

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Wake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Joel Lane House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Wakefield	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 728 West Hargett Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh			
STATE North Carolina	CODE 32	COUNTY: Wake	CODE 92

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: North Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames of America			
STREET AND NUMBER: 224 Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 32	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Wake County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 310 Fayetteville Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 32	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Capital and Independence, S.E.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE 51	

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Wake
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☒ Moved	☐ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main section of the house is three bays wide with a gambrel roof pierced by shed dormers. The front is covered with flush siding which would seem to indicate that the house originally had a long porch. The sides retain some early beaded weatherboards. The present porch is a copy of a nineteenth-century one shown in an old photograph. Originally there were T-shaped exterior chimneys on either end; these were replaced by the present chimneys when the house was moved.

The house has a typical center passage plan with shed rooms along the rear. The stair ascends on the left side of the passage in an initial straight run connected by winders to a reverse run. There is a very heavy moulded rail connecting the intermediate posts, but no balustrade. The hall partitions are of vertical sheathing. The flanking rooms have their other walls plastered above the chair rail and a dado composed of two wide horizontal boards. The first floor mantels are quite simple having flat panels and heavily moulded shelves. The doors from these rooms into the hall are of the usual six-panel type. Those to the shed rooms are of four panels. There are three-panel double doors at either end of the hall. On the second floor there is a bedroom on either side of the stair hall. They are very simply finished.

During the nineteenth century a wing was added to the west side of the house. When the house was moved to its present location in 1927 this wing was relocated at the rear.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☒ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☒ Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	_____
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	_____
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Social/Humanitarian	_____
☐ Art	☐ Architecture	☐ Theater	_____
☐ Commerce	☐ Literature	☐ Transportation	_____
☐ Communications	☐ Military		
☐ Conservation	☐ Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the earliest settlers in Wake County was Joel Lane, the son of Joseph Lane of Halifax County. Joel settled at a small crossroads hamlet, then in Johnston County, known as Bloomsbury. Sometime prior to 1760, Lane built a story and a half house in Bloomsbury near the present intersection of Morgan Street and South Boylan Avenue in Raleigh. Lane chose to name his new home "Wakefield" in honor of Margaret Wake, wife of Governor William Tryon. From 1770 to 1771 Joel Lane represented Johnston County in the General Assembly. In December of 1770, the General Assembly passed a bill which reduced the size of Johnston, Orange, and Cumberland counties and formed a new county called Wake. Joel Lane was among the commissioners who were chosen to lay out the Wake County boundaries. In 1771 he served as a justice on the first Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in Wake. In 1772 he represented Wake County in the General Assembly.

During the Revolutionary War, Lane was a lieutenant colonel in the Wake County regiment commanded by his father-in-law, Colonel John Hinton. Lane also served as a justice for the county court and was at one time the presiding justice. He represented Wake County at the Provincial Congress which met in Hillsborough in August, 1775, and he was elected to the committee of safety for the Hillsborough district. In August of 1776 the state committee of safety met at his home in Bloomsbury where they continued their deliberations for nearly a week. Lane also represented Wake County at the Provincial Congress which met at Halifax in April of 1776. Joel Lane's home was the largest dwelling in Bloomsbury but he found it necessary to build a small ordinary or inn to accommodate the many demands made upon his hospitality. In 1777 Lane applied for a license for its operation as a public inn. In June, 1781, the General Assembly held one of its itinerant sessions at the Wake County Courthouse. For want of a more commodious edifice the members of the assembly elected to hold the session at the home of Joel Lane. During this session, Thomas Burke was elected to succeed Abner Nash as governor. While the session was in progress the members of the assembly stayed at Lane's home and ordinary.

From 1782 until 1795, Lane served as the Wake County representative to the State Senate. In 1788 Lane was one of five Wake County representatives sent to the Constitutional Convention which met in Hillsborough for the purpose of choosing the site for a permanent capital. The decision was reached to locate the new capital somewhere within Wake County. Lane also attended the following Constitutional Convention which decided

(July 1965)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina

COUNTY

Wake

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

8. not to ratify the Constitution of the United States as it then stood. In March of 1792 the commissioners appointed to choose the site for the capital met at Joel Lane's home to examine the various tracts offered for sale. It was Lane's tract of 1,000 acres around Bloomsbury which was purchased for \$2,756 to become the capital called Raleigh.

Lane died March 29, 1795, leaving "Wakefield" to his son Thomas, who was ten years old. In 1808 Thomas sold the house to his brother-in-law, Dr. Allen Gilchrist, who later sold the house to Peter Browne. William Boylan, editor of the Raleigh Minerva, purchased the house from Browne in 1818. It remained in the Boylan family until 1909. During their ownership a wing and lattice porch were added. These additions were removed and added to the rear of the house when the Wake County Committee of the Colonial Dames of America bought the building in 1927 and moved it about 100 yards westward to Hargett Street. Unfortunately during the process of relocation, the eighteenth-century chimneys were damaged and were not restored accurately. Plans have now been made to correct this error. Since 1927 "Wakefield" has been maintained as a historic site by the Wake County Colonial Dames. The ordinary, later turned into a school, was used as an outbuilding to another residence on the north side of Hillsborough Street and subsequently demolished.

The crossroad location of "Wakefield" made it the most important house in Bloomsbury before Raleigh was laid out. The political career of its builder made it the scene of many important incidents in the early history of North Carolina particularly in the founding of Raleigh. At present the Wake County Committee of the Colonial Dames of America is working on the preservation and further restoration of "Wakefield."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina

COUNTY

Wake

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, and Census Records.

Waterman, Thomas T. The Early Architecture of North Carolina.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh.

Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1967.

The Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State
of North Carolina. Raleigh, Capital of North Carolina. New Bern:

Owen G. Dunn Company, 1942.



