

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Marshall-Harris-Richardson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 116 N. Person Street

not for publication

city, town Raleigh

vicinity of

state North Carolina

code

county Wake

code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Joyner Associates

street & number 226 Hillsborough Street

city, town Raleigh

vicinity of

state N. C.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wake County Courthouse

street & number Fayetteville Street Mall

city, town Raleigh, N. C.

state 27602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Blount Street Historic District Study has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch

city, town Raleigh, N. C. 27611

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☒ unaltered	☐ original site	
☒ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☒ moved	date 1985
☐ fair	☐ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

MARSHALL-HARRIS-RICHARDSON HOUSE

The Marshall-Harris-Richardson House exhibits an elaborately ornamented exterior typical of the Queen Anne substyle of Victorian architecture. The two-story frame structure features a steeply-pitched truncated hipped roof with projecting gables: one extending from the right front and one extending from each side of the house. The rear of the house, including the early 20th century addition, contains a number of moderate-to-low-pitched hipped roofs. The one-story front porch roof is hipped with a pedimented gable which extends over the main entry area of the house. The roof is covered with several layers of asphalt shingles with the last layer made of shaped shingles that resemble a fish-scale pattern. The rear portion of the house contains a small section of standing seam metal roofing as well as a small overhang over the back entrance. The house rests on a brick foundation and has two chimneys. One chimney has a decorative four-part design reminiscent of 17th century English style stacks. The other is simpler with a corbelled top.

The facade of the house is asymmetrically arranged and displays an array of projecting elements, window styles, and decorative surface treatments. The primary front gable is pedimented and contains a small-scaled adaptation of a Palladian window. The window lies above a horizontal panelled area which contains applied rectangular panels surrounded on the inside by simple corner brackets. This decorative surface enhancement is repeated in varying proportion on the remaining front and side gables. Extending below this gable to the porch roof is a small 3-part bay window area containing stationary leaded glass sash.

Adjacent to the primary front gable is a projecting gabled wall dormer which extends downward to form a flat bay area covering the area from the roofline to the lower portion of the second story. The dormer features several different surface applications. A half-timbered surface surrounds a stationary two-part window in the gable of the dormer, as well as a repeat of the above-mentioned panel treatment. Below is a flared area covered with coursed wooden shingles. This flared element is repeated on both sides of the house as well. The flat bay area contains a one-over-one shuttered sash and is accented on the bottom by a pair of simple sawn brackets. The gables extending from each side feature the same panelled surface treatment as the front. One gable is pedimented; the other has returns. Each contains a stationary diamond-paned sash.

The front porch extends partially across the front of the house and wraps partially down the right side. The porch is supported by simple pairs of slender Classically-inspired posts accented by "dog's ear" sawn brackets. The main entrance is characterized by a set of eight-panelled double doors with an intricately detailed stained glass transom above. An additional front entrance from the side porch area contains a single door with glass top panel and a smaller scale repeat of the stained glass transom. The entrance to the rear of the house contains a patterned sash sidelight.

The interior of the house displays an extensively detailed Colonial Revival styling. A small vestibule separates the main entry doors from another single door with glass panel opening into the main hallway with a brick fireplace with decorative molded elements immediately to the right. Doorway openings are quite elaborate and are treated with a

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dentil cornice. The stairway, with panelled wainscot and delicately turned balusters, graces the right front hall. Another intricate double-hung stained glass window is located in the stairwell. There are two significant mantelpieces in the house representing a continuation of the Colonial Revival interior treatment.

The first floor interior has a modified center hall plan with a stairway to the right, a formal living room and dining room to the left, a study on the right opposite the dining room, and a pantry/kitchen at the left rear. A small addition (1920's) containing two rooms is at the right rear.

The second floor follows the modified center hall plan with two bedrooms to the left and one bedroom to the right. One of two baths is located at the front center of the second floor with access through the left front bedroom. The second bath is at the rear of the center hall and serves the other two bedrooms. A large sleeping porch and dressing room are at the left rear. Minor interior changes have been made. A second stairway was removed to make room for a first floor apartment in 1947 during which time the house was briefly (1 year) subdivided into apartments.

The downstairs rooms have 11' ceilings; the upstairs 10'. Pine flooring is the predominant flooring material. The walls are plaster and covered with several layers of wallpaper.

The Richardson House was moved in the fall of 1985 from 607 North Blount Street to 116 North Person Street (see map). The house was sold by its owners, Peace College, with the stipulation that the house be moved by September 10, 1985 (see copy of agreement, dated August 6, 1985, and signed by Charlene Askew, President of Mordecai Square Historical Society). Care was taken to site the house in a similar neighborhood of turn-of-the-century dwellings, with similar shallow set-back. The house will rest on a brick foundation in keeping with the style of the house, and the original foundation. The Richardson House is presently undergoing a sympathetic rehabilitation and will be used for offices.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1900 Builder/Architect UNKNOWN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Marshall-Harris-Richardson House is a prime example of late Victorian architecture. Its significance lies in part in its variety of decorative detail, representing the essence of the Queen Anne period of Victorian architecture in Raleigh. The interior is an equally outstanding example of the early Colonial Revival style, which was coming into vogue in 1900. The house was built by local businessman Joel Marshall, who lived in the house until his death in 1907. His family occupied the house until 1919 when William Clinton Harris purchased the dwelling. Harris was first a municipal judge and later a county judge whose career spanned the period from 1917 until 1947. He initiated an informal probation system which was formally adopted by the State Legislature in 1937 when a state probation system was formed. The house, formerly located at 607 North Blount Street, was at the north end of Raleigh's elite neighborhood of industrialists, government officials, doctors, lawyers, college professors and businessmen. The house was moved in 1985 to 116 North Person Street, six blocks away, where it is now sited just outside the Oakwood Historic District (N.R.), behind the Governor's Mansion (N.R.), on a block of similar turn-of-the-century dwellings. The house remains one of the most intact high Victorian style houses still standing in the city.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- B. Associated from 1919 to 1947 with William Clinton Harris whose career as a municipal and county judge spanned 41 years. During his tenure as municipal judge (1919-1927), he initiated an informal local probation system which was formally adopted by the State Legislature in 1937 when a state probation system was initiated.
- C. Reflects the variety of style and surface treatment popular at the turn of the century in one of the most popular and stylish neighborhoods in the city. The house also has excellent Colonial Revival interiors which reflect the change of tastes occurring at that time. The house is one of the most significant late Victorian houses still standing in Raleigh.

Exception to Criteria:

- B The Marshall-Harris Richardson House was been moved from its original location to a lot some seven blocks away (see map). The house is a significant and representative example of the late Queen Anne period of Victorian architecture in Raleigh. It is one of the most intact high Victorian style houses still standing in the city of Raleigh, and is being nominated primarily on its architectural merit. The rapid development of the city during the mid-20th century saw the demolition of much of Raleigh's rich Victorian period architecture and this fine example was slated for demolition as well, but has been moved into another late 19th-early 20th century where it is situated in similar surroundings, and remains as a fine, intact example of a once-prevalent house type.

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The North Blount Street residential area, stretching for about six blocks, is anchored by the Executive Mansion (NR) at the south end and by Peace College (NR) at the north and west end. The area was one of the most elite neighborhoods in which to live during the late nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth centuries. Professionals, industrialists, college professors, and government officials built houses there from the 1860s until the 1930s.¹ Nearby, to the east and south, is the Oakwood Historic District (NR), another turn-of-the-century neighborhood. One block to the west, parallel to North Blount Street lies North Wilmington Street, also a very fashionable address for early twentieth century Raleigh residents.

The Marshall-Harris-Richardson House was built at 607 North Blount Street about 1900 by Joel K. Marshall, who purchased the lot that year.² He built a fine house there for his bride-to-be, Ethel Norris. By 1901 the couple was married and living in the house, and their daughter Ethel was born there that year.³

The style and finish of the house reflected Marshall's status and economic position as a successful entrepreneur. The late Victorian exterior and the early Colonial Revival interior reflect the changing tastes of the time. Marshall, who was 35 at the time of his marriage, was the proprietor of the Oak City Laundry, "Raleigh's oldest and best".⁴ His father, Dr. M. M. Marshall, was the rector of Christ Church (NR) for 32 years. Marshall and his family lived in the house until his untimely death of tuberculosis in 1907. His widow and daughter continued to live in the house until 1917.⁵

In 1919 Judge William Clinton Harris and his wife Juliet moved into the house.⁶ Harris, whose illustrious career spanned forty-one years, was known locally as the "dean" of judges. He served as municipal judge from 1912 to 1927. While judge of the police court he initiated an informal local probation system which was formally adopted by the State Legislature in 1937. Harris later served on the state probation commission created by that legislation.⁷

Harris was well-regarded for his kind and generous manner and his humanitarian nature was illustrated on many occasions. After his first case as a superior court judge in which a man was sentenced to be electrocuted, Harris remarked that sentencing a man to die worried him, but he called himself a "conduit through which the law flows" even when it conflicted with his personal convictions.⁸

Jane P. Withers, widow of Dr. William P. Withers, purchased the house in 1947 as an investment property.⁹ She made minor alterations including the removal of a secondary stair and the installation of a bathroom and closet on the first floor. Mrs. Withers' daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John Richardson, had lived in Charlotte for four years but in 1948 they moved back to Raleigh and into the house at 607 North Blount Street, ending its career as apartments. Ownership of the house was transferred to the Richardsons in 1949.¹⁰ Mary Richardson's father, Dr. William P. Withers, was the first head of the Chemistry Department at North Carolina State College and he instilled in his daughter the importance of education. She attended Women's College in Greensboro and taught second grade in High Point for two years prior to her marriage to

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John Richardson in 1934. Richardson worked for many years with the State Agricultural Department as the farm census director.¹¹

During the occupancy of the house by the Richardson family the Blount Street neighborhood began to change. Houses were divided into apartments and residents became transitory. During the 1960s most of the houses along North Wilmington Street were razed to make way for the state government complex. Two of the grand houses along that street were moved to Blount Street and converted to state offices as well. Other homes along Blount Street were purchased by the state and also converted to offices until only the 600 block remained principally residential.

To the east the Oakwood neighborhood began to deteriorate but during the early 1970s the area once again became a popular residential neighborhood, due in part to the tremendous development of the area and the scarcity of housing. The neighborhood, composed primarily of late Victorian and early twentieth century style houses, is once again a prestigious place to live.

Peace College, located directly to the west of the 600 block of North Blount Street, was also undergoing a period of expansion during this time. They purchased a number of houses in the 600 and 700 blocks and demolished several of them. The college purchased the Marshall-Harris-Richardson House in March 1983 after the death of Mr. Richardson.¹² The plans for the property included the demolition of the house and the addition of a parking lot. The Mordecai Square Historical Society was successful in delaying demolition until options for relocating the house could be explored.

In late August 1985 Joyner Associates, a local development group, acquired the house and moved it seven blocks to a lot at 116 North Person Street just outside the boundary of the Oakwood Historic District.¹³ The neighborhood is made up of similar turn-of-the-century houses, and is landscaped much the same as North Blount Street. There are sidewalks, narrow front lawns, mature trees and plantings. Care was taken to situate the house on a similar foundation and with appropriate setback, similar to the original Blount Street location. The house is currently undergoing a sensitive rehabilitation for use as office space and will continue to contribute to the early twentieth century architectural history and fabric of Raleigh.

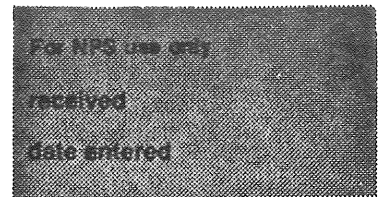
¹Typescript of the Blount Street Historic District Nomination (owner objection), Raleigh, Survey and Planning Branch, pp. 9-10.

²Deed Transfer: from Thomas and Susie Womack to J. K. Marshall September 13, 1900 - Book 161; page 130.

³Interview with Mrs. Bruce Magruder by Cindy Craig, May 24, 1984. Hereinafter cited as Magruder interview.

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⁴Raleigh City Directory, 1900, Advertisement.

⁵Magruder interview.

⁶Deed Transfer: from Ethel N. Marshall to Juliet C. Harris September 3, 1919 - Book 346; page 110.

⁷News and Observer, William Clinton Harris, Raleigh, N. C., November 3, 1983, p. . Hereinafter cited as "William Clinton Harris".

⁸"William Clinton Harris".

⁹Deed Transfer: from Juliet C. Harris to Mrs. W. A. Withers (Jane P.) September 4, 1947 - Book 977; page 527.

¹⁰Deed Transfer: from Mrs. W. A. Withers to John T. Richardson February 9, 1949 - Book 1013; page 350.

¹¹Interview with Mrs. John Richardson by Cindy Craig, May 24, 1984.

¹²Deed Transfer: from John T. Richardson to Peace College of Raleigh, Inc. April 1, 1983 - Book 3104; page 0513.

¹³Deed Transfer: from Mordecai Square Historical Society, Inc. to Joyner Associates. (includes transfer of House from Peace College to Mordecai) August 23, 1985 - Book 3542; page 0529.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Early Raleigh Neighborhoods and Buildings
City of Raleigh, 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property -1

Quadrangle name Raleigh, West Quad.

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See plat map with property outlined in Red.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert O. Blasdell - General Partner

organization Joyner Associates

date November 20, 1985

street & number 226 Hillsborough Street

telephone (919) 828-0055

city or town Raleigh, N. C. 27603

state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William S. Prince

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 9, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

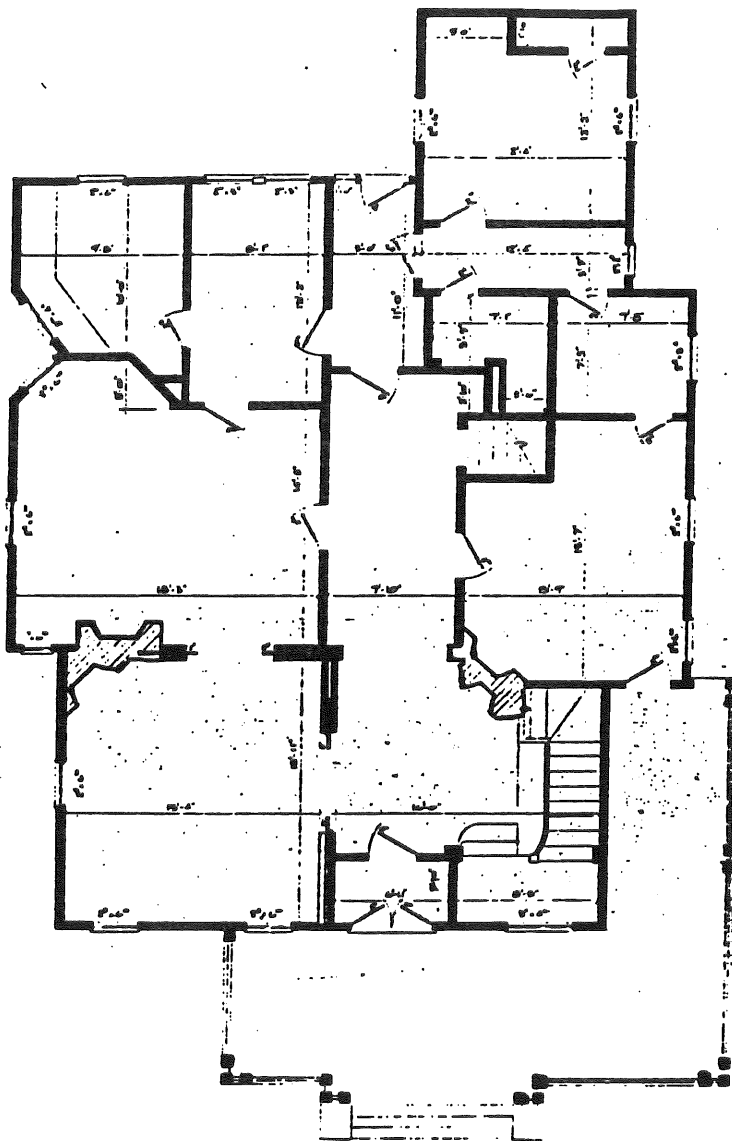
Attest:

date

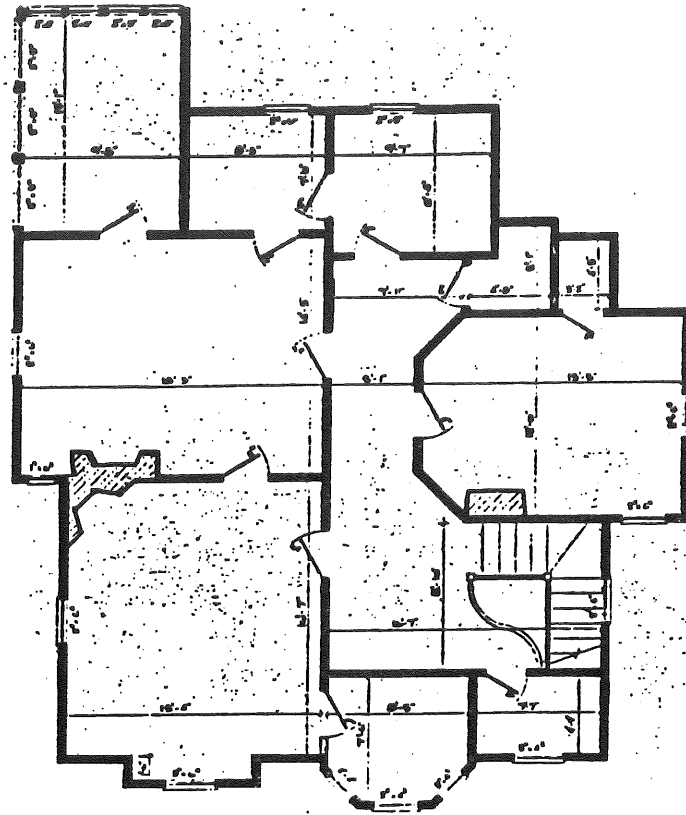
Chief of Registration

• RICHARDSON •

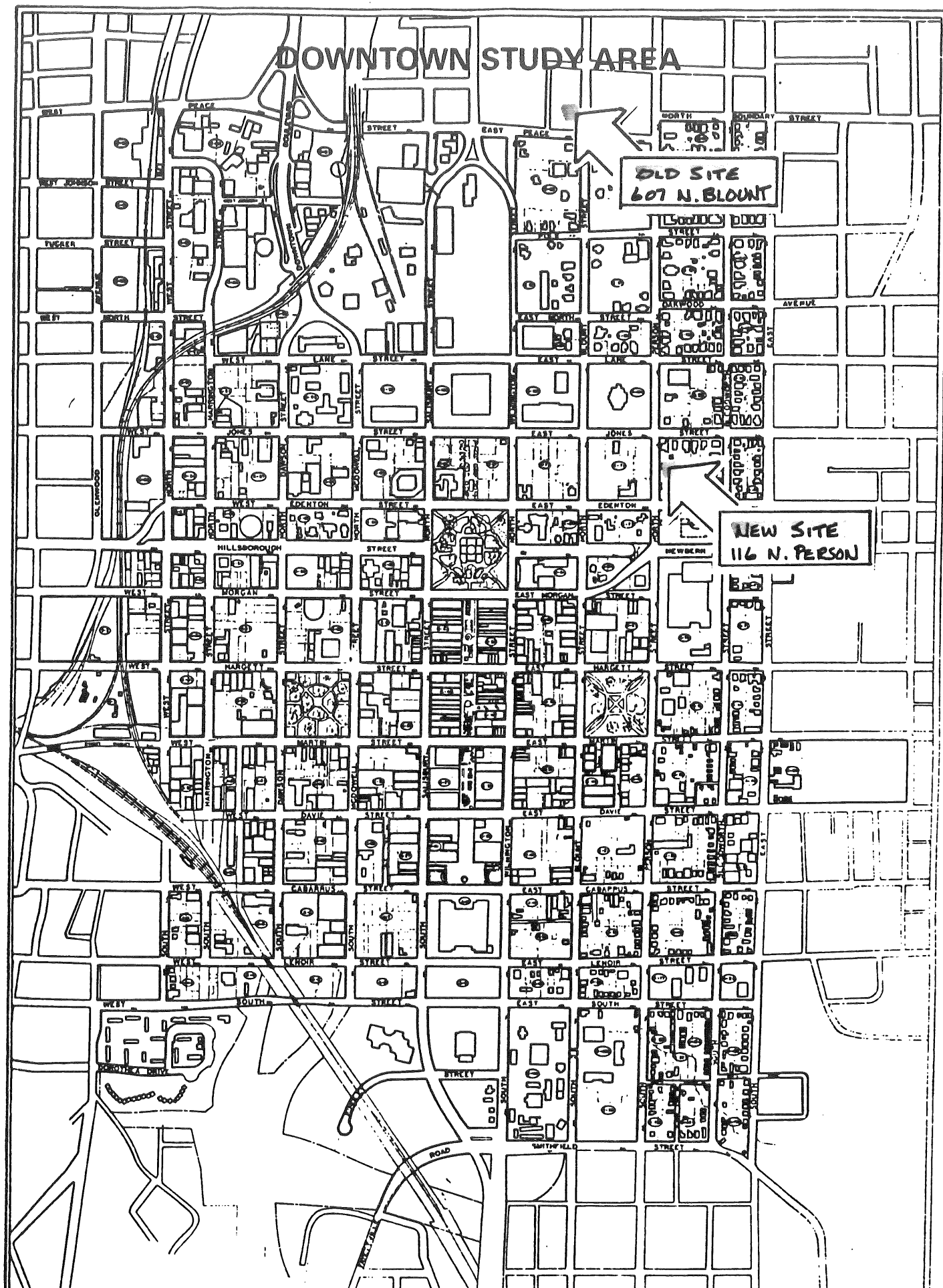
• RICHARDSON •



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



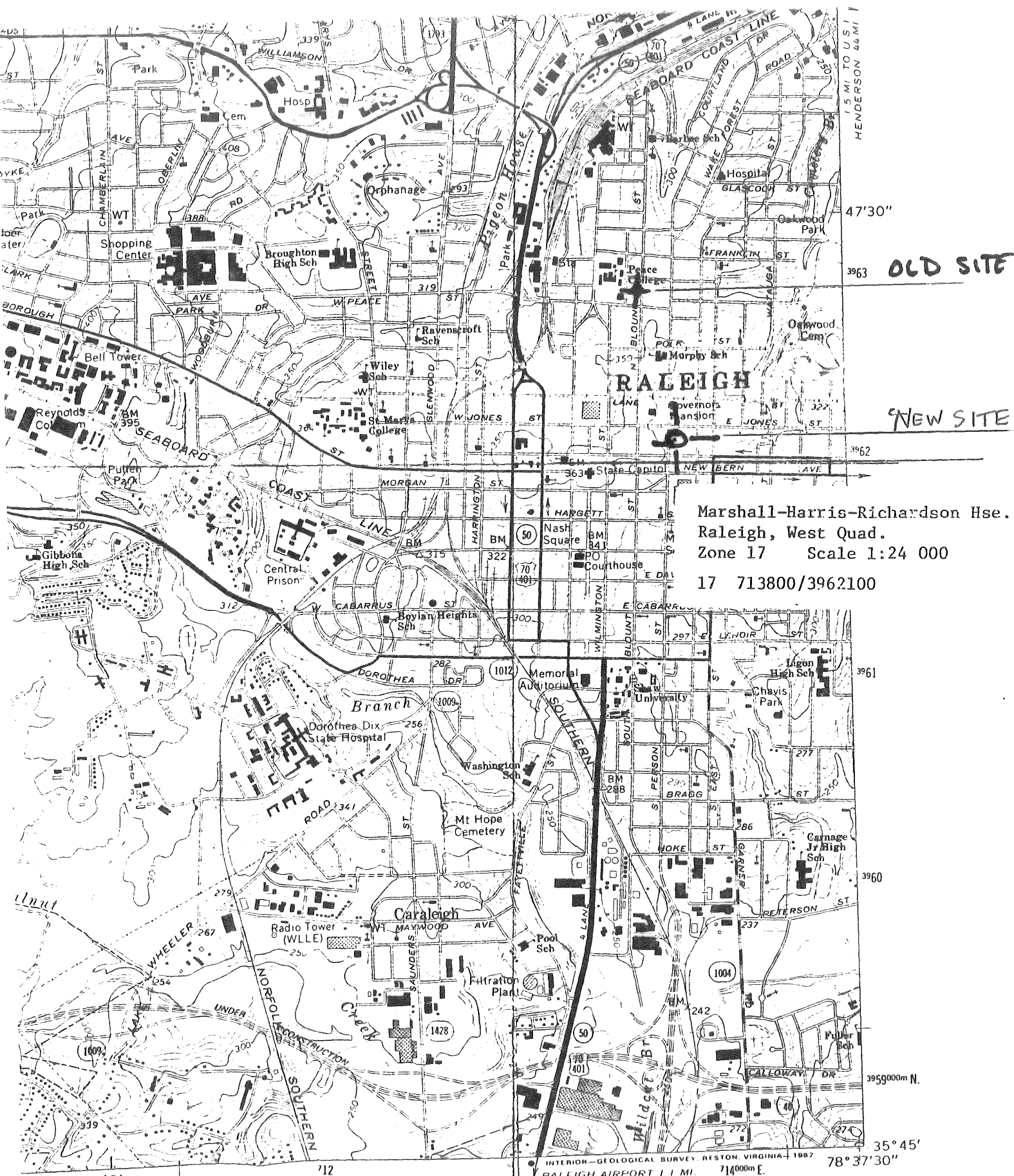
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



MARSHALL-HARRIS-RICHARDSON HOUSE

RALEIGH, NC





Marshall-Harris-Richardson Hse.
 Raleigh, West Quad.
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24 000
 17 713800/3962100

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
 Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

1 MILE

(GARNER)
 5255 11 NE

