

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Vanguard Park Historic District  
Wake County, North Carolina

### Section 7/Narrative Description

#### Setting

The Vanguard Park Historic District developed northeast of the Five Points intersection created by the convergence of Fairview and West Whitaker Mill roads and Glenwood Avenue. The U-shaped district is bounded by McCarthy Street to the west, Oxford, White Oak and Hudson Streets to the north, Pine Avenue to the east and Whitaker Mill Road to the south.

The district's topography is that of the slightly rolling hills of North Carolina's eastern Piedmont region. From McCarthy Street, the district's western boundary, the land slopes down slightly towards Crabtree Creek east of the historic district. A ridgeline with an elevation of approximately 300 feet bisects the district north and south. The ridge runs in an undulating line from just south of the northern terminus of McCarthy Street at Alexander Road, to a location just south of the intersection of Avon Drive and Pine Avenue. From the ridge, the terrain slopes downward to Whitaker Mill Road to the south, and to an unnamed tributary of Crabtree Creek to the north. In the southern part of the district the streets are straight; intersections meet at right angles. North of Hudson Street streets curve to follow topographic lines. In general, the areas with curving streets retain more dense tree cover than then grid pattern areas, thus creating a more wooded and private setting on these streets.

Lot size and shape does not greatly vary throughout the district. In general, lots are rectangular--with narrow road frontages and deep back yards--and approximately one-quarter of an acre in size. 2024 White Oak Road is the largest residential lot in the district at one acre. Houses are constructed closely together. Dwellings address the street and facades are parallel with the curb. Set backs are generally uniform from street to street. The small front yards are often landscaped with locally popular varieties of dogwoods, crepe myrtles, azaleas and other small flowering bushes and shrubs and large hardwoods such as oaks.

#### Surrounding Area

The area surrounded by the district's U shape was re-subdivided create two cul-de-sacs with single-family dwellings and an apartment complex. The circa 1980s dwellings on the Fallon Oaks Court cul-de-sac are in rendered in various Colonial Revival styles. The circa 1980s dwellings on the Oxford Hills and Camrose Street cul-de-sacs are contemporary. Ten, two-story brick apartment buildings constructed circa 1965 sit on a seven-acre parcel on the north side of Hudson Street between Carroll and Reaves drives.

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The Bloomsbury and Roanoke Park residential subdivisions (NR, 2002 and pending), are located northeast and south of the district, respectively. These neighborhoods are comprised of one and two-story dwellings dating from the 1910s through the present, with most of the buildings dating prior to 1950. House styles represented include Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional and Ranch. The neighborhoods share Vanguard Park's gently rolling landscape and display curvilinear and grid street layouts determined by topography and other natural feature such as creeks and ravines. In general, houses are constructed on lots one-fifth of acre or less. Building set backs are generally uniform from street to street and similar to those found in Vanguard Park.

The Hayes Barton Historic District (NR, 2002) is not immediately adjacent to Vanguard Park, but is located west of Glenwood Avenue and is considered one of the Five Points neighborhoods. Hayes Barton was home to Raleigh's wealthiest residents and as such displays some of the largest and most architecturally sophisticated pre-World War II houses in Raleigh, many of which were architect designed. Hayes Barton house lots are the largest of the Five Points neighborhoods in order to accommodate the large homes and to permit a deep building set back that gives the properties an estate-like appearance. The most common architectural style in the Hayes Barton Historic District is the Colonial Revival.

These three early twentieth-century residential subdivisions blend into one cohesive neighborhood by the presence of similar architectural styles, topography, landscape and street patterns.

**Building Types and Materials**

One and two-story frame and brick and buildings are in the district. The most common wood siding material is weatherboard or German siding. 105 East Whitaker Mill Road and 204 West Whitaker Mill (# 135 and 155) are the district's only completely wood shingled houses, although shingles are used as decorative elements in the gables of some houses. Asbestos shingles are an original siding material used on approximately twenty-five buildings in the district, most often on Minimal Traditional houses such as 318 Avon Drive (# 16), a circa 1950 one-story, side-gable house. However, asbestos shingles are also used to cover original siding in earlier houses as are aluminum and vinyl sidings. 212 Hudson Street, 115 East Whitaker Mill and 2020 White Oak Road (# 38, 140 and 157) are the district's only stone dwellings. Stone is most often seen as an accent material on frame or brick dwellings, for example, 2213 Alexander Road (# 13) is a one-and-one-half-story, brick, gable-and-wing house with brick façade chimney with stone accents. Foundation materials in the district are concrete block and brick.

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Contributing building types in the district include residential, residential outbuildings and a church. Residential buildings include single-family dwellings, duplexes and apartments ranging in date from the 1920s to the present. There are 148 single-family dwellings in the district, 121 of which contribute to its historic significance. There are eight duplexes and apartment buildings in the district, three of which are contributing. The district's only contributing duplex is the circa 1945, one-story, hipped roof, building at 315-317 East Whitaker Mill Road (# 152). A two-story, brick, Minimal Traditional four-unit apartment house stands at 101 Hudson Street (# 45) and a circa 1950 circa 1950, one-story, brick four-unit apartment is located at 123-129 Hudson Street (# 54).

Eighteen of the district's dwellings have outbuildings such as garages, sheds or playhouses. There are thirteen garages and sheds that contribute to the historic character of the district. A typical garage is a one-story, front-gable, frame building with weatherboards or later, synthetic siding.

The district's only religious building is the brick Gothic Revival Vanguard Presbyterian Church at 301 East Whitaker Mill Road (# 150). The building is actually three separate structures—1921 chapel, 1948 Gothic Revival sanctuary and 1961 Educational Building. The chapel and sanctuary were connected by an addition circa 1990. The church parcel also contains the districts only object, the 1968 non-contributing detached bell tower (# 150a).

*Architectural Styles*

The Vanguard Park Historic District contains contributing examples of nationally popular architectural styles from the 1920s through the early 1952. Styles that contribute to the district's historic significance are Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, Craftsman, American Foursquare, Period Cottage, and the Minimal Traditional. The district's dwellings are similar to houses found in the neighboring Hayes Barton and Bloomsbury subdivisions. Its relatively modest housing stock is most similar to that of the Roanoke Park neighborhood, located immediately south.

Craftsman style houses, including bungalows, make up roughly twenty-five percent of Vanguard Park's 1920s housing stock. Craftsman style houses are concentrated on the 100 and 200 blocks of Hudson Street, East Whitaker Mill Road and McCarthy Street. The best examples are found on the north side of East Whitaker Mill Road. The circa 1920 bungalow at 204 West Whitaker Mill Road (# 155) is a one-story, shallow-pitched hipped-roof, house with a recessed porch. The house displays several features that typify the Craftsman style such as shingles, exposed rafter