State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History  

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR  

Wilson County  

# MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION  

|x| Wilson County  

1 NAME  
HISTORIC  
Manalucus Aycock House  
AND/OR COMMON  

2 LOCATION  
STREET & NUMBER  
West side Center Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Black Creek  
STATE  
North Carolina  

| VERNIGIN OF | 2nd Congressional Dist.  

| NOT FOR PUBLICATION | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  

| STAGE CODE | COUNTY CODE  

| North Carolina 037 | Wilson 195  

3 CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORIY  
| DISTRICT  

| BUILDINGS  

| STRUCTURE  

| SITE  

| OBJECT  

| OWNERSHIP  

| PUBLIC  

| PRIVATE  

| BOTH  

| PUBLIC ACQUISITION  

| ACCESSIBLE  

| IN PROCESS  

| BEING CONSIDERED  

| STATUS  

| OCCUPIED  

| UNOCCUPIED  

| WORK IN PROGRESS  

| ACCESSIBLE  

| YES RESTRICTED  

| YES UNRESTRICTED  

| NO  

| PRESENT USE  

| AGRICULTURE  

| COMMERCIAL  

| EDUCATIONAL  

| PRIVATE RESIDENCE  

| ENTERTAINMENT  

| GOVERNMENT  

| INDUSTRIAL  

| TRANSPORTATION  

| MILITARY  

| OTHER  

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY  
NAME  
Watson & Julia Edwards  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Black Creek  
STATE  
North Carolina  

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE  
Registry of Deeds, etc  
Wilson County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Nash Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Wilson  
STATE  
North Carolina  

6 FORM PREPARED BY  
NAME / TITLE  
Kate Ohno, Preservation Consultant, October 25, 1982  
ORGANIZATION  
Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History  
DATE  
(919) 733-6545  
TELEPHONE  
STREET & NUMBER  
109 E. Jones St.  
CITY OR TOWN  
Raleigh  
STATE  
North Carolina
Like the Dr. H.D. Lucas House the Manalcus Aycock House stands on the west side of Center Street in the Town of Black Creek. (See Dr. H. D. Lucas House description for information on the setting) The Aycock House is the largest and most ambitious house in Black Creek. Built in 1900 for Manalcus Aycock, a son of one of the prominent farming families in Black Creek Township, the house is a statement of Aycock's prosperity. The contractor of the house was Claudius C. Rackley of Wilson, one of the most competent builders in the county. The Aycock House was built soon after tobacco became the main cash crop in the area, replacing cotton. Wide-spread interest in tobacco cultivation began in the county in the late 1870s and by 1892 a nearby tobacco market had been established in Wilson, the county seat. The Aycock House reflects the prosperity of the turn-of-the-century period in Wilson County as well as the tastes and values of the Aycock family.

The Aycock House is a large two-story frame house set in a grove of mature shade trees. This rambling structure is asymmetrically massed with a multitude of wings and cross gables as well as a generous wrap around porch. The main section of this six-bay double-pile house consists of a hipped-roof section with two-story cross-gable wings projecting from the north, south and east elevations. The cross-gable wings on the north and east elevations have two-story three-sided bays. A contemporary one-story gable roof ell is located at the rear and this is connected to a one-story hipped roof kitchen by an enclosed breezeway. The main section of the house, the ell and the kitchen all have slate roofs and the central hipped-roof section is ornamented by crockets. The hipped-roof porch extends part-way around the south elevation and boasts a beautifully preserved polygonal pavilion with a conical roof capped by a finial. The porch entry is pedimented with mock-half-timbering in the gable and a sawnwork arch stretching between two square posts. The rest of the porch is richly decorated with turned spindlework, turned posts, and sawnwork spandrels. The front door is trabeated and boasts an unusually fine stained glass transom and sidelights. The broad oak door has a large square light and nicely executed moldings. The use of stained glass in the door and other key points in the house is a rare example of stained glass in a rural setting. Most of the residential stained glass in the county is found in the City of Wilson.

On the interior a central-hall plan is followed with broad stairs rising from the front hall. The interior finish is boldly Victorian with a robust newel post, molded door and window surrounds, and ornate corner fireplaces. The Aycock House was renovated during the past ten years by the present owners, the Edwardses, but the character and all the fine early twentieth century details have been retained.
Also on the grounds is an early twentieth century hipped-roof garage which stands to the south of the house also facing Center Street. The garage is also roofed in slate, a rare treatment in Wilson County, particularly in the rural areas.

The Aycock House is one of Wilson County's most ambitious turn-of-the-century residences built in a small town. It is unusual in its size, the quality of its design and workmanship and in its state of preservation. The house is also significant because of its association with the prominent Aycock family and the house's builder, C. C. Rackley, one of the county's finest and most prolific contractors.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.
The Manalcus Aycock House (1900-01), located in the town of Black Creek, is one of Wilson County's most ambitious turn-of-the-century residences to be erected in a small town. The house, which displays an unusually high quality of design and workmanship, was built by Claudius C. Rackley of Wilson, one of the county's finest and most prolific contractors. Manalcus Aycock, the original owner of the house, was the son of a prominent tobacco farmer, and his residence reflects the prosperity of turn-of-the-century Wilson County as well as the tastes and values of the Aycock family.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

A. Associated with the prosperity that tobacco farming generated in turn-of-the-century Wilson County, the Manalcus Aycock House is reflective of the wealth and taste of a successful farming family.

B. The house was built by Claudius C. Rackley, a prominent Wilson County contractor, for the Aycock family, wealthy tobacco growers in the area.

C. The house is one of the most ambitious turn-of-the-century residences in the area, and is notable for its porch with intricate sawnwork details and for its stained glass windows.
The Manalcus Aycock House was built on the main street of Black Creek, Center Street, at the turn of the century. Like many other small towns in Wilson County, Black Creek benefitted from the introduction of bright leaf tobacco as a cash crop during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Tobacco cultivation was on the rise at the turn of the century and so were the prices offered for the crop. The prosperity engendered by the switch from cotton to tobacco caused many farm and town houses, large and small, to be built during this period. The Aycock House was the most impressive turn of the century residence to be built in Black Creek.

In September, 1900, R. E. Copeland, administrator of the estate of F. J. Woodard sold to Manalcus B. Aycock one lot in the town of Black Creek adjoining the land of E. B. Bass, Mrs. Elizabeth Joyner, and the railroad. Manalcus (Nack) Aycock was born on September 20, 1872, on the Aycock family farm outside of Black Creek. In 1898 he married Annie E. Moore of Wilson. Lumber for the Aycock House was cut from the Aycock farm and it was sawed and milled at the Aycock sawmill. Aycock hired Claude C. Rackley as his construction foreman and the other labor consisted of local men. According to Aycock's son, John Y. Aycock, who was born in August, 1901, in this house, Manalcus Aycock drew the plans for the house himself. Construction began in 1900 and was completed in early 1901.

Claude C. Rackley was a Wilson contractor of some distinction. Rackley was born in 1875 in Sampson County where his father was also a builder. He came to Wilson County as a young man and married Lillian Winstead of Elm City, daughter of a local cabinetmaker. Rackley was living in Wilson County by 1897, but it seems likely that the Aycock House was one of his first big jobs. He later went on to build other notable houses in Wilson and in the county, including the William Woodard House in Gardners Township (1914) and the Dr. Robert Putney House in Elm City (1919).

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wilson County Deeds, Wilson County Courthouse


### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<th>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Property being nominated consists of one city lot at the southwest corner of Center Street and Central Avenue. See enclosed map with property outlined in red.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The property being nominated is the city lot on which the house was built.</td>
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The Aycocks raised their family in the big house facing the railroad tracks and the couple continued to occupy the house until Manalcus Aycock's death in 1929. Aycock was a prominent planter and merchant. Apparently Aycock's son, John Y. Aycock, inherited the property at this point for in 1936 he and his wife deeded the house to his mother who owned it until 1956 when she deeded it back to John Y. Aycock.

Annie E. Aycock lived in the house until her death in 1967 and in 1969 her son, John Y. Aycock, deeded the property to Watson and Julia G. Edwards, the present owners. The Edwardses have renovated the house in a sympathetic manner and use it as their home.

Footnotes

1R.E.Copeland to Manalcus Aycock, September 26, 1900, Book 56, 64, Wilson County Deeds, Wilson.
4Aycock letter.
5Aycock letter.
6Aycock letter.
7Kate Ohno, Wilson County's Architectural Heritage (Wilson: 1981).
8Aycock letter.
12Aycock letter.
Photographs

The Manaclus Aycock House was originally surveyed and photographed during the 1980 county-wide inventory. The house was revisited in 1985 to determine its current condition. The house was found to be occupied, well-maintained and to be accurately depicted in the earlier photographs.