

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Chatham County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Moore-Manning House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 Hillsboro St.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Pittsboro

VICINITY OF

4th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Chatham

37

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert L. Gunn

STREET & NUMBER

400 Hillsboro Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

VICINITY OF North Carolina

27312

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Chatham County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Selden-Sturgill

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

March 1, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Archives and History

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sited on a high knoll which once overlooked the town commons, the Moore-Manning House is a three-bay two-story frame residence, dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, onto which an area builder grafted the motifs of the Greek, Egyptian and Gothic Revivals.

The original house of the 1830s fits comfortably into the contemporary building tradition. The early three-bay structure which still shows evidence of beaded weatherboards, is characterized by an elliptically-arched sidehall entrance. In 1836 Henry Adolphus London had also built a three-bay house, now demolished, with a sidehall plan, but London's residence employed a round arch entrance. At the Moore-Manning House entrance the basic Federal design of a fanlight and side lights is surrounded by an architrave featuring symmetrically channeled pilasters secured with block-like capitals. The local craftsmen's interpretations of these elements echoes other work which was undertaken in the town in the 1830s, such as the Hall-London House and St. Bartholomew's Church. The early windows on the side of the house reveal that nine-over-nine sash was used at the first floor level and nine-over-six at the second floor.

In 1858 when John Manning, Jr. moved into the residence, a major renovation was undertaken. Early letters reveal that the roof posed particular problems and, indeed, the present hip roof, and exterior end chimney show evidence of modification. At the first floor level the parlor windows were extended to the floor, filled with large pane six-over-six light sash and surrounded with a label molding. It was also at this time that the one-bay two-story wing was added to the east side of the house. The windows in the wing are also encased with label moldings, and the corners are marked by panelled pilasters.

At the rear of the house can be seen the enclosed remnants of a breezeway and a one-story L-shape addition with a gable roof extends north. The rear addition, traditionally called the "Mare's nest," has a box cornice, flush rake boards and an exterior end chimney. Sometime during the late-nineteenth century a porch with open-work posts and a sawn balustrade was extended along the main three-bay facade. The pairing of the second floor windows is presumably a twentieth-century alteration.

The interior of the Moore-Manning House joins together an array of nineteenth century styles. The sheathed entrance hall tenaciously retains its Federal character. The six-panel doors are set into three-part molded surrounds and like so many contemporary Pittsboro homes, the ceiling and wainscot are sheathed. A thin tracery of rails and stiles has been superimposed over the sheathed wainscot to give a panelled effect. The stairs which ascend on the right side of the hall are partially enclosed by sheathed walls. A delicate round rail resting on square-cut balusters descends from the enclosure. Although showing evidence of some alteration, the stair also features shallow brackets along the trends and a flared rail.

The parlor with its sheathed ceiling and wainscot received more attention than the stair hall in the mid-century renovations. Here the craftsman first chose the mode of the Greek Revival to update the design. The early six-panel

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Moore-Manning House

Item number 7

Page 1

doors are fitted out with architraves of symmetrically-cut moldings fixed with cornerblocks. Again a superimposed chair rail and a baseboard, matching the proportions of the doors' architraves, have been added to the sheathing and the wall has been finished with a broad molded cornice. The surrounds of the parlor windows, however, have been rendered with a simple crossette surmounting the molded frame which, in keeping with the Egyptian mode, is battered out as it descends to the floor.

The two mantels on the first floor are designed in a vernacular Greek Revival manner which, as in other contemporary area mantels, emphasizes the contrast of surface. The living room mantel features engaged Tuscan columns supporting a smooth bombé frieze flanked by channeled pilasters. In contrast the dining room mantel is marked by channeled pilasters supporting a panelled frieze flanked by smooth shafts.

The dining room and the second floor have undergone extensive alteration within the past ten years. In addition the renovations have replaced an early twentieth century breakfast room with a modern kitchen.

7 DESCRIPTION

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<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Constructed sometime in the 1830s, the Moore-Manning House was originally part of a 64 1/2 acre tract of land which had passed into the hands of the prominent New York banker and patron of the arts Robert Donaldson. Donaldson was the grandson of John Henderson of Pittsboro and when the grandfather died in 1823 much of the estate passed to his grandchildren.¹ In 1834 the records show that young Robert Donaldson sold the tract on which the house now stands for \$451.50 to four men: Alexander D. Moore, Morris Q. Waddell, George Moore and W. H. Strong.² Three years later Alexander D. Moore of Brunswick County sold 16 of those acres to Julia A. Moore for \$1,000.³ Following Julia A. Moore's purchase in 1837, the chain of title to the property disappeared for twenty-one years until a sale from William B. Thompson.⁴ It would seem likely that the house, with its prominent Federal detailing, was built during the Moore's ownership in the 1830s.

William Beverhaut Thompson, the next occupant of the house, was a civil engineer who came to Pittsboro in 1848 to complete a preliminary survey of the upper Cape Fear and Deep Rivers for a group of investors interested in improving the river transportation into the piedmont above Fayetteville. Following Thompson's survey the state agreed to incorporate the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company and Thompson was appointed chief engineer. Thompson may have moved his family to Pittsboro in May of 1849 when he returned from the District of Columbia where he had gone to hire a crew of assistants.⁵ Great hopes for developing the resources of the piedmont were placed in this river improvement but a combination of factors, including design and labor problems, plagued the company almost from the start. Thompson was relieved of his duties sometime between September of 1852 and July of 1853.⁶ Suggestions have been made that the company's engineers were not supervising the contractors adequately.

The Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company struggled on until 1859 when it was taken over by the state. Backed primarily by investors from Wilmington and Chatham County, the navigation company was based in Pittsboro and this community suffered the loss of its eventual failure.

In 1858 William Thompson sold the sixteen-acre site and house to John Manning, Jr. (1830-1899) for \$1250.⁷ Born in Edenton, Manning was educated at Judge William H. Battle's law school in Chapel Hill. At the age of twenty eight, he came to Pittsboro with the intention of practicing law with his cousin John Hooker Haughton (1810-1876) and it was here that Manning began his illustrious legal career.⁸

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chatham County Records. Chatham County Courthouse. Pittsboro, North Carolina.
Subgroup: Deeds, Wills.

Hadley, Wade. Chatham County 1771-1971. Durham: Moore Publishing, Co., 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	6648190	3954800	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 2 Block 1 Map 13 Pittsboro Township, Chatham County Tax Map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Moore-Manning House

Item number 8

Page 1

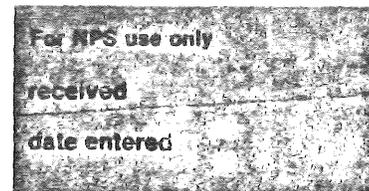
It seems likely that Haughton, who was both the company attorney and a large stockholder in the C. F. and D. R. Navigation Company, in fact arranged the sale of the engineer's property to his young partner. When Manning moved into the Pittsboro residence, which he named The Elms, much work was needed.⁹ It was at this time that the Federal house of the 1830s acquired a combination of Greek, Egyptian and Gothic Revival motifs, as well as a two-story hipped roof addition to the east side. It was here that Manning and his wife Louisa, the daughter of Dr. Isaac Hall, raised their seven children.

Shortly after Manning's move to Pittsboro the Civil War ensued. The young lawyer was a participant in the Secession Convention in 1861 and was adjutant of his regiment during the war. In 1870 Manning was elected to the United States Congress and five years later he was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in Raleigh. Finally in 1881 Manning joined the faculty of the University of North Carolina and was instrumental in making the semi-independent law school an administrative unit of the university.¹⁰

Following John Mannings' departure to Chapel Hill, the Pittsboro residences was rented for a number of years. Stephen W. Brewer, the sheriff of Chatham County, rented the Moore-Manning House before his own house at 406 Thompson Street was completed in 1888.¹¹ In 1890 the property was passed into the hands of Emma V. Moring and one year later it was transferred to S. M. Holt.¹² Financial difficulties plagued Holt and sometime before 1919 the property was acquired by Percy Gardiner who then sold it to Eda Holt Eubanks. By 1947 the house became the property of V. R. Johnson who turned it over to Amy V. Snelling. That same year Snelling sold the house and land to Harry Horton. Three years later the property was acquired by Elizabeth C. Hatch and in 1963 it was sold to John J. Lewis. The present owners Robert and Rebekah Gunn took title to the house and land in 1968. The house has survived in reasonably good repair over the years and the Gunns are undertaking the restoration of their residence.

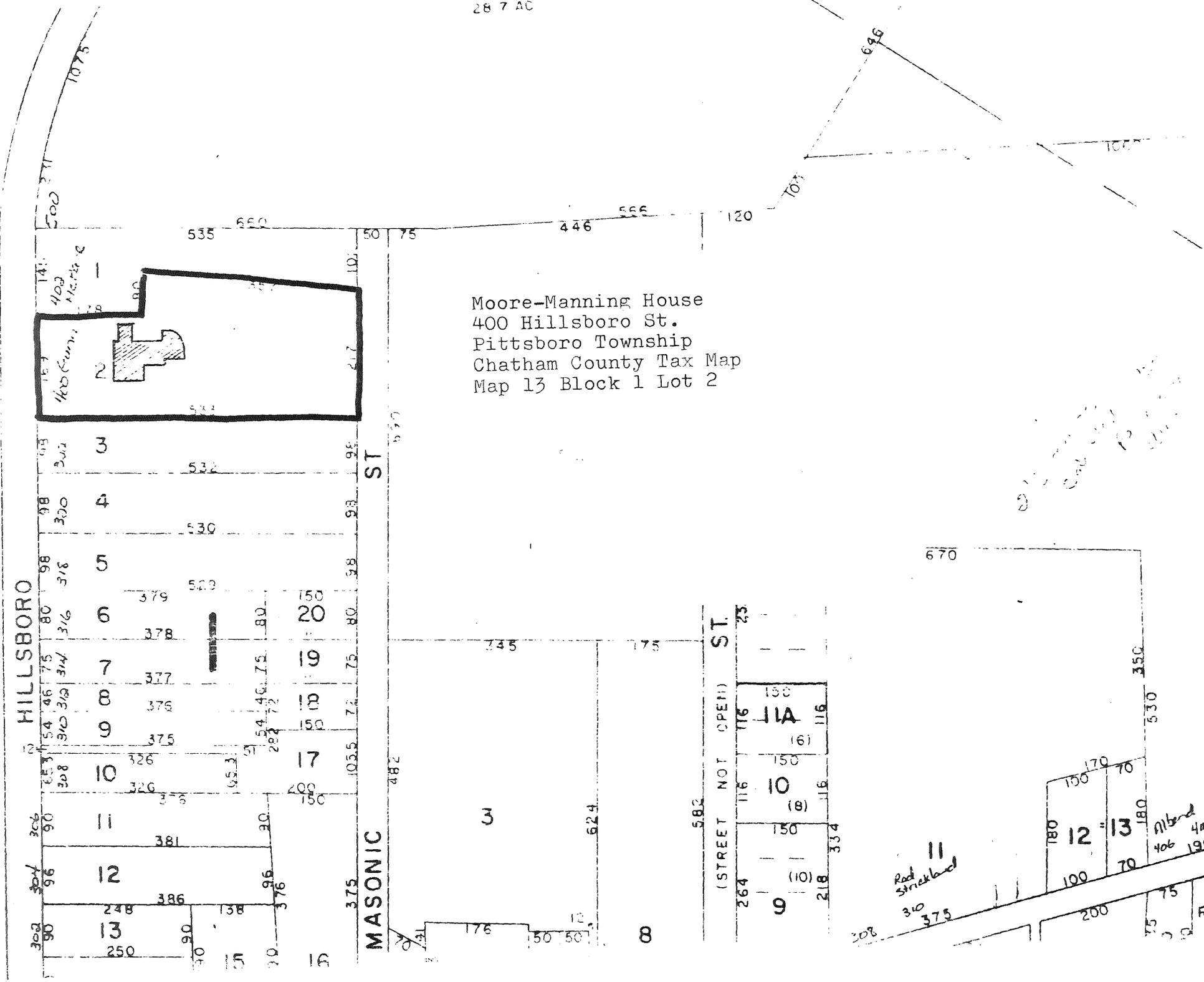
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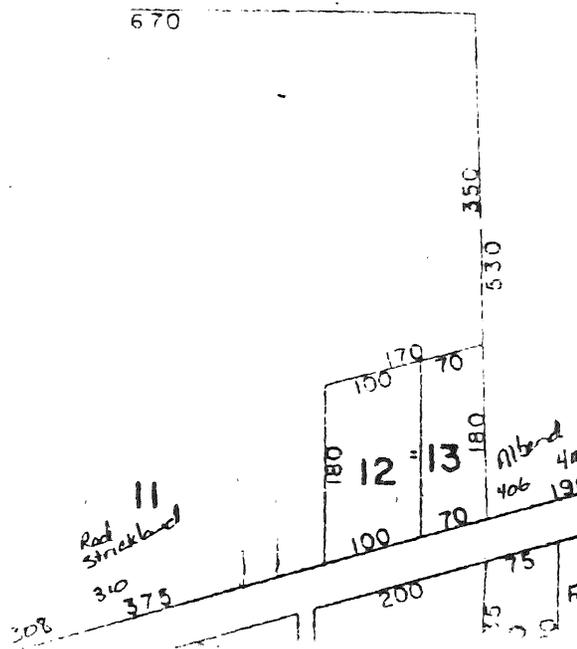
Continuation sheet Moore-Manning House Item number 8 Page 12

1. John V. Allcott, "Robert Donaldson, the First North Carolinian to Become Prominent in the Arts," North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. LII, no. 4 (October, 1975), pp. 336-337; Chatham County Will Books, Surrogate's Office, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Will Book B:89; Chatham County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Deed Books x:306; AD:51.
2. Ibid. AD:161.
3. Ibid. AE:70; additional research is necessary to identify the Moore's of Pittsboro. By 1849 A. D. Moore resided on Salisbury Street next to Henry Adolphus London's mother Ann London (AH:259). Julia A. Moore (1795-1874) was the daughter of Rebecca Moore (Will Book C:194) and the older sister of Catherine Moore London, the second wife of Henry Adolphus London. At the end of her life Julia Moore resided at Prim Rose, a house which was probably built on a piece of land acquired from Robert Donaldson in 1851 (Will Book E:171; Deed Book AH:621).
4. Ibid. AK:464.
5. Wade H. Hadley, Jr., The Story of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company 1849-1873 (Siler City: The Chatham County Historical Society, 1980), p. 5; p. 10; p. 11.
6. Hadley, p. 28.
7. Chatham County Deed Book AK:464.
8. Wade H. Hadley, Doris G. Horton and Nell C. Strowd, Chatham County 1771-1971 (Durham: Moore Publishing, Co., 1976), pp. 419-420.
9. Ruth Selden-Sturgill, interview with Rebekah M. Gunn, February, 1981.
10. Hadley, Chatham County, pp. 419-420.
11. Ruth Selden-Sturgill, interview with Georgia Brewer Tilley, July, 1981.
12. The following title was kindly supplied by Robert L. Gunn, Esq. Chatham County Deed Books CH:66 (1890); CH:309 (1891); DB:132 (1898); FT:16 (1919); JS:378 (1943); JS:377 (1947); JS: 300 (1947); JS:449 (1947); KJ:384 (1950); 288:444 (1963); 333:190 (1968).



Moore-Manning House
 400 Hillsboro St.
 Pittsboro Township
 Chatham County Tax Map
 Map 13 Block 1 Lot 2

Handwritten notes:
 200
 100
 100



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

663

5155 1 SW
(BYNUM)

665

CHAPEL HILL 15 MI
BYNUM 2.5 MI

10'

666

667

Pittsboro Multiple Resource
Nomination
Pittsboro, N.C. Quadrangle

Zone 17

Scale 1:24 000

London Cottage
17 663990/3954960

Kelvin
17 664240/3954340

Lewis Freeman House
17 664590/3954370

Pittsboro

Reid House
17 664650/3954420

Moore-Manning House
17 664890/3954800

Hall-London House
17 664890/3954440

Patrick St. Lawrence House
17 664710/3953070

McClenahan House
17 664730/3954060

A. P. Terry House

- A 17 663980/3954000
- B 17 664150/3954000
- C 17 664310/3953740
- D 17 663950/3953720

Luther Clegg House
17 666140/3951860

