

## APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

### **Preparing Your Application:**

Please use black ink or type and use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Capital Area Preservation (CAP) staff is available to advise in the preparation of applications.

### **Filing Your Application:**

When completed, the attached application will initiate consideration of a property for designation as a local historic landmark. The application will enable the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) to determine whether the property qualifies for designation.

Mail the application to Capital Area Preservation, PO Box 28072, Raleigh, NC, 27611. Submitted materials become the property of the Wake County Government and will not be returned. Incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant for revision. CAP staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process (see *Landmark Designation Q & A* for more information). Please feel free to contact CAP with any questions at 919.833.6404, or e-mail at [info@cappresinc.org](mailto:info@cappresinc.org). CAP can be found on the web at [www.cappresinc.org](http://www.cappresinc.org).

**Thank you very much for your interest in protecting Wake County's historic resources!**

*\*The guidelines developed for this application are based on the evaluation process used by the National Register of Historic Places. National Register evaluation principles regarding criteria, category classifications, and integrity have been adapted for local applications.*

### **1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Joseph Blake Farm

Current Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Location**

Please include the full street address of the property, including its local planning jurisdiction. Wake County Property Identification (PIN) and Real Estate Identification (REID) Numbers can be found at the Wake County property information website at <http://imaps.co.wake.nc.us/imaps/mainpage.htm>, or by contacting the Wake County Planning Department.

Street Address: 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Knightdale, NC

Planning Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN Number: 1762513690 REID: 0093781

Deed Book and Page Number: Book 2332 Page: 677

Current Tax Value of Property: \$444,193.00

### **2. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)**

Name: Cecil & Mary Conyers

Address: 4301 Mial Plantation Road

Phone: 919.266.0506

Email: rupertmary@bellsouth.net

Ownership (check one): ☒ Private ☐ Public

### **3. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than owner)**

Name: Cynthia de Miranda, Mdm Historical Consultants

Address: PO Box 1399, Durham, NC 27702

Phone: 919-906-3136 Email: cynthia@mdmhmc.com

**4. Signatures**

*I have read the general information on landmark designation provided by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission and affirm that I support landmark designation of the property defined herein.*

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from owner)

**OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by:**

**Date:**

6. **General Data/Site Information**

**Date of Construction and major alterations and additions:**

ca. 1860, ca. 1890, ca. 1920, 1976, ca. 1980, ca. 1997, ca. 2000

**Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings:** 11, various dates (see description)

**A. Approximate lot size or acreage:** 21 acres

**B. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason:** not known

**C. Original Use:** farmstead

**D. Present Use:** farmstead

7. **Classification**

**E. Category (select type from below):** Site

- **Building** – created principally to shelter any form of human activity (i.e. house, barn/stable, hotel, church, school, theater, etc.)
- **Structure** – constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter (i.e. tunnel, bridge, highway, silo, etc.)
- **Object** – constructions that are primarily artistic in nature. Although movable by nature or design, an object is typically associated with a specific setting or environment (i.e. monument, fountain, etc.)
- **Site** – the location of a historic event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value, regardless of the value of any existing structure (i.e. battlefields, cemeteries, designed landscape, etc.)

**F. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:**

A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
<b>Buildings</b>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Structures</b>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Objects</b>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Sites</b>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**Previous field documentation (when and by whom):** Wake County Historic Architecture Survey, Kelly Lally, 1990-1991; Kelly Lally and Ruth Little, Walnut Hill HD National Register Nomination, 2000

*Please contact the Survey Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if the property is included in the Wake County survey (919.807.6573).*

**National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list):**

Listed as part of Walnut Hill HD in 2000

*Please contact the National Register Coordinator at the State Historic Preservation Office to determine National Register Status (919.807.6587).*

**8. Supporting Documentation** (Please type or print and attach to application on separate sheets. Please check box when item complete.)

**A. Physical Description Narrative of All Resources on the Site** ☒

For primary resource, describe overall form, number of stories, construction materials, roof shape, porches, windows, doors, chimney, important decorative elements, and significant interior features whether or not the interior is being proposed for designation. Provide number, type and location of outbuildings, with an entry on each that includes construction date and brief description. Provide description of landscape and setting of all buildings, structures, etc. on the property.

**B. Historical Background Narrative** ☒

Chronology of the property and its owners, including any historical events or historic persons associated with the property, presented in paragraph form.

**C. Significance Statement** ☒

In a clear, concise statement tell why the property meets the criteria for local designation. Please refer to pages 47-48 in *The Handbook for Historic Preservation Commissions in North Carolina* when preparing statement of significance. A link to the Handbook can be found on the SHPO website site at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/commhome.htm>. Specifically refer to the Criteria for Significance and Aspects of Integrity. Also state if the property rises to the level of significance needed for designation when compared with all others of its style, type and period in the county, town or city. For example, a building or structure might be a community's only surviving examples of Greek Revival architecture or it may be a unique local interpretation of the Arts and Crafts movement.

**D. Landmark Boundary** ☒

Describe the land area to be designated, address any prominent landscape features. Clearly explain the significance of the land area proposed for designation and its historical relationship to the building(s), structure(s) or object(s) located within the property boundary or, in the case of sites, the historical event or events that make the land area significant. For buildings and structures, the designated land area may represent part of or the entire original parcel boundaries, or may encompass vegetative buffers or important outbuildings. For objects, the designated land area may continue to provide the object's historic context (i.e., a statue's historic park setting). For sites, the designated area may encompass a landscape that retains its historic integrity (i.e. a battlefield encompassing undisturbed historic view sheds).

**E. Bibliography** ☒

Bibliography of sources consulted.

**9. Photographs** ☐

All photographs are required to be **digital, in JPEG (.jpg) format, and submitted on a CD or DVD**. Please note the following requirements:

- **Minimum Standard: 6.5" x 4.5" at a resolution of 300ppi** (a pixel dimension of 1950 x 1350)
- **File Size:** There is no maximum or minimum for the file size of an image; however, smaller file sizes may be necessary when emailing images.
- **Proof Sheet:** Proof sheets are required to show what is on a CD or DVD without having to load the disk. Proofs may be printed in either color or black and white as long as the images are crisp and legible. There should be a minimum of four and a maximum of six proofs per 8.5" x 11" sheet, with no image smaller than 3.25" on its longest side. Proofs should be labeled as they appear on the disk.
- **Naming Images:** Please label image files for the Local Designation Application as follows:

LM\_PropertyName Description.jpg  
Example: LM\_Smith House\_front façade.jpg)

For buildings and structures, include exterior photos of all elevations of the primary resource and any other contributing and non-contributing resources; photos of details of significant exterior features, such as notable trim; photos of the main building or structure within its setting; photos of each significant landscape feature; and photos of notable interior spaces, significant trim and other features. For objects, include a view of the object within its setting, as well as a variety of representative views. For sites, include overall views and any significant details.

**10. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures) ☐**

Please include a floor plan showing the original layout, approximate dimensions of all rooms, and any additions (with dates) to the building or structure. Drawings do not have to be professionally produced nor do they need to be to exact scale, but should accurately depict the layout of the property. (Building sketches from the Wake County property information website are not acceptable.)

**11. Maps ☐**

Include two (2) maps: one (1) clearly indicating the location of the property in relation to nearby streets and other buildings, and one (1) showing the proposed landmark boundary of the property and all significant resources. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but survey or sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.





## Section 8A: Physical Description

### *Property Description*

The Joseph Blake Farm lies southwest of the intersection of Smithfield and Mial Plantation roads in the Shotwell community of Marks Creek Township. Shotwell is an unincorporated place in southeast Wake County, and the farm is about eleven miles east of Raleigh and four miles south of Knightdale. The farmstead stands roughly in the center of an irregularly shaped, nearly 20-acre parcel. An unpaved drive proceeds from Mial Plantation Road through a grove of mature hardwoods, leading to a loop at the north end of a small yard in front of the house. A secondary drive branches from the west side of the loop, extending into the rear yard and passing a small, frame office that defines the west edge of the front yard. Three hundred and seventy feet to the east of the office, in an open, flat field east of the main house, stands a tobacco curing barn. The remaining farmstead spreads out behind the house to a tree line roughly three hundred to the south. West of the house are rolling hills used as grazing pasture. A manmade pond is at the southernmost corner of the property. The house and most of the outbuildings are rectangular frame structures with gabled or hipped roofs, typical of farm buildings built historically across eastern North Carolina.

### *House, ca. 1860, ca. 1890, ca. 1920, 1976, ca. 1980, ca. 1997, ca. 2000*

The house at the Joseph Blake Farm is a triple-A I-house with an original rear ell, built ca. 1890 upon the burned remains of an earlier house. The front-facing gable extends from the façade wall and holds a quatrefoil vent. Tuscan columns support a single-story, nearly full-width front porch. The porch sheltered the three bays of the façade, including a double-leaf, partially glazed front door and its flanking windows. Interior brick chimneys have corbelled caps and are set at the back of the I-house section, allowing a single chimney to heat a room in the front part of the house and a room in the rear ell. The six-over-six sash windows and weatherboard exterior are typical features and finish on a farmhouse of this type and era. The porch columns, the front door, and a cupola atop the main roof of the house are not. They were all salvaged from other houses in Raleigh, added to the dwelling since about 1980. Originally, the porch had slender squared posts in pairs and trios, and the front door was a single-leaf with four raised panels; it has been reused at a rear addition to the house. Some interior features are likewise salvaged from other buildings.

An original one-story ell extends from the back of the west end of the I-house, and a two-room addition made in the 1920s enclosed a rear porch at the back of the ell. The dining room, housed in the north end of the rear ell is the oldest part of the dwelling; it was the one room that survived the fire that destroyed the rest of the original ca. 1860 house. The current owner reports that it is of timber-frame construction. On the east side of the ell, original porches there and at the back of the two-story section were enclosed when the current owners purchased the property in 1976 and updated it with additional bathrooms and expanded living areas. The stone foundation was added at this time as well. Sunroom additions were made to the west and east sides of the back of the house ca. 1997 and ca. 2000, respectively.

The interior features a center-hall plan with a two-run stair with open stringers and a turned balustrade. The stair rail terminates with a robust turned newel. Walls are plaster and doors, like the original front door, have four raised panels. Fireplaces throughout the house have simple, vernacular mantels with flat pilasters and plain friezes. The chimney, fireplace, and mantel in the rear addition were added to the house in the 1976 rehabilitation.

*Office, ca. 1860*

One-story, single-room, hip-roofed frame building on foundation of dressed granite. Weatherboard exterior, four-panel door on the east elevation, interior brick chimney, and replacement six-over-six sash windows in the north and west elevations. Interior walls are plaster over lath. Unhewn framing timbers are visible under the flooring through gaps in the foundation. The building stands roughly sixty-five feet northwest of the house, overlooking the yard between the dwelling and the circular drive.

*Dairy, ca. 1860*

A small, finely built hip-roofed dairy stands on granite piers about thirty feet east of the farmhouse's rear ell. The building has board-and-batten siding, boxed cornice, and asphalt shingle roofing. The interior is nicely finished with plank walls, flooring, and ceiling and a high shelf around the interior walls. While its use as a dairy has not been documented, the finished interior, lack of windows, and close placement to the house suggest its use. Census information shows that Joseph Blake kept milch cows.

*Well House, ca. 1900*

A hip-roofed structure with square posts, this well house has been moved from its original location and retrofitted with louvers to create walls. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The structure stands in the rear yard just southeast of the house.

*Outbuilding 1, ca. 1870*

Hip-roofed, originally two-room outbuilding with overhanging roof, open eaves, and battened doors stands south of the well house. The building's original use is not known, but it has been converted to house birds. The partition dividing the building into two rooms has been removed and rectangular openings have been cut into the north, south, and west elevations. A caged pen has been added to the east side.

*Smokehouse, ca. 1860*

Large frame building on stone foundation stands east of Outbuilding 1. It has a front-gabled roof, weatherboard walls, battened door, and 5-v crimp metal roofing. The building has been converted for use in raising birds, and several small openings have been cut into the west, south, and east elevations; screened boxes have been attached to the openings to provide perches for birds. A wood stair has been added to the north side of the building. The basic structure of the building remains intact, despite these changes.



*Shed, ca. 1950*

A large, shed-roofed outbuilding with weatherboard siding stands near the southeast corner of the farmstead. A caged pen has been added to the south elevation to accommodate recent use as a chicken house.

*Equipment Shed, ca. 1890*

Open shed with gable roof stands toward center of the back of the farmyard. Built with heavy timbers reused from an earlier building.

*Outbuilding 2, ca. 1900*

Gable-roofed outbuilding with board-and-batten siding stands on a rubble foundation north of the equipment shed. The door is centered on the wide west elevation, but additional openings have been cut into the upper portion of the south elevation and a large screened box has been attached to the wall to provide perches for birds.

*Mule barn, ca. 1860*

Double-pen mule barn with center aisle, gabled roof, and shed extension at north side. The pegged, timber-frame barn stands on a stone foundation west of the equipment shed and has plank siding and doors hung on metal strap hinges.

*Cook's house, ca. 1870, moved ca. 1980*

Single-story, side-gabled dwelling with board-and-batten siding, six-over-six windows, replacement French doors, shed porch, and rear addition has been relocated southwest of the mule barn, overlooking a manmade pond. Original location was behind the main house; current owner reports that it was known as the "cook's house."

*Pond, ca. 1980*

Small manmade pond in the southernmost corner of the parcel.

*Tobacco Curing Barn, ca. 1900*

Upright frame building with 5-v crimp metal at the side-gabled roof slightly overhanging walls with tar paper sheathing and weatherboard in gable ends. The plan is roughly square, and the only opening is the lower half of the entire wall at the south elevation. Stands over three hundred feet east of the office, beyond the concentration of buildings that constitute the farmstead.

## Section 8B: Historical Background Narrative

Joseph Blake (1839-1902) was a well-to-do farmer in Wake County, coming into his own on the eve of the Civil War. Blake established a farm here on land inherited by his mother, Scheherazade Price Mial Blake (1805-1853), a daughter of Thomas Price of Oaky Grove (NRHP, 1993; Landmark, 1997). Blake's wealthy half-brother, Alonzo T. Mial (1823-1897), deeded him the land in December 1855, two years after their mother's death. Mial, sixteen years Blake's senior, was owner of Walnut Hill, a nearby cotton plantation established in the late eighteenth century by Mial's grandfather, Thomas Mial, Sr.<sup>1</sup>

The gift was substantial but made while Blake was still a teenager. It stipulated that he not take possession until the earlier of his twenty-first birthday or the birth of a child born in wedlock. Mial also conveyed ownership of seventeen enslaved men, women, and children. Most are named in the deed: Flara, Mat, Essex, Nelson, Walt, Absolem, Madison, Mahala, Francis, Milly, Clara, Austin, Eliza and child, Marcus, Jane, and Willis.<sup>2</sup>

Blake turned twenty-one on April 5, 1860, and took possession of the deeded gift. The slave population census of that year lists eighteen people under his name: ten males and eight females. Though their names are not included in the enumeration, their ages and sex are. They appear to be the seventeen people named in the deed of five years earlier. The two youngest include a six-year-old boy, who might have been the unnamed child of Eliza, and a four-year-old girl, born after the deed. Otherwise, the numbers of males and females match the list in the deed. They lived in the six slave dwellings owned by Blake's father, Bennett, along with the fifteen people considered part of the elder Blake's property. At the time the 1860 census count was taken, father and son were living together in one household, with Bennett as the head. Joseph's new house and supporting outbuildings were likely under construction, as the 1860 census lists the value of his real estate at \$3,500 and that of his father at \$2,800. In September 1860, Joseph married Lucy Caroline Person of Franklin County in Wake Forest. They had three children over the next four years.<sup>3</sup>

While the house they lived in does not survive, some outbuildings do. A small hip-roofed, board-and-batten structure southeast of the dwelling was likely a dairy,

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<sup>1</sup> "Walnut Hill Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA4084.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Alonzo T. Mial to Joseph Blake, December 19, 1855, Wake County Deed Book 20, pages 758-759, viewed online at [www.wakegov.com](http://www.wakegov.com).

<sup>3</sup> The housing situation for enslaved people was mirrored at neighboring Walnut Hill, where A. T. Mial's six slave dwellings likewise housed 33 people. 1860 Slave Population Schedule, MF Roll F.2.929, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Ancestry.com, *1860 United States Federal Census* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009); Ancestry.com, *North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741-2011* [database on-line] (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2015).

which would have stored the 150 pounds of butter reported in the 1870 agricultural census records. A gable-roofed, weatherboarded office stands just northwest of the house. Both outbuildings feature fine detailing, like dressed granite foundations and boxed cornices, that date them to the mid-nineteenth century. At the west end of the farmstead stands a more rustic mule barn with heavy timbers pegged together, and at the east end a large smokehouse stands on a stone foundation. These two buildings also appear to date to the period. Blake kept mules and oxen to work his 175 improved acres in 1870, and kept swine and other livestock for meat. His fourteen sheep produced fifteen pounds of wool, and farm crops included cotton, the cash crop, and corn, oats, and potatoes for consumption, market, and livestock feed. Blake paid out \$2,000 in wages and board to farm his 175 acres, \$400 less than the total value of his farm production. He also had 490 unimproved acres in 1870 and 300 acres of woodland at the time. The 1870 census lists the occupants of Blake's household as himself; his wife Lucy; their children John, Henry, and Sarah; and two black household workers, Evaline and Caroline. Evaline and Caroline might have lived in the ca. 1870 dwelling known as the "cook's house" that has been moved to the southeast corner of the parcel from a position just behind the main house.<sup>4</sup>

Blake retired from farming and moved to Raleigh sometime between 1884 and 1890. The 1880 census lists the family in Marks Creek Township, where Blake and his eldest son John were still farming. His second son Henry and daughter Sarah were in school, and the Blakes had adopted a young boy, Ernest Hampton. Joseph continued to farm the next few years, but in 1885, he began selling a lot of acreage to A. T. Mial. By 1890, Blake had left the Shotwell area and in 1900 was living with Lucy and a black household employee named Harriet Smith in Raleigh's Ward 1. Since 1884, he had intermittently worked as the county surveyor, and the 1900 census lists him as such.<sup>5</sup>

Blake's ownership of any remaining land in Shotwell by 1900 is unclear. He was renting the house in Raleigh, but still owned ten acres of land in Shotwell valued at \$50 in the 1890s. He sold 9-3/4 acres in Shotwell to Milliard Mial, a son of A. T. Mial, in 1894; whether this is the same tract is unknown. Oral history holds that the house at Blake's farm burned sometime near the end of the nineteenth century, and the existing house was built, incorporating one surviving room into the rear ell.

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<sup>4</sup> 1870 North Carolina Agriculture Schedule, Statistical Summary, Microfilm Roll F.2.117, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh; Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009).

<sup>5</sup> Levi Branson, Ed, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884), 664; Levi Branson, Ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1890* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890); Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010); "Walnut Hill Historic District," Ancestry.com, *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004).



Whether that happened during Blake's ownership or the ownership of the Mials has not been determined.<sup>6</sup>

Millard Mial and his nephew Carl Williamson continued purchasing tracts that had once been part of the elder Mial's holdings. Millard also inherited nearly one thousand acres of his father's land upon his death in 1897. Between purchases and inheritance, Millard Mial came into ownership of the Blake farm. He continued growing cotton in Shotwell into the 1930s. In the early twentieth century, however, he increasingly grew tobacco as a cash crop, which replaced the dominance of cotton in eastern Wake County. The tobacco barns at Walnut Hill and the one surviving barn at the Joseph Blake Farm are testament to the shift in commercial agriculture from cotton to tobacco in eastern Wake County. The shift at the Blake Farm may have predated Mial's ownership of the Blake farm.<sup>7</sup>

In 1920, Millard Mial sold the Joseph Blake farmstead and 172 surrounding acres out of the family for the first time in a transaction with Wade Hampton Harris. Harris also farmed the land through the next decades, living there with his sister Mary. He died in 1962, and his death certificate listed him, at 83 years of age, as a farmer. Later in the twentieth century, the North Carolina Baptist Foundation owned the property for a time before current owners Cecil Rupert Conyers Jr. and Mary Byrum Conyers purchased the farmstead and twenty-one acres in 1975. They spent a year rehabilitating the house and moved from Raleigh to the Blake House in 1976. They raised their family and hundreds of birds at the property. The couple continues to live in the house in their retirement.<sup>8</sup>

## **Section 8C: Significance Statement**

The Joseph Blake Farm, established ca. 1860, exemplifies a late-antebellum, well-to-do, eastern Wake County farm in operation into the twentieth century. Joseph Blake hailed from a wealthy family and inherited the land upon which he built his farm. While his holdings did not rise to the level of planter, his wealth was on par with about a quarter of Wake County farming families in 1860, according to Kelly Lally's study of Wake County's historic architecture. The farmstead comprises buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth-century through the early twentieth-century. The variety of building types and construction dates are testament to the decades of agricultural use of the land. While they have seen some alteration, their basic form

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<sup>6</sup> 1900 *Federal Census*; Levi Branson, Ed., *Branson's Alphabetical Directory of Raleigh* (Raleigh: L. Branson, 189?), 471; Joseph Blake to Millard Mial, November 21, 1894, Wake County Deed Book 128, page 268; "Walnut Hill Historic District."

<sup>7</sup> "Walnut Hill Historic District."

<sup>8</sup> Millard Mial to Wade H. Harris, Wake County Deed Book 352, page 576; Ancestry.com, 1910 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006); Ancestry.com, *North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1976* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007); North Carolina Baptist Foundation to William Parrish, Wake County Deed Book 2295, page 320; William Parrish to Cecil and Mary Conyers, Wake County Deed Book 2332, page 677, all viewed online at [www.wakegov.com](http://www.wakegov.com).

and materials are intact, as is the layout of the overall farmstead. The farmstead is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Walnut Hill Historic District, designated in 2000.

The farm retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. It remains in its original place and mostly retains the historic arrangement of buildings. Buildings have not been rebuilt and therefore retain materials and workmanship. These aspects contribute to the overall integrity of feeling and association. The aspect of setting has been somewhat compromised as the property's use has shifted from commercial agricultural production to mainly residential and hobby farming, but the farm retains open spaces associated with agricultural use.

As Wake County continues to develop, agricultural cultural resources—particularly extensive farmsteads—are increasingly rare and worthy of designation. Other farms designated as local landmarks in Wake County include farms from different periods and social strata. The seats of larger, older plantations, such as Beaver Dam, Oak Grove, Midway Plantation, and the Montague-Jones Farm, represent the planter class and the early nineteenth century agricultural practices of a large operation. Other farms were established in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, such as Seagroves Farm, a twentieth-century tobacco farm, or the ca. 1890 Jesse Penny House, recognized for its remarkably intact architecture. The Joseph Blake Farm fills an important position between these examples. It was established in the late antebellum period and retains buildings from that period, but also continued in use through much the twentieth century, evolving with changing crops and agricultural practices.

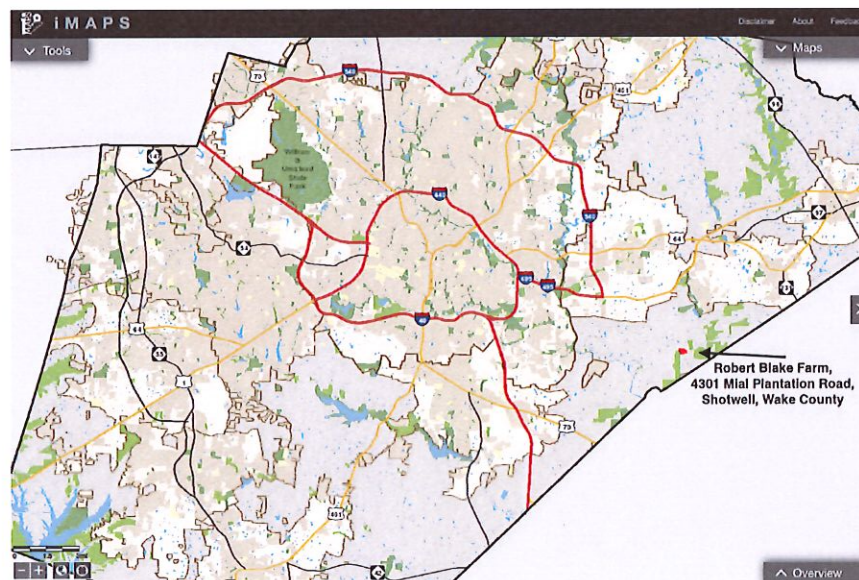


## Section 8D: Local Landmark Boundary Description

The boundary line coincides with the lot lines of the parcel that the house occupies, as depicted in the Tax Map below. This boundary includes the historic farmstead and surrounding acreage with the grove of hardwood trees in front of the house and open fields to the east and west. A tobacco barn stands in the open field to the east, and the west field is still used for grazing.



Tax Map showing parcel associated with PIN 1762513690



Joseph Blake Farm Location Map

## Section E: Bibliographic Sources

Branson, Levi, Ed. *Branson's Alphabetical Directory of Raleigh*. Raleigh: L. Branson, 1897.

---. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884*. Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1884.

---. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1890*. Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1890.

---. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1896*. Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896.

Molloy, Kelly Lally and M. Ruth Little. "Walnut Hill Historic District." 2000. Available at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA4084.pdf>

Lally, Kelly A. Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (1770-1941). Available at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA7244.pdf>.

---. *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*. Raleigh: Wake County Government, 1994.

Wake County Deeds. Available online at [www.wakegov.com](http://www.wakegov.com).

United States Census Records. Available online at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

United States Agricultural Census Records. Available on microfilm at the North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.



## Section 9. Photographs



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
View south down driveway toward house.



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Façade of house, view southwest.





Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Office, view



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Dairy, view northeast.





Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Wellhouse, view northeast.



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Outbuilding 1, view south





Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Smokehouse, view northwest, toward rear of house.



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Equipment shed and Outbuilding 2, view west.





Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Mule barn, view west.



Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
"Cook's House," view south.





Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Shotwell, Wake County, NC  
Tobacco curing barn, view east.

