

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Chatham County

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
London Cottage
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
E side SR 1516 .4 mi. N jct w/SR 87

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Pittsboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
4th

VICINITY OF

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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Earl Parker, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER
Old Graham Rd

CITY, TOWN
Pittsboro

STATE

VICINITY OF North Carolina 27312

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE Chatham County Courthouse
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pittsboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Selden-Sturgill
ORGANIZATION

DATE

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch
STREET & NUMBER

March 1, 1982

TELEPHONE

Archives and History
CITY OR TOWN

(919) 733-6545

STATE

Raleigh

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

Facing west towards the old road to Graham, the London Cottage is nestled picturesquely beside the remains of an orchard of plum and peach trees. Raised up on a full brick basement, the one-and-a-half story frame house is marked by an irregular plan which features a projecting cross-gable wing on the north and a one-story rear ell on a stone and clay foundation to the southeast. Sheathed with board and batten siding, the cottage is surmounted by an overhanging gable roof which is decoratively outlined with brackets along the rake.

The three-bay facade is characterized by the projecting wing, which like Alexander Jackson Downing's "irregular villa in the Italian style, bracketed" (Cottage Residences, Design VI Fig. 48) is distinguished by a vertical design unit composed of a rectilinear bay supporting a small pedimented window in the gable. A modern porch, which probably replaced a smaller scale porch or terrace, runs along the rest of the front and masks what are now two entries. Originally the central entrance was fitted out with tall two-panel double doors and was flanked on the right by a long floor-to-ceiling sash window with sidelights. The sash has now been replaced by a modern door and transom. Similar windows, which promoted the enjoyment of the grounds, appear in the front bay and on the south side of the house. The window on the south, which was handled as a vertical design unit incorporating a gable window and a balcony, may have in fact contained a triple sash.

The interior of the London Cottage is marked by a central hall with the open-stringer stair ascending on the left. The stairway is simple in design; featuring square cut balusters, a carved newel post with an oval knob and an enclosure decorated with vertical recessed paneling. The south parlor has undergone considerable change during the last twenty years but retains the two important floor to ceiling window units with their variant of a three-part molded architrave.

The chimney divides the north wing and provides the design opportunity for the two simple Greek Revival mantelpieces. In the front parlor, the mantelpiece is composed of stout pilasters supporting a broad unadorned frieze. The only hint of decoration appears on the pilasters where flat vertical panels are terminated by drop pendants. Another interesting feature of this parlor is the hall door which is enlivened with four octagonal panels. The rear parlor displays a two-panel door and a mantel with a simple post and lintel arrangement.

A detached kitchen once stood at the end of a stone walk to the east of the house and a barn was located to the northwest.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

_____ NATIONAL

_____ STATE

 X

_____ LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from ca. 1861 the London Cottage with its bracketed gables and board and batten siding is Pittsboro's only Gothic Revival residence and was the second home built by Henry Adolphus London, one of the town's most influential nineteenth-century business leaders.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. The London Cottage is associated with the town of Pittsboro's second period of growth after 1850 when business leaders such as Henry Adolphus London became involved with the internal improvements proposed by the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company.
- B. The house is associated with the career of prosperous merchant Henry Adolphus London who was one of the young men drawn to Pittsboro in the 1830s and who served the community's interests as treasurer of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company from 1853 to 1873.
- C. Consciously called "the cottage" by the London family, the house, with its board and batten siding, irregular plan, and bracketed cornice, is Pittsboro's only Gothic Revival residence.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1860 at the age of fifty-two Henry Adolphus London (1808-1882), the owner of perhaps the most important mercantile firm in Pittsboro and since 1853 the treasurer of the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, remarried after the death of his first wife Sally Lord London.¹ The second son of Wilmington merchant John London, Henry Adolphus London moved with his mother to Brooklyn, New York following his father's death in 1816. Young London returned to his home state in 1825 to attend the University of North Carolina but he received his degree in 1828 from the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy in Middletown, Connecticut. Upon graduation H. A. London worked as a merchant in Wilmington and in 1836 moved to Pittsboro where he joined the mercantile firm of Evans, Horne and Company. London finally established his own firm when Evans, Horne and Co. closed. Sometime before the Civil War London was joined in business by his son William L. London who carried on the family concern until his death in 1916. Besides his important role as the treasurer of the navigation company from 1853 to 1873, Henry Adolphus London served for a time as chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions and in 1870 he was elected for a term as treasurer of Chatham County.

By his move to Pittsboro London became one of a number of young men from well-established coastal North Carolina families who settled here after 1830 and who made a direct contribution to the early economic development of the town. London seems to have brought with him a taste for architecture and shortly after his establishment in Pittsboro, he built an imposing Greek Revival residence, now demolished, with a monumental temple front. It was in this fine house to the west of town that the Londons raised their ten children.

In September of 1861 Catherine S. Moore, London's second wife, was deeded a 100 acre tract of property to the northwest of Pittsboro by her family.² The couple settled here and built the town's first Gothic Revival cottage by 1863.³ Consciously called "the cottage" by the London family and nestled picturesquely beside an orchard of plum and peach trees, the house was a local builder's interpretation of the bracketed cottage-villa first made popular by A. J. Davis in the 1830s and recommended by Alexander Jackson Downing in his 1842 builders' guide Cottage Residences. A one-and-a-half story board and batten dwelling with an irregular plan, bracketed cornice, bay window and peaked window hoods, the London Cottage put to use many of the picturesque elements which Downing promoted.⁴

Following Henry Adolphus London's death in 1882, Catherine London continued to occupy the cottage until her death in 1895. At this time the house was left to her nephew

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 Approximately 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	663990	3954960	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

OMB 1024-0018

EXP 12-31-84



Continuation sheet

London Cottage

Item number

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Marion B. Landhorne.⁵ One year after his aunts' death, Langhorne sold the cottage to Cora P. Hatch who in 1903 transferred the title to S. W. Womble.⁶ J. C. Lanius, a grocer who lived in a handsome house on West Salisbury Street, purchased the property in 1905 and presumably rented it out until his death in 1925. The house, which during this period became the home of lawyer A. C. Ray, and land remained in the Lanius family until cumulative debts prompted the Federal Land Bank of Columbia to assume the title in 1935.⁷ The house was then purchased in 1943 by Ernest Brewer the manager of Pittsboro's farmers' cooperative.⁸ The Brewers resided in the house and probably undertook most of the obvious renovations, such as the screened porch. In 1965 B. F. McLeod took over the title and the present residents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl F. Parker, Jr., purchased the house in 1967.⁹ The house has survived in reasonably good repair over the years and the Parkers are carefully maintaining its preservation.

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National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

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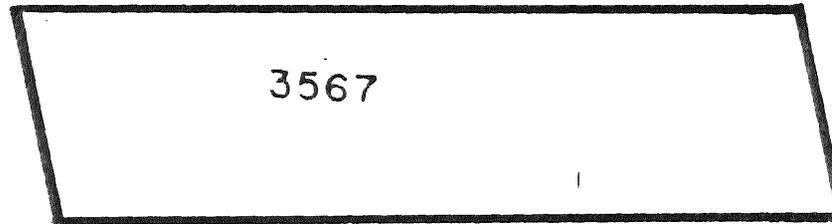
1. The biographical information on Henry Adolphus London was taken from the following source: Lawrence F. London, "Henry Adolphus London," an unpublished biography: courtesy of Lawrence F. London, Chapel Hill.
2. Chatham County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Deed Book AM: 338.
3. Diary of Henry Armand London, May 10, 1863, London Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N. C.
4. Andrew Jackson Downing, Cottage Residences (1873; reprint ed., New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), Design V Fig. 40; Design VI Fig. 48.
5. Chatham County Will Books, Superior Court Clerks Office, Chatham County Courthouse, Pittsboro, Will Book F: 33.
6. Chatham County Deed Book CW: 522; DN: 618.
7. Chatham County Deed Book DV: 626; GK: 245; HR: 140.
8. Chatham County Deed Book JD: 121.
9. Chatham County Deed Book 304: 172; 325: 410.



London Cottage
E side SR 1516 .4 mi N
jct w/SR 87
Chatham County Property
Ownership Map
Map 941 Block 49 Lot 3567

2759
(0.42 A)

3740
1.25 A
(1.20 A)



8503
10.77 A
(10.47 A)

18
0 A
9 A)

8441
1.00 A
(0.80 A)

1316
(0.50 A)

9266

1236
(0.38 A)

