



**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Pat McCrory, Governor
Susan Kluttz, Secretary
Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources

November 15, 2016

Gary G. Roth
President & CEO
Capital Area Preservation
P.O. Box 28072
Raleigh, NC 27611

RE: Landmark Designation Report for the **Joseph Blake Farm, 4301 Mial Plantation Road, Knightdale, Wake County**

Dear Mr. Roth:

Thank you for the report for the above-cited property which is being proposed for landmark designation. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.4.

Established ca. 1860, the Joseph Blake Farm comprises the main house and numerous domestic and agricultural outbuildings dating from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century that represent changes in farming practices throughout the period. Despite alterations made to several of the outbuildings, the farm retains a wide range of building types that retain their form and materials and remain substantially in their original layout. Consequently, the property is notable as a rare surviving example in rapidly developing eastern Wake County of a well-to-do farmer's operation begun in the late antebellum period and evolving well into the twentieth century. We believe the designation report provides the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission and the Wake County Board of Commissioners adequate information to determine that the Joseph Blake Farm has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation.

We also note that the property may contain archaeological resources associated with the house or outbuildings. Care should be taken to avoid inadvertent damage or destruction of these resources during any ground-disturbing activities.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes a property as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to a designated landmark are subject to the design review procedures of the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission. The owner may apply for an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity.

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If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the designation report must be revised to describe the interior and the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only and are not binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission and has proceeded in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance, the governing board may proceed with the designation decision. Once the designation decision has been made, please return the completed designation confirmation form, enclosed.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed landmark designation of the Joseph Blake Farm. Please contact me at 919-807-6573 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

Claudia R. Brown
Supervisor, Survey and National Register Branch

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure