

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 Oaky Grove

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number southeast corner jct. SR 2506 & SR 2507 N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Shotwell ☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27591

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.)

William S. Rain
Signature of certifying official/Title

8-23-93
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

Oaky Grove
Name of Property

Wake Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
6	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

"Historic & Architectural Resources
of Wake County, NC"

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

Agriculture/Subsistence: agric. outbldg.

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Agriculture/Subsistence: agric. outbuilding

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: I house

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Oaky Grove
Name of Property

Wake County, N.C.
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1818-1941

Significant Dates

ca. 1818

ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Oaky Grove
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28.16 ac.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 731320 3957940
Zone Easting Northing
2 17 732110 3958050

3 17 781980 3957840
Zone Easting Northing
4 17 77311200 3957760

☐ 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 M. Ruth Little
organization Longleaf Historic Resources date April 29, 1993
street & number 2709 Bedford Ave. telephone 919-836-8128
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

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

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Narrative Description

Oakly Grove is a two-story frame single-pile house built ca. 1818 as the seat of a large plantation, known as Oakly Grove Plantation, in southeast Wake County. It is one of the major historic landmarks in the community of Shotwell. Oakly Grove was substantially remodelled ca. 1900 by a descendant of the original builder. The house was placed on the Study List of properties eligible for the National Register as the result of a comprehensive survey of Wake County conducted from 1988 to 1991. The plantation associated with the house has been reduced to a twenty-eight acre home tract consisting of fields and woodlands. This tract contains, in addition to the house, three contributing outbuildings and the family cemetery. In the front yard is an early smokehouse, and in the rear yard is an early barn. The family cemetery is located adjacent to Turnipseed Road about 2,000 feet behind the house to the east. A short distance east of it is an unused tobacco packhouse. [Site plan, Exhibit A]

1. **Oakly Grove House.** ca. 1818, ca. 1900. Contributing building.

The house faces west, toward Major Slade Road, (SR 2506) with a grove of pecan, oak and cedar trees forming an approach. The present approach is off Turnipseed Road (SR 2507), formerly the Old Tarboro Road. The three-bay wide house has a central entrance located in a shallow projecting, two-story, gable-front pavilion. A one-story porch extends across the main facade and wraps around the south side. To the rear is a one-story shed. A one-story rear ell addition containing the dining room and kitchen was added in the 1930s. The house sits on a low stone foundation formed of quarried, roughly coursed blocks of native stone. It has plain siding on the front and sides, and some of the original beaded siding remains on the shed.

The original house was a vernacular transitional Georgian-Federal style house with beaded siding, exterior end Flemish bond brick chimneys, a stone foundation, six-over-nine sash windows, and a rear shed. Around 1900 the house was remodelled to its present appearance by extending the gable ends to enclose the chimneys, adding an entrance pavilion, re-siding the walls, constructing a new roof, and adding new windows and doors. The form of the original roof is unknown, but

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

according to family tradition it was lower than the present roof. The only traces of the original fabric on the exterior are on the shed, where part of the beaded siding and a single six-over-nine window sash remain. The remodelling updated the house into the locally popular vernacular Victorian "Triple-A" farmhouse. The decorative trim consists of beaded cornerboards, overhanging eaves with molded eave boards, and circular louvered ventilators in the side and front gables. The front door is single-paneled with a glazed upper half set in a wide beaded surround. The first story has four-over-four sash, full-length on the porch, and the second story has two-over-two sash, all set in wide plain surrounds. Louvered shutters, probably ca. 1900, flank all front windows. The porch has Doric posts supporting a hip roof. The ell has plain siding and six-over-six sash windows.

The house has no basement. The handhewn sills and large, straight-sawn floor joists are visible in the crawl space, as is the coursed ashlar foundation along the rear wall of the shed. Elsewhere sections of the foundation were removed when the gable ends were extended. One small section of the fine Federal chimney brickwork, consisting of several courses of glazed brick laid in Flemish bond, with painted mortar joints, is visible in the crawlspace on the south chimney above the stone base.

The interior [First Floor Plan, Exhibit B] retains significant portions of the original Federal style woodwork in spite of the remodelling of what was apparently a hall-parlor plan on both floors into a central hall plan. All four of the original mantels have survived, as well as the original wide floorboards, several rooms with original flat-paneled wainscot, and several original six-raised-panel doors. The main and secondary mantels on the north side are taller than those on the south side, and these may have been the parlor and master bedrooms. The north first floor mantel, of stylish vernacular Federal design, is a tall, wide mantel with reeded pilasters, a frieze ornamented with large beaded diamonds, and a molded shelf. The south first floor mantel is similar but has a tripartite emphasis with a central frieze block decorated with diagonal reeding and flanking reeded panels. The north bedroom mantel has a retarditaire late Georgian design with a molded surround and an overmantel with two raised panels and a shallow molded shelf. The south bedroom mantel is nearly identical but not as tall. Original wall treatment consisted of flat-paneled wainscots, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings. The walls

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

and ceilings are still plaster, but the original wainscot has survived only in the shed and second floor rooms.

The ca. 1900 extensions of the end walls of the house to enclose the chimneys was probably done in order to provide closet space, for the south room of the first floor and the two bedrooms upstairs each contain one closet in this area. At this time the original stair, which apparently rose against the south wall of the hall and was probably enclosed, was replaced by a large-scale closed string stair of classical revival style. It has a closed, paneled string, a tall, flat-paneled newel post, a heavy molded railing and beaded balusters. The stair rises with one landing to the upstairs hall. From there a smaller closed string stair without railing rises to the attic. The hall and first floor rooms have a vertical, tongue-and-groove wainscot dating from the remodelling.

The shed contains two rooms flanking a small hall, all with original wainscot. The south shed room has one original six-panel door which opens to the rear hall, and the original rear door of the house opens from the hall to a lean-to porch that has been enclosed and now serves as the kitchen. To the south of the south shed room is a tiny room added during the remodelling, with a small attached sunporch that connects with the front wraparound porch.

The rear ell, apparently dating from the 1930s, has a gable roof, narrow wooden floors and ceilings, and sheetrocked walls. It contains a kitchen with a crudely built exterior end stone chimney, and a dining room, separated by a pantry. The kitchen room is now used for storage, and the present kitchen is in the enclosed porch.

2. Smokehouse. 19th century. Contributing building.

The tiny smokehouse, located in the front yard near Turnipseed Road, has a heavy-timber, pegged framework, plain siding, a hipped roof that engages a tiny front porch, and a turn-of-the-century door. It was apparently built in the first half of the nineteenth century.

3. Barn. 19th century. Contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

The barn, a two-story frame front-gable building, has a heavy timber frame indicating that it, too, dates to the first half of the nineteenth century. It has been periodically re-sided. It has a single front and rear door in the first story and a smaller opening in the upper story. It has apparently always been used for storage.

4. Family Cemetery. ca. 1826-1951. Contributing site.

The family cemetery contains twelve graves with gravestones enclosed by a thick wall built of native stone. The wall has no gate, and access to the graveyard is by an original set of stone steps that step over the wall on the north side, towards the road. According to family tradition, the cemetery wall was built by Price slaves. Turnipseed Road (the old Tarboro Road) now comes within a few feet of the corner of the wall, but this road was not laid out until the twentieth century.

The gravestones have death dates from 1826 to 1951. Those buried here include Rebecca Robertson (1779-1826), wife of Thomas Price; Thomas Price (died 1830); Echboll Price (1845-1861), son of Washington and Frances Bushrod Price; Fetna Price (1810-1836), first wife of B.T. Blake; Landon L. Doub (1853-1932); his wife Pattie Anderson Doub (1869-1951); their son William Blake Doub (1909-1910); and Robert Doug Sexton, son of M. J. & Laura Sexton (died 1920).

There are four unmarked gravestones: one rough fieldstone and three native stone tombs. These tombs have the same form as the table tombs popular among the gentry during the antebellum period, which consist of a base supporting an inscribed ledger stone, but these tombs are solid stones with no inscriptions of any sort. They are almost certainly of antebellum date but the identities of those buried here are unknown.

The cemetery is one of the most distinctive historic resources associated with Oakly Grove. The stone wall is similar to a number of other plantation cemetery walls in eastern North Carolina in that it does not have a gate but has stone steps over the wall. This feature served to keep out livestock. Some of the other cemetery walls have had gates added, but Oakly Grove's cemetery wall is unchanged. The three hewn stone tombs with no inscriptions of any kind are also distinctive. It was traditional for upper-class antebellum Wake County citizens to be buried beneath box-tombs, which are thin marble ledgers supported on a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

masonry base.¹ But the three Oaky Grove tombstones are unusual in that they are solid slabs of stone with no inscriptions. Because of the material, apparently the same type of local stone from which the house foundation and the cemetery wall are constructed, it is assumed that these tombstones are antebellum. The nearby Walnut Hill Cotton Gin is supported on full-story stone piers made of the same local stone, so there was both a ready source of stone and the requisite stonecutting skill present in the Shotwell community during the antebellum period.

5. Packhouse. Early 20th century. Contributing building.

The two-story, front-gable, frame packhouse has horizontal wooden sheathing now covered by asphalt siding. It rests on replacement cinderblock piers. This is located at the eastern point of the homeplace tract, in the woods, and is no longer in use.

6. Site. Contributing site.

The 28-acre home tract, consisting of a spacious front yard landscaped with oak and cedar trees and shrubs, cultivated fields, and woodland that is actively managed as a wildlife preserve, contributes to the significance of the domestic complex. The immediate setting and the land surrounding the property have remained basically unchanged since 1941. There are two fields, one beside the house and one behind the house, that have been planted in tobacco in recent years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Section number 8 Page 6

Statement of Significance

The plantation seat known as Oaky Grove, in the Shotwell community of southeastern Wake County, features a two-story frame house built in 1818 and substantially remodelled about 1900. The house was built as the seat of Thomas Price, prosperous plantation owner, and remains in the hands of his descendants to the present day. Oaky Grove is historically significant under Criterion A for its evocation of the nineteenth century social history of the Shotwell community, one of the most prosperous plantation centers in Wake County. As the seat of three generations of the Price family: antebellum farmer and miller Thomas Price, educator Bennet Blake, and farmer Landon Doub, Oaky Grove is one of a small number of plantation seats surviving in the county. The twenty-eight acre home tract that survives of the 1100 acre plantation also contains an early smokehouse, barn, and the family cemetery with stone tombs and a notable stone enclosure wall characteristic of antebellum plantation graveyards in North Carolina. The period of significance begins with the construction of the house in 1818 and extends to 1941. The architectural contexts of the dwelling's fine original transitional Georgian-Federal interior finish and the ca. 1900 modernization that created a central hall and added a projecting front cross-gable pavilion and a wraparound porch to the two-story frame house are discussed in the 1993 multiple property documentation form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1760-1941."

Social History Context

Oaky Grove was once one of the largest and most prosperous Wake County plantations and has significance under Criterion A for its evocation of the nineteenth century social history of the Shotwell community. Under its original owner Thomas Price and subsequent owner Bennet Blake, the plantation was part of a concentration of wealthy plantations in the southeastern section of Wake County, forming the communities of Shotwell and Eagle Rock in the Marks Creek, St. Matthews and St. Marys townships. Prominent family names appearing on the 1871 Bevers Map of Wake County in the Shotwell community are the Prices, Mials and Blakes, all interrelated by marriage and business connections. Walnut Hill plantation, located adjacent to Oaky Grove, was operated by Alonzo T. Mial,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Bennet Blake's stepson (Alonzo was the son of Blake's wife Scheherazade by her first husband Thomas Mail, Jr.).

Both Bennet Blake and Alonzo Mial had far-ranging interests outside of agriculture that made Shotwell an important commercial center for neighboring farmers. By the 1830s Bennet Blake was operating a country store. Blake's 1836-1837 store account book has been preserved and indicates that local farmers purchased such merchandise as clothing, writing and wrapping paper, pipes, tobacco, knives, looking glasses, lamps, tools, and dry goods from Blake.² Blake purchased most of his merchandise in Petersburg, Virginia in the spring and evidently hired teamsters to transport it to his store. Blake, a Methodist minister, became a noted educator in the 1840s and 1850s and was involved in Methodist girls' schools in both Greensboro and Raleigh. In the 1840s Blake's neighbors, the Mials, built the Walnut Hill Cotton Gin (NR, 1988) on their plantation. This stone and frame cotton gin, which served the community until the early twentieth century, has been preserved, but the store is gone. Oakly Grove plantation gradually became subdivided as it passed from one generation to another, but Walnut Hill plantation remained intact even after the abolition of slavery led to the breakup of most plantations. Alonzo Mial maintained his extensive antebellum landholdings in the Shotwell community after the Civil War, making him the county's largest landowner with almost 2,700 acres when he died in the 1890s.³

In the postbellum period the community of Shotwell grew to four stores and seventy-five residents. A private school, known as "Frog Pond Academy," was built ca. 1863 by Alonzo T. Mial for his own children and other children of the community. A post office was established here by 1884, and the name Shotwell chosen for it in honor of a Confederate captain of that name.⁴ Like many other early Wake County communities, Shotwell began to decline when it was bypassed by the railroad in the late nineteenth century. Its commercial functions were taken over by the nearby town of Wendell, created when the railroad came through about 1900. From the 1880s to 1941, when Landon Doub, Bennet Blake's grandson, and his wife Pattie Doub lived at Oakly Grove, the community lost its commercial importance. Shotwell is currently only a crossroads with a single country store. Walnut Hill, the Greek Revival style plantation house of Alonzo T. Mial, burned in the 1970s. Oakly Grove is one of the few surviving buildings in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

the Shotwell vicinity that bears witness to the vibrant nineteenth century Shotwell community.

Architectural Context

As explained in the multiple property documentation form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1760-1941," Oaky Grove's two-story frame, single pile deep hall-and-parlor form, beaded siding, Flemish bond chimneys, ornate mantels and wainscotted and plastered walls are comparable to other stylish plantation houses built in Wake County during the early nineteenth century.⁵ A comparable house that has survived is the Bennet Bunn House near Zebulon (NR 1985). Built in 1833, the Federal style farmhouse has a two-story hall-parlor plan with rear shed and early Federal style mantels with paneled overmantels.

As remodelled at the turn of the century, Oaky Grove became an I-house with a front cross-gable which was one of the most popular house styles in Wake County. Probably inspired by the mid-century Gothic Revival style, this house style appeared throughout Wake County from the 1880s to the 1920s.⁶ A good example of the style is the W.E. Mattox House (WA 1996) east of Wendell. Oaky Grove's remodelling did not turn it into a stylish example of the front cross-gabled I-house, probably because it was altered slowly and in a piece-meal fashion. The slow remodelling process is evidenced by the Colonial Revival style of the front wraparound porch. The more usual porch in the late nineteenth century for this house type is a bracketed Italianate style, indicating that Oaky Grove's porch was one of the last features to be built during the lengthy remodelling and that it was built in the early twentieth century when the Colonial Revival had become popular.

Historical Background

In 1795 Thomas Price (1774-1830), who is believed to have been born in nearby Johnston County, purchased a 353-acre tract of land located on both sides of Marks Creek in southeastern Wake County.⁷ Price was involved in farming, business and commerce, and became one of the wealthiest men in Wake County

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

by the early nineteenth century. In 1828 he had the fifth-largest tax assessment in the county and was the third-largest slave holder. He grew cotton, wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and other produce. He financed a number of men through personal loans or by endorsing their bank notes. At one time he owned five grist mills: three on Marks Creek, one on Buffalo Creek, and one in Johnston County.⁸ In 1818 Price had a stylish house built for himself on the Marks Creek tract. The date is said to be on the north chimney stack, no longer visible because of the ca. 1900 remodelling.⁹ He named his home plantation Oakly Grove.

When Thomas died in 1830 at the age of fifty-six, his approximately 4,500 acres in Wake and Johnston counties were divided into six tracts by a survey.¹⁰ The homestead tract, Oakly Grove, containing 1,148 acres, extended from Marks Creek on the east to Walnut Hill Plantation, the seat of Thomas Mial, on the west. The homestead is shown on the survey plat as being beside a road leading to Price's mill on Marks Creek and a short distance from the road leading from Battle's Bridge to Tarboro (apparently now Major Slade Road, SR 2506). The plat also shows a store on the homestead tract. Perhaps Price had operated this store. In the property division the northern section of the tract, consisting of 455 acres and the homestead, was awarded to Price's youngest daughter, Fetney Price (1810-1836) and her husband Bennet T. Blake (1800-1882). The southern section, 690 acres, was awarded to Price's daughter Scheherazade Price Mials.¹¹ Fetney and Bennet had married ca. 1829, but Fetney survived her father by only a few years and died in 1836.

About 1837 Bennet Blake married Fetney's sister, Scheherazade Price Mial, the widow of Thomas Mial, Jr. (son of the owner of adjacent Walnut Hill Plantation). Like his father-in-law Thomas Price, Blake was multi-talented. He was born in Virginia, became a minister in 1824, and travelled as a Methodist circuit rider. He settled down about 1829 when he married Fetney. In addition to his religious activities he operated a store in the 1830s, possibly the same store that had belonged to Thomas Price. The role in which Blake is most remembered is as an educator. He is said to have started the Methodist Sunday School in Raleigh and the Methodist girl's school in Greensboro that preceded Greensboro College. He was an active Methodist minister in eastern North Carolina, and especially effective in ministering to African-American worshippers.¹² In 1849 he opened

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

the Female Classical Institute on Hillsborough Street. His son-in-law, William C. Doub, was professor of mathematics and ancient languages for some time. Blake must have been living in Raleigh at this time, for some twenty-five pupils boarded in his own home on Hillsborough Street. Blake continued the school until his health forced him to close it in 1854.¹³ His wife Scherezade died in 1853 and in 1855 he retired to Oakly Grove and wrote prolifically to his family and colleagues in his later years.¹⁴

In the 1880 census, Blake, aged eighty, lived at Oakly Grove with his grandson, Landon L. Doub, aged twenty-six, who was listed as a farmer. They had an elderly white housekeeper, a fourteen-year-old white servant, and two young black laborers in their household.¹⁵ Landon (ca. 1854-1932) and his older brother William B. were the sons of Laura Blake Doub and her husband William C. Doub. Laura was the only child of Bennet Blake and his first wife, Fetney Price. Laura Blake Doub died in 1855 and William C. apparently moved to Guilford County, for in 1860 their two sons Landon and William B. were living in the household of their uncle, Alonzo T. Mial, who owned nearby Walnut Hill Plantation.¹⁶ It is not known when Landon Doub moved to Oakly Grove, but he lived there with his grandfather, Bennet Blake, until Blake's death in 1882 and continued to live there for the rest of his own life.

The ownership of Oakly Grove changed several times between 1855 and 1880 with Blake's son-in-law, William C. Doub, his grandson William B. Doub, and his stepson Alonzo T. Mial owning interests in the property at various times. Finally, in 1879, Landon Doub became the sole owner of Oakly Grove, which contained 224 acres at this time.¹⁷

In 1887 Landon Doub married Pattie Anderson, and they lived at Oakly Grove all of their married life, raising a family of seven children born between 1889 and 1906. According to family tradition, Landon and Pattie began remodelling Oakly Grove around 1891, but were delayed by a disastrous fire that burned some outbuildings and the trees which they intended to use for lumber. The house was remodelled gradually over the years and completed about 1912. They replaced the old enclosed stair, which was described as being as "dark as Egypt," enclosed the end chimneys, and raised the roof about seven feet.¹⁸

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11

Oakly Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Landon Doub died in 1932, and Pattie remained at Oakly Grove until her death in 1951. At this time Oakly Grove contained 175 acres, and Pattie left it equally to six of her children. None of the children lived on the farm, but took turns managing the farmland. In 1971 the heirs decided to sell the farm, but the youngest child, Grace Doub Brown, who had received the homeplace share of 28 acres, kept her share. In 1985 her son Talmage T. Brown, Jr. and his wife, Carol Joy Brown, purchased the 28 acre homeplace.¹⁹ They have rented out the house but actively manage the woodland and fields.

¹M. Ruth Little, "Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers," manuscript in progress, 1993.

²Bennet T. Blake Papers, Account Book, 1836-37, PC.1554.1, N.C. Archives; Kelly Lally and Todd Johnson, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, ca. 1760-1941," multiple property documentation form, copy on file in SHPO Office, 28.

³Lally and Johnson, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina, ca. 1760-1941," 60.

⁴Vernon Wingo, "Shotwell community one of Wake County's oldest," Gold Leaf Farmer, Wendell, October 9, 1986; Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1. Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983, 605.

⁵Lally and Johnson, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County," 122-123.

⁶Lally and Johnson, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County," 129.

⁷Wake County Deed Book C, page 260. (copy on file in SHPO Office, Raleigh)

⁸William Bennett, "Oakly Grove, Wake County, North Carolina," manuscript in file, 1978.

⁹Catherine Bishir interview with Grace Doub Brown, 1970s, in North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office file.

¹⁰Survey, 1831, by Robt. H.B. Brazier, Thomas Price Estate File, N.C. Archives, Raleigh. (copy on file in SHPO Office, Raleigh)

¹¹Wake County Pleas and Quarter Sessions, 1831, "To Bennet T. Blake & Fetney Blake (formerly Fetney Price), the lot or parcel of Land called Oakly Grove, being that part of said lands on which the Homestead is situated....." N.C. Archives, Raleigh.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

¹²William Bennett, "Oakey Grove," 1978.

¹³Murray, Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, 313-314.

¹⁴William Bennett, "Oakey Grove," 1978.

¹⁵U.S. Census, 1880, Population Schedule, Wake County, N.C. Household 220, Marks Creek Township, page 127. N.C. Archives Microfilm.

¹⁶U.S. Census, 1860, Population Schedule, Wake County, N.C. N.C. Archives Microfilm.

¹⁷In 1855 Bennet Blake, in order to pay off debts, mortgaged Oaky Grove to Alonzo T. Mial with the stipulation that the homestead would go to William C. Doub after all Blake's debts were paid. [Letter from William C. Doub to William B. and Landon Doub, in the Bennet T. Blake Papers (P.C. 1554.1), N.C. Archives, Raleigh.] In 1876 William C. Doub conveyed all his interest in Oaky Grove to his sons William B. and Landon Doub. [Wake County Deed Book 49, page 755] At the same time, Alonzo T. Mial and Bennet Blake deeded their interests in Oaky Grove to William B. and Landon Doub. [Wake County Deed Book 49, page 754] In 1879 William B. sold his interest to his brother Landon. [Wake County Deed Book 69, page 606] (Copies of deeds on file at SHPO Office)

¹⁸Catherine Bishir Interview with Grace Doub Brown, 1970s, in North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office file.

¹⁹Wake County Deed Book 1910, page 69. (Copy on file in SHPO Office, Raleigh)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 13

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Bibliography

- Blake, Bennet T., Papers. Account Book, 1836-37. PC.1554.1, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh.
- Bennet, William. "Oakey Grove, Wake County, North Carolina." Manuscript in file, 1978.
- Bishir, Catherine. Interview with Grace Doub Brown, 1970s. State Historic Preservation Office file on Oaky Grove, Raleigh.
- Lally, Kelly and Johnson, Todd. "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, c. 1760-1941." Multiple Property Listing, State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh. 1993.
- Little, M. Ruth. "Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravestones." Manuscript in process, 1993.
- Murray, Elizabeth Reid. *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*, Vol. 1. Raleigh: Capital County Publishing Company, 1983.
- Price, Thomas. Estate File, 1831. North Carolina Archives, Raleigh.
- United States Census, Population Schedule, Wake County: 1860, 1880, 1900.
- Wake County Deeds, North Carolina Archives, Raleigh.
- Wingo, Vernon. "Shotwell community one of Wake County's oldest." *Gold Leaf Farmer*, Wendell, October 9, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 14

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all of Parcel 14 on Sheet 640 of the accompanying Wake County Tax Map.

Boundary Justification

The 28.16 acre tract is the homestead tract, and is all of the acreage that remains in association with the house, outbuildings and cemetery. This tract contains all of the surviving historic resources associated with Oaky Grove.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 15

Oaky Grove, Wake County, N.C.

Photographs:

The following information pertains to all photographs:

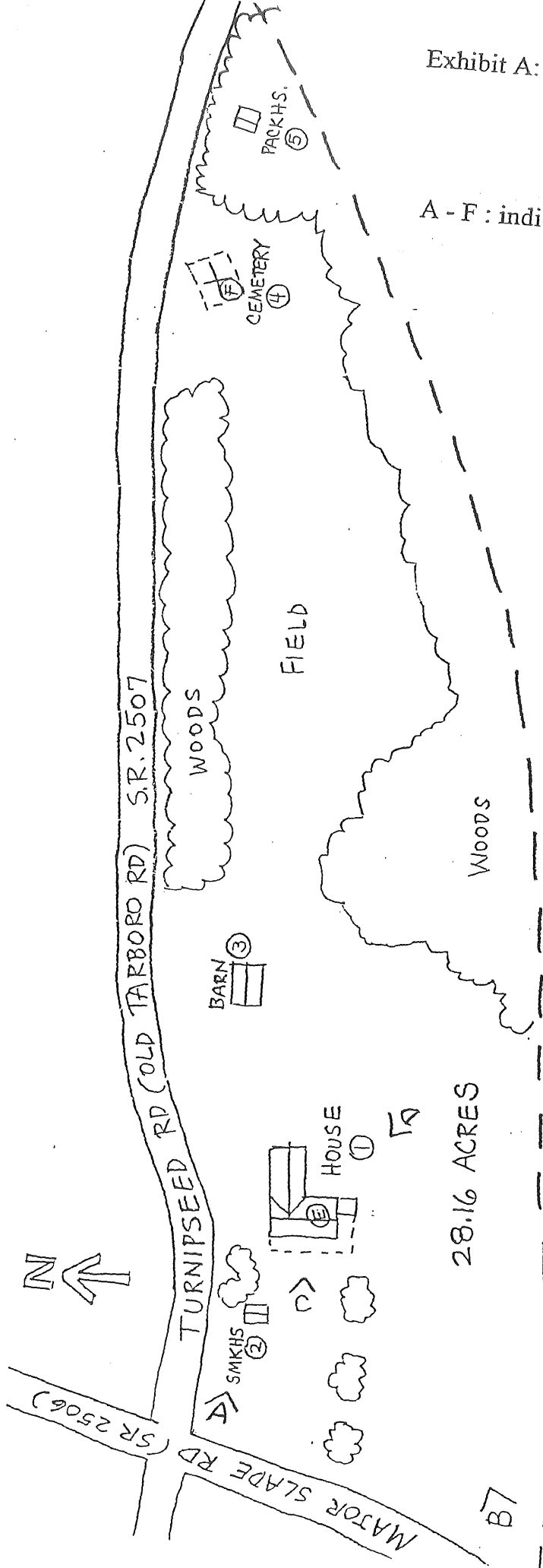
Photographer: M. Ruth Little

Date: February 1993

Location of negatives: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office,
Raleigh.

- A. View of Oaky Grove and smokehouse from west.
- B. View of Oaky Grove from southwest, at edge of Major Slade Road.
- C. View of entrance of house, from west.
- D. Rear view, from southeast.
- E. View of south, second floor mantel.
- F. View of cemetery, taken inside wall, from southwest.

Exhibit A: Site Plan, Oaky Grove , Shotwell vicinity
Wake County, N.C.
Drawn by M. Ruth Little
April 1993
Not to scale
A - F : indicates angle of photographic views



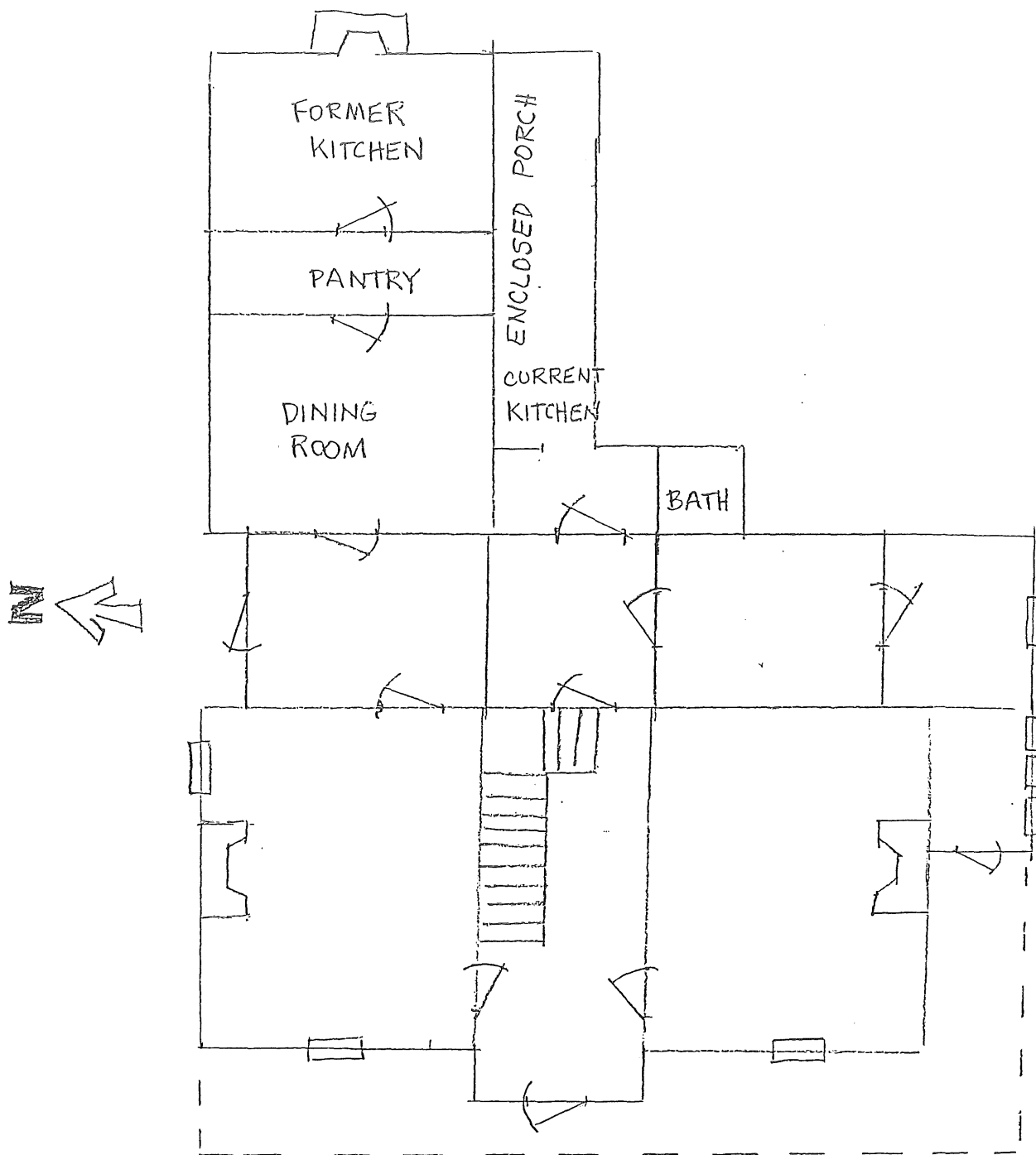
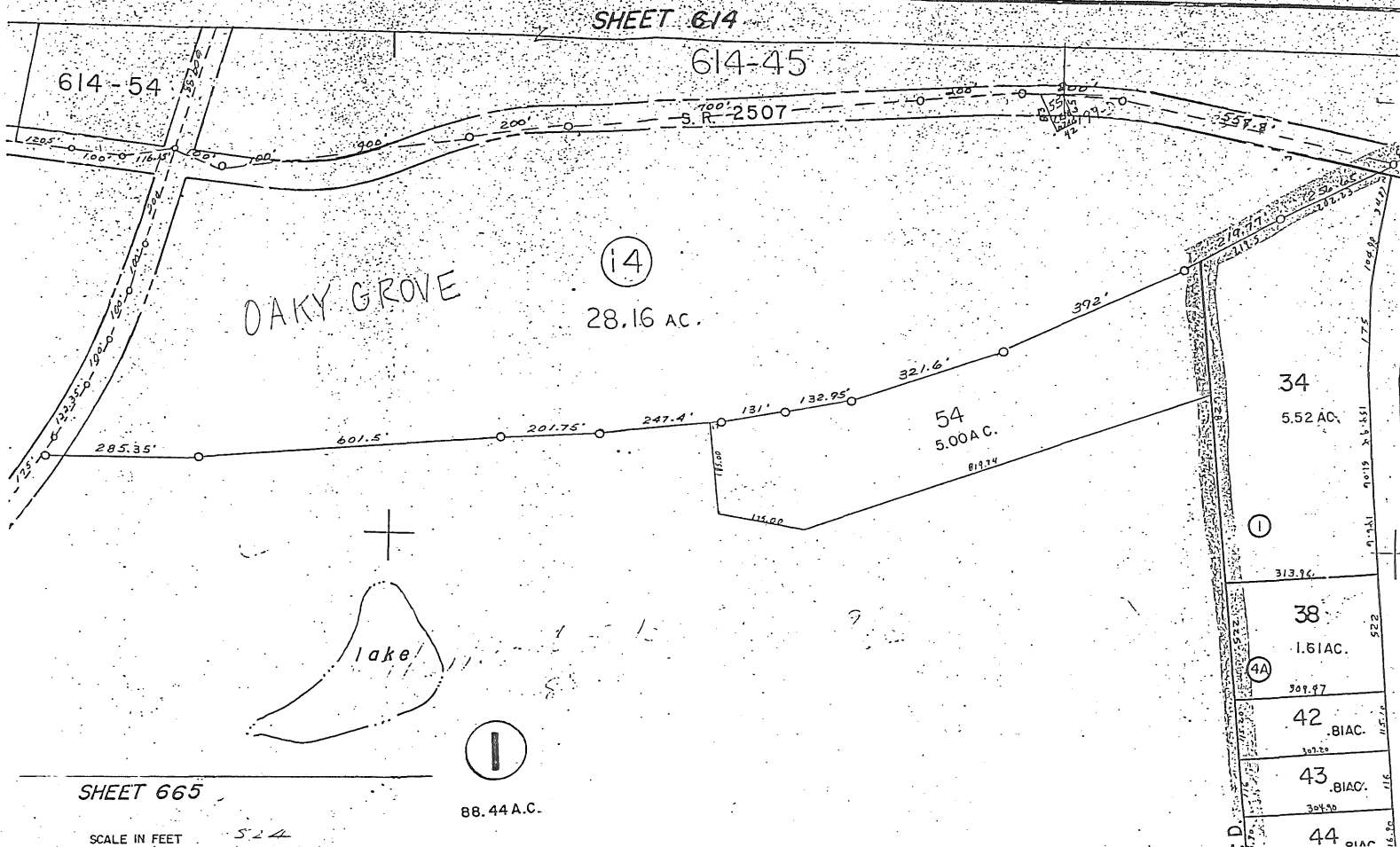


Exhibit B: Floor Plan, 1st floor, Oaky Grove, Shotwell vicinity
Drawn by M. Ruth Little Wake County, NC
April 1993



OAKY GROVE, Shotwell vic.

Wake County, N.C

UTM References:

① 17/731320/3957940

② 17/732110/3958050

③ 17/731980/3957840

④ 17/731200/3957760

Quad: Clayton, NC

Scale: 1:24,000

