

PHASE 1

**NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION(S) PROJECT
COLLEGE PARK/IDLEWILD NEIGHBORHOODS
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Submitted by

**Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.
309 E. Park Avenue, No. 4
Charlotte, N.C. 28203**

Submitted to

**Mr. Dan Becker
Raleigh Historic Districts Commission
222 W. Hargett Street, Rm. 307
Raleigh, N.C. 27602**

February 10, 1995

Introduction

The purpose of this Phase 1 study is to examine the College Park/Idlewild neighborhoods for potential National Register eligibility. Both areas were placed on the State Study in 1989. The study assesses the potential for historic districts as well as individually eligible properties located within the two areas. College Park and Idlewild are historically African American communities that took shape on the east side of Raleigh, North Carolina, during the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The City of Raleigh Community Development Department will be expanding services into the two neighborhoods. Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be expended. In keeping with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the City of Raleigh seeks to evaluate more thoroughly College Park and Idlewild and determine their National Register eligibility.

Methodology

The methodology used to make preliminary evaluations of eligibility of the College Park and Idlewild neighborhoods consisted of three steps. The first step was a general background research of the historical and architectural development of African American communities in Raleigh. The principal sources included *Culture Town, Life in Raleigh's African American Communities* (Simmons-Henry and Edmisten 1993), and *National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the East Raleigh-South Park Historic District* (Wright, et al. 1990). The second step was a search of the survey files (N.C. State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh), compiled during the Raleigh African American Communities Survey (1987), to identify previously inventoried properties located in College Park and Idlewild. During this search, copies were made of the files of individual resources considered to be the most architecturally and/or historically significant. Finally, a windshield survey was conducted of the general project area based on a map provided by the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission. The purpose of the drive-through survey was to assess both the overall architectural integrity of the two neighborhoods and the basic architectural integrity of specific properties identified as possessing the greatest individual significance.

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

No potential National Register historic districts were identified in the College Park/Idlewild neighborhoods. Because of extensive modern infill construction and alterations to properties greater than fifty years of age, these communities no longer retain sufficient overall architectural integrity to qualify as historic districts. However, some individual properties were identified as potentially eligible. (See the brief descriptions below.) The preliminary evaluations of these resources were based on exterior architectural integrity. The survey files also revealed some historical information pertaining to ownership.

Therefore, it is recommended that National Register nominations be completed for selected properties based primarily, but not exclusively, on the following list. Once the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission and College Park/Idlewild community organizations have reviewed this list, a priority list should be developed, including

the resources listed here and others that are considered to be potentially worthy of National Register status. A deadline should be set for this priority list to ensure a prompt response. It is also recommended that the State Historic Preservation Office be consulted regarding the merits of completing individual National Registers nominations, as opposed to writing a Multiple Property Documentation Form. The latter is a cover document for the nomination of groups of related significant properties.

COLLEGE PARK/IDLEWILD NEIGHBORHOODS: MAJOR HOUSE TYPES

Introduction

The buildings greater than 50 years of age in the College Park/Idlewild communities are primarily dwellings. Although the two neighborhoods contain some commercial properties, these buildings are usually less than fifty years of age. The dwellings represent a relatively small number of traditional house types and nationally popular architectural designs that characterized the development of African American districts in southern cities during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

House Types

Shotgun House One of the predominant architectural symbols of African American communities in the early twentieth-century, urban South, this basic house type is one story high, one room wide, and two or three rooms deep. The shotgun house typically has a gable-front roof, hip- or shed-roofed front porch, and weatherboard exterior. While early examples have chamfered or turned porch posts, by the 1920s, shotgun houses were built with bungalow-inspired tapered posts on brick piers and exposed brackets under the eaves. A Double-Shotgun variation also appeared in African-American Raleigh during the early twentieth century and persisted into the post-World War II years, when it was often built of concrete block. The double shotgun house consists of two shotgun floor plans placed side by side beneath a single front gable or hip roof. The result is a duplex design with two front doors, a two room width, and a depth of two to three rooms. (See *Culture Town*, p. xiv).

Two-Room, Single-Pile House This traditional southern house type has a number of variations, including the hall-and-parlor, Triple-A, saddlebag, and double-pen. Typically, it is one room deep (single pile), with a side-gable roof, weatherboard exterior, hip- or shed-roofed front porch, and a rear appendage or ell for the kitchen. The saddlebag and double-pen versions have two front doors leading into the two principal rooms and were often built to accommodate two families. Original embellishments include gable returns, a center roof gable (triple-A version), and turned or chamfered porch posts with decorative brackets or spindlework. The two-room, single-pile house was popular in African American communities until about 1910. (See *Culture Town*, pp. xii-xiii).

Gable-Front Bungalow Sometimes labeled the Southern Bungalow because of its popularity in the region, this one-story house typically has a low-pitched, gable-front roof, two sets of rooms aligned three deep (triple-pile), and a front porch that extends across the three-bay facade. Reflecting the influence of the bungalow style, this house is characterized by square or tapered porch posts on brick piers, and exposed brackets under wide eaves. Exteriors are usually weatherboard although some have original brick veneers. Gable-front bungalows in African-American Raleigh usually date from the 1920s to early 1940s. (See *Culture Town*, p. xv).

Bungalow Although less common in the College Park/Idlewild neighborhoods, other versions of the bungalow were also built in the 1920s and 1930s. These houses

are usually low-slung, one-story or a story-and-a-half forms with wide eaves, exposed brackets, and large front porches with tapered posts on brick piers. The bungalow front porch is often formed by the projection of the roof over the facade. In the two neighborhoods, bungalows usually have weatherboard exteriors.

Cubic House This two-story house is a square or nearly square box with a hip roof. It is two rooms wide and two rooms deep (double pile), with a hip-roofed front porch, and often a hip-roofed dormer centered over the three-bay facade. This house type was popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century and is characterized by a mix of architectural elements reflecting the Colonial Revival and bungalow styles. Exteriors display a range of weatherboard, wood-shingle, and brick veneers, and either classical or bungalow-style porch posts are common.

L-shaped Cottage Especially popular during the early twentieth century, this frame, one-story, three-bay dwelling has a cross-gable roof, projecting front-facing gable, and two-bay front porch. Original porches often have turned posts with sawnwork brackets. Shed- or gable-roofed kitchen wings typically extend to the rear. (See *Culture Town*, p. xiii).

COLLEGE PARK/IDLEWILD NEIGHBORHOODS
PRELIMINARY LIST
PROPERTIES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE
FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

1. St. Monica's Catholic Church
15 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1930, one-story, three-bay, brick-veneered building with parapet roof. The building has Gothic-arched entrances with original doors and banks of original windows with six-over-six sash.

2. Silas P. Mallette House
18 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1900, one-story, three-bay, Triple-A cottage with weatherboard siding. Original door with two-light transom, and original windows with two-over-four and four-over-four sash. House has gable returns and triangle-shaped vents in the gables. The original owner was probably Silas Mallette, a farmer.

3. Stephen Hawkins House
20 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1910, one-story, T-shaped cottage with three-bay facade and weatherboard siding. Original door with two-light transom and original windows with four-over-four sash. The side gables have louvered vents and returns. The original owner was probably Stephen Hawkins, a janitor.

4. David Haywood House
106 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1920 side-gable bungalow with low-slung roof, exposed rafters, shed dormer, and engaged front porch. The original owner was probably David Haywood, a butler.

5. House
108 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1915, one-story, three-bay, hip-roofed Triple-A cottage, with weatherboard siding, turned porch posts, and diamond-shaped vent in the front gable. In 1925 this house was occupied by A. A. Martin, a waiter.

6. Hayes-Foxwell House
202 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1915, two-story, hip-roofed cubic house, with hip-roofed dormer, wraparound porch with tapered posts on brick piers, and weatherboard siding on first story and wood shingles on the second story. Original owner was Jacob Hayes, a bricklayer.

7. **James H. May House**
201 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1910, two-story, three-bay, brick-veneered cubic house with hip-roof, shed dormer, and hip-roofed front porch with square posts on brick piers. James May, occupation not known, was probably the original owner.

8. **H. H. Ricks House**
3 11 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1900, one-story Triple-A cottage with weatherboard siding, original windows with two-over-two sash, gable returns, and diamond-shaped vent in the front gable. H. H. Ricks may have been the original owner. His occupation is not known.

9. **James M. Higgs House**
313 N. Tarboro Road

Ca. 1900, three-bay, I-house with asbestos siding, porch with turned posts, original six-over-six windows, and gable returns. James M. Higgs, a porter, was probably the original owner.

10. **Chester A. Levister House**
1201 E. Lane Street

Ca. 1920, two-story, hip-roofed, brick-veneered cubic house with five-bay facade, and wraparound porch with tapered posts on brick piers. Levister, occupation not known, was probably the original owner.

11. **David Weaver House**
1203 E. Lane Street

Ca. 1914, two-story, three-bay, cubic dwelling with Queen Anne-inspired projecting front-facing bay. Wraparound porch has tapered posts on brick piers. Replacement asphalt siding. Weaver, occupation not known, was probably the original owner.

12. **R. Farrar House**
109 N. Pettigrew Street

Ca. 1915, L-shaped, three-bay cottage with original weatherboard siding, windows with two-over-two sash, wraparound porch with tapered posts on brick piers; gable returns, and diamond-shaped vent on front-facing gable. Farrar was a janitor.

13. **House**
108 Seawell Avenue

Ca. 1900, L-shaped, three-bay cottage with weatherboard siding and especially decorative porch, with turned posts, brackets, and spindlework frieze.

14. Apartment House ("Rabbit Box")
535 E. Edenton Street

Ca. 1895, two-story, three-bay gable-front building with two-tier front porch with turned posts and brackets, weatherboard siding, windows with six-over-six sash, and original entry with sidelights and transom. According to survey files, this building served as a tavern and was at one time called the Rabbit Box.