

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Paschal House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 3334 Alamance Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Raleigh N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27609

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Rain 7-26-94
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

 entered in the National Register _____
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the _____
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
 removed from the National Register _____
 other (explain): _____

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.

☒ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture**Period of Significance**1950**Significant Dates**1950**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)N/A**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**

Architect-Fitzgibbon, James W.
Contractor-Davidson and Jones

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.74 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	711080	3967200

Verbal Boundary Description

(see continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(see continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David R. Black/Architectural Historian

organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants

date April 1994

street & number 620 Wills Forest Street

telephone (919) 828-8346

city or town Raleigh

state North Carolina

zip code 27605

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7. Page 1 Paschal House
Wake County, North Carolina

7. Description

The 1950 Paschal House is a well-detailed, romantically-Wrightian residence of wood and stone located at the edge of a plateau on a large lot in the rolling, wooded landscape of the Country Club Hills subdivision in Raleigh. Built on one level, the irregular rectangular mass of the house presents two different faces; the (north) Alamance Road side being a mostly closed, picturesque composition of stone walls and multiple, low-sloped gables with deep overhangs, while the (south) rear elevation is comprised of expanses of glazed wall set under a single large gable. The central focus of the interior is a dramatic, high-ceilinged living room arranged in Wrightian fashion around a massive central fireplace with a sunken hearth. With glazed walls on both sides of the room, the thin planes of the roof appear to float over the space and it is possible to look completely through the living room to the treetops beyond. And in typically Wrightian fashion, the house is oriented to the sun, making best use of passive solar climate control. The carefully-detailed interior spaces of the house are finished with warm, natural-finished veneered plywood paneling, cork flooring and substantial amounts of gray/tan Wake County granite random ashlar stonework. The house has been maintained well and is little altered. It retains an integrity of setting, materials, workmanship and feeling.

Located on a 2.74-acre tract in the rolling landscape of the Country Club Hills subdivision, the Paschal House is set well back from the street at the edge of a plateau, the land dropping behind it in a mostly wooded slope to Pasquotank Road on the south. Mature hardwood trees along the sides of the property seclude it from adjacent houses. Two low, elemental stone lanterns flank the entrance drive to the lot from Alamance Road. The broad, circular driveway just inside the entrance encloses five large live oak trees that offer shaded parking for a dozen cars. Also within the trees is a brick-paved

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walkway lined with carefully-trimmed shrubs that forms an inner ring, at the south end of which are additional elemental stone sculptures.

The house takes on a different appearance when viewed from the street (north) or from the terrace (south) side. On the street side, the building is defined by a series of very low-sloped gable roofs with deeply-cantilevered eaves over random ashlar stone walls. A gabled porte cochere, screened by a stone end wall, projects from the front of the house. Behind the porte cochere are two Wrightian wooden gates (fabricated at the School of Design) that open into a small, walled court set before the kitchen/dining room wing on the right, and into an atrium at the center. The flag-stoned atrium is open to the sky and provides light for the windows of the kitchen and the office that open into it, and to the glazed wall of the house's main corridor. At the back of the atrium, adjacent to the main entrance to the house, is a rectangular pool, or impluvium, fed from the roof drainage at the junction between two gables, which provides a waterfall when it rains. The impluvium is the only survivor of three small pools in the original design, the other two, located adjacent to the master bedroom and near the front entrance to the house, having been filled in to protect the home's young children.

At the west end of the house are a large kitchen with adjacent utility rooms, behind which is the dining room (See Exhibit A). At the east end of the house is the office/bedroom wing, which contains Dr. Paschal's study and the master bedroom on the front, bathrooms, and two additional bedrooms at the rear. Adjacent to the master bedroom, at the east end of the house, is a stone-paved terrace shielded from the street by an angled stone wall.

The street elevations of these two wings are composed of random ashlar granite walls with glazed gable ends. Widely-spaced, paired vertical elements of wood that overlap the stone wall slightly at their base provide the visual connection between the stone walls and the thin plane of the built-up roof above. The fascias of the eaves are sheathed in

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copper. Rising above the roof slightly are a copper-sheathed chimney and the main, random ashlar stone chimney.

The rear, or south elevation of the house presents a single, long, uneven, low-sloped gable end that shelters all of the building's elements. This gable is stepped back at its east and west ends to allow double exposures for both the living room and dining room. On the west end the gable spans across a breezeway to a storage shed. Unlike the street elevation, the south face of the house is almost completely glazed, including large, fixed windows in the gable end and a row of glazed doors opening onto a terrace immediately behind the living room. Long, low stone walls create a series of terraces that lead to a sloping expanse of trees and lawn reaching to the road below.

In Wrightian fashion, the focal point of the interior, and its largest space, is the living room. Its high, sloped ceiling comes to a peak at a corner of the central feature of the room, a massive random ashlar stone fireplace. The breast of the fireplace creates most of the north wall of the space, stepping down to form a divider between the hall to the north of it and the living room. Its expansive, brick-based firebox, located on a corner of the fireplace, is in an L-shaped, stepped, "conversation pit" depressed below the main floor level, another borrowing from Wright. Set in the chimney breast adjacent to the firebox is a section of petrified tree trunk from the Sahara desert brought back by Dr. Paschal from North Africa during World War II.

Half of the east wall and all of the rear wall of the living room are glazed from floor to ceiling. Relatively slender posts support the broad expanse of the roof, joined by a narrow cross member above head height. This light framework contains an irregular pattern of large panes of glass set in thin mullions, making the roof plane appear to float above the living room. At the north side of the room, the intersection of two gable roofs is filled with a large, triangular window that frames views of the treetops beyond. These substantial areas of glazing on both sides of the living room give the space a transparency that makes it possible to look entirely through the house from rear to front.

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A section of the rear wall also contains a row of glazed doors leading out onto the terrace. The west wall of the room is made up of shelving and a large set of built-in cabinets framed by doors to the dining room.

Set under the trailing edge of the large gable, the dining room is a slightly lower and darker room, though it also has glazed walls that are an extension of the rear wall of the living room. The southwest corner of the room was originally a screened porch, but it was brought into the room space at an early date to enlarge the dining area.

Adjacent to the living room is a shallow transverse hallway that runs across the front of the house, connecting the dining room/kitchen wing to the office/bedroom wing along the east-west axis and the atrium/entrance area to the living room along the north-south axis. One wall of this hall is the stone back of the fireplace, while the other is a large picture window looking into the atrium.

Dr. Paschal's office is located in the northwest corner of the office/bedroom wing with its own entrance to the exterior. The interior corner of the room is of random ashlar stonework with a small corner fireplace whose chimney stack is of hand-beaten copper. The master bedroom, two baths and two additional bedrooms are also located in this wing. Like the rest of the south elevation, these rooms have large amounts of glass. There are large sections of built-in storage along the sides of the rear hall, as well as plentiful built-in cabinets in the rooms.

Throughout the house the ceilings are finished with stained and varnished pine plywood. The non-stone portions of the walls are sheathed in a variety of natural-finished veneer plywoods. Floors in the living, dining, and bedrooms are of cork tiles, while the main hallway is paved with blue/gray slate flagstones.

In the manner of Wright, radiant heat is provided for the house by hot water piped through the foundation slab. Like Wright's Usonian Houses, the deep overhangs of the roof on the south and west elevations shade the living spaces from the sun when it is high in

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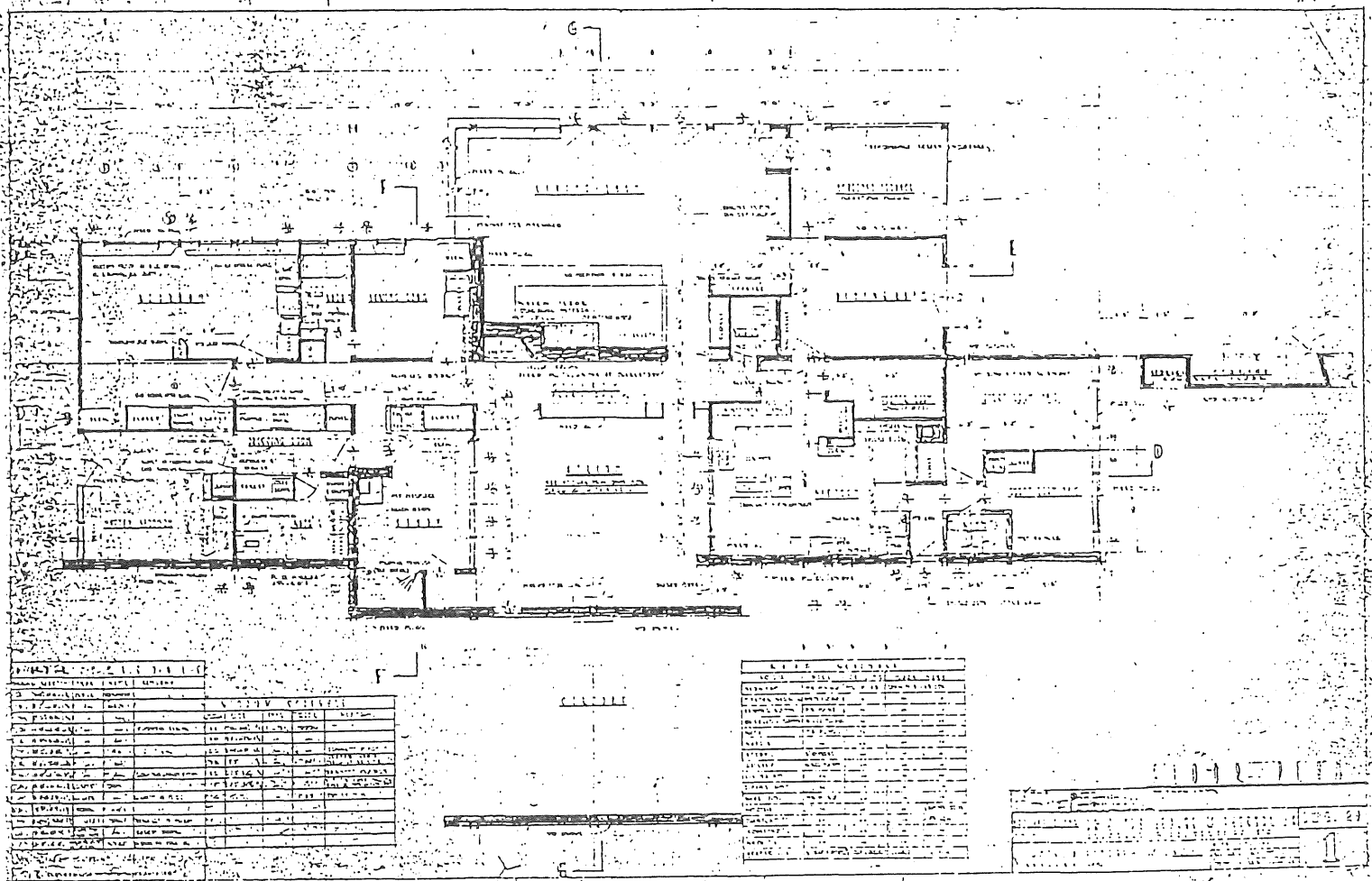
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the summer, but allow the low sun of the winter in for passive solar heating. The building is not air conditioned, but there is a whole-house fan set in the roof.

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Floor Plan From Architect's Drawings



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8. Statement of Significance

Summary

Built in 1950, the Paschal House is a graceful stone and frame Wrightian house constructed for Dr. George and Mrs. Beth Paschal to the designs of James W. Fitzgibbon, an associate professor at the (then) new School of Design at North Carolina State University. Distinctively picturesque, the house is one of a small group of innovative modernist houses produced by a highly-talented School of Design faculty during the 1950s and 1960s (See Multiple Property Designation Form for "Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina"). The Paschal House is being nominated under Criterion C, as the work of a master and for its high artistic value. It exhibits a sensitivity to site, innovative use of materials, subtlety of form and plan, and a degree of passive climatic control that is quite different from the eclectic houses being built in Raleigh in that period. But in contrast to the more Usonian design that Fitzgibbon earlier produced for the Fadum House (NR), the Paschal House is also more evocative of Wright's organic architecture in its flowing massing and use of stone and other hand-worked materials.

Historical Background

George Washington Paschal, Jr., was born in Wake Forest, North Carolina in 1908 and grew up on the campus of Wake Forest College, where his father taught Greek and Latin. After graduating from Wake Forest (B.A. in 1927, B. S. in 1928) he went to Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and received his M. D. in 1931. In 1941 he became a diplomate of the American College of Surgeons. A year later, following the country's entry in World War II, he departed for Egypt, where he spent the next four years as chief of the Surgical Service of the 38th General Hospital and as Surgical Consultant to the Africa-Middle East Theater (Unpublished Biographical Sketch by Huston Paschal).

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During the war, Paschal became engaged to Beth Eleanor Cummings, the Associate Editor since 1939 of The Farm Journal, a magazine published in Philadelphia. Born in Lohrville, Iowa in 1917, she grew up in Ames and received her B. S. in Home Economics/Journalism from Iowa State University in 1939. The couple were married in 1944 and two years later, with the war over, decided to leave Philadelphia for Raleigh (Biographical Sketch).

After failing to find an existing house on the market that pleased them, Dr. and Mrs. Paschal decided to build a new house. Mrs. Paschal called Dean Henry Kamphoefner (a fellow Iowan) at the newly-formed School of Design to ask his recommendation for an architect. Kamphoefner told her that professors at the School of Design were encouraged to design a house periodically, and he sent her a number of books on modern architecture to look at. When she had finished looking through them, Mrs. Paschal and Dean Kamphoefner consulted and Kamphoefner recommended James Fitzgibbon, an associate professor at the school, to design the Paschal house (David Black Interview with Dr. and Mrs. George Paschal).

James Fitzgibbon had come to Raleigh in 1948 from the University of Oklahoma, where he had been associated with Henry Kamphoefner, the dean of the new School of Design at North Carolina State College (See Biographical Index to MPDF). In Raleigh, just prior to building the Paschal House, Fitzgibbon had designed the Fadum House (NR), a wedge-shaped Usonian House that was published in Architectural Record as one of the Houses of the Year for 1952 (Calandruccio). He also designed the overbuilding of an older house for his own residence in Raleigh on a hill overlooking North Carolina State College.

The design process for the Paschal House involved a number of meetings between Fitzgibbon and the Paschals to review his plans and to receive comments and suggestions from the clients. For example, it was Dr. Paschal's idea to have a circular driveway at the front of the house, and that there be a separate, covered outside entrance to his study enabling him to return from late-night calls without disturbing the family or being

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exposed to the weather. Dr. and Mrs. Paschal both wanted a house that would bring the outside in, and that would be all on one level (Black Interview).

James Fitzgibbon was strongly influenced by the buildings and writings of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the Paschal House makes use of a number of Wrightian features, such as the differentiation between the public and private sides of the house, the picturesque use of low-sloped gable roofs, the orientation of the main living spaces around the vertical element of a large fireplace, and the careful integration of building and site. In contrast to his earlier design for the Fadum House, however, the Paschal House is more in Wright's organic mode. Whereas the Usonian design of the Fadum House includes a compact plan and low-cost construction with manufactured materials, the Paschal House spreads out across the slope and makes use of richer, handworked materials like those employed in Wright's Prairie Houses.

Construction of the house occurred during 1949-50. Davidson and Jones Construction Company were the contractors, initially under the supervision of C. B. Jones. So dramatically different was the house from other residences being built in Raleigh at the time that it attracted a large number of curious onlookers. The Paschals moved into the house before it was completely finished, prompting encounters with people who continued to drive through the property or come in through the windows (Black interview)!

Dr. and Mrs. Paschal have lived in the house continuously since it was built. During Dr. Paschal's long career (he retired in 1979), the Raleigh surgeon was a member of many medical and surgical organizations, including the North Carolina Medical Society, which he served as President in 1965-66. In 1989 the (traditionally African-American) Old North State Medical Society honored Dr. Paschal for his "courageous" efforts, in the face of resistance from his white colleagues, to help that organization achieve equality within the medical profession (Biographical Sketch).

A devoted alumnus, Dr. Paschal was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest University from 1971-1973 and in 1979 he was named a Life Trustee. Earlier, in 1963, the school had bestowed an honorary Doctor of Science degree upon him (Biographical Sketch).

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As Dr. Paschal established a practice, his wife was drawn into civic activities. As a Junior League member she started volunteering for the North Carolina Museum of Art in 1955, more than a year before it opened, and ten years later began the first of three terms as President of the North Carolina Art Society. Over the years, she has served the Museum as a docent, volunteer, fund raiser, and editor. To recognize her sustained service, the North Carolina Art Society gave "Sunset" (Medusa) by Eugene Berman to the Museum in her honor in 1974. Beneficiaries of her diverse activities have honored her in a variety of other ways, including the Alumni Merit Award (1980) from her alma mater, induction into the Raleigh Academy of Women (1983), and in 1986, the City of Raleigh Arts Medal (Biographical Sketch).

The Paschals raised three children in the house: George III, a surgeon; Huston, a curator of contemporary art; and Robert, a lawyer.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

David Black Interview with Dr. and Mrs. George Paschal, December 1993.

Edmisten, Linda Harris. National Register Nomination for the Fadum House, January 1993.

North Carolina Board of Architects, Architectural Registration File for James W. Fitzgibbon.

Survey Files, Survey and Planning Branch, North Carolina State Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Unpublished Biographical Sketch of George and Beth Paschal by Huston Paschal.

Wake County Deeds.

Waugh, Elizabeth. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. Raleigh, Junior League of Raleigh, 1967.

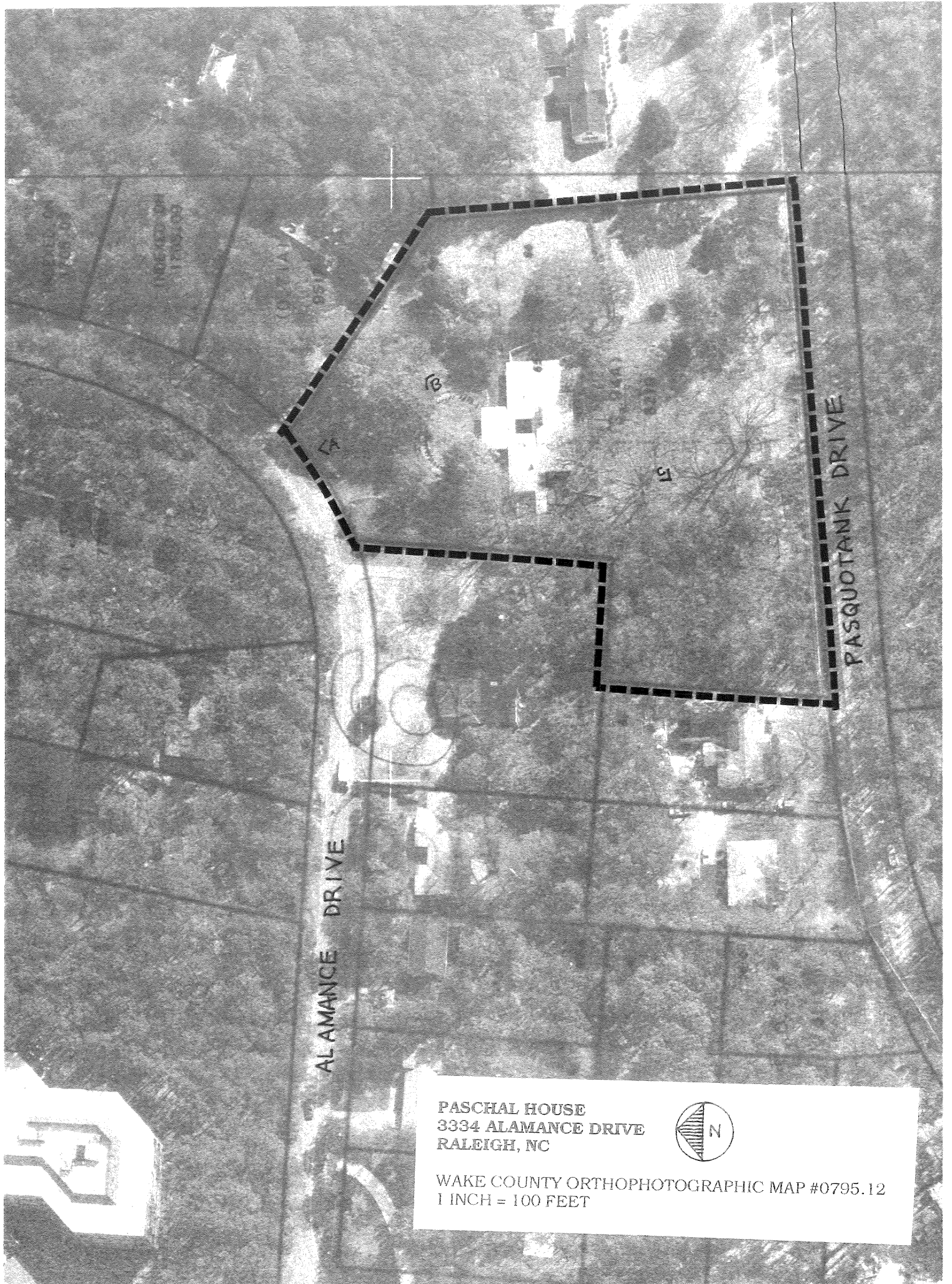
10. Geographical Data Continued

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Paschal House nomination are as shown by the dashed line on the accompanying Wake County Orthophotographic Map #0795.12, drawn at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Paschal House nomination include the original lot on which the residence was constructed and which provides an appropriate setting for the building.



PASCHAL HOUSE
3334 ALAMANCE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NC



WAKE COUNTY ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHIC MAP #0795.12
1 INCH = 100 FEET

PASCHAL HOUSE
Raleigh, NC; Wake County
RALEIGH WEST QUAD
N/17/3967200
E/17/711080

