

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 1,2,3,4 Page 1

Fisher Park (boundary expansion)
Guilford County, NC

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION AMENDMENT

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fisher Park Historic District (boundary expansion)

2. Location

street and number: 507 North Church Street

N/A not for publication

city or town: Greensboro

N/A vicinity

state: North Carolina

code: NC

county: Guilford

code: 081

zip code: 27401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria.

Jeffrey J. Crowe, SHPO
Signature of certifying official

7/16/96
date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is entered in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

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5. Classification:

private building

7. Narrative Description:

The proposed expansion of the Fisher Park Historic District includes .068 acres abutting the southern boundary of the district at its southeast corner. There is no change in the number of contributing or non-contributing resources previously listed in the Fisher Park Historic District; however, one contributing building is affected by the boundary change: the Gant-McAlister House. This building was originally located on Greene Street, within the Fisher Park Historic District. At the Greene Street site, the building was oriented to the street, facing west. Its setback and mature landscaping were consistent with the historically residential streetscape. In recent years, the demolition of several houses in the same block of Greene Street to accommodate expansions of neighboring First Presbyterian Church had severely compromised the Gant-McAlister House's original streetscape context. In 1995, the house was moved to the Church Street site to save it from certain demolition by First Presbyterian Church. Approximately eighty percent of the house remains within the historic district while the remaining twenty percent of the Gant-McAlister House is now located on the proposed district expansion site. The remainder of the expansion site provides a side yard for the house. The side yard provided in the expansion is flanked on the opposite (south) side by the embankment to the Fisher Park Avenue overpass. It is landscaped and conforms to the adjoining house site topography. The expansion parcel was not originally included in the district boundary because it was part of a larger apartment building site to the west not included in the district. The small expansion parcel was purchased, rezoned, and recombined with the adjacent Church Street property to provide a site for the Gant-McAlister House.

The generous setback of the relocated Gant-McAlister House fits within the range of setbacks of the nearby district houses fronting Church Street. Its close proximity to the Murphy House is driven by the constraints of the available site and a major water supply line easement; however, the spacing is not inconsistent with the spacing of many large houses within the district both on and off the park. The attached Sanborn map illustrates the housing pattern of Church Street prior to the railroad and the overpass. Not only did the relocation of the McAlister House save it from demolition, it enhanced the Church Street streetscape and extended the district's visible presence closer to the physical boundary of the Fisher Avenue overpass. Consequently, the character and integrity of the district will be enhanced by the district expansion.

The house is listed and described in the FPHD nomination as a contributing structure. Built between 1910 and 1915, this two story frame house is distinguished by its projecting bays, Doric front porch, and pyramidal roof with gables and dormers. The front entry is flanked by two-story pilasters and is capped by a pedimented gable. Windows are generally six-over-one double hung sash except for three lunettes and the front dormer's diamond panes.

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The one story front porch extends across the front elevation and partially wraps the south side of the house. The first floor is entered through a spacious stair hall and is subdivided into four other principal spaces plus a kitchen with connecting butler's pantry. Wooden floors, plaster walls, and painted wood trim are found in all the principal spaces. The second floor includes five bedrooms and two baths. A second stair to the third floor finished attic space was added post 1970.

In Greensboro: An Architectural Record, the house is described by author Marvin Brown as follows: "One of the finest representatives of the transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style in Greensboro, this former house was the residence of Gant, Guilford County Superior Court clerk, in the early 1910s. The varied roof planes and wall surfaces of the Queen Anne are adorned here with a wealth of classical details, including a modillion-block cornice, a wraparound Doric porch, and a pair of two-story pilasters which outline the front entry and pedimented gable above." (page 298) The house was later bought by Dr. Jean McAlister who was one of Greensboro's first female physicians.

The siting of the Gant-McAlister House on its new location, and the subsequent renovations to the building were done according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards in pursuit of rehabilitation tax credits. Since the Gant-McAlister House was rehabilitated to house an expansion of the antique business located in the adjacent Dixon-Leftwich-Murphy House, a glass-enclosed breezeway and a rear weatherboarded connector were installed to facilitate access between the two buildings. Unobtrusively set behind the complex Church Street (main) elevations of both houses, the one-story breezeway is located on the side porch of the Gant-McAlister House and connects the rear corner of the brick side wall of the Murphy House. The fenestration of the new construction matches those of the side bay of the Murphy House in material, shape, size and detail. A doorway was cut into the masonry wall of the Murphy House and an existing window was replaced with a doorway on the Gant-McAlister House. The one-story rear connector is detailed to match the rear addition of the Murphy House and utilizes an exiting rear door there. An expanded rear window provides access into the Gant-McAlister House. The area enclosed by the side elevations of the two buildings and the rear elevations of the new construction is a garden sitting area.

8. Statement of Significance

The proposed district expansion consists only of adding a .068 acre parcel to the south of the Dixon Leftwich Murphy House on Church Street. The expansion is proposed due to the relocation of the Gant-McAlister House from its original site within the district, on Greene Street, to the Church Street site in 1995. The building was relocated to avoid demolition by the previous owner, First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. However, approximately twenty percent of the building now sits outside the present National Register district boundary. The local district boundary was expanded by the Greensboro City council to include this parcel in June of 1995 just prior to the relocation.

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The Gant-McAlister House is an excellent example of the transition from Queen Anne to Colonial Revival style architecture so prevalent in the district. In fact, the district nomination identifies the district's most popular style as Colonial Revival. The size, scale, massing, materials, and details of the Gant-McAlister House are extremely consistent with the district's architectural character and period of significance. In its new location, it is oriented to Church Street and sited south of the Dixon Leftwich Murphy House. The Gant-McAlister House is clearly compatible with the adjacent Church Street houses in style, size, scale, and massing and its construction period is the same as two of the four houses immediately to its north. Further, the relocation of the Gant-McAlister House represents the successful resolution of a difficult conflict between the church's desire to expand and the community's desire to preserve its resources.

In Greensboro, support for the relocation of the Gant-McAlister House to the Church Street location was overwhelming. It received the unanimous approval and a certificate of appropriateness from both the Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission and the Guilford County Historic Properties Commission at their February 1995 meetings. Also, the proposal was endorsed by the board of directors of the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association and the Preservation Greensboro board. Community support was extremely high because a valued historic resource that had been threatened for some time has been saved and will remain within the historic neighborhood.

At its March 1995 meeting, the Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission recommended the expansion of the local district and noted that the Gant-McAlister House will remain a contributing structure within the Fisher Park Historic District on its new site. This expansion will increase the integrity of the Fisher Park Historic District as it takes the boundary closer to the Fisher Avenue overpass—which remains the clear visual boundary of the district.

On its new site, the Gant-McAlister House was rehabilitated to house an expansion of a successful antique business in the Dixon-Leftwich-Murphy House. Work on this project was completed in June, 1996. Part II has been approved for the certified rehabilitation of the Gant-McAlister House, and the preliminary approval of the Part I will be approved if the historic district boundary expansion is listed. The SHPO letter forwarding the Part I application for the Gant-McAlister House to the Atlanta office states: "It is also the opinion of this office that the proposed minor expansion of the district to accommodate the structure on its new site appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated."

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .068 acre

UTM References

ZONE 17
NORTHING 3993200
EASTING 609200

GREENSBORO QUAD

Verbal Boundary Description

A map, drawn at 1" = 200', is included to illustrate the proposed boundary expansion.

Boundary Justification

The boundary expansion is proposed for two reasons: 1) so all of the relocated Gant-McAlister House and its recombined site are included in the historic district and 2) to make the National Register district boundaries congruent with the local historic district boundaries.

11. Form Prepared by:

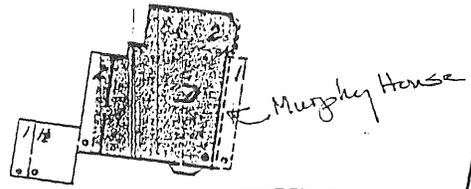
Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll, AIA
Ramsay Leimenstoll, Architect
P.O. Box 823
Greensboro, NC 27402

Date: 4/22/96
Tel: 910/274-2743

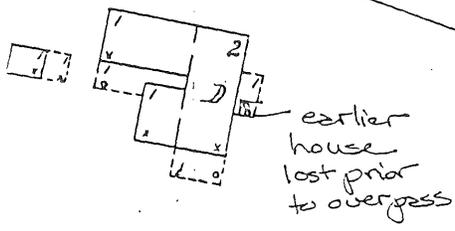
25

MAR. 1919
GREENSBORO
N.C.

LEFTWICH

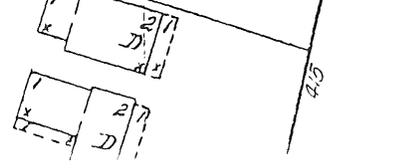
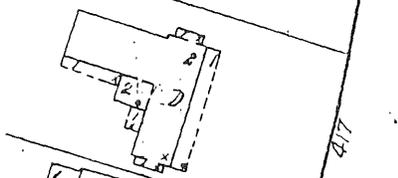
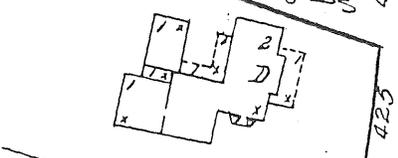


Murphy House

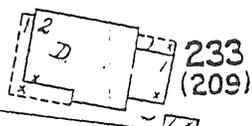
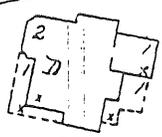
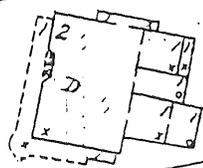
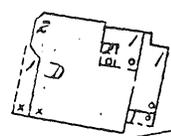
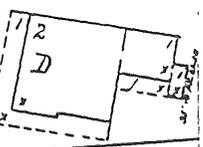
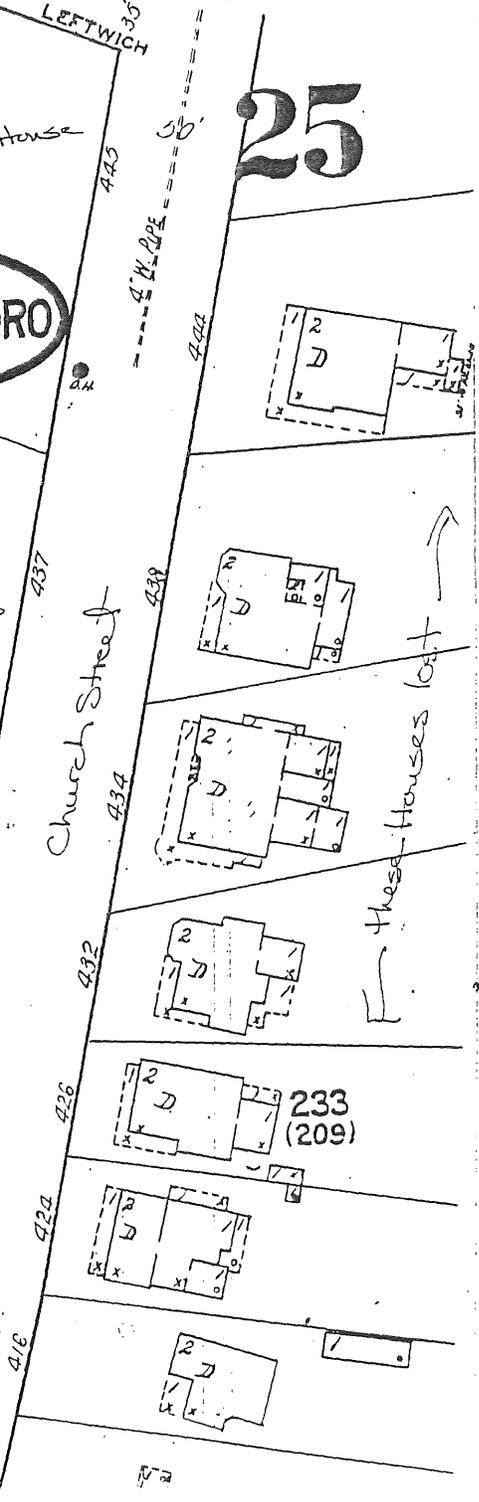


earlier house
lost prior
to overpass

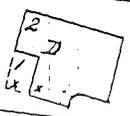
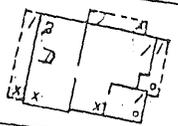
Fisher Ave prior to
construction of overpass



Church Street



233
(209)



these houses lost

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000963

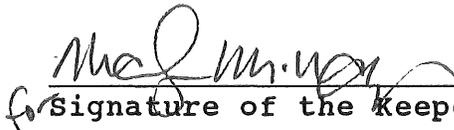
Date Listed: 9/12/96

Fisher Park Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Property Name

Guilford NORTH CAROLINA
County State

Greensboro MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/24/96
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 5:

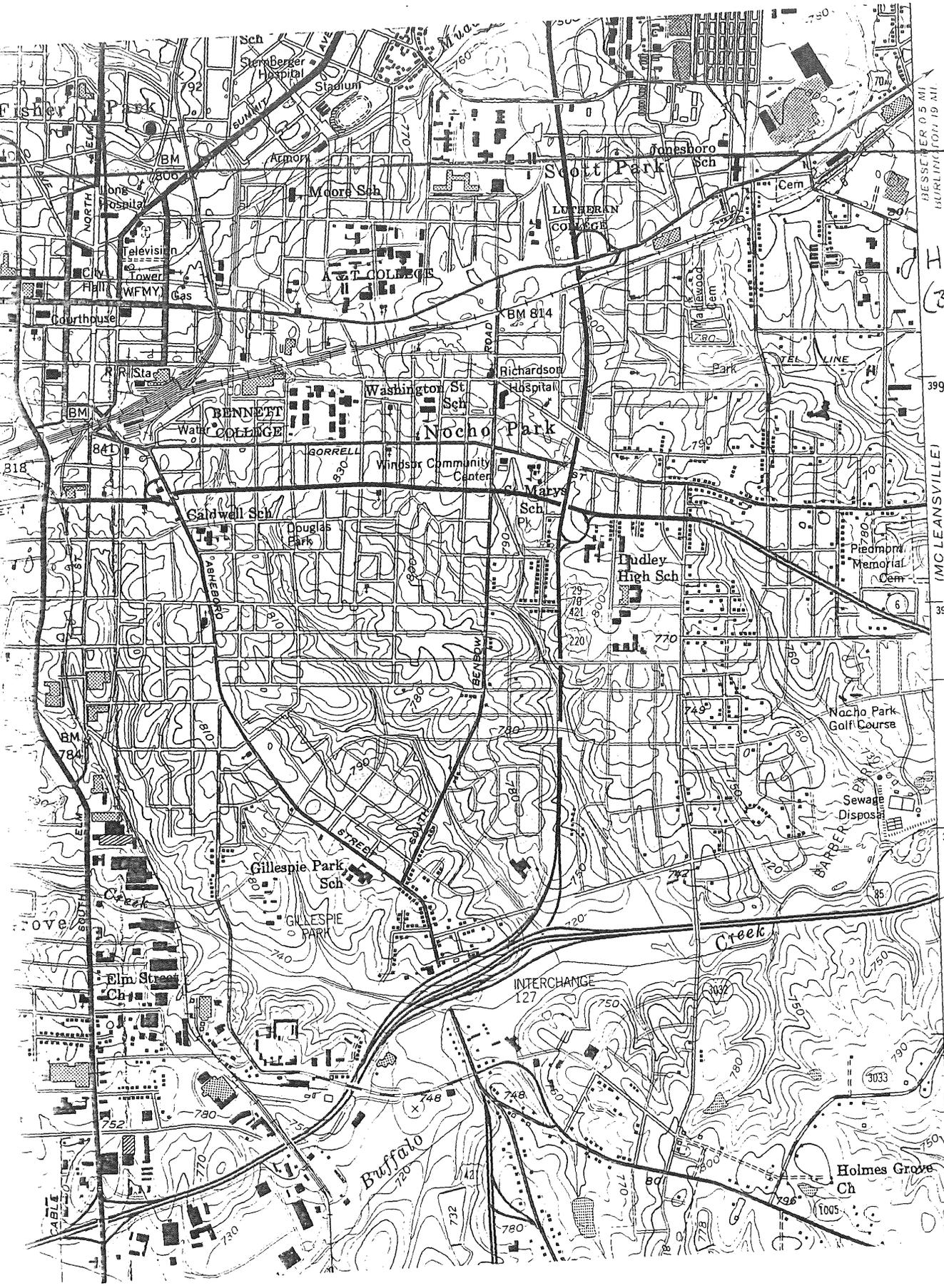
Category of property-site, 1 contributing site, related multiple-Greensboro MPS, number of contributing resources previously listed-586.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UTMs
3993200N
609200E
ZONE 17

FISHER PARK
HISTORIC DISTRICT
(BOUNDARY /
EXPANSION)
GREENSBORO,
GUILFORD CO
QUAD
NR



BESSEMER 0.5 MI
HURLINGTON 1.9 MI

3992
IMC LEANSVILLE)
5056 11 SW

3991

3990

10 MI. TO N.C. 61
RALEIGH 17.8 MI.

2'30"

3989

14 MI.
SWVILLE 14 MI.
HILL 15 MI.

