United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Black, J. C., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 106 McNeill St.
city or town Carthage
state North Carolina code NC county Moore code 125 zip code 28327

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this □ nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 □ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant □ nationally □ statewide □ locally. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature of certifying official/Title]
[State of Federal agency and bureau]
[Date]

In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. (□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature of certifying official/Title]
[State of Federal agency and bureau]
[Date]

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register. [See continuation sheet.]
☐ determined eligible for the National Register [See continuation sheet.]
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain) __________________

[Signature of the Keeper]
[Date of Action]
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

**Category of Property**
- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

**Number of Resources within Property**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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**Name of related multiple property listing**
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)
- Queen Anne

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)
- foundation: BRICK
- walls: WOOD
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: WOOD

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Name of Property: Black, J. C. House

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark 'X' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance
ca. 1893-1902

Significant Dates
ca. 1893

Significant Person
Black, Julius Cassius

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Cameron Bros. - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, NC
Black, J. C., House
Name of Property
Moore Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian
organization N/A
date September 30, 1998
street & number 637 N. Spring St.
telephone 336/727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem
state NC
zip code 27101

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(For any additional items)

Property Owner
(For any additional items)

name Libby B. Moodie
street & number 106 McNeill St.
telephone 910/947-3979

city or town Carthage
state NC
zip code 28327

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
DESCRIPTION:

Summary:

The J. C. Black House is a large, two-story, frame dwelling built ca. 1893 in Carthage, North Carolina. Its irregular massing, variety of surface materials, and rich ornamentation create a sophisticated late Victorian house of the Queen Anne style. Located at the south corner of McNeill and Barrett streets only two blocks from the county courthouse, the J. C. Black House is set back from McNeill Street on an L-shaped, flat lot. The facade of the house is sheltered from the street by a row of trees composed of hollies, pines, oaks, and one large magnolia. Other trees and shrubs are scattered around the property, but in no formal pattern. A low stone wall dating from 1937 borders the yard on the front and northeast sides. While the interior of the house has seen modest alterations through the years, the exterior remains largely intact with only a few minor changes. As a whole, the J. C. Black House retains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the house in recent years has suffered from a lack of proper maintenance, it is currently undergoing a sensitive rehabilitation/restoration by the present owner-occupants.

Exterior:

Although the basic form of the Black House is a rectangle, it is largely disguised by various round bay projections and recessed areas. Set on a brick foundation, the frame house rises two stories to a hipped roof. Along the way, the contrasting use of novelty siding on the first story and fish-cut wood shingles on the second story sets the stage for the visual playfulness of the house. Both roof eaves and porch eaves are supported by sawnwork brackets. At the west corner of the facade, a polygonal tower rises to third-floor height and is capped by a conical roof. This tower is echoed by a round, two-story bay with conical roof at the east corner of the facade that looks like it is a tower in the making. Between the two is a recessed, shingled balcony with a bowed front and an etched and stained glass door. Originally a second recessed balcony was located just south of the west corner tower, but it was enclosed in the mid 1940s. Current restoration plans call for its reopening. Wrapping around the front of the house and extending part way down each side is a frilly front porch with turned posts, sawnwork and turned brackets, a spindle frieze, and a stickwork balustrade. The most striking feature of the porch is the way it wraps in a big circle around the east corner bay. In comparison with the front of the house, the two sides and rear are relatively plain, although the contrasting use of novelty siding and wood shingles continues. The southwest side of
the house recedes about halfway back. The northeast side sports a small, rounded, one-story bay halfway to the rear of the house. A narrow, two-story ell projects from the rear along with a one-story, shed-roofed porch. Although an 1897 photograph of the house shows two-over-two sash windows, all windows today are one-over-one sash. The change appears to have been made early in the house's history. Both exterior and interior brick chimneys serve the interior fireplaces.

Interior:

A handsome Eastlake-style front door with various applied moldings and a center panel of etched glass surrounded by smaller stained glass panes provides the primary entrance to the house. Typical of late-nineteenth-century Queen Anne-style houses, the interior of the Black House follows an irregular plan loosely arranged around a center hall. Few of the rooms are rectangular in shape; rather, most are polygonal with either polygonal or rounded ends. Although more alterations have occurred on the interior of the house than on the exterior, the interior still retains a number of significant decorative features. Of greatest interest is the front vestibule/stair hall. All of its walls and ceiling are sheathed in novelty beaded boards set on various diagonals, therefore establishing an unusual sense of pattern. Originally this woodwork was dark-stained; now it is painted. The stair, with its stickwork balustrade, carved newel, and vertical-striped risers leads upward from the southwest side of the vestibule. A narrow service stair originally rose to the second floor from the rear of the center hall, but it was later removed to provide more space in the hall. Two rooms—the parlor and the sitting room (den) on the first floor have beaded board wainscots of different types. Sliding pocket doors separate the parlor from the dining room to its rear. Other doors are single-leaf, (mostly) four-paneled doors. A pair of French doors leading from the vestibule to the parlor is a replacement of the original single-leaf door. Doors and windows have symmetrically molded surrounds with bull's-eye corner blocks. The parlor features a Colonial Revival mantel that appears somewhat at odds with the rest of the interior. Whether it is original or was an early replacement is not known. The dining room has a mantel with overmantel currently removed for restoration. Fireplace openings feature small rectangular tiles. The most significant alteration to the first floor interior was the removal during the last half century of part of the southwest wall of the center hall and its replacement with a brick wall fireplace that rises from floor to ceiling.

The second floor of the house continues the general irregularity of form and consistency of some features such as door and window surrounds found on the first floor. Unlike the fireplace mantels of the first floor, those on the second floor are much more reflective of the late Victorian period, exhibiting unusual side posts and sawnwork frieze bands. The second floor stair landing opens not only to a narrow rear center hall, but also to a front hall/room that opens both to the front
balcony and to the corner tower. Originally the tower was open to a third-floor level reached by a small stair, but this was enclosed within the first few years after the house was constructed.

Recent alterations to the interior include the installation of modern bathrooms, a laundry room, and some second-floor closets, but these have been sensitively designed. For a number of years the kitchen has been located at the rear of the house; originally it was in a separate building.

Outbuilding:

The only outbuilding surviving on the property is a fanciful, polygonal well house with a polygonal roof and lattice sides. It is located next to the east rear corner of the house and is believed to be contemporary, or nearly so, with the house. On the lot behind the Black House stands a one-story frame building now used as a house but which originally was the Black House kitchen. However, it is no longer a part of the J. C. Black House property.
Soon after Carthage resident J. C. Black built a large Victorian home for his family, the February, 1897 issue of Salmagundi, a promotional newspaper of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, featured Black's house as one of four used to illustrate the high quality of residential architecture in the town. Indeed, the ca. 1893 J. C. Black House remains today one of the finest houses of the late nineteenth century in Carthage. The two-story frame dwelling exemplifies typical characteristics of the Queen Anne style: an irregular massing and interior plan, a combination of surface textures created by the use of novelty siding and decorative wood shingles, a corner tower, a tower-like front bay, turned and sawnwork porch and eaves ornamentation, second-story balconies, both stained and etched glass, and a variety of interior surface treatments and mantels.

J. C. Black (1850-1902), who had broad political and commercial commitments in Moore County, was one of the most prominent men of his day in Carthage. A lawyer by profession, he served for years as Moore County attorney. Black was a strong promoter of economic growth in Carthage. Not only was he the leading spirit in the building of the Carthage Railroad in the mid 1880s, serving as its first president, but he was also one of the organizers and first stockholders of the Bank of Carthage. Having been built during the pinnacle of Black's career, his house survives as the consummate physical expression of his productive life and, in particular, his significance in the areas of commerce and politics/government. During the decade between the ca. 1893 construction of the house and Black's death in 1902, J. C. Black represented Moore and Randolph counties in the state senate, served as mayor of Carthage, and was president of the Bank of Carthage. No other property attesting to his local importance survives.

After Black's death, the house remained in family ownership and occupancy for nearly a century. The present owners are undertaking a sensitive rehabilitation of the house for continued residential use.

The J. C. Black House fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its local architectural significance, and Criterion B because of its association with J. C. Black, who was locally significant in the areas of politics/government and commerce. The period of significance for the house runs from its date of construction around 1893 to J. C. Black's death in 1902.
Historical Background and Politics/Government and Commerce Contexts:

At the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, Moore County, in the Sandhills region of North Carolina, was carved out of Cumberland County. A county seat was established at Faginsville, but by the 1790s its remote location was considered unsuitable for the conduct of county business. A new site was selected on a ridge between the rolling hills and fertile lands of the northern half of the county and the flat, sandy, pine barrens of the southern half (Black; Robinson, 92, 95, 103-104; Wellman, County, 12).

In 1796, Carthage was established with nearly sixty acres laid out around a courthouse square. Sixty-four lots in groups of four were laid out in a grid pattern running from the square a distance of two blocks in each direction. However, settlement was slow, and except for the construction of the courthouse, very little development occurred for some years. The county seat remained small and relatively undeveloped for the first four to five decades of the nineteenth century; by the 1830s and 1840s, its population numbered only around 150 (Black; Robinson, 103-104, 106; Wellman, County, 6). Little remains of the few buildings erected during that period.

The second half of the nineteenth century began with the promise of expansion. In 1849 the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road had been chartered to provide a highway between Fayetteville and Salem, and by the end of 1850 the road's construction approached Carthage. By the mid 1850s, the Tyson and Kelly Carriage Company, later renamed the Tyson and Jones Carriage Works, was established in Carthage. It became the county's largest manufacturing facility until well into the twentieth century (Black; Wellman, County, 17, 32).

During the late 1860s and 1870s, Carthage remained the center of commerce, government, and social life in Moore County, as well as being the largest town. But by the 1880s, other towns—including Jonesboro, Sanford, Cameron, and Aberdeen, which unlike Carthage had received impetus from railroad construction—were surpassing Carthage in terms of population and commerce (Black; Wellman, County, 24-25, 83, 88-90, 103; Lefler and Newsome, 516).

Not surprising for a county seat, the major profession represented in Carthage was law. Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884 lists seven lawyers in the town at that time (Black; Branson, 1884). One of these was Julius Cassius Black (1850-1902), who, according to his obituary, started his practice in 1877 and served for a number of years as county attorney. Black's standing in Carthage and Moore County is attested to by the fact that he served several terms as the town's mayor (1877-82 and 1901-02) and also as state senator (1882-1886, 1898-1902) representing the 22nd District composed of Moore and Randolph counties (Carthage Blade, September 11, 1902; Seawell, 294; Wellman, Story, 176).

In their effort to keep Carthage competitive with the other towns in Moore County that were
growing as a result of railroad connections, Carthage's leaders determined that their town, too, should have a railroad. In order to attract new commerce and industry to the town, the Carthage Railroad was chartered in 1885 to build a new rail line that would connect Carthage with the Raleigh and Augusta line at Cameron. J. C. Black was the leading spirit in the effort to build the Carthage Railroad and served as its first president. When the railroad was completed in October of 1888, it opened to great local fanfare (Black; Carthage Blade, September 11, 1902).

During the nineteenth century's last one and a half decades, the population and economy of Carthage experienced steady growth. In 1890, the town's population numbered 485; by 1900 it had increased to 605. In 1896 the North Carolina Business Directory reported that among other amenities, Carthage had twenty-three merchants and tradesmen, three physicians, nine lawyers, six hotels and boarding houses, two contractors, and sixteen manufacturing facilities and mills (Black; Wellman, County, 103, 105; Branson, 1896).

During this period, a variety of architecturally sophisticated buildings were constructed in Carthage, reflecting the town's prosperity (Black). J. C. Black, in the thick of the town's development, chose this time to erect his impressive two-story, Queen Anne-style house that was among the finest of those built in Carthage during the period. On July 22, 1887, Black purchased at a sheriff's sale three and a half lots on McNeill Street between Barrett and Munroe streets (Deed Book 8, p. 14). There, at the corner of McNeill and Barrett streets, Black built his fine house. According to family tradition, the house was erected around 1893, not long after Black's marriage to Flora Muse on November 19, 1891 (Marriage Certificate). That the house was considered a significant dwelling in the community is unquestionable; it was one of four Carthage houses included in the February, 1897 issue of Salmagundi, a promotional newspaper of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad. Around 1906, it was also featured in The County Capital, a local promotional brochure that included photographs of only three Carthage residences. Although the architect and builder of the house are not known, local tradition claims that the Campbell Brothers of Cameron and Aberdeen served as contractor under the guidance of a Charlotte architect.

Unfortunately, J. C. Black did not get to enjoy his fancy house for long. On September 8, 1902, he died, leaving his widow and two children to continue on in the family home. In addition to his several political and commercial activities, at the time of his death, J. C. Black was also president of the Bank of Carthage, for which he had been one of the organizers and first stockholders. Befitting Black's place in the political and economic life of late-nineteenth-century Carthage, his obituary was lengthy, filled both with an outline of his life's achievements and a commentary on his good character. Interestingly, less than a month before his death, and recognizing his feeble health, J. C. Black had purchased a lot in the town's new cemetery. The cemetery had been acquired by the town under Black's mayorship, largely because of his advice and direction (Carthage Blade,
According to J. C. Black's will, the family home at the corner of McNeill and Barrett streets was left to his widow, Flora Muse Black, during her lifetime, after which it was to become the property of his daughter, Julia Holt Black (Will Book E, p. 216). Flora Muse Black (1868-1931) was, herself, a prominent member of the Carthage community. Educated at Greensboro College for Women at a time when few females attended college, she was at one time a member of the local school board, a member of the Democratic county executive committee, and was generally active in the civic and political life of the county (Flora Black obituary). At Flora's death, the house became the sole property of Julia Holt Black Davis (1893-1986), a longtime teacher in the community. Davis lived in the family home until her death, whereupon the property passed to her daughter and only heir, Jane Davis Hutchens (Deed Book 604, p. 227).

On May 5, 1988, Black family ownership of the house came to an end after nearly a century, when Jane Davis Hutchens sold the property to Jerry W. and Diane Sherrell (Deed Book 604, p. 227). Ten years later, on March 10, 1998, the Sherrells sold the J. C. Black House to its present owner, Libby B. Moodie (Deed Book 1356, p. 169).

Architecture Context:

Although the J. C. Black House is not the only Queen Anne style house in Carthage, it is certainly one of the finest. Located beyond the reach of the Carthage Historic District (NR, 1992), which contains the highest concentration of the town's historically significant dwellings, the Black House--both at the time of its construction and today--helps to set the standard for high quality, sophisticated domestic architecture of the late nineteenth century in Carthage. With its irregular massing, large wrap-around porch, combination of surface textures, corner tower, turned and sawnwork porch and eaves ornamentation, stained and etched glass, and variety of interior surface treatments and mantels, the two-story Black House rivals the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Carthage, including those in the Carthage Historic District.

Unlike traditional houses from earlier in the nineteenth century in Carthage, and even those with Italianate styling, the full-blown examples of the Queen Anne style burst forth at the end of the century with a complexity of design that emphasized irregular massing and a variety of surface treatments and ornamentation on a single house. In addition to the J. C. Black House, another good example of the style is the W. T. Jones House at 301 McReynolds Street. Built in 1897, it is a two-and-a-half story frame dwelling with a steeply pitched hipped roof, projecting two-story bays, an octagonal three-story corner tower with a conical roof, an expansive wrap-around porch with turned and sawnwork ornamentation, and second-story balconies. Unlike the Black House, it is covered
with vinyl siding. Like the Black House, the Jones House retains an octagonal well house (hexagonal at the Black House) with a conical roof and lattice sides.

Two other significant examples--both in the Carthage Historic District--are Edgehill, a two-story frame house built ca. 1897, and the D. A. McDonald House, a two-and-a-half-story frame house erected ca. 1898. However, both of these houses reflect more a combination of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Other houses in Carthage that exhibit Queen Anne stylistic influences tend to be more simple cottages with some turned and/or sawnwork trim.

After the turn of the century, the more chaste Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles gained popularity in Carthage as in the rest of North Carolina, overshadowing the decorative excesses of the Queen Anne style. As the twentieth century progressed, the Colonial Revival remained popular, along with the Craftsman style and various period styles. [Information concerning houses in the Carthage Historic District has been derived from the National Register nomination for the district prepared by Allison H. Black in 1991.]
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Black, Flora, Obituary. Photocopied newspaper article with no name of paper and no date. Copy on file at State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.


Carthage Blade, September 11, 1902.

The County Capital. Promotional brochure, ca. 1906. Copy on file at Moore County Library, Carthage, N.C.


Wellman, Manly Wade. The Story of Moore County: Two Centuries of a North Carolina Region. n.p.: Moore County Historical Association, 1974.
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is defined as Pin: 857819602951, LRK: 1810, Moore County Tax Records. It is illustrated by graphic shading on the accompanying tax map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 150'.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property, consisting of a town lot of less than one acre, constitutes the majority of the historic setting and all of the current setting of the J. C. Black House. (The portion of the historic setting not included in the nomination is what was the east corner of the house lot containing the former kitchen building. The kitchen building has been remodeled, and its lot is now under separate ownership from the Black House property.)

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

1) J. C. Black House
2) Moore County, North Carolina
3) Laura A. W. Phillips
4) 8/98
5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
6-7) A: Overall, view to E
B: Context, view to S
C: NE elevation, view to S
D: Rear elevation, view to NW
E: Facade detail, view to E
F: Porch, view to SE
G: Front door, view to SE
H: Stair, view to SW
I: Vestibule detail, view to SE
J: Mantel detail, view to E