NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT

Prepared September 15, 2023

Josephus Daniels House (Wakestone)

National Historic Landmark designation withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior September 2, 2024.

Designated: December 8, 1976

Location: Raleigh, Wake County, NC

Owner: Jim Wiley, President
Beacon Street Development Company
PO Box 6474
Raleigh, NC 27628

SHPO Contact: Ramona Bartos, Deputy SHPO
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
The Division of Historic Resources
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Significance of the Landmark:

The Georgian Revival mansion located in Raleigh, North Carolina, also known as Wakestone, was the home of Josephus Daniels, the Secretary of the Navy during President Woodrow Wilson's Presidency. Construction on the house began in 1920 and Daniels lived in the home until his death in 1948. Daniels served in his post in the Navy from 1913–1921, which included a number of significant changes in naval policies such as education for illiterate or poorly educated sailors, opening the Naval Academy to enlisted men, and reforming the naval prison system. He was also owner of the *Raleigh News and Observer* for more than fifty years. After his death, the Masonic Order acquired Wakestone and it served as the Order's Temple.

Condition of Landmark:

After the house fell into disrepair, the Masonic Order put it up for sale and Beacon Street Development Company purchased the property on March 11, 2021. The development company demolished the house in July 2021.

Recommendation:

The property is no longer extant and cannot convey its historic associations. Therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn.

Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:

The Josephus Daniels House (Wakestone) has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated, have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].