

CARY HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Preparing Your Application:

Please type if possible. Use paper no larger than 11" x 17" for the required supporting information. Staff is available to advise on 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 Town of Cary Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC) to determine whether the property qualifies for designation. The CHPC will make its recommendation to the Cary Town Council.

Mail the application to Town of Cary Planning Department, PO Box 8005, Cary, NC, 27512. Submitted materials become the property of the Town of Cary and will not be returned. Incomplete applications may be returned to the applicant for revision. Staff will contact applicants after receiving an application to discuss the next steps of the designation process. Please contact staff with any questions at (919) 469-4084, or at anna.readling@townofcary.org.

1. Name of Property (if historic name is unknown, give current name or street address)

Historic Name: Nathaniel Jones Graveyard

Current Name: Nathaniel Jones Graveyard

2. 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://services.wakegov.com/realestate/> or by contacting the Town of Cary Planning Department.

Street Address: 0 Tolliver Court, Cary, North Carolina

PIN Number: 0763914438 Real Estate ID Number: 0127944

Deed Book/Pg Number: Book 4444 Page: 0520 Appraised Value: \$1,700

3. Legal Owner of Property (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: Town of Cary

Address: 316 N. Academy Street

City: Cary State: North Carolina Zip: 27513

Phone: (919) 469-4084

Email: anna.readling@townofcary.org

Ownership: Private Public: Local State Federal

4. Applicant/Contact Person (If other than the owner)

Name: Anna Readling, AICP, Senior Planner, Town of Cary Planning Department

Address: 316 N. Academy Street, 1st Floor

City: Cary State: North Carolina Zip: 27513

Phone: (919) 469-4084 Email: anna.readling@townofcary.org

5. General Data/Site Information

Date of Construction and major alterations and additions:

The earliest date that appears on an intact gravestone or monument in the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard is 1815, the date of Nathaniel Jones's death, and the next oldest date is 1847, the year that Jones's second wife, Rachel Perry Jones, died. A 1987 archaeological survey conducted at the graveyard by John Clauser, Jr., former State Archaeologist with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, revealed at least ten burial shafts, which is consistent with the family's oral history and written records (Figure 26). According to family tradition, the following family members are buried in the graveyard:

Nathaniel Jones (1749-1815)

Millison Blanchard Jones (1754-1785), first wife of Nathaniel Jones who bore seven children, and died three days after the birth of Seth Blanchard Jones.

Robert Jones (1773-1780)

Evan Jones (1778-1780)

Rachel Perry Jones (1766-1847)

Alfred Jones (1789-1865)

Burwell Perry Jones (1791-1833)

Timothy Walton Jones (1793-1827)

Wesley Jones (1794-ca. 1865)

Martha Jones Courts (1802-ca. 1861)

The graveyard had been neglected for many years when descendants of the Jones family, in conjunction with the Town of Cary's 1971 centennial celebration, visited the cemetery and found it to be in poor condition. In 1974, with the founding of the Cary Historical Society, there was interest in conserving the grave markers of Nathaniel Jones and Rachel Jones. The Society and other interested groups discussed the matter in meetings of the Town of Cary's town council as early as 1978. In 1986, Town of Cary staff worked with the Cary Historical Society and SunSouth Homes, Inc. (developers of the surrounding subdivision known as Maynard Oaks and at the time, owners of the graveyard) on a proposal for the conservation of the grave markers.¹

In June 1987, the Cary Historical Society engaged David C. Fischetti, P.E. to provide an assessment of the Nathaniel Jones monument, with accompanying drawing and plan of action for the monument's stabilization and conservation, and an archaeological study of the cemetery was completed by the N.C. Office of State Archaeology. The Town of Cary and the Cary Historical Society, with support from the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, donated funds for conservation work on Nathaniel Jones's monument, which had been leaning precariously for an unknown period of time. They also erected an iron replacement fence around the gravestones that measures approximately 30 feet by 60 feet, and stands 4 feet tall. This rectangular boundary was denoted

¹ "Staff Report," 1986, supplied by staff of the Cary Planning Department. This report was prepared by J.W. Shearin, Planner, and Bonnie Estes, Assistant Planning Director, and submitted to Town Council and various town departments.

by large square native stones holding remnants of an earlier iron fence that encircled the graveyard. In addition, they restored the collapsed sides of Rachel Perry Jones's box tomb and covered it with a temporary stone top because the original ledger stone had been displaced and was in pieces scattered throughout the cemetery. The conservation work was completed in 1989 and SunSouth Homes deeded the site to the Town.²

In 2009 - 2010, with funds donated by the Cary Historical Society, the Town and the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel installed a permanent granite ledger stone for Rachel Jones's box tomb. The ledger stone was engraved with the original inscription, having been recorded in February 1981 by Irene Kittinger of the Cary Historical Society before the original ledger stone was broken into pieces and eventually lost. They also added small marble tablets behind four unadorned fieldstone head markers, behind one unadorned marble foot marker, behind three damaged marble head markers that are missing sections bearing the deceased's attributes (name, date of birth, death of death, epitaph, etc.), and at the head of the one unmarked grave. In addition, they installed interpretive signage outside the fence. The fieldstones and damaged marble tablets are original to the cemetery and its period of significance. The nine new marble tablets are approximately 2 feet tall, and are comparable to the height of the fieldstones and the lower section of the original marble tablets that mark the various burial locations. The new marble tablets do not compromise the cemetery's integrity.

On November 7, 2012, the Yates Mill Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a commemorative grave marking ceremony and mounted on the gate leading into the graveyard a bronze plaque in honor of Nathaniel Jones. This plaque honors Nathaniel Jones's service as a Patriot during the American Revolution, and organizers of the grave marking service documented the ceremony with photographs and a video that they uploaded to the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel's YouTube channel.³

Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings:

N/A

Approximate lot size or acreage: .02 acres

Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: Unknown

Original Use: Cemetery

Present Use: Cemetery

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc33mz0-c80>. Accessed 28 May 2017.

7. Classification

A. Category (indicate all that apply):

- 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 landscapes, etc.)

B. 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.

	No. of Contributing	No. of Noncontributing
Buildings		
Sites		
Structures		
Objects	10	10

C. Previous field documentation -- when and by whom. (Contact staff to determine whether the property has been included in a previous survey):

Edwards Pitman Environmental - Wake County Survey Update Phase I (2006)

Jennifer Martin, EPE - County Survey Update Phase II (2007)

Mary Ruffin Hanbury - Cary 2011-2013 Historic Resources Study and Inventory (2013)

D. National Register of Historic Places status:

✓	Status	Date
N/A	Entered	
N/A	Nominated	
N/A	Nominated and Determined Eligible	
N/A	Nominated and Determined Not Eligible	
N/A	Removed	
Significant changes in integrity since listing should be noted in section 11.F.		

8. **Reason for Request:** The Town of Cary seeks the local landmark designation as a measure to provide protection for the cemetery, as well as to recognize the local significance of Nathaniel Jones and his family and the contributions that they made to the history of Cary and Wake County, North Carolina.

9. **Is the property income producing?** Yes No

10. **Are any interior spaces being included for designation?** Yes No

Signatures

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

Owner:	_____	Date:	_____
Owner:	_____	Date:	_____
Owner:	_____	Date:	_____
Owner:	_____	Date:	_____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Fee: _____ Amt Paid: _____ Check #: _____
Rec'd by: _____ Rec'd Date: _____
Completion Date: _____

11. Supporting Documentation

11A. Photographs



Figure 1. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 2. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northwestcorner
Camera facing south.



Figure 3. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 4. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 5. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 6. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Commemorative plaque.



Figure 7. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_southelevation
Camera facing north.



Figure 8. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_southelevation
Camera facing north.



Figure 9. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_southelevation
Camera facing north.



Figure 10. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_southelevation
Camera facing west.



Figure 11. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_westelevation
Camera facing west to show details of stone bases for old enclosure.



Figure 12. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_NathanielJonesMonument
Camera facing west.



Figure 13. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_NathanielJonesMonument



Figure 14. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_RachelPerryJonesBoxTomb
Camera facing west.



Figure 15. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_marbletabletsmarkingburials
Camera facing north.



Figure 16.
WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_marbletabletsmarkingburialsandgroundcover
Camera facing west.



Figure 17. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_marbletabletmarkingburials
Camera facing west.



Figure 18. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 19. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 20. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south.



Figure 21. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
Camera facing south. Visible is the cul-de-sac at the intersection of Dorchester Pines Court
and Tolliver Court.



Figure 22. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
 Camera facing south. Visible is the cul-de-sac at the intersection of Dorchester Pines Court and Tolliver Court.

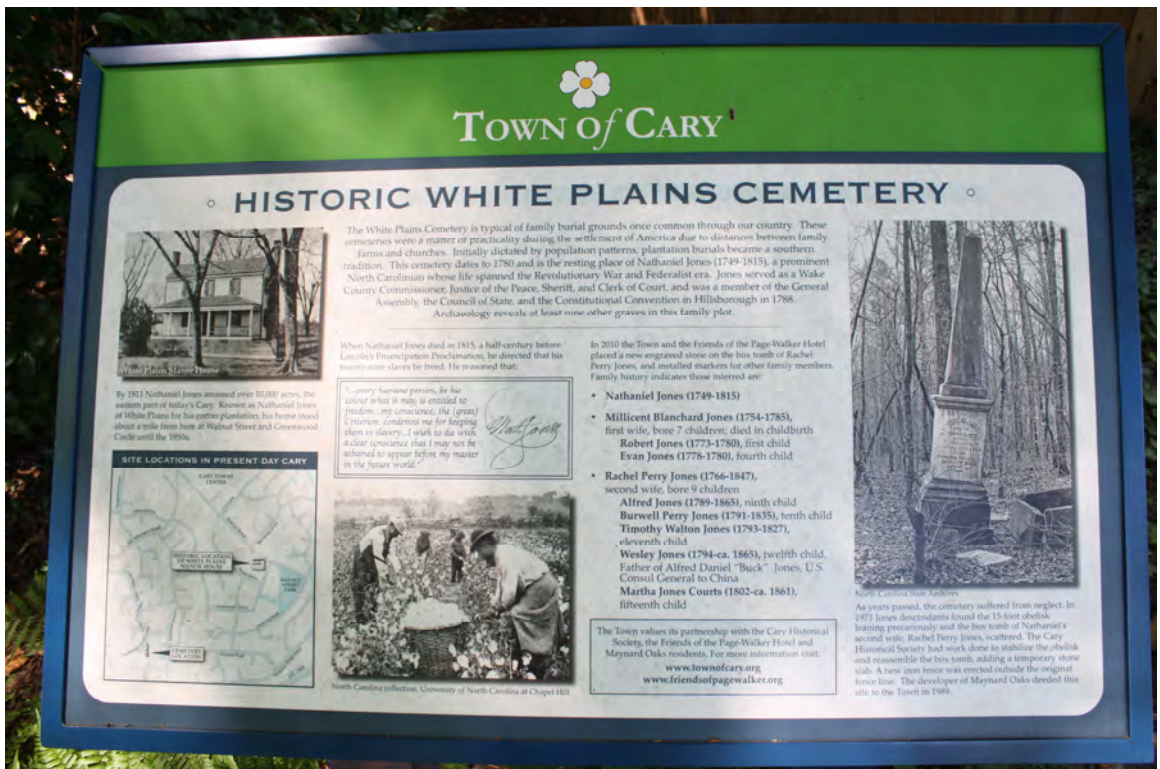


Figure 23. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_northelevation
 Interpretive Signage.



Figure 24. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard_monumentsbeforeconservation
This photograph was taken in the 1970s. An original copy is located at the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, but staff of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center provided this electronic copy to Jason L. Harpe.



Figure 25. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard
This poster shows photographs before, during, and after conservation at the graveyard. Staff of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center provided a digital copy of this poster.

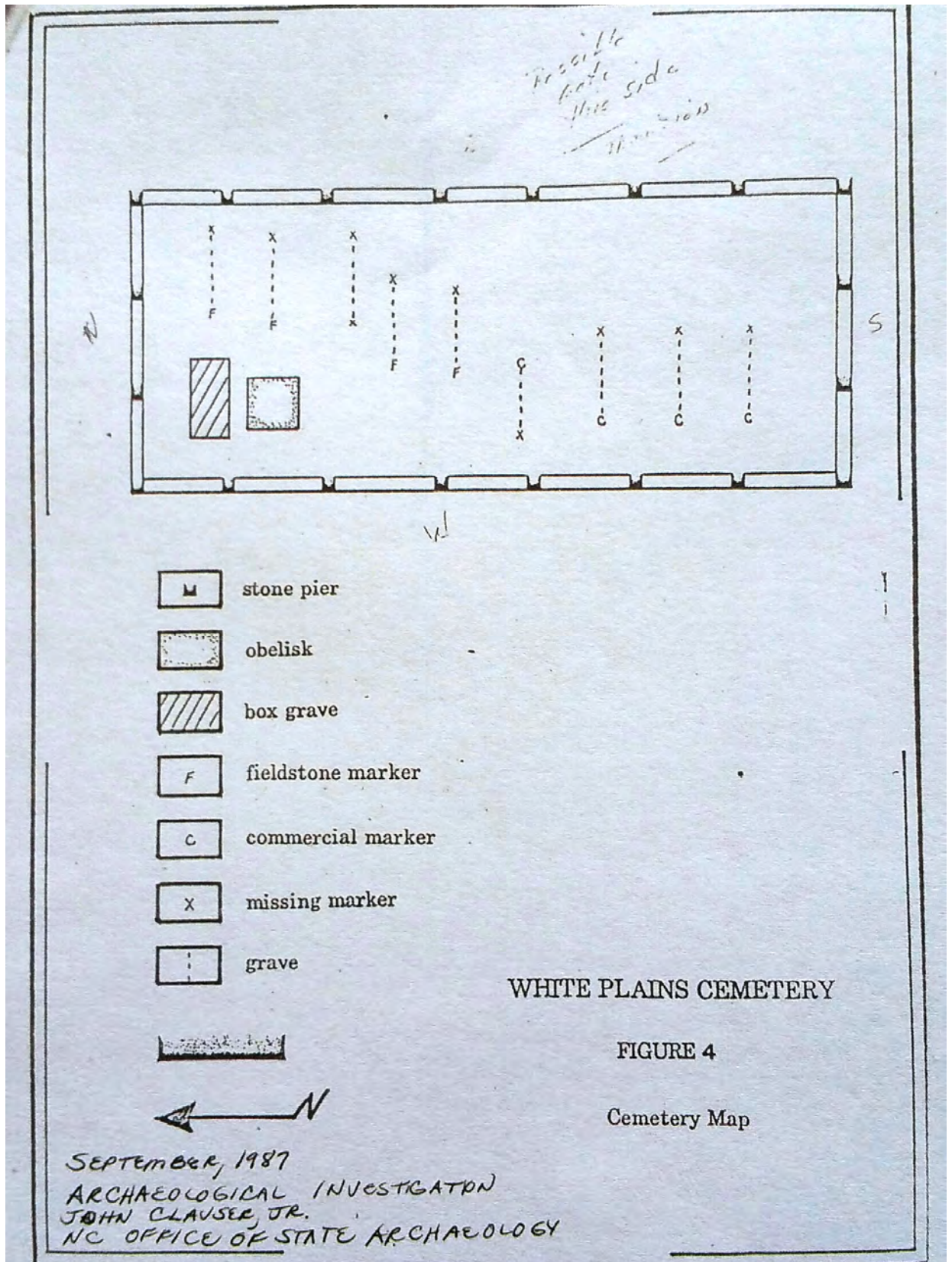
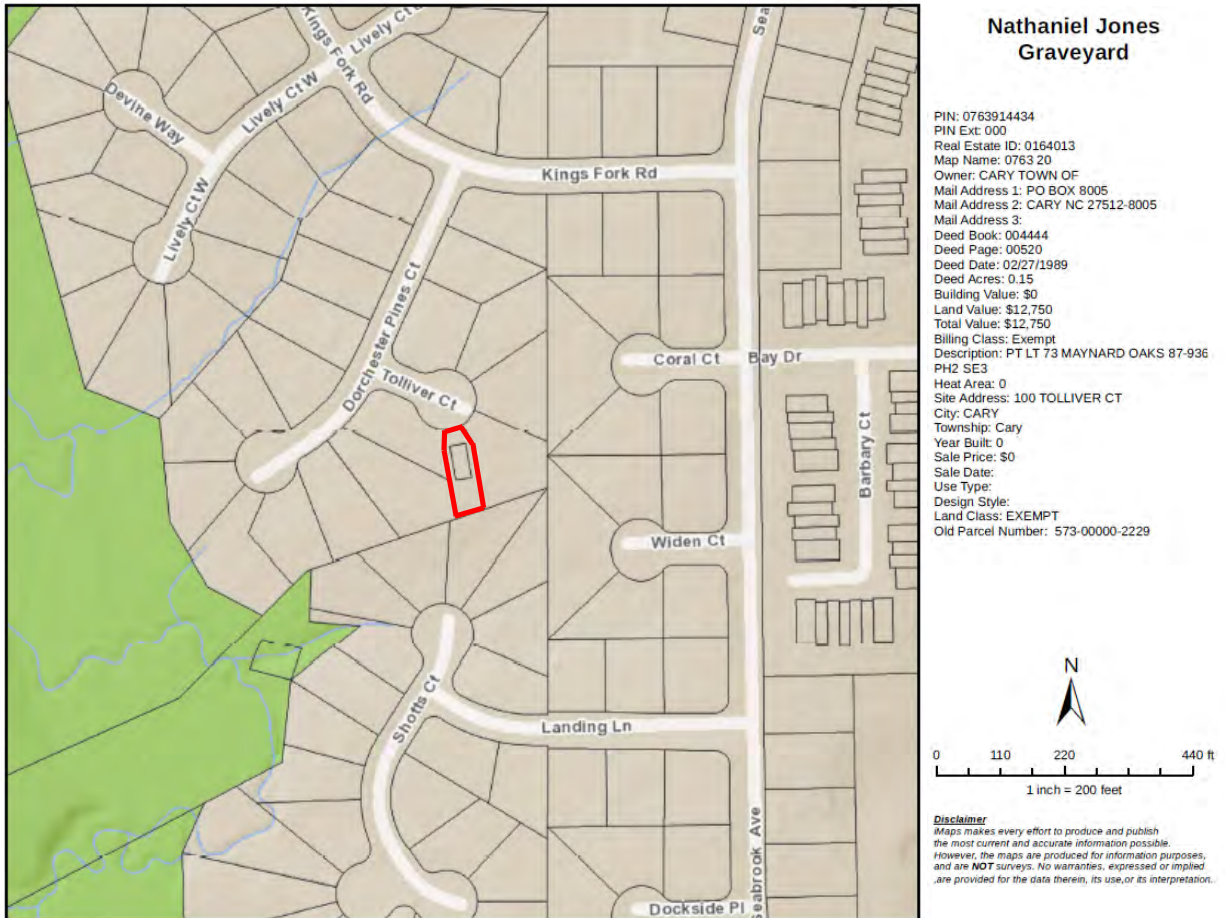


Figure 26. WA3040_NathanielJonesGraveyard
Drawing of the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard with locations of burials and other features by John Clauser, Jr., NC Office of State Archaeology. Courtesy of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel.

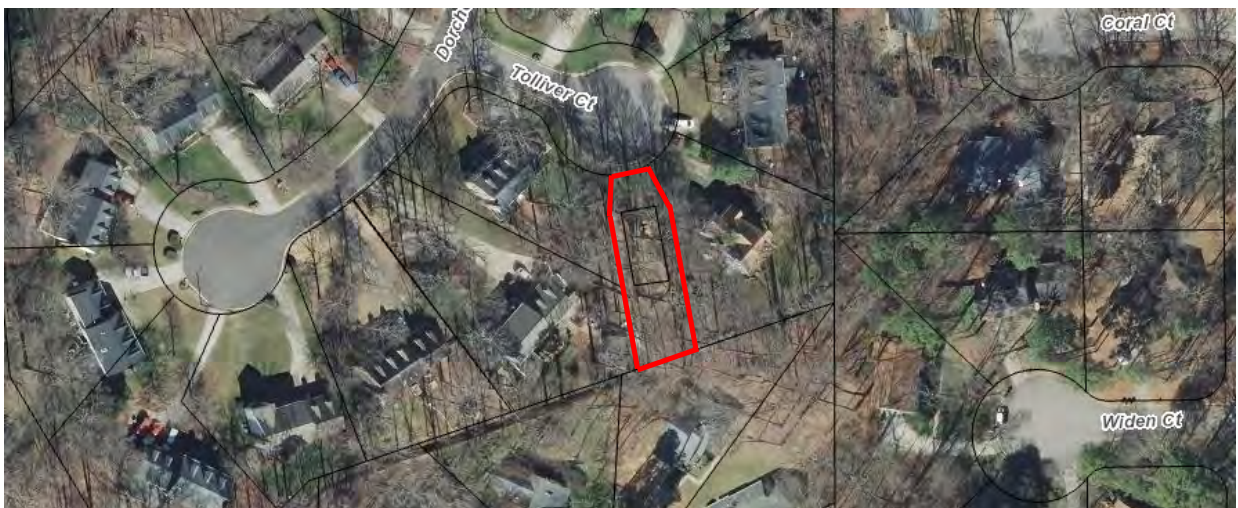
11b. Floor Plan (for buildings and structures)

N/A

11c. Maps



Landmark Map 1 - Wake County GIS Map



Landmark Boundary Map 2 - Wake County Aerial Photograph of the Property Boundary

Book 1497 Page 936

OWNER'S CERTIFICATION
This certifies that the subdivision is being the result of the...
NORTH CAROLINA - HAKE COUNTY
The foregoing certificate of Judy M. Cooper, Notary Public, is certified to be correct, true and accurate by this office.
Joseph L. Sisk, Register of Deeds

**PHASE 3, SECTION 2
MAYNARD OAKS SUBDIVISION**
By The Registered Partnership - Owner
Cary, Wake County, North Carolina

REGISTERED LEAD SURVEYOR
Judy M. Cooper
Notary Public
Wake County, N.C.

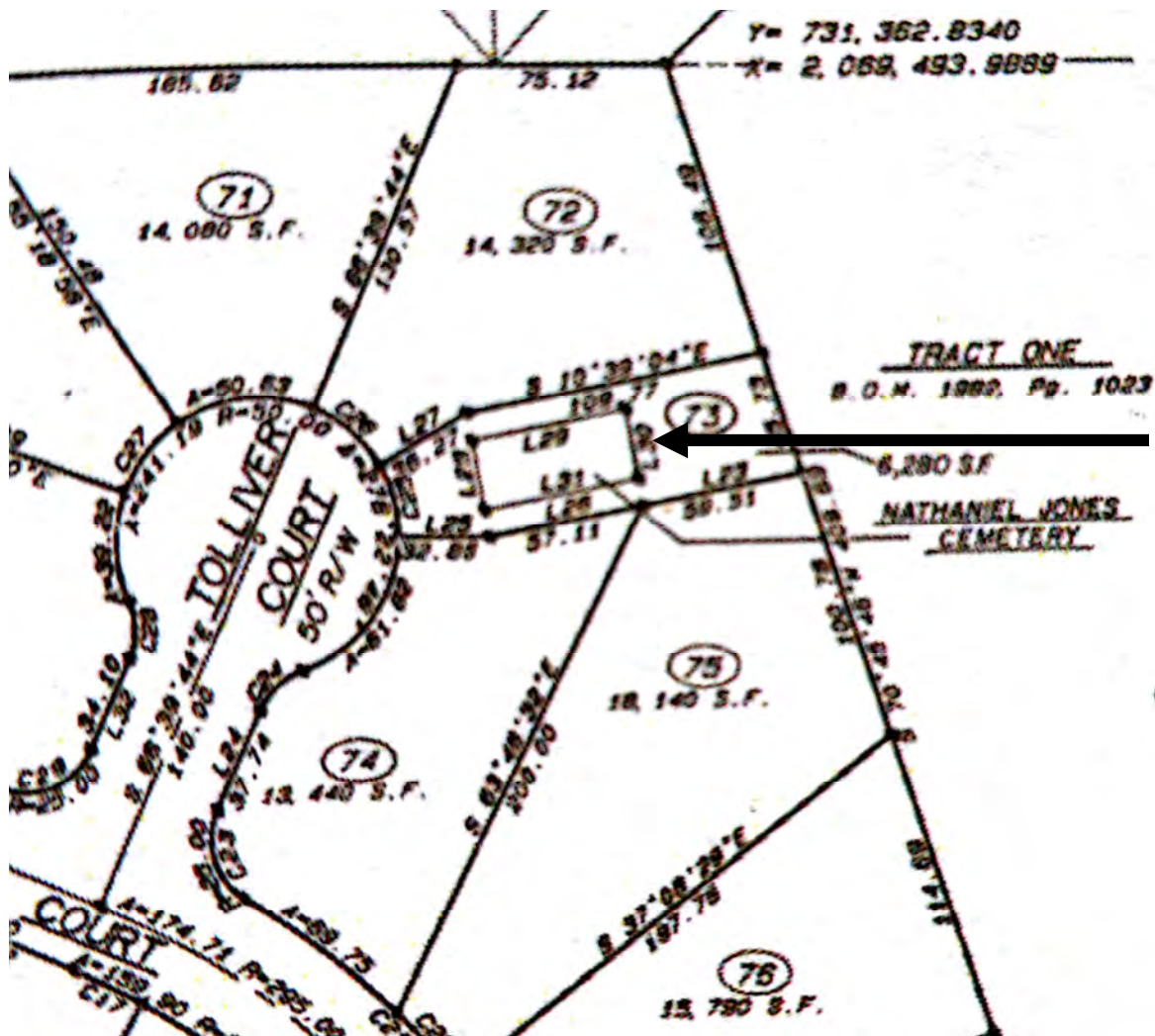
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR RECORDING
I hereby certify that the subdivision plan shown hereon...
Notary Public
Wake County, N.C.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
I, the Town Clerk of Cary, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the...
Town Clerk
Cary, North Carolina

REFERENCES
I. O. N. 1971, Vol. 1, Pg. 47
I. O. N. 1982, Pg. 1023
I. O. N. 1983, Pg. 1050
I. O. N. 1984, Pg. 1030
I. O. N. 1985, Pg. 852
I. O. N. 1986, Pg. 853
I. O. N. 1987, Pg. 1036
I. O. N. 1988, Pg. 418
I. O. N. 1989, Pg. 1430

Recorded in Map Book 1987, Page 936. Project No. 02B304.13

Landmark Map 3 - Maynard Oaks Development in Cary. The graveyard, located on lot 73, is denoted by the arrow above.



Landmark Map 4 - Maynard Oaks Development in Cary. The graveyard is denoted by the arrow above.

11d. Physical Description Narrative of All Resources on the Site

The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard, also referred to as the White Plains Cemetery, is a family burying ground located on a cul-de-sac off Tolliver Court near the intersection of Dorchester Pines Court and Tolliver Court in the Maynard Oaks neighborhood in Cary, Wake County, North Carolina.⁴ The rectangular graveyard plot has the address 0 Tolliver Court, but it is part of the surrounding parcel, 100 Tolliver Court, the entirety of which is owned the Town of Cary (Deed Book 4444, Page 0520). Together, these two addresses make up lot 73 of the Maynard Oaks Subdivision (Landmark Maps 3 and 4).

The site is referenced as the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard in site documentation surveys in 2006, 2007, and 2013, so this is how the site is named in this local

⁴ The term "graveyard" is assigned to the burying ground of the Nathaniel Jones and his family. M. Ruth Little uses this term in her book *Sticks and Stones* to define a small private burying ground.

landmark report. The graveyard is situated on a 0.17-acre-lot in a residential neighborhood, and is encircled by an iron fence that measures approximately 60' by 30' and is 4 feet tall. Interpretive outdoor signage with a metal frame and mounted on a metal cantilevered base stands to the north of the iron gate that opens into the cemetery. The signage provides historical information on Nathaniel Jones of White Plains, the graveyard, and preservation efforts at the graveyard over the years. A dirt path meanders about twenty yards from the cul-de-sac at the end of Tolliver Court to the signage and the graveyard.

The graveyard lot is bordered on the east and west by large two-story houses, on the north by Tolliver Court, and on the south by a small wooded area. The graveyard has a level topography. The middle of the cemetery is its highest point, and the land slopes slightly north as the dirt path leads away from the graveyard towards the cul-de-sac. A wooden privacy fence stands to the west of the graveyard's iron fence and serves to enclose the backyard of the neighboring property.

Six large oak and tulip poplar trees rise from inside the graveyard fence; outside the fence on the remainder of the lot is a mix of mature woodland trees including white oaks, red oaks, tulip poplars, and redbuds, undergrowth and saplings including maples and hickories, and some planted susanqua camellias and ferns. Periwinkle is a groundcover found inside the graveyard and outside the iron fence, but a few small areas inside the graveyard have remnants of mulch.

The graveyard has a total of eleven marked burial locations, but only two of the burials have monuments with engraved attributes (name, birth date, death date, epitaph, etc.). The two monuments that bear engravings are those for Nathaniel Jones and his second wife, Rachel Perry Jones. Nathaniel's grave is marked by a large marble monument that stands nearly fourteen feet tall. The monument consists of a lower square base that is surmounted by a rectangular column and an obelisk. This type of grave marker is indicative in its design of the neoclassical movement and "represents the most elite type of monument in nineteenth-century North Carolina cemeteries."⁵ Engraved upon the column are the following attributes:

NATHANIEL JONES
SON OF
EVAN & ELIZABETH
JONES.
WAS BORN
January 13TH, 1749,

⁵ M. Ruth Little, *Sticks & Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 15.

DIED
February 8th, 1815.
in the 67 Year
of his age.

Rachel Perry Jones's burial location is marked by a box tomb with a granite ledger placed atop a sandstone box. Similar to the monument of Nathaniel Jones, Rachel Jones's box tomb represents the most elite type of monument in antebellum North Carolina. According to M. Ruth Little, the North Carolina elite during the colonial and antebellum period preferred the obelisk and box tomb gravemarkers.⁶ The preference for the box tomb was because the ledger provided ample surface area for "lengthy inscriptions that extolled the family connections and personal virtue of the deceased."⁷

In 2010, the Town of Cary and the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel installed a replacement granite ledger stone because the original ledger stone was broken and its pieces were scattered throughout the graveyard. Rachel Jones's ledger stone has the following attributes:

Sacred
To the memory of
RACHEL PERRY
JONES
born
MAY 28, 1766
died
SEPT. 2, 1847

Of the remaining nine burial locations, four have small unmarked fieldstone head markers, three have original marble head markers with missing upper sections, one has an unadorned marble foot marker, and one burial spot has no original marker remaining. It is likely that the missing upper sections of the marble head markers had engravings that properly identified the deceased person buried in each of the locations. To more clearly mark the graves, the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel placed small marble tablets directly behind the original markers at the eight marked graves, and placed one at the unmarked grave as well. The nine new marble tablets have rounded tops and are approximately one foot tall and two inches thick.

The graveyard's grave markers and monuments are aligned linearly in what seems to be two rows. The graves themselves have an east-west orientation.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard is a representative example of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century burial practices. During this time, many burials took place on family property and it reflected a connection to the agrarian-based economy.⁸ Burials were discontinued in these graveyards if the property was sold outside of the family or if the family decided to be buried at a churchyard. The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard is a graveyard that the Jones family planned and dedicated to the memory of their family, and like other plantations that had a family cemetery, it is almost always the historic resource that remains after the plantation is gone.⁹

Integrity

The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard has a high level of integrity. The gravemarkers are in their original locations, which conveys the authenticity and identity of the cemetery's period of significance. The ledger stone of Rachel Perry Jones is not original; the current granite ledger stone was placed in 2010 because her original ledger stone was broken and scattered throughout the graveyard. The current ledger is comparable in form and size to the original ledger. The hardscape features such as the iron fence that encircles the cemetery and the small marble tablets placed behind unmarked fieldstones and original marble tablets with missing sections, although not dating from the period of significance, do not detract from or diminish the site's overall integrity.

11e. Historical Background Narrative

The Town of Cary was officially chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly on April 3, 1871, but its history can be traced at least one hundred years before its official establishment. Largely settled by Scots-Irish who migrated from the Albemarle Region of North Carolina, the area was known originally as Bradford's Ordinary in 1750.¹⁰ Settlers to the area received land grants from Lord Carteret that totaled, on average, between two hundred and

⁸ Sherene Baugher and Richard F. Veit, *Archaeology of American Cemeteries and Gravemarkers* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015), 207; David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 4.

⁹ Stacey Graham, "The Plantation Community Cemetery: Reading Black and White Relationships in the Landscape," *Markers XXX: Annual Journal of The Association for Gravestone Studies* (Greenfield, MA: The Association of Gravestone Studies, 2015), 73.

¹⁰ Bradford's Ordinary was the area's first business, named for John Bradford. Bradford's Ordinary is listed on North Carolina's first official map in 1808, but does not appear on any subsequent maps. Thomas Byrd, *Around and About Cary* (Raleigh, N.C.: Daniel Industries, 1970), 13-14.

three hundred acres, and on this land they built their homes and cultivated the land for farming. Some of the first settlers were Francis Jones, who received from Lord Carteret a land grant of 640 acres on Crabtree Creek in 1749, and Tingnall Jones, who between 1779 and 1801 received a total of 3,770 acres of land in fourteen separate land grants from the legislature of North Carolina.¹¹

Some of Cary's early history can be linked to Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree, who owned most of the land to the west of Cary, and Nathaniel Jones of White Plains, who owned most of the land to the east of Cary. The latter is the focus of this historical background narrative because he is buried, along with some of his family members, in the graveyard that is being proposed for local landmark designation.

In Wake County during the mid-to-late 18th century and early 19th century, there were four men who had the name Nathaniel Jones. The two most prominent among the four were Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree and Nathaniel Jones of White Plains. In many primary sources, these two are differentiated as Nathaniel Jones (C.T.) and Nathaniel Jones (W.P.).¹² They were not related, but their two families were eventually connected through marriage. Nancy Jones, daughter of Nathaniel Jones of White Plains, married Henry Jones, son of Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree on February 3, 1813.¹³

In addition to both having large landholdings in Wake County, both Nathaniel Jones (C.T.) and Nathaniel Jones (W.P.) were involved with local and state government. Both were candidates for the House of Commons during the late 18th century, and their efforts to win a seat generated some negative discourse. Recorded in Raleigh's *The Morning Post*, Nathaniel Jones of White Plains told his opponent, Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree: "I am going to beat you because your constituents have not any shoes and it is too cold to walk barefooted to Raleigh."¹⁴ Nathaniel Jones of Crabtree circulated these comments among his constituents and "when election day come, streams of men could be seen on every road, with corn whiskey in their stomachs and shoes and sticks over their shoulders, their feet naked, hurraing for Jones of

¹¹ Byrd, *Around and About Cary*, 11. "In 1777 the legislature of the "new" state of North Carolina passed an act allowing the state to take over the title to all "vacant" land within its borders. This land had formerly been the property of the King or the Earl of Granville. In the same year, the legislature also passed an act creating a procedure for selling the land to almost anyone who had the money to pay the required fees. These "instruments" were called grants, but that does not imply the free gift of land." <http://abpruitt.tripod.com/id6.htm>. Accessed 5 February 2013.

¹² Jo Ann Williford, Survey Specialist and Michael Hill, Researcher, "Nancy Jones House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination on file at the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N.C. 1983. Also available online at <http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/nr/WA0187.pdf>.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ "A Lost Town: Written for the Post by Dr. Kemp P. Battle," *The Morning Post*, Raleigh, N.C., 4 March 1900.

Crabtree. Jones of White Plains was badly beaten." Following this report from Kemp P. Battle, the author stated that "although Jones, of White Plains, was not a prudent politician, he was a man of great prosperity and public spirit."¹⁵ According to Battle, Jones of White Plains served as the president of the first board of Trustees of the Raleigh Academy, and made a donation to the Academy of \$100, which was the largest sum donated at that time.¹⁶

Nathaniel Jones of White Plains was born on January 13, 1749, to Evan and Elizabeth Jones. He may have been born in Princess Anne County, Virginia, as his father owned 600 acres there in 1705, and family bible records show that he moved to North Carolina in 1750. Nathaniel Jones married Millison Blanchard, daughter of Benjamin Blanshard on July 20, 1772.¹⁷ Jones moved to Wake County in 1774 and purchased land in the western part of the county. By 1811, he had acquired between 10,000 and 11,000 acres, and he operated on his property a gristmill and distillery.¹⁸ He named his house and property "White Plains" because of the vast fields of cotton that surrounded his house, and he was the largest landowner in the history of the area that is now Cary.¹⁹ His Federal style plantation home, known as the Jones Manor, was located at what is today the southwest corner of Walnut Street and Greenwood Circle in Cary.²⁰ The house was demolished during the 1950s.²¹

His large landholdings make up what is today the eastern part of the Town of Cary. In 1792, his land was considered as a possible location for the state capitol after the N.C. General Assembly appointed a commission to identify

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Family bible records show Jones's first wife as named Millison, and notes from a presentation on the White Plains Cemetery by the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel show her name as Millicent. Memory Lee Alldredge Lester, *Old Southern Bible Records: Transcriptions of Births, Deaths, and Marriages from Family Bibles, Chiefly of the 18th and 19th Centuries* (Baltimore, MD: Reprinted for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co, 2007), 174.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=qgQRciE16lIC&pg=PA174&lpg=PA174&dq=nathaniel+jones+of+white+plains+bible+records&source=bl&ots=NrQN2FBdbc&sig=eg7DdFTthd-kTCmtXiGIHmM29p4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjv57bn847VAhVEOT4KHU3gDNcQ6AEIMTAC#v=onepage&q=nathaniel%20jones%20of%20white%20plains%20bible%20records&f=false>.

Accessed 1 July 2017.

¹⁸ Sherry Monahan, *Images of America: Cary* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2011).

https://books.google.com/books?id=AimU-Sn3YmUC&lpg=PT80&ots=2S_pmiT5gD&dq=nathaniel%20jones%20of%20white%20plains&pg=PT80#v=onepage&q=nathaniel%20jones%20of%20white%20plains&f=false. Accessed 10 May 2017.

¹⁹ Kelly A. Lally, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* (Raleigh: Wake County Gov't, 1994) 325.

²⁰ "White Plains Cemetery," Cemeteries Program #2 Notes, Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Preservation Program Series, October 26, 2010. Notes provided to the author by staff of the Town of Cary Planning Department.

²¹ Monahan, *Images of America: Cary*.

1,000 acres of suitable land in Wake County for this purpose. His property at White Plains was one of four large tracts out of a total of seventeen considered for the capitol, but the General Assembly eventually selected land belonging to Joel Lane.²²

Nathaniel Jones served in a variety of political positions on the local and state levels, and he was a captain in the Wake County militia during the American Revolution.²³ He was a Wake County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, and Clerk of Court, and served as a member of the N.C. General Assembly, Council of State, chairman of county court for several years, and was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Hillsborough in 1788.²⁴

Nathaniel and Millison Jones had seven children before Millison died on March 12, 1785. Their children were as follows: Robert (May 19, 1773 - October 1780); Elizabeth (born December 24, 1774); Sarah (born August 1, 1776); Evan (April 15, 1778 - Oct. 13, 1780); Mary (born December 21, 1780); Nancy (born January 23, 1783); and Seth (born March 9, 1785). Millison died when her son Seth was 3 days old.²⁵

Nathaniel Jones married Rachel Perry, daughter of Burwell and Elizabeth Perry, on November 2, 1786. Rachel was born on May 28, 1766. Rachel bore the following children: Joel (b. November 3, 1787); Alfred (born December 11, 1789); Burwell Perry (April 9, 1791 - January 11, 1835); Timothy Walton (January 28, 1793 - April 26, 1826); Wesley Jones (born November 30, 1794); Millison (born January 14, 1797); Temperance (born July 28, 1800); Martha (born May 24, 1802); and Helen (born January 20, 1805).²⁶

Nathaniel Jones of White Plains died on February 8, 1815, and left his large landholdings to his family. In his will, he appointed his brothers-in-law, Jeremiah Perry and Burwell Perry, as his executors, and gave land to the following

²² "Life of Joel Lane: Pioneer and Patriot of Wake County," *The Farmer and Mechanic*, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1 May 1900. Williford and Hill, "Nancy Jones House," Section 8 Page 1. "White Plains Cemetery," Cemeteries Program #2 Notes, Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Preservation Program Series, October 26, 2010.

²³ William L. Saunders, *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Vol. IX - 1771 to 1775 (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1890), 344 and 682. Reprinted by Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1993. Nathaniel Jones is listed as a captain in field returns of the Wake County Regiment of Militia on October 7, 1772, and October 6, 1773.

²⁴ Walter Clark, *State Records of North Carolina*, Vol. XXI - 1788-1790 (Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers, Book and Job Printers, 1903), 1071. Reprinted by Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina, 1994. Nathaniel Jones is shown as being paid as the Sheriff of Wake County in 1784. Williford and Hill, "Nancy Jones House," Section 8 Page 1, and cited from Elizabeth Reid Murray, *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina, Volume I: Prehistory through Centennial* (Raleigh: Capitol County Publishing Co., 1983), 79, 83.

²⁵ Lester, *Old Southern Bible Records*, 174.

²⁶ <http://s301420419.onlinehome.us/Decendents/b5659.htm>. Accessed 15 June 2017.

children: Seth Jones (400 acres), Joel Lane Jones (720 acres), Alfred Jones (870 acres), Burwell Perry Jones (807 acres), Timothy Walton Jones (1566 acres), and Welsey Jones (1800 acres). He left 4,736 acres to be divided between his wife and sons and daughters.²⁷

He is noted in the annals of Cary and Wake County history for his large landholdings and political contributions, but provisions concerning his slaves may be one of the most notable and documented aspects of his life. Guion Griffis Johnson noted in his book *Antebellum North Carolina*, "Certainly as early as 1715 slaves were being liberated in the Province..." and "The philosophy of the American Revolution, holding that all men have certain natural and inalienable rights, that all men are "born free and equal," undoubtedly increased the numbers of those having conscientious scruples against slavery."²⁸ In his will, Jones ordered that all of his slaves of more than twenty-two years of age be "emancipated or liberated" and the remaining slaves be set free when they reached that age "whenever the laws of said State will admit or tolerate it." He stated further that "I do most solemnly enjoin it as an injunction not to see, give, or swap or convey any of the negroes or their increase in or out of said state," and "my will is that until the said State shall pass a law or laws for tolerating emancipation or liberation that all of my negroes that I may die seized or possessed of may be divided among my wife and children agreeable to the law of the distribution of intestate's estates."²⁹

Nathaniel Jones's provision for his slaves shows that he was motivated by the philosophy and tenets of freedom from the American Revolution, as stated by G.G. Johnson. This is even more evident in the language he used in his will to justify his action. His words concerning the justification is as follows:

"I suppose it will be asked my reasons for Emancipating my Negro Slaves when the Laws of the State will not admit or Tolerate of it. Which reasons are as follows. (to wit)

Reason the first, agreeable to the rights of man, every Humane Person, be his or her colour what it may, is intitled to Freedom, when he she or they arrive to mature years.

Reason the second, my conscience the grate Criterion condemns me for keeping them in slavery.

²⁷ Ibid. "North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9PPZ-DC?cc=1911121&wc=Q6W1-M9B%3A185203501%2C183331401%2C198384401> : 21 May 2014), Wake County > J > Jones, Nathaniel (1815) > image 2 of 164; State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁸ Guion Griffis Johnson, *Antebellum North Carolina: A Social History* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1937), 560.

²⁹ <http://s301420419.onlinehome.us/Decendents/b5659.htm>. Accessed 15 June 2017.

Reason the third, the Golden rule directs us to do unto every Humane Creature, as we would wish to be done unto, and shure I am, that their is not one of us, would agree, to be kept in Slavery, during a long life.

Reason the fourth and last, I wish to die with a clear conscience, that I may be not ashamed to appear before my master in a Future World.

These are the reason for Emancipating my Slaves, & I wish every humane creature to serious deliberate on my reasons.

and so Farewell to this Terrestrial World."³⁰

The Town of Cary acquired the Nathaniel Jones Cemetery at 100 and 0 Tolliver Court from the Ridgeloach Partnership on February 9, 1989.³¹ This plot includes all of Lot 73 in the Maynard Oaks Subdivision.

11f. Significance Statement

The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard, located at 100 and 0 Tolliver Court in Cary, Wake County, North Carolina is locally significant as the final resting place of Nathaniel Jones, his second wife, Rachel Perry Jones, and likely his first wife Millison Blanchard Jones and eight of his children. The graveyard is the oldest historic resource in what is now the Town of Cary, and it has a high level of integrity. The Nathaniel Jones Graveyard derives its local and state significance from Nathaniel Jones's political and social contributions to the area now known as Cary, Wake County, and the State of North Carolina. He served as a Wake County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Clerk of Court, and was a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Council of State, and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Hillsborough in 1788. Additionally, Nathaniel Jones was a Patriot during the American Revolution, and provided a provision in his will concerning the emancipation of his slaves. This action shows the influences of both religion and political philosophy on Jones and reflects the "philosophy of the American Revolution, holding that all men have certain natural and unalienable rights, that all men are 'born free and equal.'"³²

11g. Landmark Boundary

Verbal Boundary Justification

³⁰ "North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GPPZ-QH?cc=1911121&wc=Q6W1-M9B%3A185203501%2C183331401%2C198384401> : 20 November 2015), Wake County > J > Jones, Nathaniel (1815) > image 1 of 164; State Archives, Raleigh.

³¹ Wake County Deed Book 4444, Page 0520. Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

³² Johnson, *Ante-Bellum North Carolina*, 560.

The local landmark boundary for the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard coincides with the tax parcel boundary for the property at 100 Tolliver Court, also known as PIN 0763914434, as shown on the Wake County GIS map (Landmark Map 1) at one inch = 200 feet. This map is included in Section 11C of this report. The parcel's mature woodland tree canopy and other lower-growing vegetation surround and visually frame the graveyard, signaling that it is a special place amidst the more open and developed residential lots of the Maynard Oaks subdivision. This rectangular-shaped lot on a cul-de-sac on Tolliver Court in Cary, Wake County, North Carolina is the area historically associated with the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard.

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