ORDINANCE NO. 1976-311

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY OF RALEIGH HOUSING AUTHORITY LOCATED AT 100 BLOCK, ST. MARY'S STREET IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC PROPERTY

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

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

WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Department for cultural resources has made an analysis and recommendation that the following property be designated a historic property; and

WHEREAS, on the 17th day of August, 1976, a joint public hearing was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, North Carolina, by the Historic Properties Commission and the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic property ; 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 Part 3B, Article 19, Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceeding the adoption of this ordinance, have been complied with.

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

Section 1. The property of Raleigh Housing Authority located at 100 block of St. Mary's Street, in the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is hereby declared a historic property. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

Tucker Carriage House

Section 2. No building or structure located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished or materially altered unless and until a ninety-day (90) written notice to the Historic Properties Commission of the intent to demolish or materially alter said structure, and the elapsing of said ninety-day (90) 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.

Section 5. City administration and the Historic Properties 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 property by action of the Historic Properties 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 Properties 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: 9/7/76

Effective: 10/14/76

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DESGRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (il known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tucker Carriage House is a handsome one-and-a-half story frame structure, the last remaining building of a once splendid nineteenth century Raleigh estate. The building, the only surviving carriage house of its size and era within the city, is a functional structure executed with all the flamboyance of the Queen Anne style. Despite encroachment by one of Raleigh's main traffic arteries and accompanying commercial district, the site is heavily wooded and retains much of its original suburban character.

A stone retaining wall built of rock-faced random ashlar runs along the street (west) edge of the yard; at either lateral end the wall terminates in sturdy ashlar posts framing the carriage path which leads up from the road to the south (main) entrance, sweeps around the building and descends on the north. The building, which measures 35 feet deep, 100 feet long, and 48 feet high, is three bays deep and seven long; it stands at the north end of the lot upon a foundation of brick piers laid in one-to-three, one-tofive, and one-to-seven common bond. A small one-story shed, walled with large louvered panels, projects from the northwestern end of the west elevation and rests on a common bonded brick foundation.

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The carriage house is sheathed with weatherboarding trimmed by plain beaded board cornerposts at the first level, and with imbricated shakes arranged in a pattern of alternating rectangular and rounded elements at the loft level. The whole is covered by a steep hip roof, gabled on the main facade, irregularly punctuated by shed dormers. Along the center bays the ridge line of the roof is pierced by a square-in-plan louvered cupola crowned by a bellcast hip roof with a slender lance-like finial. Covering the roof are demi-octagonal imbricated slate shingles polychromed in the form of large rosettes. Several gablets project from the main body of the roof: two on the western elevation, one located towards the front and one towards the rear; and one on the eastern elevation, centered directly beneath the cupola and containing a hoist for lifting bales of hay into the stable loft. In addition, the two western bays of the main facade feature a loft level gable end overhang whose soffit is sheathed with thin diagonally laid ceiling. Each gablet and gable end is covered with sawtooth shakes and supported by elongated cyma reversa consoles, each incised with a delicate volute. The boldly molded cornice returns slightly into both gablets of the western elevation.

The central entrance consists of massive sliding double doors, each leaf containing six flat panels diagonally sheathed with thin beaded boards and surmounted by a large plate glass window bordered by sixteen small square lights. The rear double doors are similar in design, although each leaf contains eight panels, with the uppermost pair glazed.

Fenestration placement is highly irregular but can generally be divided into two types: bigh square casement windows and double-hung sash of various sizes with the upper half skirted by tiny square panes. Exterior window trim is rather consistently composed of plain board surrounds onto which fillet and ovolo molded sills and lintels are superimposed.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tucker Carriage House is a large, picturesque frame building, located near the heart of downtown Raleigh. Its ambitious scale, irregular form, and rich surface treatments of patterned shingled walls, polychromed slate roof, and essentially unaltered condition make it an impressive and rare example of a Queen Anne style outbuilding, representative of the nineteenth century suburban estates that wealthy citizens once occupied on the edges of Raleigh. It served the grand Italianate house (now gone) and perhaps the business of Rufus S. Tucker, one of Raleigh's leading merchants and most influential citizens.

The Tucker Carriage House is the only building known to survive that was connected with Rufus Sylvester Tucker, one of Raleigh's post-Civil War wealthiest merchants. Tucker began his mansion house in 1858, probably designed by William Percival, an outstanding architect then working in Raleigh. It was completed the next year, with the firm of Thomas Briggs and James Dodd as the builders. (Percival also designed in the 1850s the First Baptist Church and Montfort Hall in Raleigh, New East and New West at Chapel Hill, plus several buildings in Tarboro.) This large, brick, Italianate mansion was razed in 1964. It had a number of outbuildings of varying uses, including carriage house, servants' houses, and wagon and wood sheds. As early as 1909 a Raleigh map shows the estate had a bowling green or alley, in front of the house. Today, only the great carriage house remains.

Rufus Sylvester Tucker (1829-1894) was one of the most influential men in Raleigh. He rose to the rank of major in the Confederate army, became a director of the North Carolina Railroad Company, the Seaboard Airline System, and the largest private stockholder in the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company. He was a director of banks in Raleigh and New Bern, was for over thirty-one years a director of the institution for the deaf, dumb and blind in Raleigh, and was for many years its president. Major Tucker was one of the largest owners of city property in Raleigh, and he had extensive farming and cattle operations in Wake County. With his brothers he was a partner in the mercantile firm of W. H. and R. S. Tucker, which had been established by his father, Ruffin Tucker, in 1818.

The exact date of construction of the carriage house is uncertain. A map, entitled "Birds Eye View of the City of Raleigh," dated 1872, shows

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the Tucker estate, but the carriage house is not shown. O. W. Gray and Son, of Philadelphia, mapped the Raleigh area in 1882, but no carriage house is shown at the Tucker mansion. The first time the Sanborn Insurance map showed the Tucker property is 1909, the year the widow Tucker died. In that year the great carriage house is shown. As early as 1883 the account books of Thomas Briggs show the firm of W. H. and R. S. Tucker buying materials for a "waggon shed." This was probably the waggon shed shown on the 1909 Sanborn map. It is likely that the firm of Thomas Briggs also built the carriage house.

The building may have served also as stables and storage for the large Tucker mercantile operations. The carriage house has a large amount of storage space, and there were numerous stalls for mules or horses.

Dr. James M. Rogers, a prominent Raleigh physician, and large owner of city real estate, purchased the estate from the Tucker heirs. Several parts of the horse stalls were removed by Dr. Rogers's daughter, Mrs. Norman Edward Edgerton, about 1940, and installed at the stables at her house, Tatton Hall on Oberlin Road in Raleigh. The carriage house is now owned by the heirs of Dr. Rogers, and is currently for sale. An option has been purchased by the Raleigh Housing Authority.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES								<u> </u>
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