

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Cullins-Baker House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER W. side N.C. 32 at jct. w/ SR 1304

CITY, TOWN

Smalls Crossroads

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

North Carolina

CODE  
037

COUNTY  
Chowan

CODE  
041

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME A. W. Vogelly

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 153

CITY, TOWN

Tyner

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina 27980

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chowan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Edenton

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Determined Eligible--NO

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated at the end of a lane lined by pecan trees and currently under renovation, the Cullins-Baker House is a typical transitional Federal/Greek Revival two-story dwelling built during the late 1830s by a prosperous farmer named Jacob Cullins. Its traditional two-story vernacular form and proportions have been expanded by the introduction of a two-story rear ell and what was originally a double-tier pedimented portico. These more sophisticated elements are an indication of the increasing prosperity of the agricultural economy in Chowan County. Today the house retains all of its original character and details except for the early twentieth century front porch replacement and the gable intrusion.

Standing on a typical brick pier foundation, the house has a symmetrical three-bay facade and is sheathed with molded weatherboard. The gable roof is interrupted at the front by an early twentieth century gable addition and a simple modillion row extends along the cornice. At each gable end stands an exterior stepped double-shoulder chimney laid in one to three (1:3) common bond.

Of the extant porches, the front one-story shed-roof one is a replacement; however, the rear L-shaped shed-roof porch is original to the house. This one-story rear porch is supported by massive posts with chamfered edges which terminate in a lamb's tongue motif. The railing has a molded handrail with square-in-section balusters. These balusters are notched and rest on a ridged bottom rail. Apparently, the front facade was originally distinguished by a double-tier single-bay pedimented portico which contained a fanlight. The presence of this porch is evidenced by existing ghost marks. The central double-leaf doorway is highlighted by a multi-pane transom and a heavy molded Greek Revival surround with cornerblocks. This surround which has a pulvinated band is featured across the front facade and at the rear exit. The window surrounds elsewhere are simple beveled-edge Greek Revival ones with cornerblocks except for those protected by the rear porch which exhibit a late-Federal molding. Most first floor windows combine nine-over-nine lights with fixed double-hung sash; the second floor has similar ones with nine-over-six sash.

The interior follows a center-hall plan with a single-room to each side and the ell is entered through the room to the north. The primary stair is located in the center hall and it has an open short flight before it turns and becomes fully enclosed. Entry into the ell's second-floor room is gained solely through an enclosed stair also situated in the ell.

Federal mantel forms are used consistently throughout the house with the more elaborate ones located typically in the more formal rooms of the first floor. These three-part mantels have deeply molded cornices with a shelf that projects over end blocks and center tablet. For example the mantel in the main parlor has reeded and pierced elements with a star motif dominating the raised center panel. This mantel has also been beautifully grained. On the other hand, the simple mantels on the second floor have plain pilasters and single horizontal frieze panel capped by a simple molded cornice and shelf.

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The other interior features of particular note are the first-floor wainscoting and the raised six-panel doors. In the parlor both the wainscoting and doors have been beautifully painted and grained and the simple baseboards have colorful marblizing. The original hardware can be found throughout the house including carpenter and Suffolk-type locks. One unusual feature is the printed plate design associated with one of the Suffolk-type locks located on the second floor.

To the rear of the house stands a two-room kitchen/dining room building with a paired entry and single exterior-end chimney. The only other outbuilding is an early 20th century shed and the Cullins family cemetery is located at the edge of the woods behind the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

**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 checked="" 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 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**

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The seat of a successful antebellum farm, the Cullins-Baker House is highly representative of Chowan County's growing planter class during the first half of the nineteenth century and the type of two-story vernacular dwelling being constructed by prosperous farmers. Built in the late 1830s for Jacob Cullins, this transitional Federal/Greek Revival style house is characterized by the utilization of the increasingly popular two-story rear ell, and the front porch originally had a sophisticated double tier pedimented portico with a fanlight. The combination of the dwellings overall vernacular simplicity with its late-Federal/Greek Revival interior detailing reflects the typical retarditaire character of architectural forms throughout the Albemarle region.

**Criteria Assessment:**

- A. Represents the growing plantation middle class in the Albemarle region during the first half of the nineteenth century and serves an important reminder of its contribution to Chowan County's history, a county noted for its large antebellum plantations.
- C. Embodies transitional vernacular forms with distinctive late Federal/Greek Revival features characteristic of the Albemarle region. Further represents a good example of an architectural form being constructed by prosperous farmers in Chowan County namely a two-story dwelling with a rear two-story ell.
- D. Is likely to yield information about mid-nineteenth century life in Chowan County.

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The Cullins-Baker House was built in the middle 1830s by Jacob Cullins. Located in the rural community of Tyner in east central Chowan County, the house was the seat of Cullins's antebellum farm. Cullins was a comfortably prosperous farmer, who in 1850 owned over 300 acres and 25 slaves.<sup>1</sup>

The 1850 census shows that much of Cullins's farm was devoted to livestock. His livestock, including 100 swine and 18 sheep, was valued at \$876. He grew 2,000 bushels of corn, and lesser amounts of wheat, oats, and sweet potatoes. The farm was valued at \$1,500.<sup>2</sup> Cullins died in February of 1855. He did not leave a will. His widow Arritta was awarded a life estate. She died in 1857, leaving the property to their son Nathan.<sup>3</sup>

By 1860 Nathan had increased the farm to 400 acres, and a value of \$4,000. Three hundred of these acres were under cultivation, producing 2,500 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 2,000 pounds of cotton. Cullins continued to own large amounts of livestock, over \$1,000 worth, and owned 20 slaves.<sup>4</sup> In 1863 he sold the property to James L. Baker. The transaction included the family graveyard, which contained the gravesites of Jacob and Arritta Cullins, and also of Nathan's wife Mary Frances.<sup>5</sup>

Baker continued to farm the land. In 1870 his 400 acres were valued at \$4,000. Cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, and livestock were the main produce of the farm.<sup>6</sup> Baker farmed fewer acres in 1880 and the farm was valued at \$2,500. His largest crop was cotton, of which he grew 13 bales.<sup>7</sup>

Baker died intestate in November of 1882. He was survived by his widow, Rosa, and eight children. The division of his property was in litigation for ten years. In 1892 court-appointed commissioners divided his 400 acre estate into eight parts, with each of the children getting an equal part. The court valued the property at \$1,800.<sup>8</sup>

Drew Baker, the last of the Baker children, was awarded the portion containing the house. The 1900 census shows his mother living at the residence with him, as they continued to farm the land.<sup>9</sup> In 1924 Drew sold this tract, containing 75 acres, for \$100 to his brother John W. Baker, who sold his 57 acre tract to Drew for \$100.<sup>10</sup> John W. Baker remained a bachelor and died intestate. The property remained in the hands of the Baker family until 1978 when Dr. Bernie Baker sold the property to A. W. Vogelly and Philip and Susan Harvey.<sup>11</sup> In 1980 the Harveys sold their interest to Vogelly, who is the father of Mrs. Harvey. The Harveys continue to live in the house and hope to restore it.<sup>12</sup>

Although modest by comparison with the largest of Chowan County's antebellum plantations, or the Edenton mansions built on that city's mercantile successes, the Cullins-Baker House is more typical of Chowan's agrarian middle class, and is an important reminder of their contribution to Chowan's history.

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property

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<sup>1</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>2</sup> Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule.

<sup>3</sup> Chowan County Estates Records, Jacob Cullins. The relatively high quality of Cullin's life can be deduced from the fact that, after his death, his son auctioned off over \$3,000 worth of personal belongings.

<sup>4</sup> Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule.

<sup>5</sup> Chowan County Deed Book R, p. 204.

<sup>6</sup> Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule.

<sup>7</sup> Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>8</sup> Chowan County Estates Papers, James L. Baker, Chowan County Deed Book C, p. 75.

<sup>9</sup> Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Chowan County, North Carolina Population Schedule.

<sup>10</sup> Chowan County Deed Book P, p. 313.

<sup>11</sup> Chowan County Deed Book 99, p. 205, 235.

<sup>12</sup> Telephone conversation with Philip Harvey, July 23, 1980.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Quad Name: Beckford  
Quad Scale: 1: 62500

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES Latitude and Longitudes:

A	1,8	3,6°1,7'4,1"	7,6°3,9'1",	B	1,8	3,6°1,7'3,7"	7,6°3,8'4,0"
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3,6°1,7'2,1"	7,6°3,8'4,7"	D	1,8	3,6°1,7'2,7"	7,6°3,9'6",

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property in this nomination contains 60.9 acres as described in the attached title and shown on the aerial map. This small portion of a once 300 acre antebellum farm includes the house, yard, cultivated and wooded areas still associated with and representative of the nineteenth farm.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description: Drucilla G. Haley, Architectural Historian  
Significance: Jim Sumner, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch DATE September, 1980  
Archeology and Historic Preservation Section

STREET & NUMBER 109 E. Jones Street TELEPHONE (919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh, STATE North Carolina 27611

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 16, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Bibliography

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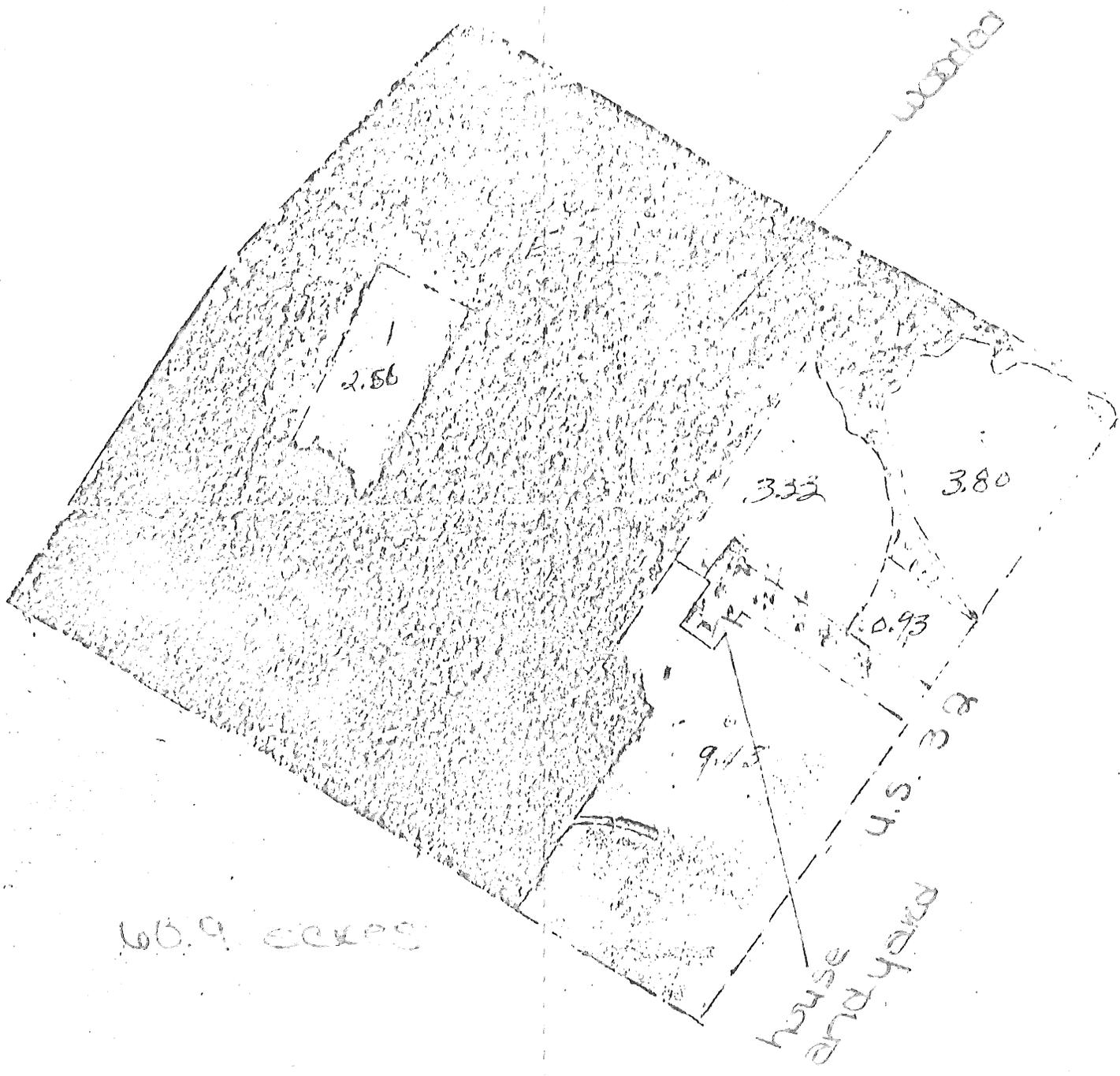
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Harvey, Philip. Telephone conversation with. Notes in file.

Parramore, Thomas. Cradle of the Colony: The History of Chowan County and Edenton, North Carolina. Edenton: Edenton Chamber of Commerce, 1967.

United States Census Office. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Chowan County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Chowan County, North Carolina Agricultural Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Chowan County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.



66.9 acres



