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BOOK 2113 PAGE 655

ORDINANCE NO. (1972) - 305

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATED AT 310 NORTH BLOUNT STREET

IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC SITE.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a Historic Sites Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Raleigh Historic Sites Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, on the 18 day of September, 1972, a joint public hearing was held in the Southern Room of Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh, North Carolina, by the Historic Sites Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, said hearing was advertised and the property owners of the property hereinafter described were notified by certified mail of the date and purpose of said public hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina, 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 of the State of North Carolina

located at <u>310 North Blount Street</u> in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a Historic Site. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeastern corner of the intersection' of North Blount and East North Streets and runs thence easterly along the south side of said North Street 210 feet to a point (formerly Syme Line); runs thence southerly along the western line of said property (formerly Syme) 105 feet to the northeast corner of the lot formerly owned by William Bailey; runs thence westerly along the north side of said property formerly owned by William Bailey 69 feet to a point; runs thence southerly along the property formerly owned by William Bailey 36.75 feet to a point; runs thence westerly with the property formerly owned by William Bailey 10 feet to a point; runs thence westerly 130 feet to a stake on the castern side of Blount Street; runs thence northerly along the castern side of Blount Street 140 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING. Section 2. No building or structure located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished or materially altered unless and until a sixty (60) day written notice to the Historic Sites Commission of the intent to demolish or

BOOK 2113 PAGE 656

5.

Section 3. All owners and occupants of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

materially alter said structure, and the elapsing of said sixty (60) day period.

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Section 4. This ordinance shall be indexed under the property owner's name in the grantor index in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County as provided by Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina.

Section 5. City administration and the Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have crected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabeve described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a Historic Site by action of the Historic Sites 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 Historic Sites Commission are hereby authorized and directed to have said sign located on the public right-of-way adjacent to said property.

Section 6. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Section 7. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after publication as by law provided.

Adopted: September 18, 1972

Effective: November 6, 1972

* * * * * * * * * CERTIFICATION

I, Mary D. Lassiter, City Clerk and Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance duly adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council held on the 18th day of September, 1972.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 13th day of October, 1972.

V Clerk and Treasurer

Filed for registration at 4:00 P.M. o'clock 3 day of Nav. 1972	,
and registered in the office of the Register of Deeds for Mohe	
in Book 2/13, Page 655, November 3, 1972	
S. Q. Rowland	
Jon R. Smith, Defeister of Deeds	

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (11 known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hawkins-Hartness House is a large, imposing two-and-one-half-story Victorian building of pressed brick dominated by a four-story tower. The total effect of the house, unusually severe for its period, is derived from the striking combination of the boldly modeled asymmetrical massing of projecting elements, the dramatic angularity of the complex roof forms, and the smooth surface of the pressed brick. Except for the verandah and the dormers, there is practically no exterior ornament to distract from the strong lines of the building itself.

The exterior configuration of the house expresses the asymmetrical plan, with rooms clearly indicated by numerous two-story projections. The doors and windows are set in molded surrounds and outlined by a sawtooth motif, which recurs at the molded cornice that marks the heavy overhang of the roof. The tall, rather narrow windows with plate glass sash are accented by plain stone sills and linters. A band of the same stone marks the water table above the high basement. Four paneled interior chimneys rise from the roof, two on each side.

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The tower in the center of the main (west) facade, essentially one bay wide, contains a paneled double door surmounted by a single-light transom. The upper panels of each leaf of the door are ornameted by delicate incised foliate patterns; the transom formerly contained ornamental frosted glass. The second level of the tower is marked by a pair of windows, and the third by a triple window. At the fourth level there are two small windows on each of the four faces of the tower. Their sills project from a continuous stone stringer that delineates the final section of the tower. The tower is surmounted by a cross-gable jerkin-head roof with splayed eaves. Like the roof of the main block, it is covered with patterned slate.

The demi-octagonal projection to the north of the tower has windows in each of the two stories marking the three front bays. The projection is capped by a steep demi-octagonal conical roof that merges with the roof of the_main block. Corresponding to the windows below are gable-roof dormers with bracketed architraves. The one-bay south portion of the facade is slightly recessed and has a single dormer on the roof.

Extending across the front of the building and part way along the sides is a one-story hip-roof Eastlake style porch, said to have been added at the request of the first mistress of the house to relieve its overly severe appearance. Resembling that of the nearby governor's mansion, the porch achieves this effect. Raised on a brick foundation, it is supported by turned posts between which run a balustrade composed of two horizontal rails and, beneath the roof line, a spindle course. The porch ceiling features exposed chamfered rafters that create an interesting radiating pattern. Protecting the steps leading up to the porch is a small shed-roof extension defined by a small gable (between the main porch roof and the extension) filled with flat vertical slats with intricate pierced designs. To the north the porch extends into a porte cochere. Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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7. A

The north and south sides and the rear of the house are each composed of asymmetrically arranged two-story projections, most having windows at both levels beneath the overhanging eaves of the roof. The most prominent projection on each facade features a jerkin-head gable with splayed eaves and has a small gable window or pair of windows. The south side is dominated by a projection two bays wide and one bay deep, which is flanked by a one-bay expanse to the west and a brief windowless expanse to the east. There is a two-story L on the north side of the rear which is one bay wide and two bays deep. An enclosed one-story shed porch is located between the L and the main block. The long north side is made up of a series of four different planes, each two bays wide, and is dominated by the one-bay-deep projection. The two west bays are marked by blind windows on the first level.

To the rear of the house are a garage and a servants' quarters, both one-story brick buildings. The latter repeats in simplified fashion the treatment of the house.

The interior of the Hawkins-Hartness House, while still not as ornate as seems usual in a major Victorian house, is more elaborately ornamented than the exterior. The conversion of the structure from a residence to a state office building has required the installation of temporary partitions and other minor changes. Considerable effort was made to retain the feeling of the house, however, and practically all the original interior finish remains.

Consistent throughout the house is the use of a panel motif that appears on doors, on wainscots, and below the windows. The panel, whether square or rectangular, is outlined by rails and stiles whose inner edges are deeply chamfered for most of the length of the panel; the chamfering stops shortly before reaching the corner. From a distance this treatment creates an optical illusion, making the corners appear to be rounded. Also used throughout the house are extremely heavy molded cornices and molded or reeded baseboards and door surrounds. The various fine woods (mahogany, pine, and walnut) used through the house are in most rooms not obscured by paint or heavy varnish but only oiled, thus revealing the character of each type. All of the major rooms feature individualized, elaborately modeled three-dimensional plaster ceiling medallions from which formerly were suspended gaslight fixtures. Handsome hardware with incised geometric patterns is found throughout the house.

The house has a center-hall plan with two major rooms on either side. The rooms are unequal in size and their arrangement is not symmetrical. The front double door opens into a small vestibule that was formerly separated from the main hall by inner double doors, now removed. The long central hall has a paneled wainscot five feet in height composed of a range of small horizontal panels above a range of vertical ones. (The walls of the vestibule are similarly treated.) The lozenge-shaped ceiling medallion features Form 10-300e (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. B

intertwined shell and fern motifs. The northwest room, whose front portion is semi-octagonal in plan, has the three large front windows. They are surrounded by heavy molded architraves that extend to the floor, framing three flat panels beneath each window. The original wooden drapery fixtures in this room remain. As in all rooms except the halls on each floor, the walls are plastered between a high baseboard and a heavy molded cornice. The mantel consists of a heavy shelf supported by elongated consoles incised with delicate floral patterns. The opening, framed by multicolor geometric tile which is repeated on the hearth, contains an ornate cast-iron fireplace cover ("summer grate front") featuring a grotesque bearded mask. Paneled double doors lead into the northeast room, formerly the dining room, as is indicated by the appropriate use of fruit in the ceiling medallion. The mantel and woodwork here are basically like that in the northwest room, although one panel, not three, occurs beneath each window. (The single panel recurs throughout the rest of the major rooms.) Behind the dining room is a large butlers' pantry finished with vertical sheathing.

The other front (southwest) room features a particularly remarkable medallion. It is round and has four fully-modeled classical female heads projecting from circular frames with Greek key patterns entwined by vines and flowers. The mantel in this room is similar to those previously described, but lacks the colorful tile and is somewhat less ornate. The mantel in the southeast room is quite different, however, for it is of marble with plain, heavy pilaster strips supporting a simple shelf above an arched opening. Applied geometric shields and bosses provide the only ornament. The fireplace cover features a disc with a flying draped figure in low relief. The ceiling medallion employs entwined foliage.

At the rear of the hall, to the south of the stair, a paneled double door leads to the cross hall that provides access to service rooms, a rear stair, and a recently enclosed porch. Each leaf of the door contains a large pane of frosted glass delicately ornamented with a fountain, doves, and foliage. The closed-string stair ascends in two flights with an intervening transverse landing. The heavy square newel topped by a ball is elaborately ornamented with incised floral and geometric designs. The molded handrail is supported by sturdy turned balusters. The hall wainscot continues up the stair. At either end of the landing is a paneled door with a frosted pane; the north door leads to the service area and stair, the other to the attic stair.

The second floor hall has a wainscot similar to that of the main hall, but only four feet in height. On this floor most of the woodwork has been painted white. The plan is essentially similar to the first floor, except that the northeast section contains a number of smaller rooms. The major second-floor rooms have simple marble mantels with openings that are filled by ornate fireplace covers. Among the most interesting of the ceiling medallions is that in the southeast room, a sinuous composition of shells and ferns.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On October 26, 1881, Dr. Alexander B. Hawkins of Leon County, Florida, bought the house located on Raleigh city lot 267, at the southeast corner of Blount and North streets. The house had formerly belonged to Mary W. Bryan. Family tradition says that Dr. Hawkins purchased it because his wife Martha, was particularly fond of it. Dr. and Mrs. Hawkins then returned to their home in Florida, the tradition continues, after asking Dr. Hawkins's brother, Dr. William J. Hawkins of Raleigh, to have the Bryan house renovated for them during their absence. When they returned, it is said, the Hawkinses found to their dismay that the brother had removed the Bryan house and built a new house of his own design for them. Mrs. Hawkins is believed to have added the verandah to modify what she considered to be the overly severe appearance of the exterior. Whatever their original reaction to it, the Hawkinses found the house enough to their liking that they lived there for the rest of their lives.

Before Raleigh had a city-wide water system, Dr. Hawkins devised an elaborate arrangement of his own. A windmill in the back yard pumped water from a well into a tank located in the attic. This water was used for utilities. A 6,000-gallon rainwater cistern in the north garden furnished filtered drinking water for the Hawkins house and the governor's mansion just to the south. According to Mrs. Marshall D. Haywood, who lived in the Hawkins House as a girl, "Uncle David [one of the governor's servants] came over there with his cedar bucket and toted the water over to the mansion for them to drink. When that governor would end his regime, Dr. Hawkins would call up the next governor and invite him to have water from the cistern."

A. B. Hawkins conveyed the house to his sister-in-law, Martha H. Bailey, on June 19, 1895, with two deeds. Miss Bailey had been living with the Hawkinses for many years, and the housing arrangement continued until the death of Dr. Hawkins, Mrs. Hawkins having died some time previously. Following Dr. Hawkins's death, Miss Bailey sold the house on January 6, 1922, to Sadie L. Erwin, the wife of William A. Erwin, manufacturer and philanthropist. The Erwins, who kept the house until May 5, 1928, but apparently never lived there, sold the house to Mrs. Annie Sloan Hartness, whose husband, James A. Hartness, was North Carolina Secretary of State between 1929 and 1931. The state of North Carolina acquired the property in July, 1969, following Mrs. Hartness's death. The house, currently being used by the State Department of Local Affairs, has been converted to use as offices. Despite the installation of partitions and other necessary modifications, it was changed as little as possible.

EINSTRUCTION

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE

Wake

North Carolina COUNTY

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

ENTRY NUMBER

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(Number all entries)

8.

The Hawkins-Hartness House is notable for the imposing dignity of its relatively severe exterior and the fine craftsmanship of its interiors. One of a group of late nineteenth century houses remaining on North Blount Street, it is an exemplary instance of an urban dwelling preserved through well-executed adaptation for office use.

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