

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

[www.raleighnc.gov/planning](http://www.raleighnc.gov/planning)

Fee	_____
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Rec'd By:	_____
Completion Date:	_____

**(Processing Fee: \$250.00 - valid until June 30, 2008 - 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. The historic landmark program was previously administered by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission but has been transferred back to the city; 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: Lemuel and Julia Delany House  
 Current Name: same

2. Location:

Street 210 and 212 North State Street  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NC PIN No.: 1714107197; 1714108102  
 (Can be obtained from <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/>)

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

Name: Pearlette Pullen  
 Address: 8750 Georgia Avenue  
 City: Silver Spring State: MD Zip: 20910  
 Telephone No: (301) (585)-(1957) Fax No. (202) (307)-(0006)  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: Dan Becker, Executive Director, Raleigh Historic Districts Commission  
 Address: PO Box 829 Century Station  
 City: Raleigh State: NC Zip: 27602  
 Telephone No: (919) (832)-(7238) Fax No. (919) (890)-(3690)  
 E-Mail: Dan.Becker@ci.raleigh.nc.us

5. General Data/Site Information:

Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1917

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: None

Approximate lot size or acreage: .35 (2 lots)

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: T. T. Street Sr. and Jr., builder of later addition

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Residence

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	2
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): Ruth Little, 1998, College Park/Idlewild Mini-district Phase I Survey.

E. National Register of Historic Places Status:

Check One:

Entered <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

7. Reason for Request:

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. This list can be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/policyexpansion.htm#digital> 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 or JPG 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. 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 & Planning Branch of the NC State Historic Preservation Office at 919-807-6570, 919-807-6573 or at:

<http://www.hpo.dcr.state.nc.us/spbranch.htm>.

Lemuel and Julia Delany House  
Landmark Designation Report  
Prepared for the Raleigh Historic Districts Commission

Originally Prepared July 2002  
By Landmark Preservation Associates, Raleigh, NC

Revised April 2008  
By April Montgomery  
Circa, Inc.  
and  
June 2009, RHDC Staff

## **Architectural Significance**

### *Exterior*

The 1917 Lemuel and Julia Delany House is a one-story frame dwelling that is a good vernacular example of the Classical Revival style of architecture. The west-facing house stands on two lots at 212 North State Street (also known as 210 N State Street) on the southeast corner of the intersection with East Lane Street. A back bedroom was added in the early 1920s, an adjacent bathroom addition was made about 1940, a hip-roofed bedroom wing was added to the south side in the early 1930s, and to the latter a rear addition was made in the 1950s or 1960s.

The house has vinyl siding over the original weatherboards. The asphalt-shingle hip roof features a pedimented front dormer with three window panes and a hipped rear with a large metal or vinyl-louvered vent. Two brick chimneys with corbelled caps rise from the interior, and the house stands on a painted brick foundation. On the west and north elevations is a wraparound porch, the north section of which was enclosed as a sun room in the 1930s and the remainder enclosed in the late twentieth century. The south section of the porch retains tapered square-section wood supports on brick pedestals. The modern enclosure between the supports has multi-pane windows and an entry with sidelights. The north section has exterior entries and six-over-six windows. Aluminum awnings shelter the south-section entry and windows; concrete steps with brick cheeks rise to the south-section entry; and a double flight of concrete steps rise to a north-section entry. The north steps have a brick underpinning with an opening to a basement door, storage compartments to either side, a metal gate across the opening, and metal handrails.

Windows are typically one-over-one sash. The two front windows (now inside the enclosed south section of the porch) have smaller upper sash with decorative muntins. Similar sash appear in the center of a triple dining room window on the north elevation. A pair of sink-height casement windows on the north side of the rear kitchen opens into a laundry room addition. The kitchen and an early or original (before the mid-1920s) rear bathroom wing have hip roofs. The addition has period two-over-two windows and a small entry porch with a cantilevered flat roof. The 1930s side addition has a parged brick foundation and an entry facing North State Street with the recent address 212-1/2.

### *Interior*

The Delany House has a modified two-room-deep center-passage plan. Typical finishes include plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings, wood floors, molded baseboards and door

and window heads, floor registers, narrow cornices, and panel doors with metal or crystal door knobs. Between the old and new sections of the enclosed wraparound porch is a double-leaf door and single sidelight with textured glass panels. The old (north) enclosure is divided by a colonnade with fluted square-section column shafts. A front entry with sidelights and transom and a door with a single large glass panel opens into a small vestibule with a modern coat closet with a louvered door on the right. The vestibule connects to the front end of the center passage, which opens into a living room on the left side through a colonnade. The colonnade has slightly tapered square-section Doric columns and pilasters with fluting on beaded matchboard pedestals. A doorway with a large transom connects to the back of the passage, in the ceiling of which is a large rectangular ventilation opening covered with chickenwire and a movable panel. An attic fan to assist air flow was added in the early 1930s. On the back passage wall, inside the frame of a closed-off doorway, is a glass-fronted cedar-lined display case containing two christening gowns and caps, prayer books, and other infant-related items.

The living room features a corner fireplace with an ornate mantel with reeded colonnettes, chamfering, and a mirrored overmantel. The fireplace surround and hearth have ca. 1970 tiling and an original coal grate with a bronzed finish and a strapwork design. A double-leaf French door opens into the enclosed side porch and glazed pocket doors open into the dining room. The dining room corner fireplace backs up to the one in the living room, and it too has an ornate mantel with decorative colonnettes and, in the overmantel, an oval mirror and a cartouche with olive branch carvings. The mantel has the same tiling and coal grate frame as in the living room, but the grate door has been replaced with a modern heater. The dining room ceiling is divided into coffers by beams and the surfaces between have a rough plaster finish with sparkles.

On the right side of the center passage is a front bedroom with a mantel with molded console-like pilasters, bellflower carvings, and a coal grate with an eared architrave design. The ceiling has molded battens over what are probably celotex or plywood panels. Behind this room is another with a simple mantel with a tile fireplace surround. The kitchen has ca. 1950s cabinets and a swinging door to the dining room. The original bathroom has a small window that opens into the rearmost section of the passage, which has weatherboard-sided walls and a board-and-batten ceiling that suggest it was originally open to the outside. The ca. 1940 bathroom added onto the original bathroom has two-tone pink floor and wainscot tilework and a pink ceramic tub and sink.

### *Outbuildings and Landscape Features*

Behind the house, at the northeast corner of the lot, stands a ca. 1940 single-car garage of

painted cinder block construction with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and plywood and sheathing in the gables. Extending to the rear is an original shed-roofed chicken house with low windows and a panel door. Behind the garage and chicken house stood a late-twentieth-century frame workshop with an asphalt-shingled gable roof, particle-board siding, a concrete foundation, a plywood panel garage door, and a one-over-one window. All but the concrete pad of this building was removed sometime between 2006 and 2009. Due to ivy and other vegetation it is unknown whether the circular stone fishpond curb with center concrete fountain pedestal and basin that once sat between the chicken house and workshop still remains.

Plantings from the Delany period include a hedge along the Lane Street exposure of the back yard, and two front and one rear Lebanon cedars. The landscaping in front of the house features ivy, shrubs, a yucca, and a quartzite border.

### *Architectural Discussion*

The 1917 Delany House is a vernacular Classical Revival style dwelling. Features of the style include the hip roof, the pedimented front dormer, the diamond-paned window, the boxed eaves, and the porch supports consisting of battered square-section columns on brick pedestals. The wood and brick porch posts were also popular Craftsman features, although on Craftsman houses, there was just a plain piece of wood rather than crown molding at the top of the posts, to create the appearance of capitals – one of these remains on the Delany House. The Classical Revival Style is also expressed in the colonnades, mantels, and other details on the interior. Of particular note is the original ventilation system, still operable, consisting of an opening in the ceiling of the back passage that drew hot air out of the house through the louvered back dormer.

### **Historic Significance**

#### *Summary*

The Lemuel and Julia Delany House is significant for its association with Raleigh's African American community during the early and mid-twentieth century. Physician and business leader Lemuel Thackara Delany of the distinguished Delany family of Raleigh, and his wife, Saint Augustine's College instructor Julia Amaza (Brown) Delany, hosted many distinguished African American visitors to Raleigh including W. E. B. Du Bois, Marian Anderson, and Duke Ellington. The 1917 house is a good vernacular example of the late Classical Revival style of architecture and features a sophisticated ventilation system. The house was later home to educators Howard B. and Bernetta Pullen.

The Delany House is located in the Idlewild subdivision, platted in 1908. In 1872, as depicted on the "Bird's Eye View of the City of Raleigh," the area appears to have been

largely agricultural in character, although a number of small one-story houses stood a block east of the Delany House across Tarboro Avenue. Located adjacent to Saint Augustine's Normal School, founded for the training of black teachers in 1867, this group of houses may represent the origins of the later African American neighborhoods of Idlewild and College Park (the latter located to the east of Tarboro Avenue). According to long-time neighborhood resident Mildred Taylor James, interviewed in 1989, "I was told that the area was laid out for affluent whites to live [in] but they never took it." A black developer is said to have acquired much of the area and to have developed it as an African American subdivision.<sup>1</sup>

In January 1917 Nannie and Henry Delany sold lot number 21 in Idlewild to their son, Lemuel T. Delany. Henry Beard Delany had been born a slave in St. Mary's, Georgia. He came to Raleigh to attend Saint Augustine's and stayed on at the school, eventually rising to college president. Delany was also a suffragan bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, a position under the (white) bishop that enabled him to minister to African Americans. To Bishop Delany and his wife, Saint Augustine's instructor Nannie James (Logan) Delany, a son Lemuel was born in 1887 and given the middle name Thackara after the Episcopal minister Owen Thackara who suggested to Henry Delany that he attend Saint Augustine's. Lemuel graduated from the Leonard Medical College of Shaw Collegiate Institute (now Shaw University) in 1911 and interned in Pennsylvania. He soon returned to Raleigh where he lived with his parents on the Saint Augustine's campus and practiced from an office on the 200 block of South Wilmington Street. Lemuel married Julia Amaza Brown and by the date of the birth of their eldest son Logan in 1918 they had moved into their house at 212 North State Street.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Delany practiced medicine in Raleigh until shortly before his death in 1956. In 1932 he moved his office from South Wilmington Street into the two-story brick Delany Building he and dentist George Evans had erected at 133 East Hargett Street in 1923. Delany was greatly respected as a physician in Raleigh's African American community and he was also highly esteemed in the white community. A story related by Delany's son, Lemuel Jr. illustrates white respect for the doctor. Delany acquired skill in the removal of tumors that his black patients had allowed to grow too large. When physicians at Raleigh's Rex Hospital needed to remove large tumors from their white

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<sup>1</sup>Little, "College Park/Idlewild Mini-district Phase I Survey"; Simmons-Henry and Edmisten, *Culture Town*, 116, 136, 155. Some evidence points to a date earlier than 1908 for the inception of the neighborhood. Mildred Taylor James was born in a house at the corner of Idlewild and Lane streets, located in the subdivision, in 1905 (*Culture Town*, 153). A plat in the county records entitled "Addition to Idlewild" shows the subdivision in its present form and appears to be dated 1893 (Wake County Deed Book 127, p. 124).

<sup>2</sup>Lemuel T. Delany Jr. personal communication; Mann, *Having our Say*, 14, 17; and Hill directories. The 1918 directory shows Delany living at the present address. Dr. Delany purchased Lot 22 from Britton and Louisa Pearce in April 1919.



patients, Delany was ushered into the hospital to perform the operations unbeknownst to the patients and their families.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Delany's brother Hubert was an attorney and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) activist in New York and consequently knew many prominent figures in the city's black community. This connection, coupled with Dr. Delany's status in Raleigh, brought a number of nationally known performing artists to the Delany home when they were in town on tour. Opera legend Marian Anderson, singer and actor Paul Robeson, and jazz artists Cab Calloway and Duke Ellington were guests at the Delany home, where they slept in the front bedroom. Activist sociologist W. E. B. Du Bois also stayed with the Delanys. According to family tradition, Du Bois visited Raleigh to meet with Henry B. Delany, but because the two men differed in their approach to the advancement of blacks, the more radical Du Bois stayed with the Bishop's son, Lemuel.<sup>4</sup>

Lemuel and Julia Delany were members of the NAACP, although not as “voices” in the organization, according to their son. Julia taught English, speech, and drama at Saint Augustine’s and Lemuel was a member of the Masons and the Shriners. In the early 1950s the Delanys embarked on a new business. Lemuel helped set up his son Logan Drummond Delany in dry cleaning. The 1952 city directory identifies Delany Cleaners Inc. at 515 South Blount Street in Raleigh's African American business district. The directory listed Julia Delany as president, although vice-president Logan was most responsible for the firm’s operations. Lemuel Sr. served as secretary and Lemuel Jr. as treasurer. Lemuel Jr. lived in New York City at the time his family formed the company, but he was called home to help as the business grew, and he soon built a pool hall next to the cleaners (the pool hall still stands at South Blount). Delany Cleaners Inc. operated through Lemuel Sr.’s death in 1956 but closed several years later when Logan took a position with the Asheville school system.<sup>5</sup>

Lemuel T. Delany Jr. recalls many aspects of the Delany property through its history. The original builder is not known, but a father and son building team, T. T. Street Sr. and Jr., added the "pink bathroom" about 1940. Lemuel Sr. was a "dahlia and rose fanatic," and he grew the flowers in a large bed centered on the fishpond fountain. The water pressure of the fountain could be increased so that it doubled as a sprinkler for the surrounding flowers. Before the flower bed was put in, the spot was occupied by a playhouse, sand box, and swing set. The vegetable garden extended between East Lane

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<sup>3</sup> Lemuel T. Delany Jr. personal communication; Simmons-Henry and Edmisten, *Culture Town*, 64.

<sup>4</sup> Lemuel T. Delany Jr. personal communication; Mann, *Having our Say*, 36, 38, 41.

<sup>5</sup> Lemuel T. Delany Jr. personal communication; Hill directories.

Street and the hedge on the north side of the back yard (a hedge has existed there since the 1920s) but was eliminated when a sidewalk was constructed. An earlier fishpond once existed off the north end of the wraparound porch, and poplars preceded the Lebanon cedars in front of the house. The present garage replaces an earlier one of frame. (Dr. Delany most likely owned an automobile at the time of the construction of the house.)<sup>6</sup>

In 1970, the widowed Julia Delany sold the property to Prezelle Robertson, president of Saint Augustine's, who rented it out before selling it to Howard Belmont Pullen in 1975. Pullen grew up in the Idlewild neighborhood and was a graduate of the college preparatory program at Saint Augustine's. After serving in the armed forces during World War II, Pullen attended New York University and received a Master's degree. He taught in the Raleigh school system and then moved on to a position as supervisor in the city recreation department during the integration of recreational facilities in the 1960s. From 1966 to 1969 Pullen taught special education and afterward served as a consultant to the North Carolina Recreation Commission until his retirement in the mid-1980s. Pullen served as supervisor of the Chavis Community Center and worked with the Tuttle Community Center; he coached at the junior high school level; and he was a charter member of the Optimist Club of Southeast Raleigh. Pullen, with his wife Bernetta, a public school teacher, made modifications to the house such as adding vinyl siding and enclosing the south end of the wraparound porch. Howard Pullen also built the backyard workshop for his hobbies of electronics and ham radios.

Bernetta Pullen, widow transferred the properties to Marguerite Hardaway and Pearlette Pullen in 2001. Ms. Hardaway released her interest in the properties in 2007. In recent years the house has been used as apartments, primarily for staff at Saint Augustine's College.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Lemuel T. Delany Jr. personal communication; Mann, *Having our Say*, 29.

<sup>7</sup> Lemuel T. Delany Jr. and Anthony Greenwich personal communication; Simmons-Henry and Edmisten, *Culture Town*, 148-150; and plaques and certificates displayed in house.

## **Boundary Description and Justification**

The entirety of two lots – a .17 acre lot, Pin Number 1714108102 and a .18 acre lot Pin Number 1714107197 – are being designated. The lots are delineated on the attached Wake County Tax Map. These are the parcels historically associated with the Delany house.

## **Bibliography**

Delany, Lemuel T., Jr. Personal communication with author, 2002.

Delany, Sarah L., and A. Elizabeth Delany. *Having Our Say*.

Heitmann, Joy. "Delany House." Survey file, 1989, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N .C.

Hill Directory Company. Raleigh city directories for various years.

Little, M. Ruth. "College Park/Idlewild Mini-district Phase I Survey." Report, 1998.

Mann, Emily. *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*. Dramatists Play Service Inc., 1996.

Mattson, Richard. "The Evolution of Raleigh's African-American Neighborhoods in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Report, 1988.

Sanborn Map Company. Raleigh, N.C., maps, 1909 and 1914.

Simmons-Henry, Linda, and Linda Harris Edmisten. *Culture Town: Life in Raleigh's African American Communities*. Raleigh, N.C.: Raleigh Historic Districts Commission, Incorporated, 1993.

Wake County deed and plat records. Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, N.C.

Lemuel and Julia Delany House  
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June 2009

Section 10A: Photographs



Façade/West Elevation



Northwest Corner

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North Elevation



Northeast Corner

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Rear/East Elevation



Rear/East Elevation (view of SE corner)

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Rear/East Elevation (looking at rear of south wing)



South Elevation (view from SW corner)



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Front Door and Dormer Detail



Front Porch Detail

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Wraparound

Porch Detail (looking at north side)



Chimney Detail

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Tripartite Window on North Elevation



Original 1/1 Window with Screen (Rear Elevation)

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Rear Yard



Garage (North Elevation)

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Garage (West Elevation)



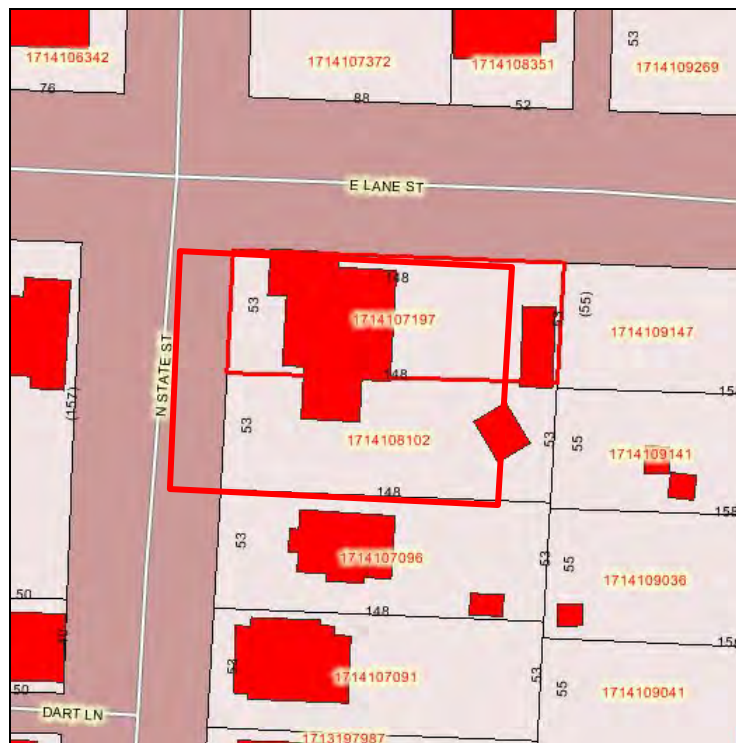
Garage (SW corner)

Section 10B: Maps

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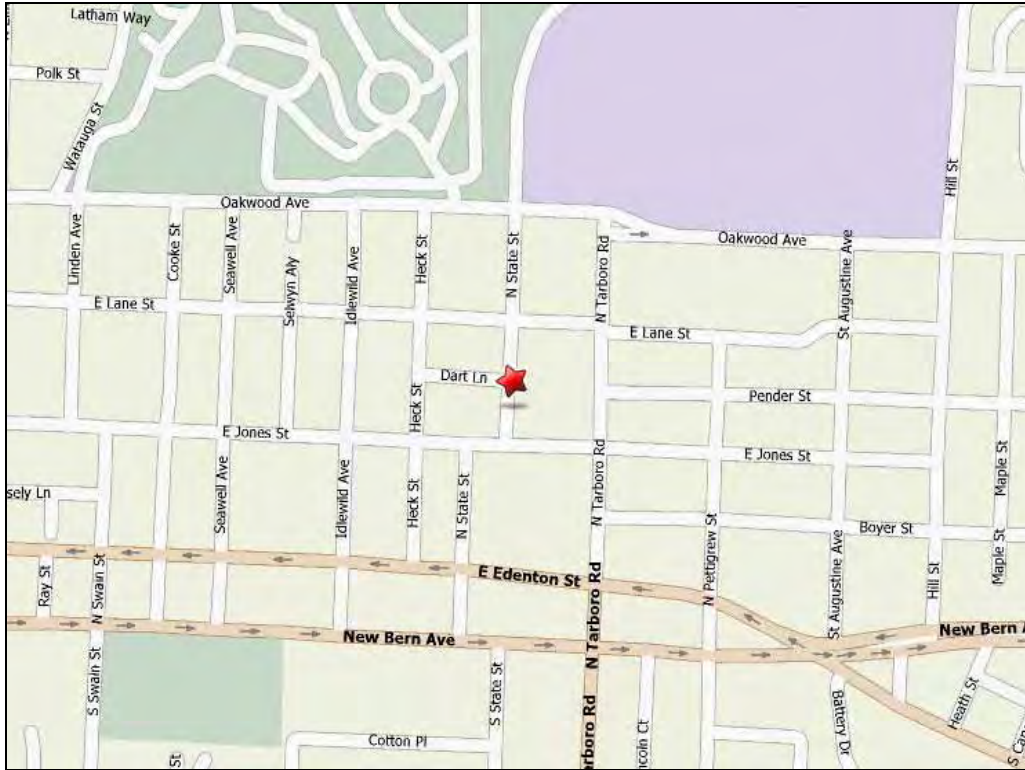


Site Map

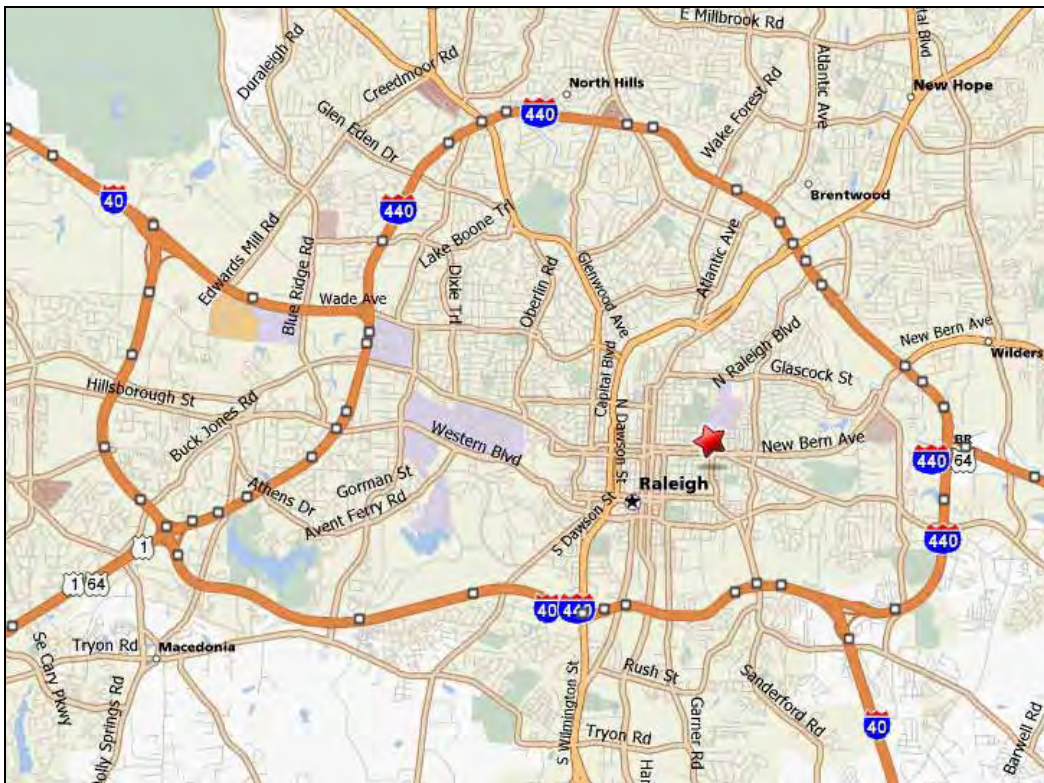


Tax Map

Lemuel and Julia Delany House  
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Location Map 1



Location Map 2