



HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2511

Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102

919-727-2087

APPLICATION for HISTORIC DESIGNATION HISTORIC and ARCHITECTURAL

INFORMATION FORM

1. Name of Property: Historic Col. William Allen Blair House
Common Blair House
2. Owner's Name and Address: Michael Newdow
210 South Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
3. Location of Property: 210 South Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
4. Amount of Land to be Designated: The entire interior and exterior of the structure, situated on 28,139 +- square feet.
5. Tax Block: 66 Tax Lot: 101 & 201

ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER WILL BE NECESSARY FOR
DOCUMENTATION ON QUESTIONS 6 THROUGH 13.

6. When was the building erected? For Whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame.) Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.
7. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the building? (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.) Do any architect's plans or building accounts exist? Where?
8. Do you have any old photographs of the building? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
9. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom? (i.e., a quick chain of title) If possible, please give some background on each occupant, (i.e., occupations or other interesting facts). List the sources of your information.
10. What was the building's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
11. What is the significance of this property (Please be specific and to the point). Include a complete list of sources for your information.

City of
Winston-Salem

County of
Forsyth

Town of
Kernersville

12. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration and was the restoration done under the supervision of any historical group or in compliance with their requirements. If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?
13. Is the property listed in any existing Historic Register or survey (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places or any other state or local history)? If so, please give the title of the listing.

In addition to the written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:

- a black and white, 8" x 10" overall photograph clearly depicting the property being designated.
- color slides showing all 4 sides of the building (may also include any architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance)
- a map showing the location of the property, including any outbuildings and appurtenant features

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

APPLICATION FEE \$50.00 (Check payable to Forsyth County)

The following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

1/28/92
Date


Signature of Property Owner

Mailing Address:

Michael Newdow
210 South Cherry Street
PO Box 20444
Winston-Salem, NC 27120-0444
[REDACTED]

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Application for Historic Designation
Historic and Architectural

COL. WILLIAM A. BLAIR HOUSE

Documentation of questions 6-13

#6: The building was erected in 1901 for Mary Eleanor Fries Blair and her husband, William Allen Blair. Prior to 1991, the only significant modification occurred in 1914, when the center, front bedroom was divided into a bathroom and study. In 1991, work was begun to remodify that bathroom/study into two bathrooms. As a result of this change, a second floor hallway - which served as an access to the communal second floor bathroom - was rendered unnecessary. Thus, this hallway is being converted into a furnace room, a closet and a utility area.

Additionally (since 1991), the roof is being completely refurbished. Real slate is being reinstalled, with each piece individually cut to match the original "fish-scale" design. As part of this project, insulation has been placed externally over the sheathing. This has allowed the intricate wooden members of the roof to remain visible from inside the attic, which is being converted into a living area. Also, for improved attic lighting, two skylights have been installed on the south side (where their presence is hardly detectable from the street).

Finally, a new heating and air conditioning system is presently being installed, and the plumbing and electrical systems are being updated.

#7: It is believed that an architect was involved in the design of the house, but his or her name has not been discovered. Construction was performed by Fogle Brothers Lumber Company. A set of preliminary original plans has been obtained, but some significant changes were obviously made either before or during construction. Copies are in my possession.

#8: I have very few past photographs, and those appear to be relatively recent.

#9: The building was lived in by the Blair family until 1983. In 1984, it was sold to William Blair House Associates - a preservation group. They sold it to Jules Smythe, Jr. in 1985, who, in turn, sold it to Tridevesco in 1988. That group defaulted on its loans in 1990, and the property was acquired by the holder of the mortgage - Triad Bank. I purchased the home from them in 1991.

#10: The building has only been used as a single family residence - and only by one family prior to my purchase. The building has never been moved.

#11: Please see the enclosed.

#12: Please see the enclosed. I am uncertain as to supervision of any prior restoration, but it was obviously performed with care and maintenance of the architectural features. The present efforts (see above) are being supervised by me, in consultation with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

#13: In 1985, the property was entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Allen Blair House

and/or common Blair House

2. Location

street & number 210 S. Cherry Street not for publication

city, town Winston-Salem vicinity of

state North Carolina code county Forsyth code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. R. A. McCuiston/John Fries Blair

street & number 210 S. Cherry Street

city, town Winston-Salem vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Forsyth County Hall of Justice, Registry of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Winston-Salem state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title From Frontier To Factory, An Architectural History of Forsyth County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

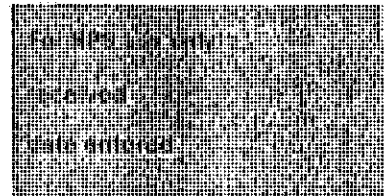
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The William A. Blair House, constructed in 1901, is one of the finest two-story frame Colonial Revival residences which remain in Winston-Salem. The house stands at 210 South Cherry Street and faces east on a lot bounded by Cherry Street, High Street, Marshall Street and Hylehurst, the 1886 Queen Anne residence of John W. Fries, Blair's father-in-law. The Blair House stands on a city block where three generations of Fries' descendants have lived, and it is one of only four high-style turn-of-the-century residences which survive along Cherry Street, formerly a residential boulevard of some of Winston-Salem's most outstanding families.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries there occurred a reawakening of interest in architecture of the American Colonial period. The Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 is credited with starting the movement, and fashionable New York architects, McKim, Mead and White, among others, began designing in the Colonial Revival style in the 1880s. Most early examples of the style were free interpretations of Colonial architecture with details inspired by the period.¹

The William A. Blair House features Colonial details such as a symmetrical facade which emphasizes the central bay, a Palladian window and gabled dormers. The Blair House was constructed by Fogle Brothers Lumber Company, an important building concern in Winston-Salem which built most of the finer residences in the town. Although research to date has not revealed the name of any architect, it seems likely that one would have been involved in the design. According to family tradition, Mary Eleanor Fries Blair, whose parents' home was Hylehurst, wanted the interior plan of her new home to be similar to Hylehurst. She figured prominently in the planning and design of the William A. Blair House.

The exterior of the Blair House features a high hipped roof with gabled dormers and central facade gable which frames a Palladian window. Most of the fenestration throughout the house consists of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows with decorative shutters. Beneath the central facade gable is a projecting second story bay emphasized by a balustrade which stands over the entrance bay of a one-story, wrap-around front porch. The entrance bay of the porch features paired Doric columns and leads up to a raised-panel, double-leaf front door surrounded with sidelights and a leaded glass transom.

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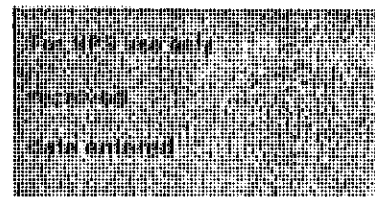
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Fluted Doric columns and turned balusters lead around the edge of the front porch into the porte-cochere located on the north elevation of the house. This elevation also contains an octagonal bay at the northeast corner and a second story overhanging bay with scroll brackets near the center of the elevation. The rear or west elevation features a back porch with a flat roof and a balustrade which shelters a rear kitchen entrance. There is a basement entrance with a large, seven-paneled door at the southwest corner of this elevation. The south side of the house is accented by a projecting two-story octagonal bay with scroll brackets supporting a third-story gabled overhang.

The interior of the house features a spacious inverted L-shape plan entrance hall with raised-panel oak wainscoting and a staircase which rises in the base of the "L" in the halls' northwest corner. The north and south parlors, library and dining room all open into the entrance hall through paneled pocket doors. The rear service hall which leads to the kitchen and butlers' pantry and contains service staircases to the basement and second floor, also opens off the entrance hall. The main staircase off of the entrance hall features a square, paneled newel post, turned balusters and an angled handrail and leads to a broad landing with a three-part leaded glass window. The central window panel contains a torch of stained glass and the side panels contain stained glass wreaths.

The north and south parlors flank the entrance hall, with the north parlor the larger of the two. This room, which was re-decorated in the 1920s, features an Adamesque mantel of curly maple with inlay and swags.³ The walls are accented by applied bolection molding to simulate paneling above the chairrail. There is an octagonal bay on the north wall. In the south parlor the woodwork is maple. The west wall contains a neo-classical mantelpiece with fluted Ionic columns and a frieze with an applied swag. According to family members, the original overmantel with its mirror was removed from this room in the 1920s.⁴ Maple doors, eight and a half feet tall, appear on either side of the mantel; the south door opens into a closet while the north door connects to the library.

Probably the most important room in the house to William A. Blair, an avid reader and educator, was the library. The room has a southern exposure with an octagonal bay. The three other walls are lined with oak, glass-front bookcases. The mantelpiece on the east wall features a neo-classical design executed in oak with a mirrored overmantel. The tiles surrounding the coal grate opening display mythological figures. Oak picture molding circles the room.

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The central original light fixture can be fueled by gas or electricity. A large opening on the west wall leads to a library annex with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and a library ladder. At one end of the annex is an oak-paneled bathroom.

The dining room features an octagonal bay with a northern exposure. The wood in this room is curly red birch. According to family tradition, the birch was sent to the town of Winston for use as telephone poles, but it was not what the town had ordered. Winston offered to sell the wood to Fogle Brothers at the time it was building the Blair House and Mr. Blair agreed to its use in the dining room.⁵ The mantel piece in this room also is neo-classical and features a mirrored overmantel. The door beside the mantelpiece leads to the butler's pantry which is lined with pine cupboards and is directly across the service hall from the kitchen. The kitchen retains its original narrow, vertical oak wainscoting and the door and window surrounds are molded with miter blocks in the corners.

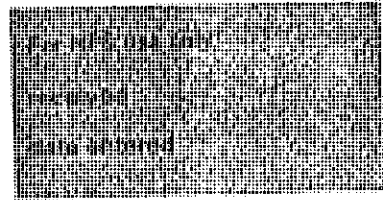
On the second floor there is a spacious stair hall off of which open five bedrooms and a rear hallway. The hall has oak baseboard and picture molding and the oak door surrounds which lead into the bedrooms are molded and feature moveable glass transoms and miter blocks. A delicate spindelwork screen frames the entrance to a hallway leading to the guest bathroom which contains the original oak wainscoting and marble basin. According to family members, the three bedrooms on the front of the house were the children's rooms; the north bedroom was used by guests, and Mr. and Mrs. Blair used the south bedroom with an octagonal bay above the library. A bathroom and linen storage area are adjacent to the Blair's bedroom, and they retain original cabinets, paneling and bath fixtures. The small bedroom in the southwest corner of the house was used by servants.⁶

All of the bedrooms except for the servant's room feature pine woodwork and fireplaces with mirrored overmantels and decorative coal grates with tile surrounds. The guest room retains its picture molding, and several rooms, including the stair hall, retain their original light fixtures. In addition, the stair hall features the original electrical panel installed in the house which is encased in a glass-front box with a molded oak surround.

In 1914 the center, front bedroom was divided into a bathroom and a study, and John Fries Blair was moved to a former servant's room.

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Directly across from this servant's room are the enclosed steps to the attic. The attic is a well-lit, floored space with exposed roof truss systems and a steep flight of steps which lead to the roof.

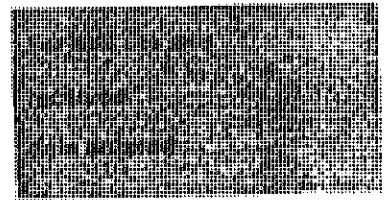
The Blair House also features a full basement which contained servants quarters, a coal chute, a furnace room, storage space and a small conservatory on the south side below the projecting bay for Mrs. Blair's plants and flowers.

The lot surrounding the Blair House is enclosed by a wrought iron fence featuring gates leading out to High Street. The Blairs had a garden on the northwest corner of the lot, and magnolias and mock orange trees remain on the property.⁸

The Blair House is remarkable not only for its fine detailing, but also for the high degree to which it has been preserved. The house features its original floors, wood finish on the paneling throughout the house, door and window fittings, light fixtures and other electrical and plumbing features.

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Footnotes, Architectural Description

¹Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide To American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), p.326, hereinafter cited as McAlester, Field Guide.

²Author's interview with John Fries Blair and Margaret Blair McCuiston, Winston-Salem, October 15, 1984, hereinafter cited as Blair and McCuiston interview.

³Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁴Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁵Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁶Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁷Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁸Blair and McCuiston interview.

6. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify, below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901

Builder/Architect Fogle Brothers

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

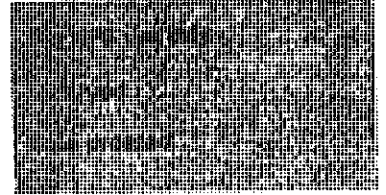
SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The William Allen Blair House, built in 1901, is an impressive reminder of the high-style residences which lined Cherry Street in Salem and Winston around the turn of the century, and it is an important historical monument for the Twin City. The house is one of the few surviving residences along Cherry Street and it stands just north of Hylehurst, the home of John W. Fries, William A. Blair's father-in-law. William A. Blair lived in the house at 210 South Cherry Street for forty-seven years, during which he became well-known as one of the strongest advocates for public welfare in the state. Blair served as chairman of the North Carolina Board of Public Charities for forty-four years. In 1952 Blair's son, John Fries, moved back to Winston-Salem to begin the John F. Blair Publishing Company, and he lived in the house until 1983. Three generations of Fries' descendants have lived on the city block which contains Hylehurst and the Blair House, making it unique in Winston-Salem. The William A. Blair House is a physical reminder of the many highly significant accomplishments and contributions of William A. Blair, Mary Eleanor Fries Blair and their descendants to both Winston-Salem and the entire state of North Carolina.

Criteria A: The W. A. Blair House is one of only four surviving high-style, turn-of-the century residences along Cherry Street, formerly the finest residential boulevard in both Salem and Winston. It is associated with the late nineteenth and early twentieth century boom periods in Winston-Salem when industrial wealth flourished and gave rise to large and impressive residences.

Criteria B: William A. Blair, Mary Eleanor Fries Blair, and their children, Margaret Blair McCuiston, Marian Hunt Blair and John Fries Blair, have all contributed significantly to the educational, business and religious life in Winston-Salem.

Criteria C: The William A. Blair House is one of the finest Colonial Revival houses remaining in Winston-Salem and it was constructed by Fogle Brothers Lumber Company, one of the best and most prolific building firms in Winston-Salem at the turn-of-the-century.

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William Allen Blair was born on June 4, 1859, near High Point in Guilford County, North Carolina, to Solomon Issac and Abigail (Hunt) Blair. Both Solomon I. Blair and his father, John Blair, were natives of Randolph County, North Carolina and were prominent members of the Quaker faith. In addition, Abigail Hunt's grandfather and great-grandfather were preachers in the Friends Church, and Nathan Hunt, her grandfather, was instrumental in the founding of Guilford College.¹ William A. Blair was one of seven children born to Solomon and Abigail Blair, and he grew up on his father's farm near High Point.² He began his formal education at home and attended the New Garden Preparatory School (later Guilford College) until he went to Haverford College in Pennsylvania where he received an A.B. degree in 1881. Blair then went to Harvard University for another year of study to prepare him for a career in education, and he earned another A.B. degree from Harvard in 1882.³

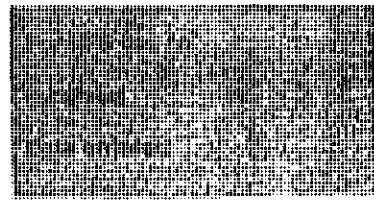
After his graduation in 1882, Blair traveled in New England and Canada studying the educational systems there, but he returned to High Point later that same year to become the principal of High Point High School. By 1883 he was a professor in the State Normal School, superintendent of Sabbath Schools for the Friends Church in North Carolina, and the superintendent of schools in High Point. In 1884 he became editor and part-owner of the newspaper, The High Point Enterprise. He returned to school, however, in 1885 to study for a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.⁴ In 1887 William A. Blair came to Winston to be the superintendent of the State Normal School and to become editor and part-owner of Schoolteacher, known as "the largest and best education magazine in the South."⁵ In addition to his duties at the State Normal School, Blair was Winston's superintendent of schools in 1888 as well as president of the North Carolina Association of City Superintendents and the first president of the Winston Y.M.C.A.⁶

An account of William A. Blair's career stated that "teaching and lecturing were his most congenial vocations but the possession of unusual business ability soon brought him into contact with business affairs."⁷ In 1890 Blair accepted the presidency of People's National Bank in Winston, and soon thereafter he decided to study law on his own in addition to his banking career. He was admitted to the North Carolina Bar in 1894.⁸

In 1895, at the age of thirty-six, William A. Blair married Mary Eleanor Fries, the youngest child of John W. and Agnes de Schweinitz Fries.⁹ The Fries family was a prominent one in Salem

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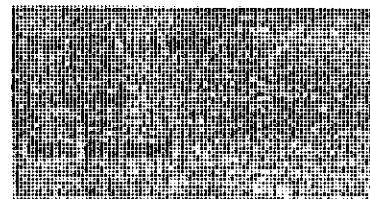
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and in the Moravian Church. John W. Fries was an outstanding businessman, inventor and civic leader. He was the son of Francis Fries, one of Salem's great 19th century industrialists. Agnes de Schweinitz Fries was the daughter of Bishop Emil de Schweinitz, a well-known clergyman in the Moravian Church.¹⁰ Mary Eleanor Fries was born on July 9, 1873, and she received a B.A. degree from Salem Academy and College in 1890. She was a talented artist who studied in Florence, Italy in 1890 and 1891, and her charcoal portraits of Salem College presidents still hang in the College offices. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Mary E. Fries translated Gauis the Greek by Ferdinand Broches from German to English and it was published by the Religious Tract Society of London. She also wrote the words to the Moravian hymn, "Our Fathers God To Thee We Raise," which was chosen by the church as one of its official Quincentennial hymns in 1957. William and Mary Eleanor Blair had three children: Margaret Agnes, born in 1896, Marian Hunt, born in 1898, and John Fries, born in 1903.¹¹

The William A. Blairs lived at Hylehurst, the home of John W. Fries, for the first five years of their marriage.¹² Fries had purchased the city block bounded by Cherry, Brookstown, Marshall and High Streets in 1870 from Robert Gray. A one-story brick dwelling stood on the property and John and Agnes Fries lived there until 1886 when it was removed to build Hylehurst, the only structure in North Carolina known to be the work of architect Henry Hudson Holly.¹³ According to family tradition, Mary Eleanor Blair liked the plan of Hylehurst, and when John Fries gave her and W. A. Blair the land for their new house, she patterned the interior from the plan of Hylehurst.¹⁴ The house was constructed in 1901 just north of Hylehurst where the tennis court and gardens for Hylehurst had been located. Fogle Brothers Company, a well-known and prolific building concern around the turn of the century in Winston and Salem, was commissioned to build the Blair House and William Miller was the foreman.¹⁵ Research has not produced the name of any architect associated with the building of the Blair House, but it seems likely that Mr. and Mrs. Blair did have some design assistance.

William A. Blair received countless honors and awards during his lifetime in fields ranging from business to education to civic and religious life. North Carolina's governor J. Melville Broughton said of Blair that he was "a man who has devoted more of his time to public service than he has to his own private and personal concerns."¹⁶ In 1891 Blair was appointed to the state Board of

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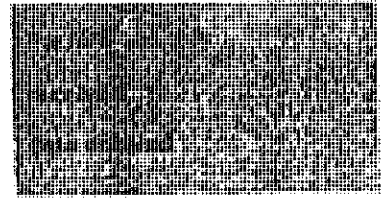
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Public Charities (later called the Board of Charities and Public Welfare), and he served as its chairman from 1904 until his death in 1948. He was a founder of Slater Industrial Academy (now Winston-Salem State University) in 1892 and served on its Board of Trustees for over forty years. In 1898 Blair was elected president of the North Carolina Bankers Association, and in 1905 he was the first person from North Carolina appointed to the United States Assay Commission. Blair received the honorary title of "colonel" in 1905 from President Theodore Roosevelt after assisting him on his inaugural committee. In 1909 William A. Blair served on President William Howard Taft's inaugural committee. During his lifetime Blair was a director of Chatham Manufacturing Company and the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, a trustee for Salem Academy and College and for the George Peabody College for Teachers, and a member of the national councils for Boy Scouts and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He was also a master of the Winston Masonic Lodge, president of the Wachovia Historical Society, and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for eleven years. From 1928 until his death he was president of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem.¹⁷

By 1941 ill health confined Colonel Blair to his home most of the time, but with characteristic energy, Blair used the time to compile three pamphlets of history, records and legends about the Moravians and Salem. Among Colonel Blair's articles were "History of the Moravian Settlements in North Carolina," "Moravian Customs," "Moravian Legends and Stories," and "Days We Celebrate And Why."¹⁸ Colonel Blair's health improved and he was able to travel to Raleigh in April, 1944, to receive recognition from Governor Broughton for more than fifty years of service on the Public Welfare Board. Broughton stated that: "We meet to give recognition and to confer honor upon a man who for more than half a century devoted his life and his talents, his personality and his time to one cause, and that to the cause of human welfare."¹⁹ When Blair came to the Board of Public Charities in 1891 there were no city or county welfare agencies in North Carolina, but by the end of his term every county contained a welfare organization.²⁰

On March 2, 1948, William A. Blair died at his home on Cherry Street and on March 4th a funeral service was held at the house.²¹ According to a newspaper account of the service, "The lower rooms of the large, old house were crowded . . . and outside many stood."²² Mary Eleanor Fries Blair continued to live in the house until her death on September 3, 1966.

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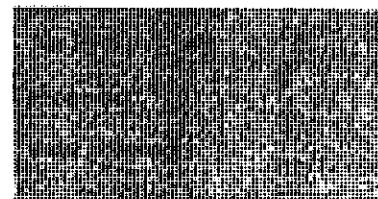
The children of William A. and Mary Eleanor Blair have been outstanding citizens in their own right. Margaret Agnes Blair received her A.B. degree from Salem College in 1914 and her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1917. She married Robert A. McCuiston on April 29, 1922, and she has been a devoted volunteer in Winston-Salem's civic and religious communities. She was a charter member of the Junior League in 1923; she served as president of the Girl Scout Council from 1940-1942, and she was elected president of the Salem College Alumnae Association and a trustee of the College from 1951-1953. Mrs. McCuiston has maintained a life-long interest in drama and has organized drama groups in both the Junior League and Home Moravian Church. She has been a delegate to many of the provincial synods of the Moravian Church and served as a member of the Moravian Archives Committee from 1961-1981.²⁴ Marian Hunt Blair (1898-1957) also attended Salem College and Wellesley, and she was the registrar of Salem College from the 1920s to the early 1940s.²⁵

John Fries Blair's life and career has rivaled that of his father in its variety and its contributions to the community and the state. John Fries Blair followed in his father's footsteps and went to Haverford College in Pennsylvania, where he majored in philosophy and won high academic honors. After graduation in 1924, Blair entered Harvard Law School, received his law degree in 1928, and returned to Winston-Salem to practice law. He practiced law for twelve years, during which time he served as secretary of the Forsyth County Bar Association, director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, president of the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, and teacher of a Sunday school class at Home Moravian Church. In 1940 Blair decided that his "interest in things literary was greater than in things legal," and he closed his office and went to Columbia University to obtain a Master of Arts degree in English and comparative literature.²⁶ He became an assistant professor of English at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for two years and then he returned to North Carolina to become assistant director of the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. During his tenure in Chapel Hill he pursued his hobby of acting and he was a member of the Carolina Playmakers. After two years at the Institute Blair became a member of the editorial staff of the University of North Carolina Press, and in 1952 he came home to Winston-Salem to the house in which he was born.²⁷

After a year of teaching English at Salem College, John Fries Blair decided to organize his own publishing company in

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

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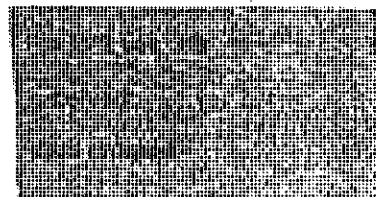
Page 5

Winston-Salem in 1954. Blair's publishing philosophy has always been to promote regional writers who might not otherwise find an outlet for their works. In his own words: "I think it is important to preserve, rather than destroy, regional differences. I think that regional companies can have an effect in helping to preserve the history of a region."²⁸ With this philosophy, John F. Blair has published books such as Ben Dixon MacNeill's The Hatterasman and Charles E. Whedbee's tales of the Outer Banks of North Carolina.²⁹ John Fries Blair has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, and on May 18, 1981, Wake Forest University bestowed on him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.³⁰ In 1983 he received the North Caroliniana Society Award for "his promotion, enhancement, production and preservation of the literature of his native state."³¹ John F. Blair, Publisher, continues today as a thriving publishing house.

John Fries Blair lived in his childhood home at 210 South Cherry Street until October, 1983, when he moved into Hylehurst with his sister, Mrs. Margaret Blair McCuiston. In December, 1984, the Blair House will be sold to Lamar S. Taft, who plans to adapt it for use as office space or an inn.

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National Park Service

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Footnotes, Significance Statement

¹History of North Carolina, North Carolina Biography,
Volume IV, (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), p. 92-
93, hereinafter cited as N.C. Biography.

²N.C. Biography.

³N.C. Biography; Author's interview with John Fries Blair
and Margaret Blair McCuiston, Winston-Salem, October 15, 1984,
hereinafter cited as Blair and McCuiston interview.

⁴"W. A. Blair, 88, Businessman, Educator, Dies," Winston-
Salem Journal, March 3, 1948, p. 1, hereinafter cited as "W. A.
Blair Dies;" N.C. Biography.

⁵"W. A. Blair Dies."

⁶"W. A. Blair Dies."

⁷N.C. Biography.

⁸N.C. Biography; "W. A. Blair Dies."

⁹Margaret Blair McCuiston, "Book of Origins, Robert A.
McCuiston," manuscript in possession of Margaret Blair McCuiston,
hereinafter cited as McCuiston, "Book of Origins."

¹⁰Adelaide L. Fries, "Family Tree Book," manuscript in
possession of Mrs. Robert A. McCuiston, hereinafter cited as
Fries, "Family Tree."

¹¹Fries, "Family Tree;" McCuiston, "Book of Origins."

¹²Blair and McCuiston interview.

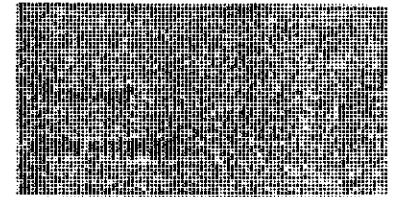
¹³Gwynne S. Taylor, "Hylehurst," National Register Nomination,
1983, hereinafter cited as Taylor, "Hylehurst."

¹⁴Blair and McCuiston interview.

¹⁵Blair and McCuiston interview.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

¹⁶"North Carolina Recognizes 53 Years Welfare Service by Testimonial to William A. Blair," Public Welfare News, Vol. 7, No. 2, June, 1944, hereinafter cited as Public Welfare News.

¹⁷McCuiston, "Book of Origins;" "W. A. Blair Dies."

¹⁸Sherman Shore, "Blair Compiles 4 Volumes on Moravian History, Lore," Winston-Salem Journal, January 4, 1943.

¹⁹Public Welfare News.

²⁰Public Welfare News.

²¹"Blair Rites Conducted At Home," Twin City Sentinel, March 4, 1948, hereinafter cited as "Blair Rites."

²²"Blair Rites."

²³McCuiston, "Book of Origins;" "Mrs. William Blair, Funeral Is Monday," Winston-Salem Journal, September 4, 1966, hereinafter cited as "Mrs. William Blair."

²⁴McCuiston, "Book of Origins."

²⁵Blair and McCuiston interview.

²⁶Margaret Blair McCuiston, John Fries Blair (Chapel Hill: North Caroliniana Society, Inc., 1983), p. 14-15, hereinafter cited as McCuiston, John Fries Blair.

²⁷McCuiston, John Fries Blair.

²⁸Roy Thompson, "John F. Blair, Publisher," Winston-Salem Journal, May 22, 1983, as quoted in McCuiston, John Fries Blair, p. 29, hereinafter cited as Thompson, "John F. Blair."

²⁹Thompson, "John F. Blair," p. 28.

³⁰McCuiston, John Fries Blair, p. 16.

³¹McCuiston, John Fries Blair, p. 21.

Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Winston-Salem East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Block 66 Lot 101

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>NA</u>		<u>NA</u>	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gwynne S. Taylor

organization Consultant

date 11-26-84

street & number 827 Westover Avenue telephone 919-725-9000

city or town Winston-Salem state North Carolina

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William S. Fair, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 31, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

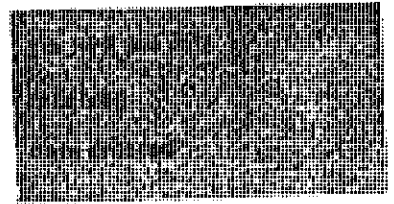
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

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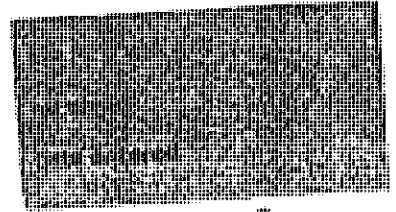
Page 1

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13 March 1948.
- Blair, John Fries and McCuiston, Margaret Blair. Interview.
15 October 1984.
- "Blair Rites Conducted At Home." Twin City Sentinel. 4 March 1948.
- "Blairs Have Been Wed 50 Years." 21 November 1945. William A.
Blair Clipping File, Forsyth County Public Library, North
Carolina Room.
- "Fifty Years on Board." William A. Blair Clipping File, Forsyth
County Public Library, North Carolina Room.
- Fries, Adelaide L. "Family Tree Book." Winston-Salem. (unpublished
manuscript).
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New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919.
- McCuiston, Margaret Blair. "Book of Origins, Robert A. McCuiston."
Winston-Salem. (unpublished manuscript).
- McCuiston, Margaret Blair. John Fries Blair. Chapel Hill: North
Caroliniana Society Inc., 1983.
- "Mrs. William Blair; Funeral Is Monday." Winston-Salem Journal.
4 September 1966.
- "North Carolina Recognizes 53 Years Welfare Service by Testimonial
to William A. Blair." Public Welfare News. Raleigh: North
Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, June, 1944.
- Richards, Charles. "Publisher Shows Growth." Winston-Salem
Journal. 28 December 1958.
- Shore, Sherman. "Blair Compiles 4 Volumes on Moravian History,
Lore." Winston-Salem Journal. 4 January 1943.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

9

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2

Taylor, Gwynne S. "Hylehurst." National Register Nomination.
North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1983.

"W. A. Blair, 88, Businessman, Educator, Dies." Winston-Salem
Journal. 3 March 1948.

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Raleigh,
North Carolina
27611

December 3, 1984

Hon. Mayor Wayne A. Corpening
P O Box 2511
Winston-Salem, N. C. 27102

Re: The William A. Blair House
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Dear Mayor Corpening:

We are pleased to report that the nomination of the property referenced above to the National Register of Historic Places has been scheduled for presentation to the State Professional Review Committee at its meeting in Raleigh on January 10, 1985. The Committee will decide whether to authorize me as State Historic Preservation Officer to sign the nomination and submit it to the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for final review and listing in the National Register.

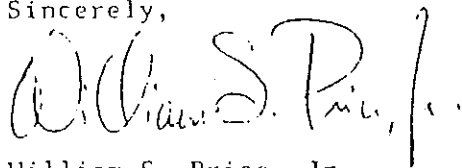
The National Register is the nation's official list of historic buildings, districts, archaeological sites, and other resources worthy of preservation. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated. More than 1000 North Carolina properties are now listed in the National Register.

Listing in the National Register does not affect the rights of a private property owner to dispose of listed property in any manner. The results of National Register listing are enumerated on the enclosed fact sheet.

Owners of private property nominated to the National Register have an opportunity to concur in or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 60. The procedure for objecting to listing is indicated on the fact sheet. If you choose to object to the listing of your property, the objection must be submitted to me at 109 East Jones Street by January 8, 1985.

If you wish to comment on whether the property should be nominated to the National Register, please send your comments to me before the State Professional Review Committee considers this nomination on January 10, 1985. A copy of the nomination and information on the National Register and Federal tax provisions are also available from the above address upon request.

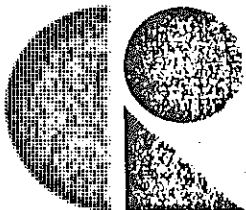
Sincerely,



William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP/bch

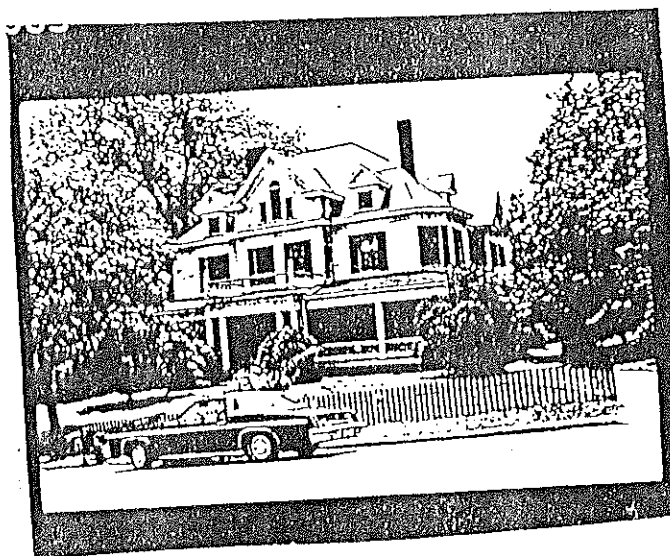
Sara W. Hodgkins
Secretary
James B. Hunt, Jr.
Governor



14/1

Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places

- (1) (a) Historic Name: The Colonel William Allen Blair House
Common Name: The John Fries Blair House
- (2) Location: 210 South Cherry Street - Tax Block 561, Lots 101-201
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101
Forsyth County, 5th Congressional District
(In the South Marshall Street Community Development Area)
- (3) Classification:
Category: Building
Status: Occupied
Present Use: Private Residence
Ownership: Private
Accessible: Yes
- (4) Ownership: Mr. John Fries Blair
210 South Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101
- (5) Request for the Determination of Eligibility: By the Forsyth County/
City of Winston-Salem Planning Board for the Community Development Block
Grant B-77-MC-37-0011 for the City of Winston-Salem.
- (6) Representation in Existing Surveys: None
- (7) Description:
 - 1) Kind of structure: Dwelling
 - 2) Building placement: detached single-family residence.
 - 3) General Characteristics: The Colonel William Allen Blair House is a two-story frame residence built in 1901 by the Blair family.



Specific Characteristics

The Colonel William Allen Blair House is a two-story frame structure with a wide veranda. It was built by Colonel Blair and his wife, (who was the daughter of J. W. Fries). Mrs. Blair was so pleased with architect H. Hudson Holly's design of the J. W. Fries House that she used the same floor plans, reversing them left to right. A special architect was not employed.

The house was built by a local construction firm, Fogle Brothers. The family took occupancy in the spring of 1901. One of the main changes Mrs. Blair made was an addition off the library. It was a long alcove with bookshelves on each side, in addition to bookshelves in the library.

The two front rooms are panelled with maple. Elaborate mantelpieces and ceramic tiles trim the fireplaces. The hall and library is trimmed in oak. The dining room is cherry. The upstairs bedrooms are laid out much like the J. W. Fries house. A copy of an artist's rendering of the J. W. Fries House is enclosed for reference to the floor plan.

8) Historical Significance

The Colonel William Allen Blair House is significant because it was the home of the president of People's National Bank, who was also an outstanding educator.

William Allen Blair was born on June 4, 1859, to Solomon I. and Abigail P. (Hunt) Blair. The Blair family was of Scotch origin and was of the Quaker faith. Abigail Hunt Blair was the granddaughter of Nathan Hunt, the founder of Guilford College. William Allen Blair, one of seven children, spent his childhood on a farm near High Point. He attended the New Garden Boarding School (which is now Guilford College) and graduated from Haverford College in 1881 with a B.A. degree. He also received a B.A. degree in 1882 from Harvard. He served as Superintendent of High Point Schools, professor in the North Carolina State Normal School, and was a co-founder of the High Point Enterprise newspaper. During the winter of 1885-1886 he studied at John Hopkins University and lectured on the "science and art" of teaching at Swarthmore College. In 1886, he came to Winston and served one year as principal of the old Winston High School. From 1887 to 1890, he served as superintendent of the Winston schools. From 1887 to 1889, he was the superintendent of the State Normal School during the summer months. While he was there, he was editor and owner of The School Teacher. In 1889, he received a Master of Arts from Trinity College (now Duke University). In 1890, he was elected president of People's National Bank and was actively engaged in the banking business for forty years. He joined the legal bar in 1894.

Blair was appointed to the State Board of Welfare in December of 1891, and served as its chairman from 1904 until his death. He was awarded a special citation by the Governor on April 19, 1944, for his work on the Board. Blair was a founder of Slater Industrial Academy in 1892 (now Winston-Salem State University) and served on the Board of Directors for more than forty years. In 1898 he was elected president of the North Carolina Bankers Association. In 1901, Blair was a member of the Executive Committee of the Conference for

Education in the South held at Salem College. In 1905, he was appointed to the rank of Colonel by President Theodore Roosevelt and served as a member of the Inaugural Committee. In 1909, he achieved the same rank from President Taft and served on his Inaugural Committee. In 1912, Blair was elected director of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, where he served until his death. He was a trustee of Salem College and the George Peabody College for Teachers. He was the first president of the Winston-Salem YMCA, served on the Boy Scout Commission of the National Council of Boy Scouts, and was a member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1899, he was a North Carolina delegate to the World Sunday School Conference in London. On June 9, 1947, he received an honorary L.L.D. degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He died March 2, 1948.

On November 20, 1895, Colonel Blair married Mary Eleanor Fries, daughter of John W. Fries. They had three children: Mrs. Margaret McCuiston, Marian H. Blair and John Fries Blair. Mary Eleanor Fries Blair was the daughter of John William Fries and Agnes Sophia deSchweinitz. She graduated from Salem College in 1889 and received the A.B. degree from Salem in 1890. The following year she studied art in Italy. Her charcoal portraits of Salem College presidents still hang in the Trustees Room in the Inspector's House on campus. After the Blair's marriage they lived in the J. W. Fries house for five years. In the spring of 1901, they moved into the Blair house, which was "just up the hill" from her homeplace.

(9) Major Bibliographic References

- (A) Personal communication with Mrs. Robert McCuiston, July, 1977.
- (B) North Carolina, the Old North State and New. Author and Editor: Archibald Henderson and Special Staff, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1941.

(10) Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 1

UTM References

A	<u>16</u> zone	<u>567800</u> easting	<u>3994130</u> northing
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Verbal boundary description

See Tax Block Map, Block 66, Lots 101-201

(11) Form prepared by:

Name/Title: Jean Marie Craddock, Research Assistant
 Date: August, 1977 Phone: (919) 727-2942
 Organization: Forsyth County/City of Winston-Salem Planning Board
 Street and Number: P.O. Box 2511, Winston-Salem, NC 27102



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

James G. Martin, Governor

Patric Dorsey, Secretary

February 27, 1985

Mrs. R.A. McCuiston/John Fries Blair
210 S. Cherry Street
Winston-Salem, N. c. 27101

Dear Owners:

It is a pleasure to report that the nomination of the William Allen Blair House to the National Register of Historic Places has been approved by the State Professional Review Committee for submission to the U. S. Department of the Interior. A copy of the completed nomination is enclosed.

When the property is approved by the Department of the Interior for entry in the Register, a certificate will be sent to you. This may require up to six months, depending upon the backlog in Washington.

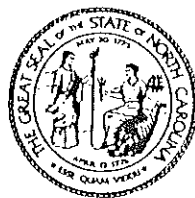
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Price, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP/bch

Enclosure



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

James G. Martin, Governor

Patric Dorsey, Secretary

May 20, 1985

Mrs. R. A. McCuiston
224 S. Cherry St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Dear Mrs. McCuiston:


Please accept the enclosed certificate which states that William A. Blair House in Forsyth County has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. You are most fortunate to own and preserve a property that justly deserves this honor.

The National Register has been called a "roll call of the tangible reminders of the history of the United States." It is, therefore, a pleasure for the Division of Archives and History to participate in this program and thereby make our nation aware of North Carolina's rich cultural heritage.

Should you wish to have this certificate presented to you formally by a representative of the State Historic Preservation Office, please feel free to contact us with your request and any arrangements you might want to make for the ceremony.

In order that we may keep our records up to date, it would be very helpful if you would notify us of any changes in ownership or of any major alteration of the property, including moving, destruction, remodeling, or restoration. We appreciate your efforts and your cooperation in preserving the best of our past for posterity.

Sincerely,


William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP/dlb

Enclosure

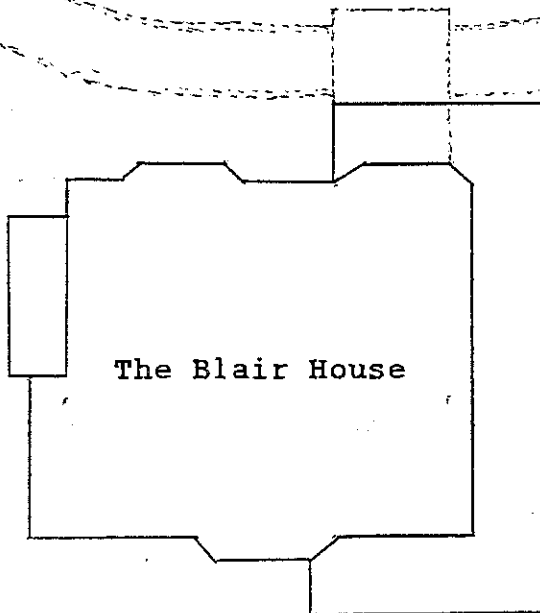
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NORTH

Scale: 1 mm = 1 foot