

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Durham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bennett Place State Historic Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Intersection of S. R. 1314 and 1313

CITY OR TOWN:
Durham

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Durham	CODE 063
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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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Durham County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Durham

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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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

Bennett Place State Historic Site, where General Joseph E. Johnston's surrender to General William T. Sherman effectively ended the Civil War in the southeast, is a small farm complex located on 30½ acres of open fields and woods. The farmplace, which consists of a house, kitchen, and smokehouse, is typical of hundreds that dotted the North Carolina Piedmont in the mid-nineteenth century. The original house where the two generals met for the surrender talks burned in 1921 but has been reconstructed, using materials of the period.

The present farmhouse is a one-story log structure covered by weatherboards with a gable roof and a shed addition on the rear. The original exterior end chimney of uncoursed field stone stands on the north side and is protected by an extension of the shingle roof. The main block consists of one large room entered through a central entrance on the east facade. The room is furnished with pieces resembling those appearing in the sketches of the surrender proceedings. It is lighted by two windows, one in the center of the south wall and the other to the left of the late-Georgian mantel on the north wall. An enclosed stair rises in two flights from the right side of the fireplace to a finished attic.

The shed addition consists of two small rooms. The south room is furnished as a bedroom; the other has been converted into an interpretive area with exhibits that depict the events that led up to the meeting of Johnston and Sherman at Bennett Place.

To the east of the house are the log kitchen and smokehouse. Both have gable roofs and board and batten doors with strap hinges. The kitchen, which has a wide stone fireplace, contains a collection of early nineteenth century cooking utensils.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 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 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

It is known that as early as 1789 a dwelling occupied a site near or perhaps on that of the present reconstructed Bennett Place. This early building was the residence of Thomas Couch, Sr., and was deeded to John G. Rencher in 1789. The property passed through various hands until 1846, when it was deeded by Willis B. Dillard to James Bennett. Bennett (Bennitt), a cobbler, distiller, blacksmith, and farmer, paid Dillard \$400 for two tracts of land near each other in what was then Orange County. One tract contained 189 acres, the other 135.9 acres. Bennett and his family were living on the property in 1865 as the Civil War drew to an end.

When Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, General Joseph E. Johnson realized the futility of the Confederate war effort. Despite the wishes of Jefferson Davis he prepared to surrender all the Confederate forces in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida to General William Tecumseh Sherman. These armies of more than 89,000 men constituted the largest Confederate force then remaining; they represented, in fact, a larger group than the approximately 40,000 Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

At the Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21), Sherman had defeated Johnston. By mid-April, Sherman was located in Raleigh while Johnston was encamped in Hillsborough. The two generals agreed to meet to negotiate terms of surrender and settled on a meeting place on the road between Durham Station and Hillsborough.

On the morning of April 17, 1865, the generals with their parties met as planned. Since Sherman wished for a private place to talk, Johnston suggested a small farmhouse he had passed on the way. Thus by chance the Bennett house was selected as the scene of the last major surrender of the Civil War. The discussions lasted until the evening of April 18, when the two generals arrived at an equitable "basis of agreement." After serious intervening complications, they met again on April 26 to sign a final, much more stringent settlement.

After James Bennett's death about 1877, the house passed to his wife, Nancy, and from her to Berta Bennett Shields (Bennett's granddaughter), who sold the house to Brodie L. Duke. The Bennett house burned in 1921. Two years later the family of Samuel T. Morgan bought the site and presented it to the state of North Carolina.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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8.

Bennett Place was dedicated as a state historic site in 1923. Numerous donations have been made in addition to the original land gift. A gift from Mrs. Magruder Dent in 1958 made possible the reconstruction of the Bennett house. The restoration, which used materials from the nearby 1804 Billy Proctor house, incorporates the original chimney from James Bennett's house.

As the site of the surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston to General William T. Sherman, which essentially ended the Civil War in the southeast, Bennett Place assumed by the chance convenience of its location a permanent place in American history.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrett, John G. The Civil War in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Durham County Records, Durham County Courthouse, Durham, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Records).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	36° 01' 47"	78° 58' 37"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36° 01' 47"	78° 58' 27"				
SE	36° 01' 43"	78° 58' 27"				
SW	36° 01' 43"	78° 58' 37"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30½ Acres

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:
John B. Wells, III, Survey Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: March 12, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Dr. H. G. Jones

Title: Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: March 12, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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Durham County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

Lefler, Hugh Talmage, and Newsome, Albert Ray. North Carolina: The History of a Southern State. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963.

Orange County Records, Orange County Courthouse, Hillsborough, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Records).

Orange County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

