

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Cabarrus
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Mill Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
S.R. 1616, 0.1 mi. N.E. of junction with S.R. 1622

CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Eighth

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

COUNTY:  
Cabarrus

CODE:  
025

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney B. Cooke

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mill Hill, Rankin Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cabarrus County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord

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:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Mill Hill, the home of architect-builder Jacob Stirewalt, is a one-story, four-bay frame house which derives its exterior distinction from an impressive Greek Revival porch that spans the main facade. The five fluted Doric porch columns rest on brick piers and support a stylized entablature beneath a hip roof. The area protected by the porch is flush-sheathed. The main entrance is flanked by two bays to the east and one to the west. The windows have boldly molded frames and six-over-six sash, and the door has two leaves, each with a single vertical panel. The door is surmounted by a transom with a central lozenge flanked by arrow-shaped elements. The two-bay gable ends each have an exterior chimney. The east chimney is laid in Flemish bond and is quite wide. Large gable windows with twelve-over-twelve sash flank the chimney stacks at both gable ends. The west chimney is smaller and is laid in common bond. A one-story wing which is one bay wide and two bays deep has been recently added to the south bay of the west gable end. Pilasters support small cornice returns at each corner of the house.

From the rear it is seen that the house, which sits on the edge of a hill, has a full floor at the basement level. A four-bay porch similar to the front porch extends across the rear. The unadorned porch frieze is supported by square pillars. The east bay of the porch has been enclosed and the west end is covered by the wing.

The interior plan consists of an off-center hall with one large room to the west and two (formerly three) rooms to the east. The hall has vertical sheathing with a symmetrically molded chair rail and molded cornice. The three-part molded door frames have curious molded bases or feet which appear to be characteristic of Jacob Stirewalt's work. The rear door of the hall is a standard six-panel door while the front door has two panels; both have flush panels on their interior sides. The rear door also has a transom similar to the front door.

The interior door architraves of the hall have symmetrical molding with unusual corner blocks decorated with a vine-like "X" pattern. The hall contains a sofa and clock attributed to Jacob Stirewalt. The west room has vertical sheathing which has a broad, unadorned board at chair rail height and pilasters in each corner of the room as well as on either side of the openings. The pilasters support a wide, unadorned entablature. This room has bold, three-part molded architraves and a distinctive but unadorned, Greek Revival mantel.

The east wall of the hall contains three doors; one leads into the front room, the next to an enclosed stair and the third to the rear room. The front room originally was divided in half and contains the enclosed stair as well as a corner fireplace with a mantel which is Georgian in form but which has Greek Revival moldings. It has a molded surround framing the square fire opening surmounted by an open frieze and molded shelf. This is like several mantels found in various houses of the area which are attributed to Stirewalt. The window frames of this room extend to the floor and conclude with the characteristic molded foot. The extended architraves flank flat panels placed below the windows. Two doors,

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side by side, resulting from the removal of the partition, lead to the rear room which contains the most elaborate mantel of the house; it is similar in form to that in the front room. It has a three-part architrave framing the fire opening. The outer band is a cable molding of a series of rings and the inner band is ornamented with fretwork. On each side the molding terminates in the molded foot like those on doors and windows. Surmounting the architrave is a distinctive three-part frieze which has long-necked urns on each corner block and, on the center tablet, interlocking, elongated circles placed over a lozenge. A dentil course separates the frieze and molded shelf which breaks over the center tablet and corner blocks. This mantel is featured in Thomas T. Waterman's Early Architecture of North Carolina and is described as being characteristic of Stirewalt's work; it recurs, in slightly different form, at other houses credited to him. This room, like the front room, has a molded cornice; it also has a door with transom (similar to the rear door of the hall) leading onto the now-enclosed porch.

The attic is divided into one large room to the east, which accommodates the stair and an organ built by Jacob Stirewalt, and two smaller rooms to the west. The walls are horizontally sheathed and have symmetrically molded architraves with unadorned corner blocks. The two smaller rooms are painted to look as though they have chair rail and wainscot.

8. 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)      1821

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy                                 | <u>Inventor-</u>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | <u>Craftsman</u>                                    |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mill Hill, described by Thomas T. Waterman as "an essay in pastoral classic beauty," is an interesting Federal-Greek Revival house dignified by an impressive Doric porch. It is of special significance as the home of Jacob Stirewalt, builder and architect, who is associated by tradition and stylistic evidence with a number of notable Federal and Greek Revival houses in Cabarrus, Rowan, and Lincoln counties. Given the present lack of documentation of Stirewalt's work, his own house is particularly important since it contains many architectural features in common with those he is credited with building.

On December 28, 1808, Jacob Stirewalt bought 150 acres located on both sides of "Templeton's Mill Creek" in Cabarrus County from David, Archibald, and James Templeton for \$1,300. Though the deed refers to appurtenances, there is no specific reference to an existing house or mill. Jacob was the son of Johannes Stirewalt, a wagonmaker who had settled on Buffalo Creek in nearby Rowan County in 1773 after migrating from Pennsylvania. When Johannes died in 1796, he left his "wagon making tools" to his 19-year-old son, Jacob. Jacob, who married in 1810 and became a father in 1811, also served in the War of 1812. On August 4, 1818, he bought 272 acres adjoining his previous purchase on Templeton's Mill Creek, this time from Phillip Youst for \$1,400. The purchase is again with appurtenances but with no specific references. Mill Hill is generally reputed to have been built in 1821; it is uncertain where Jacob and his family lived before this date.

Mill Hill exhibits both Federal and Greek Revival styles and appears to have begun as a small house, modestly embellished. Through the years, perhaps as Jacob's house building talents expanded, his house achieved a more refined finish. Thomas T. Waterman describes Jacob Stirewalt as a master builder who might be referred to as an architect. He points out that Stirewalt strictly adhered to local building forms, reserving his architectural efforts for the expertly finished trim which appears to be characteristic of his work. Stirewalt's mantels have a character of their own, and he evidently used Plate 31 from Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant for his stairs; it was a design widely employed throughout Piedmont North Carolina. Waterman credits Jacob's father, John, as being closely connected with their work; however, his death in 1796 precludes any connection with most of the known buildings associated with the name of Stirewalt.

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Jacob Stirewalt was a man of several talents; in addition to building houses, he built furniture, clocks, and one of the first (if not the first) organs for a private home in North Carolina. The organ, a sofa, and a clock, all attributed to Jacob Stirewalt, are still at Mill Hill. It is also said that Jacob designed a system for bringing water from the spring at the bottom of the hill to the back porch of Mill Hill. It had a cable with buckets attached, which were dipped into the spring and drawn up hill to the house by a person operating a windlass on the porch. The small creek below his house is said to have operated Stirewalt's grist mill, saw mill, cotton gin, and cording machinery. At the time of his death Jacob not only owned his plantation but maintained a general store and post office. Though he had no known formal training in architecture, it is interesting to note that his son, John, studied architecture under the nationally noted Ithiel Town.

Following Jacob's death in 1855, Mill Hill was inherited by Jacob, Jr., who lived until 1889. There followed a period of neglect for Mill Hill in which the supporting buildings were lost and the house barely survived. On May 28, 1938, the lands of Jacob Stirewalt were formally divided among the heirs; the home tract, which fell to Neal Stirewalt, was purchased on June 6, 1938, by Jacob Stirewalt, III, who restored the house. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney B. Cooke, purchased Mill Hill from Jacob Stirewalt, IV, in January, 1967.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.  
 Cabarrus County Records, Cabarrus County Courthouse, Concord, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).  
 Cabarrus County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Rouse, J. K. North Carolina Picadillo. Privately Printed, 1966.  
 Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		35 ° 28 ' 36 "	80 ° 42 ' 02 "	
NE	" ' "	" ' "				
SE	" ' "	" ' "				
SW	" ' "	" ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 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

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 26 April 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Concord vicinity STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Thornton W. Mitchell

Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 26 April 1974

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Rowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds and Wills).

Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

