ORDINANCE NO.	(1969)	825	800x 1883	PAGE 315

	ORDINANCE NO. (1969)823 BODK 1883 PAGE 315
AN ORDINANCE DESIGN	NATING THE PROPERTY OF Henry T. Vickers, R. P. Shuffler and
Emily P. Purcel	l - Trustees of Boylan Heights Baptist Church
LOCATED AT 308	S South Boylan Avenue (Boylan Heights Baptist Church)
IN THE CITY OF RAL	EIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC SITE.
creation of a History	General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the oric Sites Commission for the City of Raleigh and otherwise reservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage the 1967 Session Laws of North Carolina; and
UNIEREAS, the recommended the fo	Raleigh Nistoric Sites Commission has made an investigation and llowing property be designated a Historic Site; and
WHEREAS, the an analysis and resite; and	North Carolina State Department of Archives and History has made commendation that the following property be designated a historic
was held in the Co by the Historic Si determine whether site; and	the 16 day of April , 19 68 , a joint public hearing uncil Chambers of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, tes Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic
hereinafter descri	d hearing was advertised and the property owners of the property bed were notified by certified mail of the date and purpose of an at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing; and
WHEREAS, all Carolina, preceedi	requirements of Chapter 1058 of the 1967 Session Laws of Northing the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.
NOW, TREREFORE, BI	IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH THAT:
Section 1.	The Property of Henry T. Vickers, R. P. Shuffler and
Emily P. Purce	1 - Trustees of Boylan Heights Baptist Church
in the City of Ra Said property bei THE BOYLAN MANS BEGINNING at the City of Raleig Street 233.8 f Boylan Home Pla Lot No. 4 and alley, a corner alley 43.6 fee stake on the w thence in a No	OB South Boylan Avenue (Boylan Heights Baptist Church) leigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a historic site. Ing more particularly described as follows: SION. BOYLAN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH. 308 SOUTH BOYLAN AVENUE the intersection of Boylan Avenue and Mountford Street in the the and running thence in a Westerly direction along Mountford teet to a stake, a corner of Lot No. 4 of the "Subdivision of the ace", thence in a Southerly direction along the line of said tof Lots Nos. 6, 7 and 8 of said subdivision, 217 feet to an or of said Lot No. 8; thence in an Easterly direction along said t to a stake; thence in an Easterly direction 155.5 feet to a test side of Boylan Avenue, a corner of the lot of A. I. Kaplan; witherly direction along the West side of Boylan Avenue 192 feet NG and being Lots Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the "Subdivision of Boylan per plat of W. C. Riddick, C. E., dated June 17, 1915. See

Book of Maps 1915, Page 4, Wake County Registry.

Section 2. No building or structure located on the herinbefore described site may be demolished or materially altered unless and until a sixty-day (60) written notice to the Historic Sites Commission of the intent to demolish or materially alter said structure, and the elapsing of said sixty-day (60) period.

Section 3. That 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.

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 erected an appropriate sign on the site hereinabove 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.

Adopted: 6/16/69

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 a ordinance duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 16th day of June, 1969

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affected this 26th day of June,

Dear State of the State of the

Filed for Reg stration at 70:03 oclock

A · M. JUN 26 1969 19 and

Registered in the Office of the Register of

Deeds of Wake County, North Carolina,

In Book 1883 Page 3/5

Louis 8. Forest, dep.

CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Behind unsightly frame additions and a coat of peeling grey paint stands Montford Hall, one of the few grand mansions surviving from Raleigh's pre-Civil war era. Built in 1858 for William Montford Boylan by architect William Percival, the house commands a site on Boylan Avenue which originally extended northward to Hillsborough Street. Percival utilized the Italianate style for his design of Montford Hall; yet another influence—that of the classical—exists in the handsome detail and in the symmetry of the exterior composition and of the interior center hall plan. Irregularity and picturesque variety are characteristics of the Italianate style; it has been suggested that Percival was influenced by the classical designs of Alexander Jackson Davis in his restrained and conservative interpretation of this flamboyant revival style.

The original appearance of Montford Hall can be discerned with the aid of old photographs. The two-story, red brick structure is square in shape with central pavilions breaking the three main elevations and a one-story ell attached to the rear. A masonry water table distinguishes the basement from the first floor levels. Brick pilasters enliven the wall surfaces at the corners of the building and of the pavilions. A low hipped roof with wide overhanging bracketed eaves is surmounted by a polygonal cupola which illuminates a rotunda in the front hall. The cupola has paired arched lights separated by pilasters carrying a bracket cornice. Cross gables with returned eaves shelter the pavilions and break the roofline on each elevation. The ornate cornice treatment, composed of a flat-paneled frieze broken by paired brackets, continues around the rear ell. Interior chimneys with paneled stacks flank the cupola and establish a pattern of groups of three, a motif which is repeated throughout the house.

Arched windows, characteristic features of the Italianate style, are framed by masonry surrounds capped by heavy arched hoodmolds which create sharp contrasts of light and shadow. The main facade presents single and paired segmental—arched windows contained in a linteled surround; the north and south pavilions are illuminated by three round arched windows at the first level and single ones at the second, and bullseyes in the gable.

The focal point of the house is the central entrance pavilion of the main facade. Its beauty lies in the well-proportioned arrangement of the second story windows and the entrance below. The double door is contained in a round arched surround with keystone. The two leaves of the door have glazed arched upper panels. A semi-circular fanlight caps the doorhead. Triple round arched windows in a Palladian variation fill the space above the door. They are contained in a robust molded surround with a hood-mold supported by scroll consoles. The center window, the largest of the group, once opened on to an iron balcony. This harmonious composition has been obscured by several additions to the facade, including an awkward Tuscan colossal order portico added in the early twentieth century. Before the portico was added, the main facade pavilion had only the balcony and was flanked by one-story porches carried on paired Tuscan columns, but these have been removed. Fortunately, the original exterior is still intact behind the additions.

The interior of Montford Hall follows a center hall, double pile plan. The walls are plaster and have only a broad baseboard. In the front of the three part hall is a magnificant rotunda supported by four Corinthian-type columns whose capitals are richly

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ornamented with birds and squirrels eating grapes. Flanking the rotunda are curved walls whose deep baseboards and crown molds echo the curving lines of the rotunda. Beyond the rotunda are four niches flanking an arched sliding door which leads to the stair hall. The wide stair features turned balusters, a heavy octagonal newel, heavy molded handrail and a small niche at the first landing. Beyond the stair hall is the servants' stair, which feeds into the main stair via an arched opening at its second landing.

First floor doors are composed of four flat panels set in crossetted three-part surrounds with flat paneled soffits and reveals. Several of the first floor doorplates are enriched with cable molds and foliate relief. First-floor mantels are gone.

The second floor plan corresponds to that of the first. Two spacious bedrooms open into the second level of the rotunda, while two smaller chambers are entered at the top of the stair. Again, the walls encircling the rotunda are penetrated with niches, and the dome-like ceiling culminates in a stained glass oculus with petal tracery.

Mrs. Geraldine Coburn Cox, who lived in the mansion in the 1920s, describes Montford Hall at a time when the house was basically unaltered since the Boylans lived there.

There was a rotunda and a stained glass dome that allowed light to shine down on the interior of the house. . . . The front hall, which my grandmother often said was wide enough for a horse and carriage, had four Corinthian columns in the center with a circular banister above them on the second floor. At the end of the hall was a cantilever stair. . . . There were niches in the walls on the first and second floors for statues. . . On the right as one entered the house was a parlor, dining room, kitchen, and servants quarters. There was a massive red, sliding door which was opened for parties and banquets. On the other side of the house was the music room, library (with a partial partition of Ionic columns), a master bedroom, bath and den. . . . Upstairs there were four bedrooms, bath, and storage rooms. Off one of the bedrooms was an iron grille balcony. We children use to play "Romeo and Juliet" on it until father said he was afraid Juliet and the balcony might fall so he had it knocked off the house--a task that proved to be so difficult that father wished he had left it alone. The house was the first in the city to have indoor plumbing and boasted of three bathrooms, but there were only two when we lived there.

The house has remained in remarkably good repair despite misguided alterations. The facade exists behind the frame additions, and the Corinthian rotunda is present;

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however, the second floor gallery has been filled in. The south side of the house, which Mrs. Cox described as the music room, library, master bedroom and bath, has been altered to accommodate the church auditorium. Aside from this renovation, the spaces have been basically maintained. The dining room and parlor contain the original crown moldings and sliding doors, and the stair is intact. None of the original bathrooms or first floor marble mantels, however, remain.

Montford Hall is closely related to The Barracks, designed in 1858 by William Percival for William S. Battle of Tarboro, North Carolina. The massing, use of classical and Italianate detail, and interior plan are similar. Several decorative features, such as louvered interior shutters, coved ceilings, and the stained glass oculus, are found in both houses.

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The siting of Montfort Hall is still impressive, for it stands amid a one-acre plot of land on the highest elevation for some distance around. From this vantage point, once located in a semi-rural area but now surrounded by early twentieth century development, Montfort Hall overlooks the immediate neighborhood of Boylan Heights, and beyond, across the railroad track, can be seen the urban heart of Raleigh to the east, and the home of Joel hane and Central Prison to the north and west. This siting recalls Montfort Hall's proud role as one of a series of luxurious suburban mansions built shortly before the Civil War for Raleigh's wealthy families.

As shown in an 1872 Birdseye view map of Raleigh, the small capital city had these ambitious estates at nearly every edge, with the chief concentration, including Montfort Hall, located to the west. The nearby Tucker and Cameron mansions that stood on Willsborough Street, the Harrison House to the north, the Devereaux House to the northwest, and all the others have been destroyed. Only Montfort Hall still stands. As the lone survivor of an important element in Raleigh's history, and the only surviving house by William Percival in Raleigh (and one of only two in the state) it is of considerable importance. Although alterations have occurred, most of them have been additions, so that a large proportion of original fabric—the form, decorative elements, bracket cornice, cupola, rotunda, etc.—survives. Montfort Hall has recently been purchased by a family who have fallen in love with the house and have begun the pain—staking work of restoring the house, removing offending additions and replacing missing elements. It will again be a grand private residence.

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SPECIFIC DATES

1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Percival, Briggs & Dodd

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Montford Hall, one of the few grand mansions surviving from Raleigh's antebellum past, was built in 1858 for William Montford Boylan, son of the influential publisher and businessman William Boylan. The imposing Italianate house was constructed by the local firm of Briggs and Dodd and designed by architect William Percival, who worked in Raleigh, Chapel Hill, and Tarboro in the late 1850s. Montford Hall is the only remaining example in Raleigh of the eclectic mansions Percival designed; it strongly resembles the Barracks, a house he designed in Tarboro.

The builder of Montford Hall, William Montford Boylan, was born in 1822 at Wakefield, the former plantation home of Joel Lane. He was the son of William Boylan (1777-1861), one of Raleigh's leading editors, land owners, and businessmen. The elder Boylan came to North Carolina in the 1790s from New Jersey to work in the printing office of his uncle, Abraham Hodge, publisher of the North Carolina Minerva and the Fayetteville Gazette. In 1797 William Boylan became a member of his uncle's publishing firm in Fayetteville, but moved to Raleigh in 1799. Boylan became the editor of Raleigh's first newspaper, the North Carolina Minerva and Raleigh Advertiser, later known as The Minerva. He immediately expanded his enterprises and became active in local affairs. He opened a bookstore, published an Almanac, was elected the second president of the State Bank, and was a trustee of the Raleigh Academy, founded in 1801.

In May of 1818 Boylan purchased Wakefield plantation from Peter Browne, a Scottish lawyer and scholar. He was an early planter of cotton in North Carolina. Boylan also owned plantations in Johnston and Chatham counties and in Mississippi, and these, along with his lucrative businesses, made him one of the wealthiest men in North Carolina.

In the early 1830s Boylan served on the committee to construct a new Capitol, and he supported the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company by underwriting all the unsold shares of stock. He later became the president of this early railroad.

William Boylan and Elizabeth Stokes McCulloch, Boylan's first wife, had several children. William Montford Boylan, known as "Buck", was Boylan's youngest son and heir to much of his father's land in Wake County and Yazoo County, Mississippi. "Buck" Boylan is reported to have been a colorful character, typifying the Southern gentleman of the antebellum era. He continued his father's lucrative farming activities and enjoyed the diversions of a well-to-do landowner. The 1860 census listed the leder Boylan, 82, a planter with \$15,000 in personal estate and \$100,000 in real estate. William M. Boylan, 38, had a personal estate of \$15,000, and real estate valued at \$50,000. The household included Mary, 33, and four children.

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In September of 1855 the elder Boylan deeded "100 acres more or less . . . on the west side of the city of Raleigh and being a part of his Wakefield plantation . . "to his son William. Three years later William Montford Boylan engaged William Percival to design his residence.

Percival, reported to be a retired British army officer, came to Raleigh from Virginia in 1857. Percival received several commissions in Raleigh during his two year residency here, including renovations to the Capitol, the First Baptist Church, the R. S. Tucker House (demolished), and the Carter Braxton Harrison House (demolished). Montford Hall is probably the earliest of the houses Percival designed in Raleigh; the Tucker and Harrison mansions were more irregular and extravagant interpretations of the Italianate style, while Montford Hall's plan indicates a close adherance to classical formulae. Unfortunately, Percival's flamboyant Italianate mansions were razed in the mid-twentieth century, leaving Montford Hall as the only surviving Percival house in Raleigh.

Thomas Briggs and James Dodd of Raleigh were the contractors of Montford Hall according to the informative corner stone, which also lists Percival as the architect, F. G. Thorn as the assistant, and Boylan as the builder. Briggs and Dodd, listed as "builders" as early as the 1860 census, operated a successful contracting firm which built several important houses in the city in the mid 1800s, including Percival's R. S. Tucker House, and thrived during Raleigh's post-Civil War growth.

Percival's brief yet prolific career in North Carolina was not limited to Raleigh. He designed New East and New West dormitories at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Barracks and Calvary Episcopal Church in Tarboro. He demonstrated a versatile knowledge of architectural styles by working in the Gothic, Italianate, and classical revivals. The career of William Percival in North Carolina ended apparently as abruptly as it began. No evidence or records of his activities after 1859 have been discovered.

William Montford Boylan died in 1899 at the age of 77. He left the majority of his property to his wife, Mary Kinsey Boylan, who lived in Montford Hall with her son William until her death in 1901. In her will Mary Boylan expressed her sentiments for the mansion:

I bequeath the half of my Insurance . . . to my son William Boylan to enable him to perform the dearest wish of my heart . . . to purchase and keep the house. . . .

William, however, did not obey his mother's last will and testament. Instead, he sold the property to the Greater Raleigh Land Company in 1907.

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The original property was subdivided in 1907, leaving the mansion and its immediate surroundings as the only remaining elements of the plantation. The house passed through several owners in the 1910s and was rented to traveling salesmen and merchants. In 1918 George H. Brown, an associate justice of the State Supreme Court, sold the house to Rufus T. Coburn. Coburn and his family lived there until 1953. His daughter, Geraldine Coburn Cox, supplied a vivid account of the appearance of the house and of life in the mansion in the 1920s. Montford Hall retained much of its original character despite growing residential development in the Boylan Heights area, which was catalyzed by the 1907 subdivision of the estate.

After Coburn died the house was vacated and vandalized. In 1954 the Boylan Heights Baptist Church, present owner of the house, bought the mansion and extensively renovated it to serve institutional purposes.

William Percival's distinctive architectural designs in Raleigh are acknowledged mainly by memory or photographs, with the destruction of two of his most individual Italianate houses in the 1960s and with the frame additions which mask the robust appearance of Montford Hall. However, Montford Hall is representative of Percival's ambitious residential architecture and of the large suburban estates which surrounded Raleigh in the mid-nineteenth century. The Tucker, Cameron, and Devereaux mansions have been demolished and their lands developed. Montford Hall is the sole survivor of the grand mansions that bordered antebellum Raleigh.

FOOTNOTES

- Geraldine Coburn Cox, letter to Linda Harris and Mary Ann Lee, November 7, 1976.
- ²Samuel A. Ashe, editor, <u>Biographical History of North Carolina</u> (Greensboro, 1907), volume 6, p. 89.
- ³Elizabeth Waugh, "Boylans Left Big Imprint Here," <u>News and Observer</u> (Raleigh, November 14, 1954, section 4, p. 3).
 - Ashe, volume 6, p. 92.
- ⁵Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Subgroup: Deeds.
- $^6\mathrm{Wake}$ County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Subgroup: Wills.
- ⁷Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Subgroup: Deeds.

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⁸Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Subgroup: Deeds. Chain of title to the land on which Montford Hall stands from 1911 to 1915: August 18, 1911, Greater Raleigh Land Company to Zebulon M Caveness (Book 252, p. 457); April 6, 1914, Caveness to James A. Sanders (Book 283, p. 414); June 25, 1915, Sanders to George H. Brown (Book 301, p. 48).

⁹ Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Subgroup: Deeds.

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Assessment of criteria:

- A. Associated with—and the only survivor of—the development of suburban estates at the edges of Raleigh in the antebellum period.
- B. Associated with the lives of several significant persons: the only Raleigh house and one of two houses in the state surviving known to have been built by William Percival, a mysterious English-born architect who worked in North Carolina in the late 1850s and erected some of the state's finest buildings of the period. Also the only known surviving antebellum building known to have been built by the firm of Briggs and Dodd, who began work in Raleigh before the war and after the war became the city's leading building supply and contracting firm.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of the grand and imaginative eclecticism of the late 1850s as the South edged away from the Greek Revival into the ornateness of the second half of the nineteenth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAP	HICAL REFE	ERENCES		
Ashe, Samuel A., editor. Carolina: Charles L.			Carolina. Gree	nsboro, North
Cox, Geraldine Coburn. A	letter to Linda	a Harris and Ma	ry Ann Lee, Nove	mber 7, 1976.
Johnson, Charles E. "Mr. W	William Boylan	Was a Mighty F	icturesque Cusse	r." News and
Observer. No date, no	o page. Found	in a newspaper	scrapbook belon	ging to Ms.
Elizabeth Ruffin.				
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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER S	SIGNATURE			
TITLE State Historic Pres	ervation Offic	er	DATE Septe	ember 8, 1977
OR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROP	ERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL R	EGISTER DATE	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOG	Y AND HISTORIC PE	RESERVATION		
ATTEST			DATE	
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- Wake County Records. Wake County Courthouse. Raleigh, North Carolina. Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Census Records.
- Waugh, Elizabeth. "Boylans Left Big Imprint Here." <u>News and Observer</u>. November 14, 1954, section 4, page 3.
- Waugh, Elizabeth. Raleigh, Capital of North Carolina. Raleigh: The Junior Leage of Raleigh, 1967.
- Wodehouse, Lawrence. "William Percival, Architect." North Carolina Architect.

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- Wodehouse, Lawrence. "The Elusive William Percival, Architect and Pre-Civil War Follower of Upjohn, Downing, and Town and Davis." Unpublished manuscript.



