

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Bladen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Harmony Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SR 1351, .1 mile from junction with SR 1318

CITY OR TOWN:
White Oak (Seventh Congressional District, The Hon. Alton Lennon)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Bladen CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Preservation</u> <u>work in progress</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bladen County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Mr. Chatham Clark

CITY OR TOWN: Elizabethtown STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Bladen County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Elizabethtown STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harmony Hall is a two-story frame dwelling three bays wide and two bays deep, resting on a high brick foundation. It is covered by a low gable roof which extends out over a two-tier porch on each facade. Originally there was a large double-shoulder brick chimney at each end laid in one-to-three common bond with steep smooth weatherings, but the north chimney, destroyed early in the twentieth century, has been replaced by a new chimney patterned after the original. The house has undergone several other alterations that are reflected in the variety of weatherboards utilized on the building. The gable ends have plain lapped siding applied with machine-made nails while the rear (west) facade and the first level of the east facade are covered by wide flush boards with T-head nails. Probably the earliest remaining siding appears at the second level of the main facade--beaded weatherboards applied with rose-head nails. The foundation, which forms a shallow basement room on the south end, also presents evidence of changes with the presence of common, English, and all-header brick bonds in the foundation walls.

Both the main (east) and rear facades have a central entrance at each level flanked by windows containing nine-over-nine sash at the first level and six-over-six above. The windows in the gable ends are quite narrow with six-over-four sash at the first level, four-over-four at the second, and smaller four-over-four in the gable. All windows have two-part molded architraves and rounded sills.

During the recent restoration of the house, it was determined that apparently the only original stair rose to the second level in an enclosed section of the rear porch. Because of this discovery, the south end of the porch has been recently enclosed with horizontal flush siding and a two-flight stair installed.

The early plan of Harmony Hall resembled the hall-and-parlor arrangement. The central entrance opened into the large south room (hall) with a smaller parlor to the north; however, the south room was partitioned in the Greek Revival period to create the present center hall. The large south room is finished with walls plastered above a flat-paneled wainscot featuring early wood graining while the north parlor has walls plastered above and below a molded chair rail. The original partition wall separating the north and south rooms is vertically sheathed and repeats the wainscot in the respective rooms while the later Greek Revival partition, also vertically sheathed, carries a rather unsuccessful copy of the wainscot in the south room. The only remaining mantel at the first level, that in the north parlor, consists of only a heavy three-part architrave around the opening.

At the second level a narrow central hall separates small bedrooms. The enclosed attic stair, which begins in a quarter turn at the southwest corner of the hall, rises through the south bedroom along the partition wall. The stair was originally separated from the hall by a small door hung on either H or HL hinges, indications of which are still visible. Although the attic is unfinished, it does contain evidence that the present roof line is not original but dates from about 1810. The second-floor hall and both partition walls are sheathed, but the rest of the walls on the second floor are plastered above and below the molded chair rail. Both fireplaces feature segmental-arched openings; only the north room retains the simple surrounding architrave.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to family tradition, James Richardson and his brothers, who carried on a shipping trade between England and the West Indies, were shipwrecked on the North Carolina coast. While awaiting the repair of his ship, Richardson visited Bladen County and later settled there. A grant entered May 18, 1773, for 430 acres records his first acquisition of land in Bladen. It was probably soon after this that he built his house, Harmony Hall, on the property.

It is said that Richardson won recognition as a British soldier during the French and Indian War. This military experience may have been one reason why he was chosen as an officer in the militia during the Revolution. In 1775 the Provincial Congress of North Carolina made him second major of two companies of "minute men" to be raised in Bladen County. On record is at least one letter from then Colonel Richardson to Governor Richard Caswell written during the war. He wrote from Cross Creek in 1779, "I am here waiting, with orders from Col. Johnson to march all the men from the District of Wilmington, likewise nine months' men that are desired for South Carolina, immediately to join the Troops at Head Quarters." Caswell replied in part, "I send you a Commission, and wish you a great success; pray let me entreat you to go with the troops as fast as you possibly can."

One tradition long associated with Harmony Hall--and the source of its considerable local fame--is that Cornwallis lodged there on his march to Wilmington. At that time Colonel Richardson was in South Carolina with his regiment. In the evenings Cornwallis would retire to his rooms to plan strategy with his officers. Suspicious of these meetings, Mrs. Richardson crept to the attic and overheard their deliberation. She immediately sent a young man from her household with a letter for her husband. Her information allowed advance warning about Cornwallis's line of march to Wilmington and his movements toward his ultimate defeat at Yorktown.

After the war Colonel Richardson was shown as a resident of Bladen County on the tax list of 1784, when also he was listed as the owner of 934 acres and six slaves. Additional grants to him of 300 acres in 1773 and a later one of 200 acres combined with his original grant of 430 acres give a total of 900 acres, verifying the identity of this later acreage with the earlier Harmony Hall tract. Richardson went on to serve as a representative in the state General Assemblies of 1785 and 1786, and died in 1810.

Harmony Hall remained in the Richardson family until 1870 when it was sold to D. S. Tatum. Tatum sold the property to N. A. Layton, whose family has since deeded it to the Bladen County Historical Society, which hopes to

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8.

restore the house.

Harmony Hall is architecturally significant as a typical late eighteenth century "plantation house" of the lower Cape Fear area and has the distinctive double porches enclosing an exterior stair, a feature typical of these houses. It has considerable local historical value because of its ownership by a revolutionary war figure, Colonel James Richardson; the legend of his wife's over-hearing Cornwallis's plans adds color to the story of Harmony Hall.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bladen County Records, Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Bladen County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Clark, Walter, ed. The State Records of North Carolina. Winston, North Carolina: M. I. and J. C. Stewart, 1895.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 44' 13"	78° 44' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 13 December 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 13 December 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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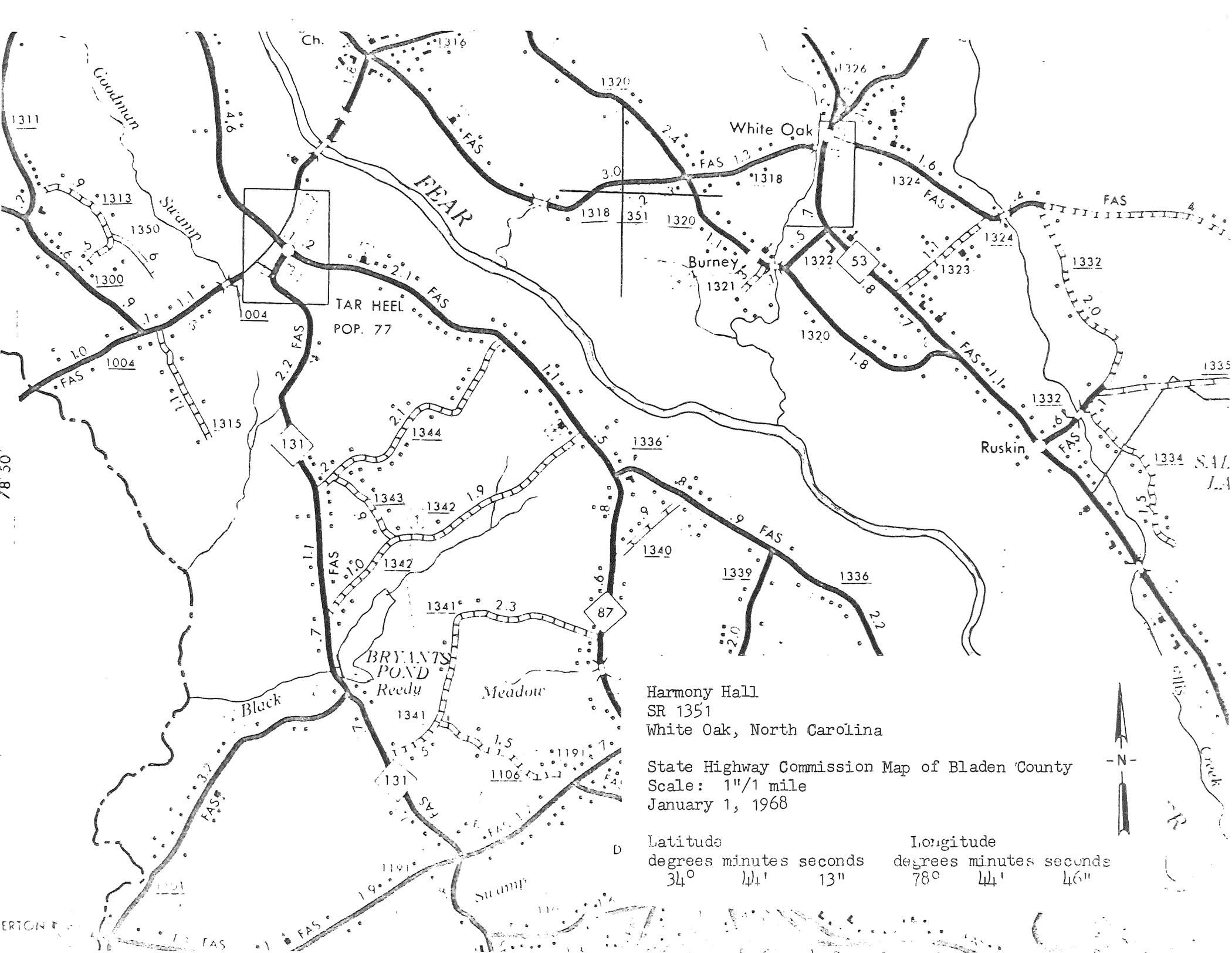
(Continuation Sheet)

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9.

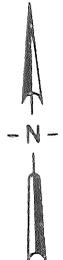
Robinson, Mary Smith. Record of the Richardson Family. Privately published,
1971.



Harmony Hall
 SR 1351
 White Oak, North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map of Bladen County
 Scale: 1"/1 mile
 January 1, 1968

Latitude	Longitude
degrees minutes seconds	degrees minutes seconds
34° 44' 13"	78° 44' 46"



78 50'

ERTON

