

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Brewer, Sheriff Stephen Wiley, Farmstead
other names/site number Regan Property

2. Location

street & number 365 Thompson Street N/A not for publication
city or town Pittsboro vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Chatham code 037 zip code 27312

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Brown SHPO 7/1/03
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) "Historic Resources of Pittsboro, North Carolina"

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure
Agriculture/Subsistence: storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in progress

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls weatherboard
other wood

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

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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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance 1887

Significant Dates 1887

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Nooe, Bennett (contractor), Hackney, Thomas (carpenter)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 25.037 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	665280	3954840	3	17	665600 3954500
2	17	665600	3954860	4	17	665440 3954500
5	17	665200	3954680			

____ 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 M. Ruth Little
organization Longleaf Historic Resources date April 2003
street & number 2709 Bedford Avenue telephone 919-836-9731
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Cabell Jones Regan and Carolyn MacDonald

street & number 4365 Ferncreek Drive telephone 910-486-9123

city or town Fayetteville state N. C. zip code 28314

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 listings. 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1
Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina

Section 7: Description

The Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer House is sited on the slope of a hill that marks the northeast corner of the Pittsboro town limits, facing south to Thompson Street. Its street address is 365 Thompson Street. The house originally stood on the old Raleigh Road just east of the east end of Thompson Street. The old Raleigh Road has been abandoned and Thompson Street now continues to the east. The house and outbuildings on the east and west sides are located in the front section of a twenty-five acre homestead, with pasture and woods to the north rear. A circular dirt driveway leads to the house. The tract is heavily wooded with large hardwoods, and occasional rock outcroppings are visible. The two-story gable-and-wing Queen Anne/Italianate-style frame farmhouse, built in 1887, stands in nearly unaltered condition. The original frame meathouse stands at the rear east side; the original granary stands farther to the east. The well, probably dug in the 1890s, with a gabled shelter, stands in front of the smokehouse. A 1940s goathouse in ruinous condition, and an equally ruinous wood shed are located nearby. Just inside the east property line, the original spring, marked by a pile of rocks, is located at the bottom of a ravine.

The three-bay-wide house of simple, vernacular Queen Anne style, with some Italianate details, features a gabled wing with one-story bay window, a cross-gable in the main block, one interior brick chimney, and a one-story porch across the main block. The remarkably unaltered exterior is finished with plain weatherboard, beaded corner boards, two-over-two sash windows, and plain surrounds. The vernacular Italianate cornice treatment consists of an unusually deep two-tier frieze and very wide boxed eaves with wide eave returns. Original louvered shutters flank most of the façade windows. The hip-roofed porch is supported by Italianate chamfered posts, with decorative wood bases and simplified curved impost blocks at the top. Each leaf of the double front door has a lower panel and upper round-arched glass pane. Another decorative feature is the bay window, which has a paneled dado and chamfered window surrounds. A small, apparently original chest-height shelf with a decoratively carved sawtooth front edge nestles in the porch corner east of the entrance. An original one-story two-bay rear kitchen-dining room ell projects from the west end of the north rear elevation. The kitchen contains an interior brick flue along the west wall. An original pantry is located at the rear of the ell porch, accessible to the kitchen.

A number of minor exterior alterations have been made since the 1920s. The front porch was widened a few feet to the west in the early twentieth century, reusing the same porch posts. The west interior chimney was removed in the 1920s, and the small dining room windows on the west elevation were replaced with a pair of larger five-over-one Craftsman sashes. The original porch along the east side of the ell was enclosed in the late 1940s. In the 1950s a room was added east of the enclosed porch. During World War II a bathroom was added beside the rear porch, just behind the back door, and an upstairs bathroom and small kitchen added above it.

The interior of the Sheriff Brewer House, also remarkably well-preserved, features a central stair hall and formal rooms to the east, with informal rooms to the west (see floor plan). The parlor with a small bedroom behind it stands east of the hall; a sitting room, dining room, and kitchen stand to the west. Upstairs are three bedrooms

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

flanking a center hall—a master bedroom on the east front, a small bedroom behind it, and a third bedroom on the west side. The only alterations to the floor plan have occurred at the rear. In the 1920s the partition wall and chimney at the rear of the sitting room were removed to create a larger sitting and dining area. The back porch was screened about this time, and was later enclosed, and another long, narrow room added to the east of the former porch. The 1940s bathroom is located just behind the back hall door. The original pantry located at the back of the porch still exists, but the partition wall between it and the kitchen has been removed. Upstairs, a new door was cut in the rear wall of each back bedroom to provide access to the small kitchen/bathroom addition, built in the 1940s.

The original interior fabric is as intact as the exterior fabric. The east rooms on both floors have plaster walls. The stair hall and west rooms on both floors contain horizontally-sheathed walls. All floors have heart-pine flooring, and all ceilings have flush wood sheathing. All window and door surrounds have original, narrow molded surrounds. Throughout the house are tall baseboards with quarter-round moldings at the top. All original door openings have the original four-flat-paneled doors. The open-string stair has a stout turned newel, a molded handrail, and turned balusters. It spirals around the end wall of the hall to the upstairs hall. At the curve, the stair string is decorated with an assemblage of curved pieces of woodwork that have a charming naïve quality.

The parlor contains the most ornate woodwork. The mantel features simple pilasters, plain corner blocks, and two flat panels in the frieze. The bay window opening features an ornate bracketed cornice with crossettes at the corners. The east front bedroom upstairs contains a similar paneled mantel with decorative pilasters. The east rear bedroom on the first floor and west upstairs bedroom contain identical original mantels of simpler design with a plain frieze. The mantel in the rear east bedroom upstairs has been removed. The house has two original closets, located in the east rear first floor bedroom and the east front upstairs bedroom. Each one has a door with two tall vertical flat panels.

Six auxiliary historic resources are at the farmstead.

C Meathouse. 1887. Front-gable frame building with plain siding and a 6-pane casement window in the rear wall. The plates extend over the front wall to support a traditional cantilevered overhang sheltering the front door. Although the owners always called this a smokehouse, it was actually a meat house where meat was cured rather than smoked.

C Granary. 1887. Front-gable frame building with a batten front door in the west gable elevation. Each elevation has a different type of siding. The front has plain weatherboard; the north side has wide horizontal sheathing, the south side has open slats, and the rear has vertical sheathing. The front and south side sheathing appear to be original. A shed addition is attached to the north side. A similar shed stood on the south side but was replaced in recent years by a three-bay vehicle shed. The central section was used for grain storage for animals. The slatted exterior wall provided ventilation for potatoes stored on the south side of the center section.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina

NC Well and wellhouse. 1890s. [structure] A gabled wellhouse supported by cedar tree poles shelters the well, which has a large clay pipe atop a brick base. A very old bucket pulley is still in place above the well. The Brewers obtained water from the spring until digging this well. The wellhouse may date from the 1890s, or may be an early twentieth-century replacement of the original shelter.

C Spring site. [site] A pile of fieldstones marks the site of the spring, located at the east edge of the tract.

NC Woodshed. 1920s. [building] The vertical plank building with a shed roof is now a ruin.

NC Goat House. 1940s. [building] The vertical plank building with a shed roof is now a ruin.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

Section 8: Statement of Significance

The Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead, located at 365 Thompson Street at the northeast edge of the town of Pittsboro, is a well-preserved vernacular Queen Anne/Italianate style farmhouse built in 1887 by noted local builder Bennet Nooe, Jr. The house stands on the original twenty-five acre tract located on the old Raleigh Road at the northeast corner of the original town limits of Pittsboro. The Brewers had the house built when they moved from rural Chatham County to Pittsboro in order to educate their five children in the town schools. Stephen W. Brewer served as sheriff of Chatham County from 1880 to 1890, and died in 1897. His widow remained at the homeplace until her death in 1922. Youngest child George Brewer and his family lived at the homestead from 1921 until 1955. The Brewers raised cows, pigs, chickens, grain, fruits, and vegetables for their own consumption. The Brewer Farmstead is now owned by one of George's grandchildren, who is in process of restoring the house as a home for his family.

The remarkably unaltered Brewer House qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as one of the earliest and best-preserved houses built by Bennet Nooe, Jr., Pittsboro's most noted builder. The smokehouse and granary were built by Nooe as well. The period of significance is 1887, the year in which the farmstead was built. The impact of Nooe's architecture in Pittsboro is discussed in the multiple property form, "Historic Resources of Pittsboro, North Carolina," by Ruth Seldon-Sturgil, 1982. Nooe's Pittsboro buildings as a property type are discussed in Section 7, pages 10-11. The historic context for Nooe is found in Section 8, pages 12-14, which discusses the 1880s and 1890s. The house stands on its original acreage, and its northwest corner is contiguous with the Pittsboro National Register Historic District, where approximately a dozen Nooe-built houses dating from the 1880s to the early 1900s constitute the backbone of Pittsboro's boom era housing. Nooe arrived immediately following the construction of Pittsboro's first railroad connection, in 1887. He became a spindle manufacturer, lumber and shingle manufacturer, brickmaker, and contractor who had a large role in creating the present architectural fabric of Pittsboro.

Historical Background

Stephen Wiley Brewer was born in the Fall Creek section of southwest Chatham County in 1835 to Jeremiah Brewer, a large landowner, and his wife Anna Bray. During the Civil War he served as captain of the Chatham Guards, the largest company from Chatham County. After being wounded at Gettysburg, he was held as a prisoner during the remainder of the war.¹ He returned home in 1865 and in 1867 married Mary Catharine Paschal, whose father, Richard Bray Paschal, served as sheriff of Chatham County from 1854 until 1880. Stephen and Catharine lived on a farm near Harper's Cross Roads in western Chatham County, where their five children were born. Flora Margaret was born in 1868; Annie Eugenia, 1872; Richard Fredrick, 1874; Charles

¹ Underwood, *The History of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of the North Carolina Troops*; Hadley, Horton, Strowd, *Chatham County 1771-1971*, 124.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

Stephen, 1876; and George Washington, 1879.²

In 1880 Stephen was elected sheriff of Chatham County and succeeded his father-in-law in the office. In 1885 the Brewers decided to move to Pittsboro in order to provide good schools for the children and allow Stephen to be closer to his work as sheriff. They rented the Moore-Manning House, 400 Hillsboro Street, for several years. It was an auspicious moment to move to Pittsboro, for in December 1886 the first railroad link arrived in town, the Pittsboro Railroad Company, which connected to the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line at Moncure in southern Chatham County. The railroad connection resulted in several decades of economic prosperity for Pittsboro. In 1887 the Brewers purchased land for a home of their own. From William F. Foushee they bought two adjacent tracts of fourteen and eight acres located on the north side of the end of Thompson Street, just east of the town limits, where the Raleigh Road began. Their property was adjacent to land belonging to W. F. Foushee, Mrs. Kelley, and the Thompson (Poe) family.³ The remaining three acres of the Brewer Farmstead, located to the rear, were purchased in 1893 from the Kelley family and were never recorded.⁴ Across Thompson Street, just west of their new land, was the depot and terminus of the new railroad.⁵ (see attachment: 1889 Town Plat of Pittsboro)

The major source of Brewer family history and the construction of the Brewer House is Georgie Brewer Tilley, born at the house in 1923. According to family tradition, as collected by Mrs. Tilley, the Brewers hired newcomer Bennet Nooe, a lumberman and building contractor from Lexington, North Carolina, in 1887 to build a seven-room, two-story house about two hundred feet from the road. Tradition relates that his foreman Thomas Hackney supervised construction of the Brewer House. On January 12, 1888 *The Home*, a weekly Pittsboro newspaper, announced that "Sheriff Brewer will soon move into his nice new home."⁶ Mrs. Tilley believes that Nooe constructed the smokehouse and the granary at the same time.

When the Brewers moved into their home, Nooe and his wife moved into the Moore-Manning House that the Brewers had vacated. Nooe acquired a parcel adjoining the Brewers' land on the west, and soon constructed a dwelling for himself, set approximately the same distance from the road as the Brewer House. Nooe's large two-story house had a wide wraparound piazza and many additions that eventually made it the largest residence in Pittsboro. The site of the demolished house now contains a trailer park. Nooe's first big enterprise in Pittsboro was the establishment of his own shuttle mill near the railroad depot, located across Thompson Street from his house.⁷

² All of the family history and tradition in this nomination is drawn from the written recollections of Georgie Brewer Tilley, granddaughter of Stephen and Catherine Brewer. Born in 1923 at the Brewer House, she spent her childhood there and is the family historian. Copies of her manuscripts are in the Brewer Farmstead file, HPO Office, Raleigh.

³ Chatham County Deed Book CM, 178.

⁴ Interview with Cabell Regan, co-owner, Sept. 10, 2002. Copy of deed in SHPO file.

⁵ Town Plat of Pittsboro, 1890. Copy in file.

⁶ Quoted in Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, *Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*, __.

⁷ Recollections of Georgia Tilley, 2002. (copy in file)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

In addition to his duties as sheriff, Stephen Brewer operated a self-sufficient farm on his property. The northwest section of the farmstead was open pasture where the cows and horses grazed. A grove of apple trees stood in a portion of the pasture. East of the house was a garden, potato patch, and chicken house. The pigpen stood in the woods to the rear. Behind the garden was a large barn that stood until the 1940s. Over the spring, located at the east edge of the property, the Brewers constructed a frame springhouse. Below the spring was a large pool that was used by the Pittsboro Baptist Church for baptisms. When court was held in Pittsboro, families from the country would come to town and camp with their wagons in the wooded grove enclosed by the circular driveway of the Brewer Place. The spring, marked by a pile of fieldstones, still flows on the property.

Stephen Wiley Brewer served four terms as sheriff of Chatham County, from 1880 to 1890. One of his last acts was to officiate at the last hanging in Chatham County, in March 1890. Ordained minister James Davis was convicted of killing his employer, John D. Horton, with a hand axe. A crowd of 5,000 gathered along Hillsboro Street and watched Davis as he rode on a wooden coffin to Gallows Hill. Sheriff Brewer sprang the trap that hanged Davis.⁸ Brewer declined to run for reelection in that year, apparently due to the stress of his duties as well as the lingering effects of his Civil War injuries. He died in 1897 at the age of sixty-two, and is buried in the Brewer family plot at the Pittsboro Baptist Church. The 1900 census of Pittsboro lists Mary Catherine Brewer, a fifty-four old widow, living at the homeplace with her daughter Annie, age twenty-seven. Mrs. Brewer's thirty-one-year-old daughter Flora, Flora's husband William R. Hunter, and their son, Fred, age 2, were also living at the homeplace.⁹ Flora had married Willie Hunter in 1888, and they lived in the west upstairs bedroom. They later moved to Raleigh. In 1904, Flora died of tuberculosis. Her son Fred went back to Pittsboro and spent the rest of his childhood with his grandmother at the Thompson Street house. Annie, whose bedroom was upstairs on the right front, remained at home with her mother until 1910, when she married Jacob Thompson. Mary Catharine's bedroom was the downstairs left room, later known as the sitting room. Fred Hunter left home for World War I in the late 1910s.

The three Brewer sons scattered from Pittsboro when they grew up. Richard Frederick (Fred) Brewer worked with the railroad out of Johnson City, Tennessee. He died in 1928. Charlie married and moved to Henderson, North Carolina, where he owned a hotel. He died in 1921. The youngest son, George, moved away as well. In 1921, when Mary Catharine's health was failing, George moved back to Pittsboro with his wife Myrtle and their daughter Mary Ann to the homeplace. Mary Catharine died in 1922. George and Myrtle's second child, a daughter named Georgia, was born in 1923. George and Myrtle remained in the homeplace for the rest of their lives. George continued to operate the family farm, and opened a grocery store in Pittsboro about 1925. George and Myrtle made a few changes to the house after his mother's death. They converted her old bedroom, the west downstairs room, into a larger room by tearing out the west chimney and partition wall between the two west rooms to make a combination sitting room and dining room. To make the dining area lighter, two new windows

⁸ Hadley, Horton, Strowd, *Chatham County 1771-1971*, 207.

⁹ U. S. Census, Population Schedule, Chatham County: Pittsboro, 1900. Household 97, page 75B.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section 8 Page 7
Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

were installed in place of the original smaller high windows. They also screened the back porch. During the Depression, George's grocery store was located at the corner of East Salisbury and Small streets in Pittsboro. Myrtle was an avid gardener and created a rock garden on the west side of the house, a rose garden behind the woodshed, and cultivated spirea bushes and irises along the front circular drive. One significant memory of life at the farmstead in the 1930s was the wedding reception of Mary Ann Brewer to John Regan in 1938 at the house. George became acting postmaster about 1943, and his wife Myrtle took over operation of the store. During World War II bathrooms were installed—one off the back porch, and one behind the two rear bedrooms, with a connecting room between the bedrooms. After George's death in 1950, Myrtle turned the upstairs into a separate apartment in order to have some company in the house. Myrtle continued to operate the store until her death in 1955.

George and Myrtle's property was divided between their daughters Mary Ann and Georgie Brewer, with Mary Ann inheriting the homestead. Since 1955 the house has been occasionally rented and occasionally vacant, but the Brewer family has continued to maintain and cherish the homeplace. At the present time the house is being rehabilitated as the residence of Mary Ann's youngest son, Cabell Jones Regan, his wife Carolyn MacDonald, M.D., and their six children.

Context: The Architecture of Bennet Nooe Jr. in Pittsboro, North Carolina

Bennet Nooe Jr.'s architecture in Pittsboro is discussed in the multiple property form, "Historic Resources of Pittsboro, North Carolina," by Ruth Seldon-Sturgil, 1982. Nooe's Pittsboro buildings as a property type are discussed in Section 7, pages 10-11. The historic context for Nooe is found in the late nineteenth century discussion in Section 8, pages 12-14. The Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead with its vernacular Queen Anne-style dwelling built in 1887 with simple Italianate details and two original outbuildings, is one of two historic farmsteads, both built by Nooe, that survive on the edge of Pittsboro. The other is the A. P. Terry House and outbuildings, 465 Pittsboro Elementary School Road, built in 1900 [NR, 1982]. It is discussed below. The Brewer House is one of a small number of surviving buildings constructed by Bennet Nooe Jr., and probably his first Pittsboro building.

Lumberman and contractor Bennet Nooe, Jr. was a pivotal figure in Pittsboro's turn-of-the-twentieth-century history, not only helping to shape its industrial economy, but also its architectural appearance. In 1887, shortly after the opening of the Pittsboro railroad, Nooe and his wife Fannie came to Pittsboro from Lexington, North Carolina, and established the Pittsboro Shuttle Mill, which made shuttles for the textile industry from the dogwood trees that were plentiful around Pittsboro. When the hardwood began to be exhausted, Nooe converted the factory into a sawmill to supply lumber for the growing construction needs of the town. At the same time he operated a building contracting company. In 1902 Bennett Nooe was listed in the *North Carolina Year Book* under brick manufacturers and dealers, contractors and builders, shingle manufacturers and dealers, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

woodworking shops.¹⁰ The woodworking shop was staffed by carpenter Thomas Hackney. In 1906 Nooe was also known as a casket manufacturer and dealer.¹¹ Between 1887 and 1904 Bennett Nooe's construction company built an estimated 1,000 houses and stores in Pittsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Lexington, and Chapel Hill.¹² In the 1910s Nooe and his sons Bennett and Henry expanded the lumber mill operations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia by acquiring numerous farms and harvesting the timber. When lumber demand slumped at the end of World War I, Nooe lost all his property except his Pittsboro house, planing mill, and a few sawmills around Pittsboro.¹³

Nooe's civic leadership was as far-reaching as his architectural contribution to Pittsboro. Soon after he arrived in Pittsboro he became a director of the Elizabeth Hosiery Mill, built in 1890 on East Street.¹⁴ In 1901 when the town's first bank, the Bank of Pittsboro, was established, Nooe was the vice-president.¹⁵ Between 1910 and 1923 he was mayor of Pittsboro for twelve years. In 1924 Nooe moved to Ridgeway, South Carolina to live with a daughter, and purchased the Ridgeway Lumber Company.¹⁶ He apparently died in the mid-1920s.

Nooe is an important but little known large-scale building materials manufacturer and building contractor. Other pioneering industrialist/builders such as Jonas Rudisill of Charlotte and Briggs and Dodd of Raleigh are documented in *Architects and Builders of North Carolina*, but no real research has yet been done on Nooe.¹⁷ In spite of the prolific output of Nooe's construction company, documented examples of his work are relatively few. In the early 1980s an estimated thirty-five Nooe buildings stood in Pittsboro, but a number of these have been lost since that time.¹⁸ Among the Pittsboro houses documented or attributed to Nooe are the H. A. London House, 508 W. Salisbury Street, 1892; A. P. Terry House, 309 Hillsboro Street, ca. 1893; Henry H. Fike House, 211 East Street, ca. 1894; Hiram Chapin House, 201 East Street, 1890s; Rental House, 207 East Street, 1890s; Thomas Hackney House, 321 E. Salisbury Street, 1890s; H. L. Coble House, 200 E. Salisbury Street, ca. 1897; A. P. Terry House, 465 Pittsboro Elementary School Road, 1900; Thompson House, 302 Hillsboro Street, ca. 1900; J. L. Griffin House, 114 E. Salisbury Street, ca. 1902; and the B. M. Poe House, 215 E. Salisbury Street, ca. 1904.

Nooe's Pittsboro houses range from simple one and two-story side-gabled houses built as rental dwellings or

¹⁰ *The North Carolina Year Book*, 1902, 145-147.

¹¹ *The North Carolina Year Book*, 1906, 167.

¹² E. C. Tatum, "Bennett Nooe, South Carolina Lumber Pioneer," *The Southern Lumber Journal*, March 15, 1930, as quoted in Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, *Architectural Heritage of Chatham County*, 70.

¹³ Pyle, "A Reminiscence of Pittsboro: Thomas Letson Nooe," *Chatham Historical Journal* (V. 12, No. 1), February 1999.

¹⁴ *Chatham County 1771-1971*, 378.

¹⁵ The News and Observer, *The North Carolina Year Book*, 1902, 145.

¹⁶ Tatum, "Bennett Nooe, South Carolina Lumber Pioneer."

¹⁷ Bishir et al, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, chapter 4: The Mechanization of the Manufacture of Building Materials, 1850-1890, see especially 225-230.

¹⁸ Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, N.C.*, 70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 9

**Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina**

artisan's housing to stylish one-story Queen Anne gable-and-wing cottages, ornate two-story Queen Anne-style houses, and fancy pyramidal cottages with deep hipped roofs. Nooe was a prolific building professional capable of executing any degree of complexity and architectural sophistication in the popular styles of the day. Two of the finest surviving Nooe houses were built for saloon-keeper A. P. Terry. About 1893 Nooe built a one-story Queen Anne house for Terry at 217 Hillsboro Street. The original shingled belfry between the front gables that gave the dwelling its extra grandeur was removed in the early 1900s. In 1900 Terry commissioned Nooe to construct a grand two-story Queen Anne-style house on the west edge of town that features a turreted polygonal balcony above the one-story piazza. The interior contains a richly turned and paneled staircase, diagonally sheathed wainscots, Eastlake mantelpieces with beveled mirrors, and a spindlework arch in the center hall. This Terry House, individually listed in the National Register in 1984, sits on an 86-acre farm with a number of early outbuildings.

The design of the Sheriff Brewer House has significance within Nooe's documented work as his earliest known building in Pittsboro, and as the only one containing elements of the Italianate style. The house's Italianate features include the overall gable-and-wing form, the porch posts, the paneled bay window in the front wing, and the deeply boxed eaves with returns. Nooe's 1890s houses embody the more highly decorated Queen Anne style with shingled wall surfaces, bracketed eaves, turned and sawn porch woodwork, and sunburst gables. The Brewer House is stylish yet simple, expressive of its character as a suburban farmhouse that is plainer than houses located in town. The equally simple interior finish, consisting of the center hall stair with polygonal newel and turned balusters, four-panel doors, bold moldings and baseboards, and simple mantels with pilasters and paneled friezes, adds greatly to the significance of the house as a well-preserved example of Nooe's architectural heritage.

No buildings in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill or Lexington credited to Nooe have been documented. The large number of buildings that he supposedly constructed in a decade indicates that most of them were small frame houses, probably mill houses erected in bulk for textile mill owners. Many of them have probably been demolished. Nooe likely produced the lumber for the mill houses and constructed them through an assembly-line method almost as prefabricated kit houses. The documented Nooe houses, primarily of customized Victorian styles, in Pittsboro have considerable significance. Most of the Nooe houses stand within the Pittsboro National Register Historic District, but the Sheriff Brewer House stands outside the district and is eligible for individual listing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 10
Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina

Section 9: Bibliography

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 and Photos Page 11
Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer Farmstead
Chatham County, North Carolina

Section 10: Boundaries

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated tract of 25.037 acres is shown in the accompanying Survey Plat of the property of John C. B. Regan, III and Mary Brewer Regan, drawn by Van R. Finch, land surveyor, 2002, at a scale of 1 inch = 85 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries constitute the entire original home tract of the Sheriff Brewer Farmstead, being the 25.037 acres purchased by Stephen and Mary Catherine Brewer in 1887 and 1893.

Photographs:

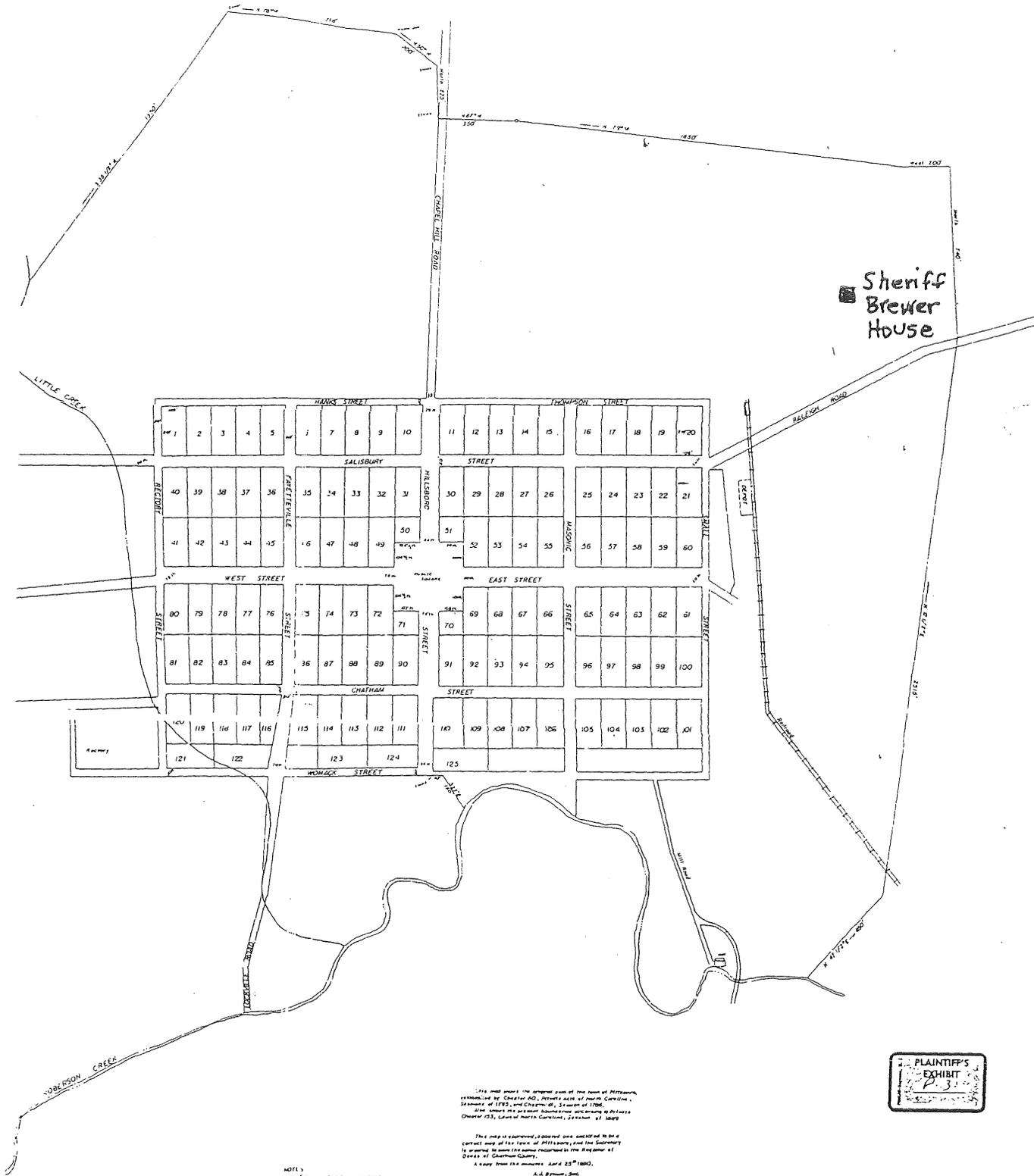
The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: Ruth Little

Date: September 2002

Location of negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. Overall of house from southwest
- B. Side elevation of house from east
- C. Rear elevation of house from north
- D. View of front bay window, from south
- E. View of stair hall, looking toward entrance
- F. View of front parlor with bay window
- G. View of upstairs east front bedroom showing mantel and closet
- H. Smokehouse
- I. Granary



PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

NOTES
For more full approval and care
of recording, with correction required,
see Appendix.
This map traced from original and
correctly in accordance therewith.

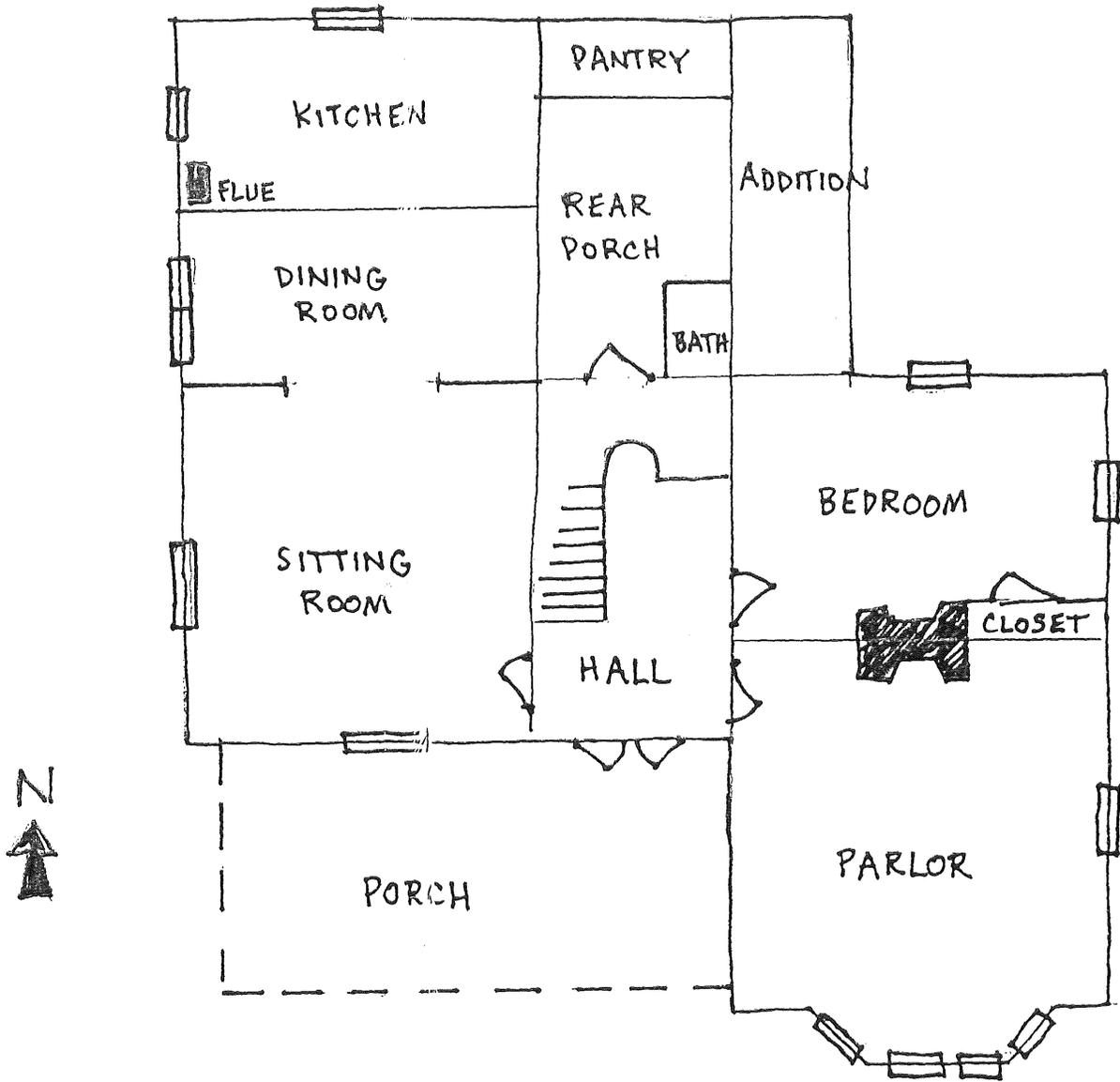
This plat shows the original plan of the town of Pittsboro,
established by Chapter 400, Private Acts of North Carolina,
Session of 1793, and Chapter 41, Session of 1796.
The town is not a town subject to the provisions of Article
Chapter 193, Laws of North Carolina, Session of 1889.
This map is corrected, altered and amended to be a
correct map of the town of Pittsboro, and the Survey
is made to show the same in accordance with the Register of
Deeds of Chatham County.
A copy from the records, April 25th 1889.
A. J. Byrum, Secy.

North Carolina
Chatham County
This is to certify that A. J. Byrum as
Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the town
of Pittsboro, personally examined the same and
they are correct and conform to the original
plat and approved the same on the date of the foregoing
certificates. Let the Plat be recorded, April 28, 1889.
S. M. Hall, Clk.

28-66

Town Plat of Pittsboro, 1889
With Location of Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer House





Sheriff Stephen Wiley Brewer House
 Floor Plan—First Floor

Not to scale
 Drawn by M. Ruth Little, 2003

