

(Oct. 1990)

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 an 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 Ashland

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number East side NC 45, .25 miles north of junction with SR 1360
(948 NC 45 North)

N/A not for publication

city or town Ashland

vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Bertie code 015 zip code 27957

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Stephen Crow SHPO 2/25/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Ashland

Name of Property

Bertie County, NC

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total). Values: Contributing (1, 0, 0, 0, 1), Noncontributing (0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof METAL: Tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Circa 1840

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** birthplace or 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.

Significant Dates

Circa 1840

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Ashland
Name of Property

Bertie County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 340680 3995120
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach
organization consultant date 3/1/02
street & number 705 Mills Street telephone 919-828-6548
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27608

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Kathy and Jim Myers
street & number 948 NC 45 North telephone 252-356-1388
city or town Merry Hill state NC zip code 27957

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Bertie County, NC

7. Narrative Description

Ashland is located on the east side of Highway 45 one-quarter mile north of its junction with SR 1360. The house, set back approximately 250 feet, faces west toward the road and is surrounded by agricultural fields. The home tract is 6.93 acres, but only the 2 acres around the house are included in the nominated parcel. An original brick walk leads to the front porch, and the current property owners have landscaped along the walk and around the house. A lone cedar near the highway and several hardwood trees in the rear of the house remain from the mid-nineteenth-century landscaping of the property. The topography of the area is generally flat. The Chowan River, which forms the eastern boundary of Bertie County, is several miles east of Ashland. The house is centrally sited in a small rural community of the same name, halfway between Colerain and Merry Hill in Whites Township. On the adjacent parcel to the south, a modest Ranch house is situated just off the highway at the end of the gravel driveway leading to Ashland. A frame, gambrel-roofed workshop was built behind the Ranch house in 1998. An early-twentieth-century, frame, front-gable-roofed barn with side sheds is northeast of Ashland on the adjacent tax parcel.

Ashland is a circa 1840, gable-roofed, frame, weatherboarded, Greek Revival-style house. The two-story, five-bay, single-pile building has a two-story rear ell. The front and rear elevations of the main body of the house and the side elevations of the ell feature one-story, shed-roofed porches. The house sits on brick piers with modern brick lattice infill and is served by three single-shouldered, brick, three-to-one common bond, end chimneys. Standing-seam tin roofs protect the main body of the house and the porches.

Original double-hung, six-over-six sash windows punctuate every elevation. The first floor windows are taller than the second floor windows in proportion to the higher ceilings in the downstairs rooms. Fluted architraves with decorative square corner blocks surmount plainly finished window sills. The main entrance, a raised-panel double-door, encompasses the same trim treatment. The door possesses enough evidence of the original faux finish that the current property owners have been able to replicate the graining and the black painted lock plates. A four-light fixed transom above the front entrance illuminates the central hallway.

The front porch has recently been reconstructed to its original appearance. Remnants of the original columns have been used to accurately reproduce the Doric columns and railing for the porch. (During the first quarter of the twentieth century the original columns were cut down and used as posts on top of brick piers for a more up-to-date bungalow porch treatment.) A row of dentils applied below two narrow moldings on the porch cornice balances the decorative composition of

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each elevation. Mutule blocks with guttae augment the boxed cornices of the main body of the house. Restoration of the back porches is also planned.

Two parlors on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor flank the central stair hall. A service stair in the rear ell provides additional access to the second floor bedrooms and separates the dining room from the kitchen. (The original dining room now functions as the kitchen, and the front parlor serves as the dining room.) Both staircases rise in two flights with landings to the upstairs halls. Narrow, rectangular balusters, rounded handrails and tapered newel posts complete the front and service stairs. Sawn stair brackets on the open stringer of the front hall stair echo the stylized floral motif of the corner blocks in the formal, public spaces of the house. At some point in the history of the service stair a few broken or missing balusters were replaced with tobacco sticks.

Twelve-foot ceilings, heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, Greek Revival mantels and architraves with a variety of cornerblock motifs characterize the interior rooms of Ashland. The first floor mantels are embellished with Ionic columns. The ornate cornerblocks with stylized floral motifs may have been inspired by Plate 39 of the Practice of Architecture or Plate 36 of The Architect, or Complete Builder's Guide by Asher Benjamin.¹ A raised panel under the windows completes the patternbook treatment of the space in the more formal downstairs rooms. Simple door and window architraves with mitered corners and post-and-lintel mantels define the private spaces of the second floor. Original wood valances grace a few of the upstairs bedroom windows and the windows in the two small original rooms in the second-floor hallways (perhaps designed as storage areas) that now serve as bathrooms. The doors throughout the house are hung on original butt hinges and retain English Carpenter locks with brass knobs. With the exception of the doors off the center hall, which have eight raised panels, the interior doors have four horizontal raised panels, with the bottom panel being square and the other three rectangular.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

Ashland is an exceptional example of the Greek Revival style in Bertie County, thus meeting National Register Criterion C. The circa 1840 house, which retains its original floor plan, as well as significant interior and exterior elements including patternbook architraves, window sash, doors and

¹ Asher Benjamin, Practice of Architecture (Boston: Benjamin B. Mussey, 1833); Asher Benjamin, The Architect, or Complete Builder's Guide (Boston: Benjamin B. Mussey, 1845).

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single-shouldered chimneys, is one of the most distinguished Greek Revival-style plantation seats in Bertie County. Ashland possesses integrity of setting, feeling, association, workmanship and materials that exceeds most other surviving Bertie County examples of domestic Greek Revival architecture from this period.

Historical Background

Fertile land along the banks of rivers and streams drew white settlers to the western half of the Chowan precinct (which became Bertie County) in the early-eighteenth century after the conclusion of the Tuscarora Indian War. By the mid-eighteenth century the area was one of the wealthiest and most populous in the province. The plantation culture that developed along the Chowan River in Bertie County is described in the following:

"River trade along the Chowan developed in proportion to the development of the plantations along its banks. Every plantation had a landing and it was not uncommon for vessels seeking cargo to come up the Chowan River to the plantation landings to purchase what the owners desired to sell. At the same time these vessels would bring the plantation owners their purchases, shipped through Norfolk, Baltimore and other eastern seaports. Throughout the years freight and passenger boats were seen daily at the docks. This trade flourished through the nineteenth century into the first part of the twentieth....One aspect of life along the Chowan River which had helped to stimulate its river traffic in earlier years, was its commercial fishing, for which it has always been noted. Many plantations had a shad and herring fishery."²

It was into this environment that Augustus Holley was born in 1808. Augustus grew up on Mount Gould Plantation, located a few miles north of the site of his future home. Thomas Holley, Augustus's father, purchased an adjacent eleven hundred-acre plantation on the banks of the Chowan River from George Pollock of Halifax, but never built a home on the acreage. Augustus Holley inherited this tract from his father, and his slaves built the house he named Ashland after Henry Clay's home in Lexington, Kentucky. Ashland was under construction by the early 1830s, and Augustus and his wife Martha moved into the house around 1840.³

² Ruth Forbes White, "Early Bertie Plantations along the Chowan River," The Chronicle of the Bertie County Historical Association, Vol. XIV, No. 2 (October, 1966), 4.

³ *Ibid.*, 3.

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The 1850 census lists Augustus Holley as a forty-year-old farmer with three children, \$32,000 worth of real property and seventy-three slaves. He farmed 1,500 acres with \$1,200 of agricultural implements, and owned \$4,035 worth of livestock including horses, mules, cattle (dairy and beef), sheep and pigs. Holley's plantation produced wheat, corn, wool, cotton, peas, sweet potatoes, butter, hay, and beef for sale and use by the family and slaves. His Chowan River fishery, in which he invested \$3,000 of capital, was valued at \$13, 884.⁴

Holley gradually expanded his holdings, and by 1860 was one of the wealthiest men in Bertie County, ranking third behind Cullen Capeheart and Joseph H. Etheridge in terms of ownership of land and slaves. There were only five households in the county with a reported total property value of more than \$200,000 in 1860: Holley owned \$50,000 of real property and \$185,000 worth of personal property including 160 slaves. In 1862 Augustus Holley paid taxes on 7,579 acres of land valued at \$46,300, 160 slaves valued at \$48,000, and personal property worth \$1,481. Holley speculated in land and owned many sizable estates along the Chowan River. Over the course of his life he bought and sold real estate including Askew Plantation, Bandon Plantation, Eden House, Black Rock, the Hermitage, Gaskins Place, Goose Pond, Mount Gould, Midway, Willow Branch and Mills Landing. As stated in Holley's memorial published at his death: "All of these estates when put together and coterminous in situation, and covering an area of fourteen miles in length, and many miles in width, are beautifully situated along the Chowan river, and quite enough to make many a German Baronetey in the old world, and containing between ten and twenty thousand acres of land." Holley found most success with his fishing operations and had fisheries at the Hermitage and Willow Branch. He donated some of the proceeds from his business endeavors to philanthropic concerns such as Wesleyan Female College in Murfreesboro and Wake Forest College.⁵

The Civil War dealt Augustus Holley a decimating blow, as documented by the 1870 census, which lists Holley as a farmer with only \$4200 worth of real property and \$10,000 worth of personal

⁴ Sandra Lee Almasy, Bertie County, North Carolina, 1850 Census, Free Population and Slave Population (Joliet, Illinois: Kensington Glen Publishing, 1991), 31, 111, 112; Stephen E. Bradley, Jr., The 1850 Federal Census, Bertie County, North Carolina (Keysville, VA, 1991), 11, 49, 72; J.B. Cherry, "In Memoriam, Augustus Holley, who died May 29th, 1882," (pamphlet distributed by Albermarle Enquirer Printing, Edenton, NC, 1882), 4.

⁵ Sandra Lee Almasy, Bertie County, North Carolina, Census 1860, Population Schedule of the Eighth Census of the United States, Free and Slave Inhabitants (Middleton, Wisconsin: Kensington Glen Publishing, 1996) 79, 158, 159; J.B. Cherry, "In Memoriam, Augustus Holley, who died May 29th, 1882."

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property. Martha Holley died in 1872, and Augustus married Sally Jernigan, a Hertford County widow with two children, soon after. He left Ashland to his second wife. Augustus died at the Hermitage in 1882 at the age of seventy-four.⁶

J.P. Hoggard purchased Ashland from Sally Jernigan Holley's heirs on March 4, 1911 and began selling off one hundred-acre parcels. J.P. Hoggard's daughter Fannie and her husband Wayland Miller bought Ashland and the surrounding one hundred acres in 1913. After Wayland Miller's death, Dorsey L. Miller inherited the house and ten acres, and the rest of the acreage was sold. Dorsey's niece, Imogen, and her husband Troy of Virginia Beach, acquired the house in 1976 and visited occasionally until 1996, when they sold the house and 6.93 acres to the current property owners, Kathy and Jim Meyers.⁷

Architecture Context

Ashland is an outstanding example of a Greek Revival-style dwelling in rural northeastern North Carolina. The Greek Revival style appeared in North Carolina by the 1820s in sophisticated domestic and public buildings such as Hayes Plantation in Edenton and the Mordecai House and the State House in Raleigh. William Nichols, the architect of these buildings, utilized plates published in Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of Athens as inspirations for his Greek Revival designs. It was not until the 1830s, however, that a Greek Revival influence was evident in the mainstream domestic architecture of North Carolina. Few Greek Revival houses adopted the temple form; rather, most utilized a symmetrical plan with a center hall and low hipped or gabled roof. Many houses built during this period embody both Federal and Greek Revival elements copied from popular patternbooks, including Asher Benjamin's Country Builder's Assistant (1797), American Builder's Companion (1806), and Practice of Architecture (1833), and Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant (1805).⁸

⁶ Sandra Lee Almay. Bertie County, North Carolina, Census 1870, Population Schedule of the Ninth Census of the United States (Middleton, Wisconsin: Kensington Glen Publishing, 1996), 160.

⁷ Bertie County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Bertie County Courthouse, Windsor.

⁸ Catherine Bishir, North Carolina Architecture (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990), 96, 195.

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The earliest manifestations of the Greek Revival style in Bertie County were in the homes of the most prosperous residents. There are two examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Woodville Historic District (NR 1998). The Thompson-Urquhart House, built circa 1840, is a two-story, three-bay, hip-roofed, frame Greek Revival-style house with exterior brick chimneys, boxed cornices and Doric pilasters. A five-light transom surmounts the double front door. The circa 1860 Averitt-Pugh-Thompson House is a two-story, three-bay, double-pile, hip-roofed, frame house with interior brick chimneys. The building retained its Greek Revival form through early twentieth-century Craftsman modifications. These houses, like Ashland, illustrate the widespread use and interpretation of patternbook Greek Revival designs.⁹

Several National Register-listed houses with Greek Revival elements stand in rural Bertie County. At the Hermitage (NR 1980), a late-eighteenth-century coastal cottage in the Merry Hill vicinity with a large Federal and Greek Revival-period addition, interior architraves, mantels and stair elements were executed in the Greek Revival style much like those at Ashland. According to local tradition, Augustus Holley spent the summer months at the Hermitage from 1870 (the year he purchased the property) until his death in 1882.¹⁰ Elmwood, also known as the Watson-Madre House (NR 1980), is located in the vicinity of Windsor. The Federal period hall-parlor plan house was enlarged before the Civil War into a three-bay, double-pile, center-hall-plan dwelling with vernacular Greek Revival trim. The symmetrical door and window architraves are in keeping with those at Ashland.¹¹

Patrick Henry Winston built Windsor Castle, a two-story, frame house with Greek Revival and Italianate embellishments, in the Windsor vicinity around 1858. The next generation of the family added a classical portico to the front elevation in the early twentieth century. St. Frances Methodist Church (NR 1980) was erected in Woodville in 1845, moved to Lewiston in 1896, and moved back to its original site in 2000. The simple Greek Revival interior of the church includes a curved gallery supported by Doric columns.¹²

⁹ Ruth Little, "Woodville Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1998.

¹⁰ Marshall Bullock, "The Hermitage," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1980.

¹¹ Marshall Bullock, "Elmwood," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1980.

¹² Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern, A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1996), 279, 280.

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The number of extant examples of Greek Revival houses in Bertie County is unknown, as there has not been a comprehensive architectural survey of the county, but Ashland may be the most distinguished intact Greek Revival house in the county. The Greek Revival style was extremely popular in northeastern North Carolina, and there are several comparable houses in surrounding counties. In neighboring Washington County, the Collins family's Somerset Plantation House (NR 1970), constructed circa 1838-39, manifests simple Greek Revival elements such as two-tiered porches with Doric columns across the front and rear eaves, large six-over-six windows and bold architraves with square corner blocks. Although the design elements of Somerset are not as high-style as those of Ashland, they both were undoubtedly drawn from period patternbooks.¹³

In Hertford County, just north of Bertie County, there are a few National Register-listed houses with Greek Revival details. Vernon Place, also known as the Cowper-Taylor House (NR 1982), is a transitional Federal-Greek Revival plantation house located in the Como vicinity. The two-story, five-bay, single-pile, frame, center-hall plan house was built in the late 1820s by one of Hertford County's largest cotton producers. Like Ashland, the building retains Greek Revival architraves, doors, and baseboards. The circa 1830 Riddick House (NR 1971), also located in the Como vicinity, has a two-story, hip-roofed Greek Revival rear addition complete with a porch supported by reeded Doric columns. The front porch, added at the same time, has identical columns. A mantel in the rear addition has a Greek key design.¹⁴

Ashland is one of the most intact examples of Greek Revival-style domestic architecture in Bertie County. The two-story, five-bay, single-pile, gable-roofed, frame house features exterior Greek Revival details such as fluted architraves with decorative cornerblocks and boxed cornices embellished with mutule blocks with guttae. Twelve-foot ceilings, heart-pine floors, tall baseboards, Greek Revival mantels and architraves with a variety of cornerblock motifs characterize the interior. The house possesses a degree of integrity of setting, workmanship and materials that exceeds most other surviving Bertie County examples of Greek Revival architecture from this period.

¹³ Raymond F. Pisney, "Somerset Place," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1970.

¹⁴ Survey and Planning Branch, "Vernon Place," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1982; Survey and Planning Branch, "Riddick House," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1971.

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9. Bibliography

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Pisney, Raymond F. "Somerset Place State Historic Site." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1970.

Survey and Planning Branch. "Riddick House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1971.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of two acres of Bertie County tax parcel #6885-99-4437 as indicated by the heavy dashed line on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract consists of two acres surrounding Ashland and provides a historically appropriate setting for the house. The boundaries do not include the early-twentieth century barn on the adjacent tax parcel to the north or the modern woodworking shop behind the neighboring Ranch house on the adjacent tax parcel to the south.

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Ashland
Bertie County, NC

Photograph Catalog

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, 705 Mills Street, Raleigh, N.C., on January 27, 2002. Negatives located at the NC SHPO.

1. Front (west) exterior elevation
2. Rear (east) exterior elevation
3. Front doors
4. Interior- Original English Carpenter lock
5. Dining Room- mantel and windows
6. Parlor door
7. Rear (east) and south exterior elevations

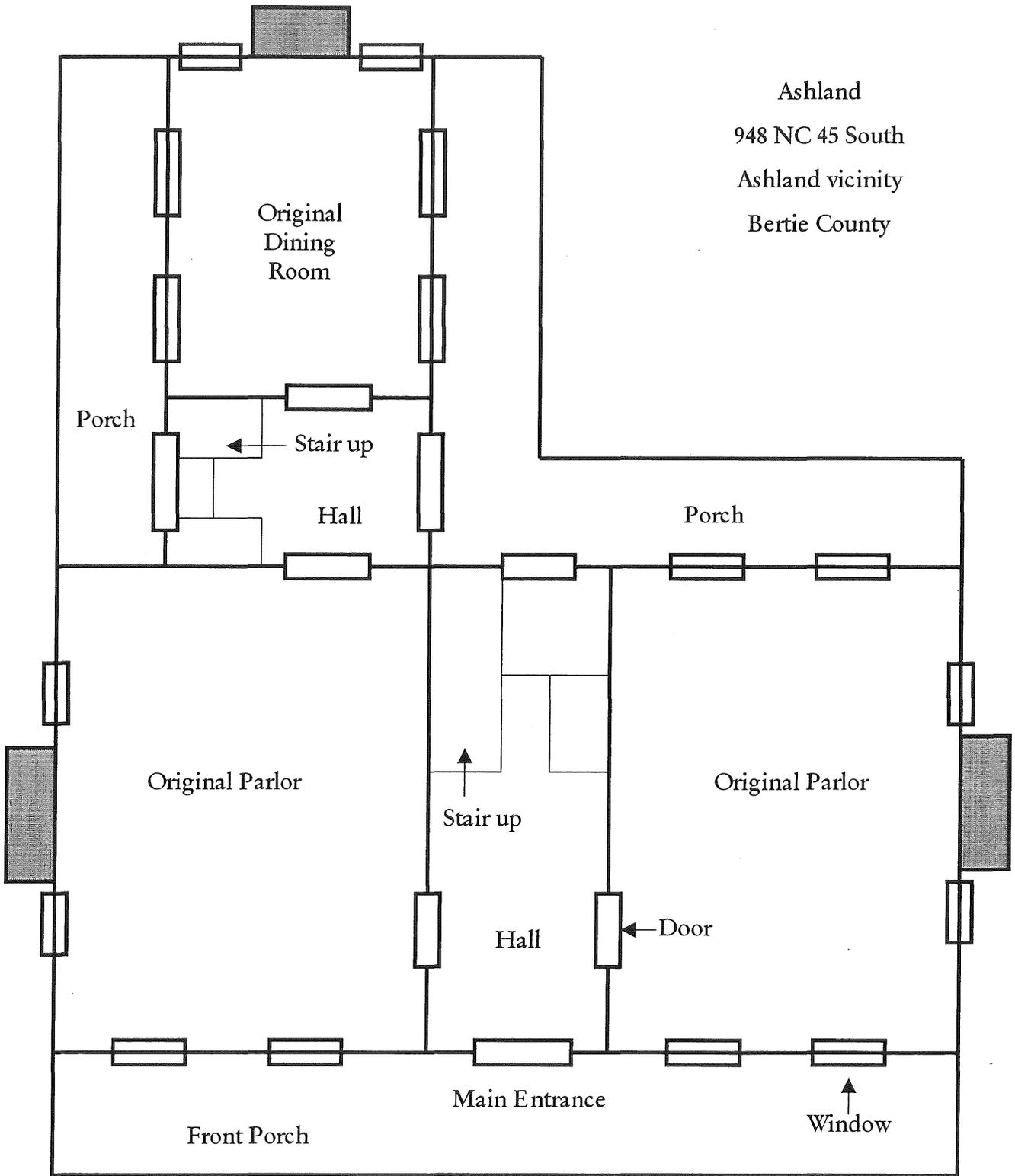
Photographs by Marshall Bullock on July 6, 1979. Negatives located at the NC SHPO. These elements of the interior of the house have not changed since the building was surveyed in 1979.

8. Center hall stair detail
9. Center hall door architrave detail

Heather Fearnbach

December 2002

Ashland
948 NC 45 South
Ashland vicinity
Bertie County



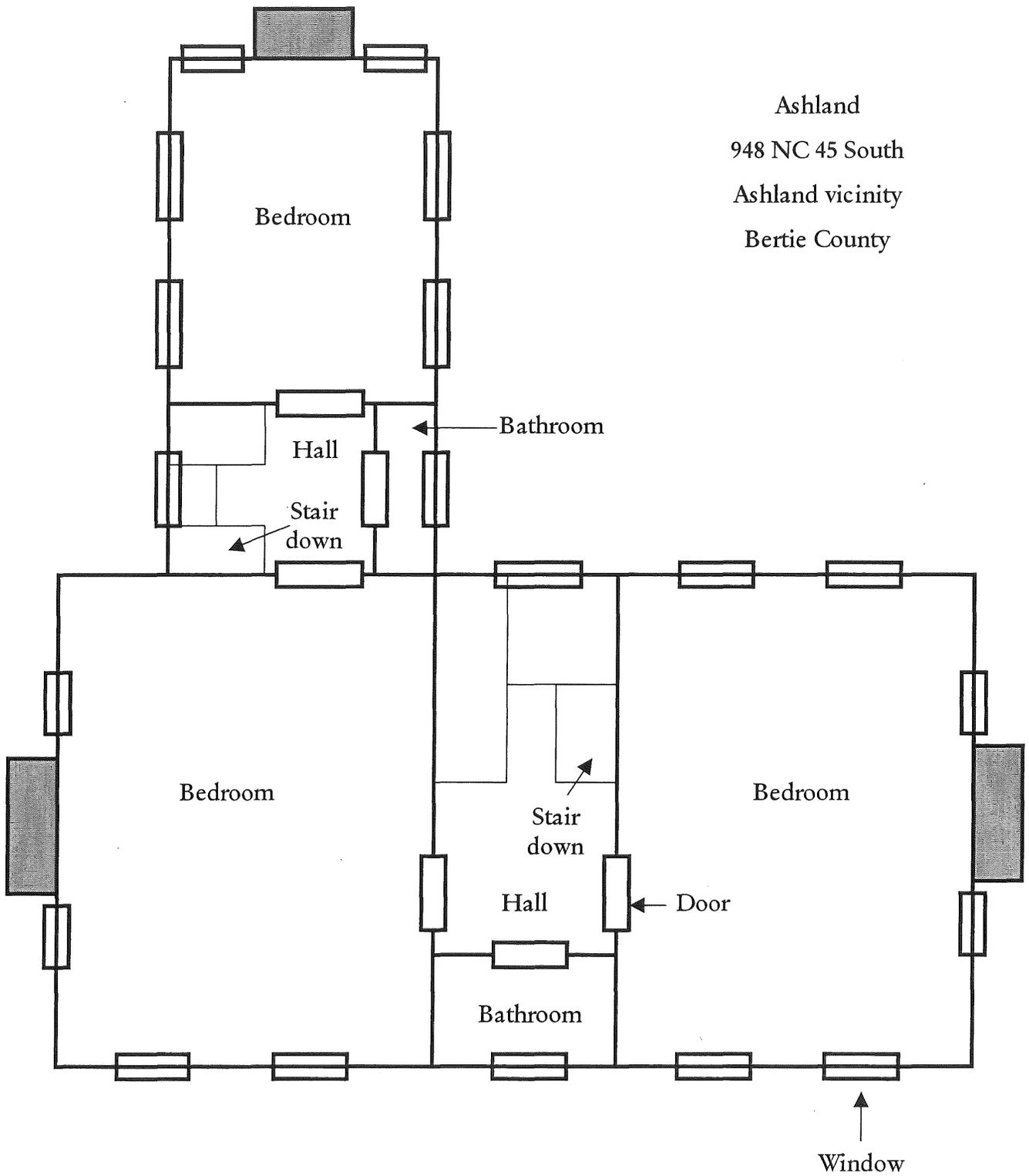
First Floor Plan Diagram



Heather Fearnbach

December 2002

Ashland
948 NC 45 South
Ashland vicinity
Bertie County



Second Floor Plan Diagram



MERRY HILL QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA—BERTIE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5656 II NW
 (VALHALLA)

47'30" 339 340 2 660 000 FEET 342 76°45' 36°07'30"



870 000
 FEET

Ashland
 948 NC 45 North
 Ashland vicinity
 Bertie County
 Zone 18
 E 340680
 N 3995120
 CONVERSION
 SCALES

