

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Wyatt, Leonidas R., House

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number 107 South Bloodworth StreetN/A ☐ not for publicationcity, town RaleighN/A ☐ vicinitystate North Carolina code NCcounty Wakecode 183zip code 27601**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official William S. Fair Jr.Date 5-23-90

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboard

roof slateother wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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In June 1988, the City of Raleigh moved the 1881 Leonidas R. Wyatt House from its original site at 107 West Jones Street to a similar location in the 100 block of South Bloodworth Street. From the time it was constructed, the Wyatt House was in a block of Victorian era residences in close proximity to government institutional buildings. The 1909 Sanborn Map, for instance, shows that even at that early date it was only one block from both the Supreme Court Building and the State Museum. At its new site, the Wyatt House is again in a block of Victorian era houses and across the street from the Federal Office Building housing the Federal District Court.

The main block of the weatherboarded frame Wyatt House is a "triple-A I-house, from which two symmetrically placed one-story gabled ells project at the rear. A flat-roofed "hyphen" connecting the two ells is flush with their gable-end walls and accommodates the back portion of the center hall, lending the house a double-pile plan on the first floor. The original one-story porch across most of the rear was remodelled as a hipped and shed-roofed wing in the early twentieth century. The only other addition to the house, dating to the 1920s, is a small second-story, shed-roofed rear wing.

The entire building rests on a new brick foundation pierced with small metal-grilled vents that is identical to the original. A major feature of the house is the three-sided window bay in the first story of each gable end of the main block. These are recent, exact reproductions of the original bays which had to be removed prior to the move due to deterioration. The identical bays have almost flat roofs and contain two-over-two double-hung sash windows which have surrounds with slightly rounded and notched corners; the windows rest on a water table with recessed panels. All of the other windows in the original portion of the house also have two-over-two double-hung sashes, but they are in crosssetted surrounds; in the main block, the upper sashes are segmental arched. Windows in the rear hipped and shed-roofed wing are six-over-six and four-over-four. All rooflines have deep eaves, molded box cornices that have returns at each gable, and fascias that are plain except for a single band of molding. Each of the gables also has a central louvered attic vent: in the main block, the vents are diamond-shaped and those in the rear ells are lozenge-shaped. Two interior brick chimneys, now stuccoed, rise from the rear roof plane of the main block. At the two-story block and the original rear ells, the roof is covered in slate shingles; elsewhere the material is raised seam metal.

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A one-story porch extends almost the full width of the symmetrically ordered three-bay main facade. The porch has chamfered posts molded at top and bottom that rest on short panelled wooden plinths and are topped with decorative sawn brackets. A low balustrade, the height of the plinths, has a molded handrail and heavy urn-like turned balusters. The main entrance has double doors with blind molded panels in the lower portion and etched glass upper panels (one of which is a replacement), two-pane transom and crossetted surround. Screen doors appear to be original. The flanking windows rise from the porch floor to the height of the entrance transom.

The relative simplicity of the exterior is in sharp contrast to the quite handsome interior finish. All walls are plaster and many of them have wallpaper, now deteriorated in most places. Floors consist of four- and five-inch-wide pine boards. Woodwork is consistent throughout, with molded ten-inch baseboards, molded three-part door and window surrounds and four-panel doors with applied moldings. Closet doors have white china pulls instead of the circular knobs found at all other doors. Each original room, except for the bedroom in the north ell and the north second-story bedroom, has picture molding ten or fifteen inches below the ceiling.

The spacious center hall contains a staircase rising from back to front. The open string stairs are fairly typical of the period, with a rather robust octagonal newel, turned balusters and molded handrail. The stairs appear to be fitted with their original woven carpet. Carpet guards which pull the carpet back to the rear of the tread are intact and seem to be an oak quarter round molding with brass ends. The stair treads are simply molded and the step ends are plain. The most striking feature of the center hall is the plaster crown molding consisting of three bands of a geometric pattern punctuated by projecting brackets spaced about every 30 inches. At the back of the hall there is an oval medallion featuring strapwork decoration and some applied floral motif. Interestingly, none of the four doorways leading into the original first-floor rooms is placed opposite another.

The north and south front rooms are essentially identical parlors, both with rather ornate marbleized slate mantels surrounding coal grates and plaster crown molding that is smaller yet richer than that in the hall. The crown molding design has an interlocking floral band

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of motifs that appear to be pea pods, pine cones and pineapples wrapping around a cord down the center of the cove, flanked by sequential moldings. The plaster ceiling medallions are quite elaborate, with a combination of square patterns and floral designs. Each parlor has a closet on one side of the projecting fireplace and on the other a door leading to the ell bedroom immediately behind. In the north parlor, the door leading to the ell appears to be an early addition, perhaps dating to the late nineteenth century. Each parlor has one intact gas-fitted, brass finished sconce, minus its globe, above the upper right corner of the fireplace.

The two ell bedrooms are basically identical except that closets flank the projecting chimney breast in the north ell while the south has none. The fireplaces are on the interior walls, sharing the chimneys serving the parlors. Both rooms have a door leading to a room in the rear hipped and shed-roofed wing. The upper panels of the rear door in the north ell have been replaced with glass. Whereas the windows in the parlors either extend to the floor or are in three-sided bays, here they are set above molded aprons. The mantelpieces are wood in an Eastlake design, typical of the 1880s, with a recessed panel in the pilasters rising to a floral motif and a shaped, recessed panel frieze with a projecting ornament and four-armed cross. The south room retains a sconce at the fireplace identical to those in the parlors.

Originally the door at the rear of the center hall led to a porch which was enclosed as a shed at the south end. The porch was connected by a walkway to a freestanding kitchen which had become extremely deteriorated and was not moved with the rest of the house in 1988. When the porch was enclosed and enlarged in the early twentieth century, the north end was used as a kitchen and the south end as a bathroom, which retains a footed bathtub and metal bracketed basin and is sheathed in five-inch tongue-in-groove boards. An enclosed chamber in the northeast corner of the bathroom has a water closet.

The two second-story bedrooms are essentially identical to each other. Here, there is no apron beneath the windows, which are fitted with their original interior screens which could be raised and are fitted with a handle at the mullion. The mantelpieces in these rooms are the simplest in the house, in vernacular Greek Revival designs with chamfered pilasters rising to a single board frieze which features a tudor arch. Closets flank each fireplace. At the rear of the second-story stair hall is a 1920s bathroom in the shed addition placed above

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and between the rear one-story ells. All of the fixtures appear to date from the 1920s.

Today, the Wyatt House remains empty and in structurally sound but cosmetically deteriorated condition, although the window bays have been reconstructed and the building secured with plywood covering most of the first-story windows. As part of the security measures, a tall chain link and barbed wire fence erected at the perimeter of the new lot following the move will remain in place until the building is occupied. The lot, originally residential but last used as part of a parking lot, remains paved in its rear portion, which will be landscaped as a small shaded parking area when the house is rehabilitated. Deterioration of the slate-covered roof at the main, two-story block has resulted in its current covering in plastic sheeting. The City has granted protective covenants to the Mordecai Square Historical Society and is marketing the house for sale as income-producing property so the purchaser may apply for an investment tax credit for restoring the building according to the Secretary's Standards.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1881-1882

Significant Dates

1881-1882

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Briggs, Thomas

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Leonidas R. Wyatt House is an Italianate style dwelling built in 1881 to 1882. It is significant under Criterion C as one of the relatively few remaining, well preserved examples of the Italianate in Raleigh and as one of the very few remaining examples of the work of local master-builder Thomas Briggs. A search of Briggs' archival records has uncovered detailed accounts for the construction of this house, which is particularly distinguished by its ornate Victorian interior. The house was built for Leonidas R. Wyatt, owner and operator of the Carolina Garage until his death in 1918, and remained occupied by his widow and daughter until 1986. The Wyatt House has deteriorated somewhat in recent years because of neglect and in June 1988 it was moved approximately six blocks to its current location at 107 S. Bloodworth St. in order to save it from demolition. In spite of these developments, the house remains eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria Consideration B because its original design, materials and workmanship survive almost virtually intact and its new site is very similar in character to the original.

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ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Leonidas R. Wyatt House is an outstanding, well-preserved 1880s Italianate style house, one of the few which survive in Raleigh. It was built by Raleigh's master builder of the second half of the nineteenth century, Thomas H. Briggs. In addition to being a contractor, Briggs owned a downtown hardware store and sash and blind factory. He played a major role in shaping the Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne streetscape around Capitol Square. Most of the Briggs-built houses have been demolished. The finest surviving Briggs residence is the Second Empire style Dodd-Hinsdale House (NR), a few blocks west of the Capitol on Hillsborough Street. This brick dwelling is a much more imposing building on the exterior with its three-stage tower, yet on the interior the Wyatt House is equally fine.

The Briggs house which most closely resembles the Wyatt House is the Briggs-Argo-Aycock House, 800 North Bloodworth Street (Oakwood North Amendment to the National Register Oakwood Historic District, 1988). This is an Italianate style frame triple-A dwelling with ornate label moldings and flanking side bay windows. It was built ca. 1880 by Briggs for his son Fabius H. Briggs. Both the exterior and interior integrity of the Briggs-Argo-Aycock House, however, have been somewhat compromised by alterations made to convert it to a church.

Unfortunately, a study of Thomas Briggs' career as local master builder, and the extent to which he determined the design of buildings which he constructed, has not yet been undertaken. When such an analysis is made, the Wyatt House should still be standing and, it is hoped, restored. Briggs's 1879 to 1883 account book, preserved in the North Carolina State Archives, includes the complete record of the 1881-82 construction of the Wyatt House, at a cost of \$4,790. These accounts indicate that Wyatt paid extra during the construction to get a slate roof rather than wood shingles, and to get slate mantels rather than wooden ones.

Architecturally, the house provides a significant insight into an all but extinct class of buildings from the Victorian period. Whereas Raleigh possesses a number of large-scale High Victorian structures such as those along North Blount Street and the Second Empire style Dodd-Hinsdale House, the Wyatt House, barely more than half the size of its grander Raleigh contemporaries, is almost unique in the

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historical niche it fills. While its three-bay, two-story front provides an imposing public facade, the house is essentially merely six rooms. As such, it is most likely Raleigh's finest existing middle-class dwelling from the 1880s.

The architectural integrity and significance of the Wyatt House has been preserved largely because of its ownership having remained in the same family from its construction until its 1986 purchase by the State of North Carolina. Of particular note is the dramatic use of interior detail, with perhaps Raleigh's most ornate application of plaster crown moldings and ceiling medallions. Aside from the early twentieth-century addition of an upstairs bathroom and the enclosure and expansion of the rear porch, the house has never undergone any major changes. Thus, it provides an important example of Raleigh's Victorian past.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Leonidas R. Wyatt was born February 26, 1845 in Forestville, northern Wake County, North Carolina, and moved to Raleigh with his family in the early 1870s. The Wyatts operated a successful saddle and harness business, "E. F. Wyatt & Son," until 1901. Leonidas married Cora E. Crowder on April 30, 1879 and two-and-one-half years later began construction of their house at 107 West Jones Street. He was well known in Raleigh as owner of the Carolina Garage, which he operated until his death. His brother Job P. Wyatt became one of Raleigh's most successful merchants, with businesses that continue to this day.

Leonidas Wyatt died at his home on December 16, 1918. The house remained in Wyatt's immediate family throughout the life of his widow, who died May 12, 1842 at the age of 93, and his only daughter, Cora Elizabeth Wyatt, who died on November 30, 1986 at the age of 92. Miss Cora Wyatt was born in the house and lived there all her life until the last few years which she spent in a nursing home. Her elder brother Hubert L. Wyatt, who grew up in the house, became a physician and served in both World Wars. He died May 2, 1949 at the age of 58 in China Grove, North Carolina.

The Wyatt House remained empty from 1986 until 1988 when the property was sold to the State of North Carolina which scheduled the demolition of the building. The City of Raleigh then acquired the building and

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moved it to its current location at 107 South Bloodworth Street where it has been stabilized and protective covenants on the building granted to the Mordecai Square Historical Society. The City is marketing the building for sale and restoration as income producing property eligible for the historic rehabilitation tax credit.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B

The Leonidas R. Wyatt House had been scheduled by the State of North Carolina for demolition at its original East Jones Street site. Through the efforts of the Mordecai Square Historical Society and the City of Raleigh, the house was relocated on June 11 and 12, 1988 to a contextually appropriate site only six blocks away. Special care is being taken to preserve the structure's integrity of materials, design and workmanship. Its historical and architectural integrity will not only be preserved, but its chances for survival enhanced. Although the integrity of location and setting were lost in the move, integrity of feeling and association has been retained. The surrounding character of the 100 block of South Bloodworth Street, the new site, is a Victorian residential area, similar to the original character of the original site. In the past half-century, however, the Wyatt House had become surrounded and isolated by commercial and institutional buildings. The new site provides a more compatible setting, where it rests on an urban lot as part of a streetscape of Victorian houses.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Account Book of Thomas Briggs Jan. 1879 - July 1883. State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Harris, Linda L., An Architectural and Historical Inventory of Raleigh, North Carolina. Raleigh: City of Raleigh Planning Department, 1978.

Hood, Davyd Foard, State Historic Preservation Office. Interview, June 1988.

Norris, Elizabeth E. "The Last House on the Block." Wake History News. Raleigh: Wake County Historical Society, January 28, 1987.

Sanborn Map of Raleigh, North Carolina, 1896 & 1909. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh North Carolina. Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills)

Wake County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroup: Raleigh City Directory).

☐ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Office of Community Development, City of Raleigh

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1

UTM References

A 17 713940 3961780
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all of lot 5 in block A71 on map 552 of Wake County tax maps, a rectangular parcel that is 90 feet wide and 105 feet deep.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The entire legal parcel currently associated with the property. All adjacent property is associated with other unrelated resources.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Ellison (with the assistance of Ruth Little, State Historic Preservation Ofc.
organization Mordecai Square Revolving Fund date March 1990
street & number 1 Mimosa Street telephone 919/834-4844
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27604

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Section number Photographs Page _____

The following information pertains to all photographs:

- 1) Leonidas R. Wyatt House
- 2) Raleigh, North Carolina
- 5) North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC

- A. 3) Claudia Brown
4) April 1990
6) House, overall exterior, to northeast

- B. 3) Claudia Brown
4) April 1990
6) House, overall exterior, to southeast

- C. 3) Claudia Brown
4) April 1990
6) House, overall exterior, to northwest

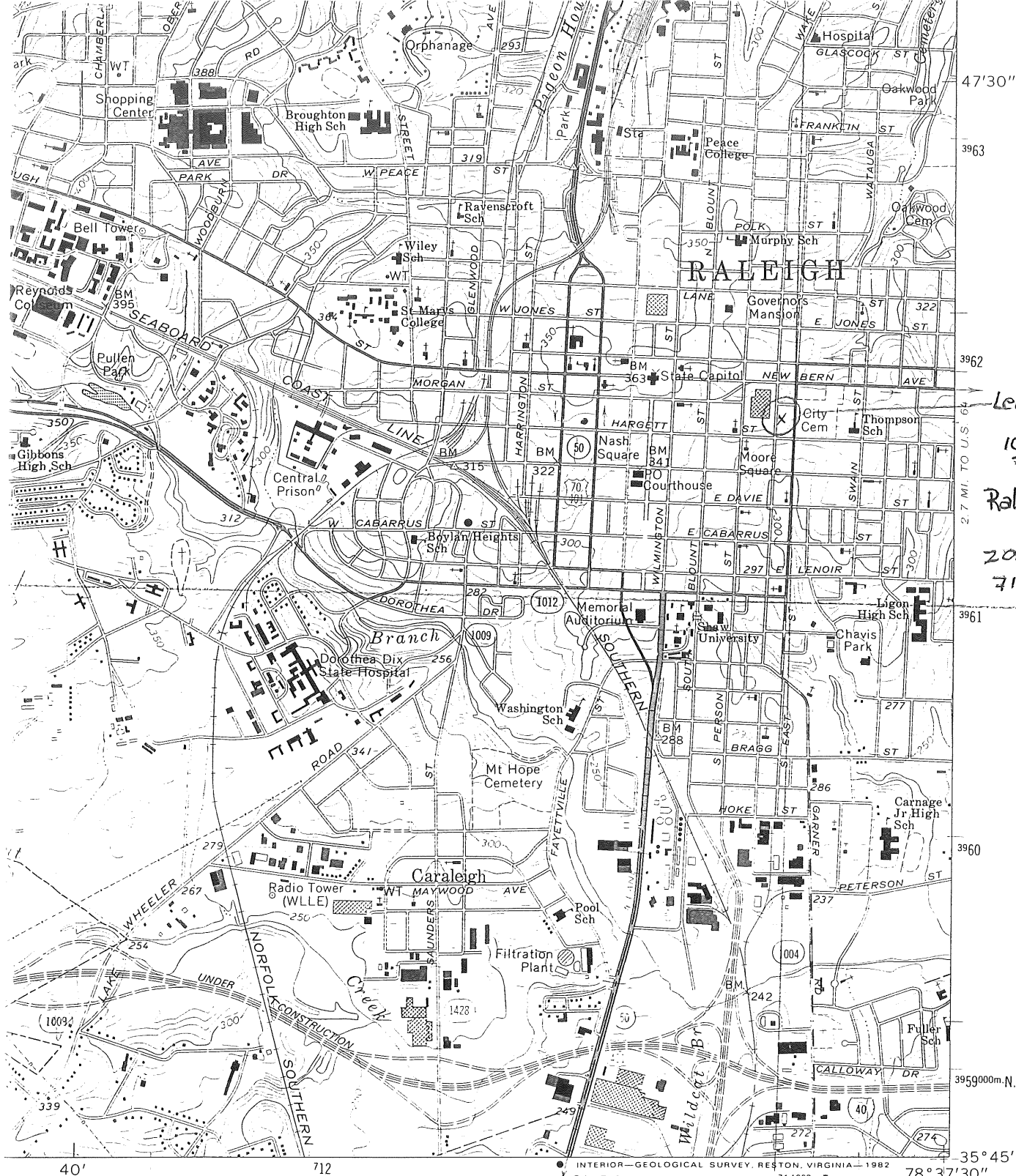
- D. 3) Randall Page
4) December 1987
6) Front porch detail, to southwest (house on original site)

- E. 3) Randall Page
4) December 1987
6) Front doors, to south (house on original site)

- F. 3) Randall Page
4) December 1987
6) House on original site, overall exterior, to south

- G. 3) Randall Page
4) January 1988
6) House interior, west parlor

- H. 3) Randall Page
4) January 1988
6) House interior, first floor center hall



Leonidas R. Wyatt
House
107 S. Bloodworth St
Raleigh, NC
Raleigh West NC
Quad
Zone 17;
713940/3961780

1 MILE



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route

RALEIGH WEST, N. C.

SW/4 RALEIGH 15' QUADRANGLE
N3545—W7837.5/7.5

1968
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 5255 I SW—SERIES V842

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of North Carolina agencies from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

