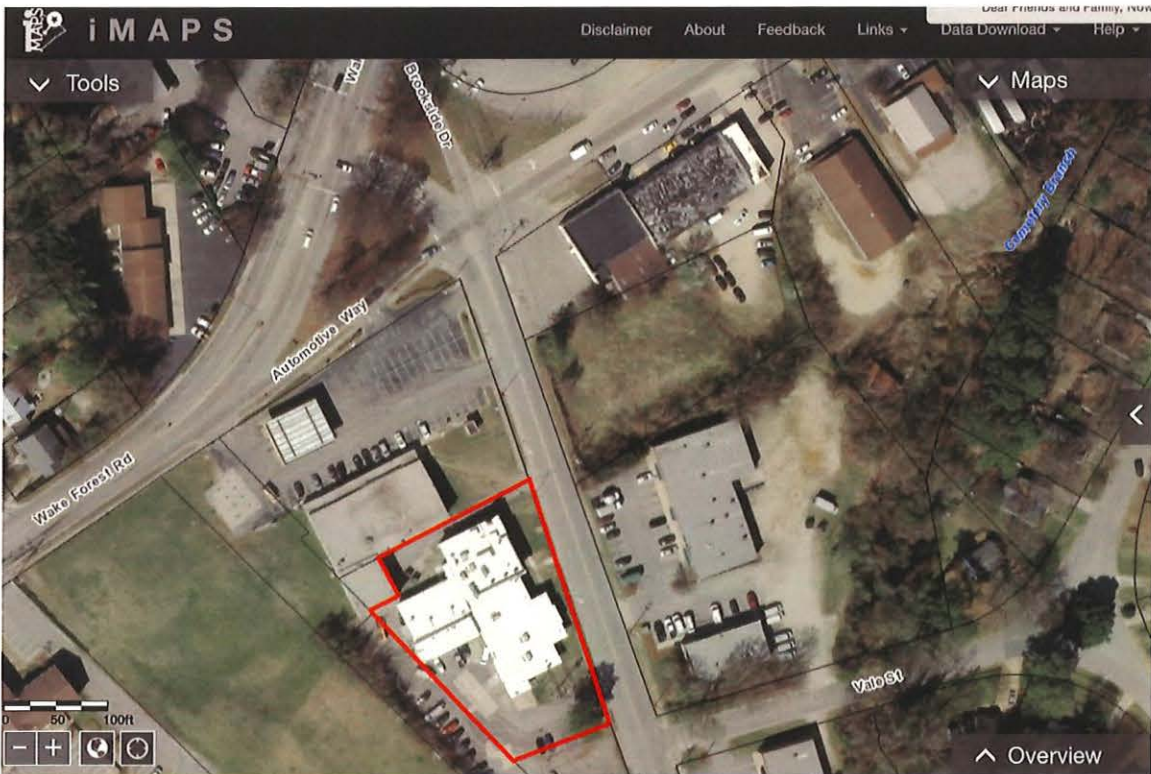


*Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, interior at bakery, view N.*

B. Location and Boundary Maps



Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company Location Map  
1519 Brookside Drive, Raleigh North ↑



Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company Boundary Map  
1519 Brookside Drive, Raleigh PIN 1714152812 North ↑

### C. Architectural Significance

#### *Description*

The 1952 Fishers Bakery and Sandwich Company building is a flat-roofed brick-veneer concrete-block office, warehouse, and factory on Brookside Drive near Capital Boulevard. The building was designed by Raleigh architect Frank B. Simpson, a prolific Raleigh architect.

Offices and warehouse space are in a single-story section positioned on a hill. The factory to the right is at lower ground and stands on a basement partially exposed by the sloping land. An original hyphen joins the two sections. The building is in a small industrial park northeast of downtown Raleigh and east of Capital Boulevard.

The multipurpose structure is simply detailed, featuring common-bond brick-veneer walls at the front and sides and painted concrete-block at the rear and interior walls. The building has metal-sash awning windows and overhanging eaves finished with metal trim. The main entrance is in the office/warehouse section façade, which is five bays wide with a concrete stoop rising to the centered entrance, where sidelights frame the partially glazed wood door. Windows, like the door and sidelights, have horizontal lights. Narrow windows flank the door while wider openings pierce either end bay. The eave projects at the center three bays, sheltering the front entry and its stoop. Just below the eave, letters affixed to the building spell out the company name. A recessed bay at the east side has a single window. At the rear, southeast corner of the office/warehouse block is a mechanical room that projects to the east from the back of the side elevation. On the west side, the hyphen, also recessed from the facade, holds three windows. A brick planter lines the base of the front wall of the hyphen and the west wall of the office/warehouse section.

The factory section is slightly taller than the office/warehouse and the hyphen. It is also five bays wide, with tall main-floor windows that flood the factory floor with light. The exposed basement has smaller windows set just at ground level and two single-leaf doors.

The rear elevation features an at-grade loading dock at a center-right bay recessed under the main roof at the back of the hyphen at roughly the center of the building. Two large refrigerated rooms added in 1979 extend from the rear elevation at the west end of the rear elevation. There are entrances to the cold storage rooms at their exteriors as well as from halls created between the original building and the cold storage rooms.

A parking lot paved with asphalt fills the parcel behind the building and extends to the east. A small lawn in front of the building was originally heavily landscaped with flower beds, augmenting the flower gardens that filled the planter at the front of the building hyphen.

### *Architectural Context*

The mid-twentieth-century post-war period was a time of industrial growth in the city of Raleigh. The Modern architectural movement influenced the look of industrial buildings, and a few are significant designs by some of the city's best architects of the period. The more architecturally significant buildings tended to be plants combined with main offices; the city's many distributorships generally feature less distinctive designs. The 1959 Noland Plumbing Company building at 1117 Capital Boulevard, the 1962 Peden Steel Plant and Office at 1815 Capital Boulevard, and the Corning Glass Plant at 3800 New Hope Church Road are all excellent examples of architecturally significant industrial buildings from the period.<sup>1</sup>

The Fisher's Bakery and Sandwich Company building is more on par with those that housed distributorships, which tended to be simpler buildings with Modern details. Fisher's flat roof, metal awning windows, and sheltering eaves all evoke Modernism, but the building lacks a strong architectural idea. It is, however, typical of the period and very intact. In this way, it is evocative of the post-war years, which were marked by the growth of industry and the proliferation of such buildings in Raleigh.

### D. Historic Significance

Karlie Ruth Keith Fisher (1891-1984) established a sandwich company in Raleigh in 1928, expanding it from home production to a café to a dedicated plant while also diversifying to include a bakery. The company continued in business until 2009, always run by Fishers and ultimately operating out of the plant at 1519 Brookside Drive from its construction in 1952. The industrial plant was surveyed in the 2006 update to the Raleigh Historic Architecture Survey conducted by Ruth Little. It is a typical building dating to a period of significant industrial expansion in Raleigh, and it housed a well-known Raleigh business with customers in a three-state region in the middle and later decades of the twentieth-century. In fact, Karlie Fisher and her sons also operated a number of restaurants in Raleigh, Carolina Beach, and Beaufort and operated chuckwagons and a grocery in the middle decades of the twentieth century. This history, however, focuses on the sandwich business that grew to require and occupy the plant at Brookside Drive.<sup>2</sup>

Karlie and her husband Frederick Norman Fisher met as students at the State School for the Blind and the Deaf, a precursor to the Governor Morehead School, in Raleigh. Karlie had developed severe cataracts after being given an incorrect dosage of a homeopathic treatment for pinkeye in early childhood. She was not completely blind

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<sup>1</sup> M. Ruth Little, "The Development of Modernism in Raleigh: 1945-1965," Report for the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, August 2006, 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> "Karlie Ruth Keith Fisher," Findagrave.com, viewed January 9, 2017; "Winfield Thomas "Tommy"

<sup>2</sup> "Karlie Ruth Keith Fisher," Findagrave.com, viewed January 9, 2017; "Winfield Thomas "Tommy" Fisher," obituary, Findagrave.com, viewed January 5, 2017; Thomas Fisher, a great-grandson of Karlie Keith Fisher, telephone interview with the author, February 3, 2017.

and could read both Braille and print, the latter only if held very close to her eyes. Norman was also visually impaired and could see well enough as an adult to drive while wearing glasses with heavy lenses. Both likely learned trades at the school, although whether they learned to cook there is not known.<sup>3</sup>

In the mid-1920s, the couple lived in Parkton, Robeson County. Norman was a cotton buyer and was also involved in banking and mattress manufacture, the latter a trade he'd learned in school. Karlie stayed home raising their children. The family moved to Raleigh in 1928, first living on Dare Street in Roanoke Park before renting the house at 2410 Everett Avenue in the developing Fairmont neighborhood in west Raleigh.<sup>4</sup>

Family tradition holds that Karlie Keith Fisher started her sandwich business in the family's basement that same year, making peanut butter snack crackers. Raleigh had three sandwich shops, four retail bakeries, and three wholesale bakeries when the Fishers arrived in 1928. Throughout the textile-producing Piedmont in the early twentieth century, sandwich-making businesses catered to millhands and other working-class customers who carried their lunch to work and needed something simple, filling, portable, and convenient. Pimento cheese and chicken or tuna salad were popular fillings for sandwiches at the time. Textile towns across the Piedmont had one or two sandwich-making businesses, generally started by women in their own homes.<sup>5</sup>

Raleigh's was a more diversified economy than the typical Piedmont textile town. The city's workforce included professionals working in government, at State College and other local schools, and in law firms and other professional pursuits. The city's industrial-base in the late 1920s included railroad shops, printers, cotton mills, automobile repair shops, lumber mills, and machine shops, all who would have employed hourly wage-earners. There were also State College students, away from home and likely as in need of simple meals as were millhands and other industrial workers.<sup>6</sup>

Karlie expanded into making sandwiches on sliced bread, including pimento cheese and chicken salad, hand-wrapped in cellophane by her sons and later her grandchildren. Her early customers were State College students, and Karlie's son Frederick Herbert Fisher, a student at Broughton High School at the time, would

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<sup>3</sup> Frederick Fisher of Carolina Beach, a grandson of Karlie Keith Fisher, telephone interview with the author, January 25, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2002; *1928 Raleigh City Directory* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1928), archive.org, January 5, 2017; Frederick Fisher interview.

<sup>5</sup> Frederick Fisher interview; Thomas Fisher interview; *1928 Raleigh City Directory* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1928), archive.org, January 5, 2017; Emily Elizabeth Wallace, *It was there for Work: Pimento Cheese in the Carolina Piedmont*, Master's Thesis, 2010, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1-6.

<sup>6</sup> *1928 Raleigh City Directory*.

haul a box of sandwiches to Hillsborough Street near Oberlin Road and sell them on the spot. Karlie Fisher added cakes and baked and fried pies and shortly opened a restaurant. Her husband quit his work to assist. The 1931 City Directory and the 1930 Federal census, perhaps by convention, imply that Norman owned and managed Fisher's Lunch, the café at 2410 Hillsborough Street, while Karlie and their son Winfield Thomas Fisher are listed as employees. The café, building on the sandwich business, likely catered to students at North Carolina State College directly across Hillsborough Street. The family lived at that time about two blocks away at 312 Chamberlain Street.<sup>7</sup>

In 1936, Karlie Fisher purchased four vacant parcels in the Fairmont subdivision from the City of Raleigh. The parcels, west of the house the family had rented on Everett Avenue, were zoned residential. Karlie had an understanding with city officials, however, that she would build a dwelling and also run her business there. She built a brick house on a partially exposed basement at 2512 Everett Avenue. Large windows at the façade let light into the lower level, where she made sandwiches. A frame building in the backyard housed the bakery and a large rotisserie oven. Her sons helped in the business.<sup>8</sup>

In 1949, the City of Raleigh finally enforced the zoning that restricted use of the property at 2512 Everett Avenue to residential. The Fishers appealed, claiming their use was grandfathered as an exception when the zoning laws changed in 1944. The City prevailed in the dispute, however, and required that the business vacate the Everett Avenue premises by September 1951.<sup>9</sup>

Karlie Fisher already owned the property on Brookside Drive when the City of Raleigh enforced the zoning restrictions. She had purchased it from Rogers Realty & Insurance Company in 1945 and had transferred a half interest to her two sons in 1948. Architectural plans for the building date to 1951, drawn by Frank B. Simpson. Simpson was a prolific and well-known Raleigh architect who had been practicing at least four decades. Simpson's parents both taught at the state school that Karlie and Norman had attended; Simpson's mother, in particular, specialized in teaching blind students. The building was completed in 1952. In 1953, mother and sons sold the property to Fisher's Bakery & Sandwich Company, which they had incorporated in early 1952.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Frederick Fisher interview; Thomas Fisher interview; Wallace, 34; Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2002; *1928-1931 Raleigh City Directories* (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1928-1931), archive.org, January 5 and 9, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> *City of Raleigh v. Fisher*, viewed January 1, 2017, on casetext.com; interview with Arlene Fisher and her husband (a son of Karlie Fisher), April 21, 2006, by M. Ruth Little and recorded on the survey file of the Fisher Bakery & Sandwich Company, WA4660, State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC; Frederick Fisher interview.

<sup>9</sup> *Raleigh v. Fisher*.

<sup>10</sup> Rogers Realty & Insurance Company to Karlie Keith Fisher, July 31, 1945, Deed Book 925, page 363; Karlie Keith Fisher to W. Thomas Fisher F. Herbert Fisher, March 24, 1948, Deed Book 987 page

The building housed several functions. Offices flanked a small reception area just inside the front door at the single-story section of the building. The back of that section housed a kitchen and the sandwich room to the left of a central corridor and segregated bathrooms and a “check-in room” to the right. Interior space at the hyphen housed a store room, and the bakery occupied the main floor of the taller part of the building on the west.<sup>11</sup>

Raleigh’s industrial growth had resulted in over a hundred manufacturing “establishments” by 1950, according to the city directory that year. The range of products made ran from tents to chemicals to washboards to fertilizer. Lumber and textile mills still operated in Raleigh, as did other food producers. The latter included grist mills, ice cream makers, sausage, peanut products, and soft drinks, but no other sandwich makers. The listing for Fisher’s in the 1950 City Directory states the company sold “cream filled cookies, sandwiches, pies, peanut butter crackers, peanuts and candies” and reminded customers that “If its Fishers, Its Fresher.” At the new plant, the company packaged cakes, cookies, and sandwiches for sale in groceries and small stores in North Carolina as well as southern Virginia and northern South Carolina. Employees at mid-century worked as salesmen, wrappers, bakers, sandwich makers, helpers, supervisors, and office workers. There were several sandwich shops and bakeries in town in this period, but Fisher’s appears to have been the only light-industrial sandwich producer.<sup>12</sup>

In 1960, the company reorganized and re-incorporated as Fisher’s Foods, Inc. It stopped baking in favor of re-selling baked goods from other sources and diversified into candy distribution. In 1979, inspired by businesses observed in Florida, Fisher’s Foods complemented its line of traditional “counter” sandwiches, which were kept at room temperature, with a second line of refrigerated packaged sandwiches. This necessitated the addition of the cold-storage rooms at the back of the building. Fisher’s called the new line Rex Sandwiches. Both lines were produced in the factory on Brookside Drive and the company began doing business as Fisher/Rex Sandwiches. Over the next decade, Fisher’s Foods phased out production of the original “counter” sandwich line.<sup>13</sup>

In 2009, the company closed after issuing a voluntary recall on products after listeria was found in product samples. The recall strained finances sufficiently to warrant closure. Fisher’s Foods Inc. sold the property to Meethinghouse Properties

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511; and Karlie Keith Fisher, et al, to Fisher’s Bakery and Sandwich Company, May 8, 1953, Deed Book 1126, page 55; Frank B. Simpson Biography, North Carolina Architects and Builders, <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu>, viewed February 1, 2017; NC Secretary of State website, ncsos.gov, viewed January 2, 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Fisher Bakery & Sandwich Company Architectural Plans, in the possession of Maurer Architecture, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>12</sup> *1950 Raleigh City Directory* (Richmond: Hill Directory Company, 1950), viewed at archive.org January 10, 2017; Arlene Fisher, interview with Ruth Little.

<sup>13</sup> Secretary of State website; Thomas Fisher interview; Frederick Fisher interview.



LLC in 2013. Maurer Architecture renovated the building's interior to serve as a food storage and preparation facility for local chef Ashley Christensen's restaurants.<sup>14</sup>

#### E. Special Significance Summary

The Fisher's Bakery and Sandwich Company building housed a long-lived local company with a regional reach. It expanded from a home-based business to occupy a post-war complex combining a factory, warehouse, and offices on Brookside Drive north of downtown. The company was born of a Piedmont tradition of sandwich-making as a cottage industry and grew along with the city of Raleigh into a thriving corporation with a few dozen employees and customers in three states. The Brookside Avenue building represents the successful business built by Karlie Keith Fisher and the company's contribution to local industry in Raleigh in a period of such growth.

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<sup>14</sup> "Recall forces sandwich company out of business," October 14, 2009, WRAL.com, viewed January 1, 2017; Fisher's Foods to Meetinghouse Properties, August 7, 2013, Wake County Deed Book 15401, Page 1465.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Unpublished Sources*

Little, M. Ruth. "The Development of Modernism in Raleigh: 1945-1965." Report for the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, August 2006.

Wallace, Emily Elizabeth. *It was there for Work: Pimento Cheese in the Carolina Piedmont*. Master's Thesis, 2010, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Simpson, Frank B. *Fisher Bakery & Sandwich Company Architectural Plans*. In the possession of Maurer Architecture, Raleigh, NC.

### *Interviews*

Arlene Fisher, daughter-in-law of Karlie Fisher. Interview by M. Ruth Little, April 21, 2006. Recorded on the survey file of the Fisher Bakery & Sandwich Company, WA4660, State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

Frederick Fisher, Carolina Beach, son of Frederick Herbert Fisher, Jr. Telephone interview with the author, January 25, 2017.

Thomas Fisher, Mebane, grandson of Winfield T. Fisher. Telephone interview with the author, February 3, 2017.

### *Websites*

Ancestry.com (Genealogical information)

Archive.org (City Directory searches)

Casetext.com (Raleigh's suit against Fishers for zoning violation)

Findagrave.com (Genealogical information)

NCArchitects.lib.ncsu.edu (Frank B. Simpson biography)

NCSoS.gov (Business details)

WakeGov.com (Deeds)