

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
North Carolina

COUNTY:
Carteret

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jacob Henry House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
229 Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
The Hon. Walter B. Jones

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Carteret CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Jones, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:
229 Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Carteret County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Carteret

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED

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

Taking maximum advantage of its proximity to the water, the Jacob Henry House is oriented toward Front Street and the Beaufort Harbor. The frame dwelling, two stories high with a finished attic, rests on a high foundation of ballast stone. Beaded weatherboards cover the frame and wooden shakes cover the gable roof, which is continuous and has five different planes. An exterior end chimney of stuccoed brick rises on the northwest side; an interior end chimney on the southeast side was added later. The house is four bays wide and four deep. This configuration appears to be the result of several changes that occurred over many years. Originally the house was only two bays deep with a two-story rear shed, the first level of which was a porch. At an undetermined time, the porch was enclosed and another rear shed, this one only one story, was added. A two-story shed roof porch was added across the front (southwest) facade. Doric columns are used on the first level of the porch and Tuscan ones above, and turned balusters support a molded handrail at each level. The porch roof is an extension of the main roof--in the coastal fashion so prevalent in Beaufort. The original undercut modillion cornice remains intact along the upper portion of the facade.

The fenestration on the front facade is changed from the original arrangement and is at least partially a result of a change in plan and the addition of the porch. Apparently the chronology of changes occurred as follows: at first there were four or five openings on the first level with the entrance in the second bay from the right, and three window openings above corresponding to the end and central openings below. This arrangement was coeval with a hall-and-parlor plan. With the addition of the two-story porch, a door at the second level was cut between the central window and that on the right. It would seem that the long four-over-four sash in the front windows were installed at the same time because the molded frames match that of the door at the second level. Later the entrance bay at the first level was closed and the door shifted to the center bay. This door has a plain beaded architrave and was in response to the change to a center-hall plan.

All the window sash and molded frames on the northwest side appear to be original. At the first level the windows contain four-over-six sash; the two at the second level have four-over-four; and the one at the attic level, four-over-two. The sash in the southeast windows reads as follows: nine-over-six at the first level, six-over-six at the second and four-over-four in the attic. All the frames are molded. The sash in the shed additions is modern.

The plan has undergone three major changes. Originally a hall-and-parlor plan, it was converted to a center-hall plan with the addition of a partition wall in the parlor. This has since been removed, so that the hall-and-parlor plan has been retrieved. The difference is that the entrance door now opens into the parlor rather than into the hall. It is possible that the southeast chimney was added when the east room ceased to function as a hall. The east room is very simply finished with a beaded baseboard and simple mantel. The door and window architraves are made of a three-part Federal molding. The simplicity of this room contrasts

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

strongly with the elegance of the parlor. The parlor has a wooden dentil cornice and walls plastered above a flat-paneled wainscot. The architraves, save that around the front door, are three-part Federal ones. Particularly noteworthy is the mantel, which while being basically Federal, has vernacular qualities which seem distinctly native to Beaufort. . Paneled pilasters flank the rectangular fire opening and support a plain architrave. The frieze appears to be a compromise between Federal end blocks and a Georgian ramped entablature resulting in the end blocks having a cyma recta profile--a feature characteristic of Beaufort. Three relief sunbursts of equal size ornament the central part of the frieze. The heavily molded cornice and shelf are adorned with dentils. An enclosed stair rises toward the front between the two rooms and is entered from the parlor. Closing off the parlor from the stair is a door of six flat panels, hung on strap hinges.

The second floor has been partitioned into a center-hall plan. The walls that enclosed the original west bedchamber are plastered with a molded chair rail and beaded baseboard. The partition wall has only a plain baseboard. The mantel is of traditional Federal design. The east room is finished with plastered walls and a beaded baseboard. The rear shed rooms formerly were plastered, but are now sheathed with wood. The attic is similarly treated.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacob Henry House is the largest and most ambitious Federal house in Beaufort, distinguished by its dramatic roofline and typically Beaufort-style mantel. Its chief significance--which gives it individual historic importance beyond its place in the Beaufort Historic District--derives from its connection with Jacob Henry; the 1809 debate over his right as a Jew to hold state office and his own eloquent speech of defense were early milestones in the fight for constitutional religious freedom.

The large house at 229 Front Street has been identified as the home of John Easton, a prominent political and military figure in the seaport town of Beaufort during the period of the Revolution. Deed research, however, indicates that though Easton owned this property, it was not he who built the house.

One of the first deeds to Colonel John Easton is that of May 7, 1768, when he bought a one-acre lot (lots 3 and 4) in Beaufort "new town" with the "dwelling house thereon" for seventy pounds proclamation money. His appointment as an overseer in the construction of a canal from old Topsail Inlet to the Neuse River in 1766 suggests he was living in the area before this purchase of a town lot. Easton is described in various deeds as "yeoman" and "planter," and probably was the owner of farmland in Carteret County. A tax list of 1779 shows him the owner of 796 acres with thirty cattle, five negro slaves, and no town lots. The present house stands on half of lot 25 in the plan of the "old town" of Beaufort. He purchased this lot in 1771 from the town commissioners for one pound and ten shillings, the deed specifying that a house had to be built on it within two years. As a town commissioner himself, it is likely that he duly constructed a house though probably not an ambitious one. The requirements called for minimum dimensions of twenty by fifteen feet. In 1785, for twenty pounds, Easton sold Enoch Ward "the western part of lot no. 25 in Beaufort Old Town containing thirty three feet in front . . . reserving the house and ground it stands on . . . untill the said Enoch Ward shall build one of equal goodness on some other part of the said Eastons part of the lott or as they may otherwise agree." The language suggests a bargain whereby the existing house would be deeded to Ward when he built a comparable house on the eastern half of the lot. Enoch Ward had died by September of 1785 and therefore probably did not build such a house. In 1794 Easton sold Jacob Henry "merchant" a "certain part of a Lott . . . Distinguished by Lott N. 25 in the Old Town . . . adjoining Ward's part . . . being the S.E. part. . . ."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. A

This is the site of the house at 229 Front Street. The selling price was twelve pounds. Circumstances therefore indicate that Jacob Henry built the present house sometime between 1794 and 1802. The latter date is the earliest date for which a tax list is available showing him as the owner of one-half lot in Beaufort. This lot was valued at 100 pounds, an amount sufficient to indicate an improved lot.

Jacob Henry won a place in the history of his country when, after running successfully in 1808 as a candidate for the state legislature, he was challenged the following year on religious grounds. It was asserted that Henry, a Jew, did not qualify for office because of a provision in the state constitution requiring "belief in the divine authority of the New Testament." Henry made an eloquent speech against religious discrimination, which had impact outside the state as well as within.

I certainly, Mr. Speaker, know not the design of the Declaration of Rights made by the people of this State in the year 1776, if it was not to consecrate certain great and fundamental rights and principles which even the Constitution cannot impair. . . . the language of the Bill of Rights is, "that all men have a natural and inalienable right to worship ALMIGHTY GOD according to the dictates of their own consciences." It is undoubtedly a natural right, and when it is declared to be an inalienable one by the people in their sovereign and original capacity, any attempt to alienate either by the Constitution or by law, must be vain and fruitless. . . .

It is surely a question between a man and his Maker, and requires more than human attributes to pronounce which of the numerous sects prevailing in the world is most acceptable to the Deity. If a man fulfils the duties of that religion, which his education or his conscience has pointed to him as the true one, no person, I hold, in this our land of liberty, has a right to arraign him at the bar of any inquisition. . . .

Nothing is more easily demonstrated than that the conduct alone is the subject of human laws, and that man ought to suffer civil disqualification for what he does, and not for what he thinks.

This speech ranks as an early and significant contribution in the struggle to realize some of the freedoms provided for in the United States Constitution. Henry's cause was "aided by the luminous efforts of Judge [William] Gaston," a Catholic who later sought (1835) to have religious requirements removed from the Constitution. He was allowed to keep his seat "on a technicality," and the struggle to eliminate a religious test for political office continued for years.

Henry was one of Beaufort's outstanding citizens and one of its most articulately appreciative, as evidenced in his 1810 description of the town for the editor of the Raleigh Star. His account, a valuable early record of Beaufort, describes the buildings, industries, and finds it "in every point

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. B

of view a desirable situation for a summer residence. It is strictly a marine village and those who are fond of the amusement connected with the water may here receive full gratification; whilst battling in the surf and walking on the beach are likely to recover the Valetudinarian."

In 1835 Jacob Henry "of Charleston, South Carolina," sold the house for \$100 to Samuel W. Henry, his son. The same year Samuel W. Henry, "cabinet-maker," sold it for \$450 to Marcus C. Thomas, "mariner," of Beaufort. The Jacob Henry House is now the property of John G. Jones, Jr.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles Blume, Jr., survey specialist; architectural description by Janet K. Seapker, survey specialist.
 Carteret County Records, Carteret County Courthouse, Beaufort, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Carteret County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Clark, Walter, editor. The State Records of North Carolina. Winston: M. I. and J. C. Stewart, 1896.
 Golden, Harry L. "The Jewish People of North Carolina," in The North Carolina Historical Quarterly, Vol. 32. Raleigh: Office of Archives and History,

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1955

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	° ' "	° ' "		34° 43' 04"	76° 40' 04"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 3 April 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh 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: H. G. Jones

Title: State Historian/Administrator

Date: 3 April 1973

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: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

Saunders, William T., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Raleigh,
North Carolina: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1888.
Wheeler, John H. Historical Sketches of North Carolina from 1584 to 1851,
Vol I. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Company, 1851.

