United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic    John Blue Home

and/or common "Blue House"

2. Location

street & number    200 Blue Street

city, town        Aberdeen

state    North Carolina

code    28315

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td></td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in process</td>
<td></td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>private residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>scientific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name    Louis J. Schloegl

Telephone: 919 944-1405

street & number    200 Blue Street

city, town        Aberdeen

state    North Carolina

code    28315

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Moore County Courthouse

street & number    (no street address)

city, town        Carthage

state    North Carolina

code    28327

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title    N/A

has this property been determined eligible?    yes    X no

date    __ federal    __ state    __ county    __ local

depository for survey records    N/A

city, town    state
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X excellent</td>
<td>deteriorated</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td></td>
<td>original site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Colonial Revival John Blue House was built in 1888 by the founder of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad. The house, with its expanse of lawn containing well-kept trees and shrubs and its tree-lined drive, is an imposing site.

This hipped-roof house with interior chimneys and a brick foundation has a front facade dominated by a grand tetrastyle portico supported by Doric columns which was added in 1903. A small balcony consisting of a railing with square balusters and four square posts with tulip newels is located on the second story and is entered through multi-pane double doors. The two outer doors on the first story are glass with a simple arched surround set in a projecting bay. A thin pilaster is located on each side of the bay. Windows with one-over-one sash are located on either side of the entrance on the second story, and windows with two vertical panes and a transom are located on either side of the door on the first story.

The double doors lead into a small vestibule. From here one enters the house through a single door comprising a glass pane on the upper half and a horizontal wood panel on the lower. A transom and sidelights of leaded glass and crisscross muntins surround the door.

A wide center hall transects the house. Two large rooms and one small one are located on either side of the hall. A stair with a paneled square post, turned balusters, a molded handrail, and sheathed wainscot rises on the left of the hall. In general the rooms have simple molded surrounds and papered walls. Most windows throughout the house are one-over-one.

Drawing rooms are located on either side of the central hall as one enters the front door. The entrance to the room on the right is flanked by Doric columns. The room contains a mantel with reeded pilasters and sunburst motifs. A large three-light window with a three-light transom is located on the south wall. The library directly behind this room has an identical mantel and built-in bookshelves.

The drawing room on the left has a mantel with a grecian urn motif and built-in arched cabinets. A cove cornice with a rope-like motif carries around the room.

Directly behind the drawing room is the dining room. This room is entered through double multi-pane doors. The mantel has reeding and a dentil cornice; it is flanked by built-in cabinets. A butler's pantry is located to the rear of this room.

The area behind the library once served as a small apartment for two of the Blue brothers Henry and John. Now the inner area serves as an extension of the library and the outer area as a sunroom. The sunroom has a large bay window on the south elevation as well as smaller windows on the other two exterior walls.

The kitchen and what was once a maid's room are attached to the house by an enclosed porch. A new den has recently been added to the rear of the house.

The upstairs consists of four bedrooms, all containing mantels with slender columnettes supporting the shelf. A sunroom, like the one below it, is located on the south elevation.

Several outbuildings are located on the grounds including a frame smokehouse, a frame greenhouse, and a small frame milk house with a pyramidal roof.
8. Significance

Around 1888 John Blue built this large Colonial Revival home to which he later added the grand tetrastyle portico. The house, with its fine neo-classical interior details, is thought to have been designed by Charlotte architect Charles Hooker. The house is indicative of the wealth obtained in the post-war South by industrialists such as Blue who made his money in the turpentine and timber trades, land investments, and the creation and management of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad.

Criteria Assessment:

B. Associated with John Blue who founded the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad; and possibly with Charlotte architect Charles Hooker.

C. Embodies the characteristics of the Colonial Revival style which was popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
In the 1880s John Blue, of Cumberland County, purchased large tracts of land in Moore County and began operating a turpentine business. Around 1888 he built in Aberdeen the large and elegant dwelling which still bears his name. The house remains a landmark in the county which remembers Blue as one of its most illustrious citizens.1

John Blue was born in Cumberland County in 1845, the son of Neill McK. Blue and the former Eliza Smith. His ancestors had been among the early Scotch settlers in the Cape Fear region who came to that area in the first half of the eighteenth century. Blue's father was a farmer of moderate wealth and was typical of the yeomanry who predominated in agricultural North Carolina in the antebellum era.2 During the Civil War seventeen-year old John Blue served the Confederate cause by joining North Carolina's local defense troops in 1863.3

After the war John Blue supplemented his earlier education by one or two terms at a high school run by one N. D. J. Clark at Jackson Springs in Moore County. Around 1867 he began his turpentine business in Cumberland County. "He had at that time," writes one biographer, "a capital of not more than $200; but so prudent, so enterprising, so active and industrious was he that every year bought him fresh success and inspired him with hope of better things for the future." Blue's business success and his reputation in his community led to his being elected to the state senate in 1881. There he served on the committee on the state debt and the committee on claims.4

After moving to Moore County, Blue continued to expand his turpentine operations to which he added timber interests. He also established a general store in Aberdeen, and made sizable land investments in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. As a result of these enterprises his wealth grew, and he became one of the area's richest men. In 1892 he founded and became president of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad which ran from Aberdeen eastward to Hope Mills in Cumberland County. The rail line formed a link with the Atlantic Coast Line just south of Fayetteville, and it proved to be a profitable venture for Blue. He also used the line to help him conduct his vast turpentine and timber business.5

With his financial successes, John Blue had become a member of the new class of businessmen and industrial capitalists who made sizable fortunes in the South in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Historians frequently refer to such men as the forerunners of the "New South."6 The grandiose dwelling that John Blue constructed on the street named for him in Aberdeen typified the elaborate houses built by the South's leading men of wealth and influence around the turn of the century. Charlotte architect Charles Hooker is believed to have designed the house. In 1903 Blue remodeled the front porch of the residence and added two side porches and two sun porches in the rear.

John Blue continued to live in Aberdeen until his death in 1922. In his will probated in that year he left "my dwelling house and lot in the town of Aberdeen," to his wife Fannie and after her death to their daughter Louise.7 The house remained in the Blue family until 1967 when it was purchased by Colonel Louis J. Schloegl.
The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.
An 1889 fire destroyed the majority of Moore County's deed records; however, the 1880 census reveals that John Blue was still living in Cumberland County in that year and local tradition places the building of his house in Aberdeen in 1888. See Wallace R. Draughon and William Perry Johnson, North Carolina Genealogical Reference (Durham: Wallace R. Draughon, 1966), 358; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Cumberland County, North Carolina: Population Schedule, 521, hereinafter cited as Cumberland County Census with appropriate year, schedule, and page numbers.


Ashe and others (eds.), Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 16-17.

Ashe and others (eds.), Biographical History of North Carolina, V, 16-17; Moore County Original Wills, John Blue, 1922, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Moore County Wills.


Moore County Wills, John Blue, 1922.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 4 acres
Quadrangle name: Southern Pines
Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UMT References

A  317  6413  7110  318181461
   Zone  Easting  Northing
B   
   Zone  Easting  Northing
C   
   
D   
E   
F   
G   

Verbal boundary description and justification: The property being nominated is the four-acre tract beginning on the northwest corner where Blue Street joins Bethesda Avenue, running east along Bethesda Avenue to the east property line, thence south to the south property line, thence west to Blue Street and north along Blue Street to complete the tract.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>code</td>
<td>county</td>
<td>code</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jo Ann Williford, Survey and Planning Branch
organization: N. C. Department of Archives & History
date: January 14, 1982
street & number: 109 E. Jones Street
telephone: 733-6545

city or town: Raleigh
state: North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: 

title: State Historic Preservation Officer
date: April 14, 1982


Pinehurst

Highway 1 South

Aberdeen

Highway 1 South from Kallish

Southern Pines

Proceed up East Main St. to top of hill, take a left on Blue Street.

To... we look forward to seeing you - have a safe trip.

Richard