

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. J. H. Harris House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

312 East Mason Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Franklinton

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Franklin

069

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. E. T. Dement

STREET & NUMBER

312 East Mason Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Franklinton

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. J. H. Harris House is a large, impressive Queen Anne style dwelling set among a group of trees on a hill overlooking a long, sloping lawn. The frame house is essentially rectangular, two stories high beneath a tall, steep deck-on-hip roof; projecting bays, gables, dormers, and towers, and a one-story wraparound porch provide the picturesque, asymmetrical, and irregular massing typical of the Queen Anne style. Also important to the character of the house are the bold round and angular elements of trim--including shingles, turned wood, and slate--and the absence of ornate or delicate exterior ornament.

Dominating the main (north) facade are two strong focal points: on the west corner is an engaged round tower three stories tall. It has three windows at each of the first two levels, containing double-hung plate glass sash; the window frames and glass curve to accommodate the curve of the tower. The third level of the tower rises above the roof of the main house. Between the second and third levels a pent above a wide plain frieze encircles the tower; it is covered with sawtooth shingles. Above another wide plain frieze is the dome-like tower roof; it extends to create a rather wide brim-like overhang and is topped by a pointed finial.

The other focal point of the facade is the treatment of the central bay. At the first level the porch is more elaborately treated than elsewhere, with rafter-brackets under the eaves, above a broad frieze carried by paired, turned Doric posts set on paneled pedestals. The porch roof in this bay is enclosed by a heavy, ramped balustrade with paired turned posts at the corners, and simple balusters. This gallery serves a second-level doorway that is flanked by demihexagonal bay windows each with three double-hung plate glass windows. Above this is a dramatically handled cross gable that projects from the main roof. The gable has two center windows and is otherwise infilled with dark shingles. Applied over this are bold, diagonally placed sinuous sawn bands suggestive of half-timbering. Beneath the gable, interrupted by the bay windows, are long rafter brackets that run inward to the doorway or wall; their outward ends resemble undercut modillions.

Carrying across the entire facade and over halfway around the sides (which are five irregularly spaced bays deep) is a hip roof porch, with single or paired turned Doric posts on paneled pedestals, a heavy handrail, and plain balusters. On the east side the porch terminates at a small bay window with rafter-bracketed cornice; on the west the porch sweeps outward to accommodate the curve of the round corner tower but is interrupted by a larger demihexagonal bay with similar cornice treatment and tracery windows; the porch then continues again along most of the west side.

The windows of the house are generally large plate glass double-hung sash, though some contain angular tracery. The wide plain frieze and box cornice are consistently used. On each side of the house is a simple pedimented dormer. The steep hip roof is covered with slate shingles, and tall chimneys interrupt the roofline in an irregular placement. At the rear there are two one-story projections with shallow hip roofs, and a small porch.

The finish of the interior is, as typical of Queen Anne houses, rather elaborate,

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with dark carved woodwork, Neo-Classical mantels, and a particularly handsome stair. The main block features on the first floor a large entrance and stair hall in the front west corner including the tower which contains the stair; two large rooms on the east; and a central hall leading back from the entrance hall, giving access to two smaller rooms on the west and the service areas on the rear extensions. A small room occupies the west bay projection. The second story has a long central hall with several rooms on either side, and the finish here is quite plain with heavy door and window frames.

The most impressive room is the entrance and stair hall. It features a tall wainscot with heavy molding and three ranges of flat panels. Along the front wall the stair rises east to west to a landing in the tower, which bows out to create a room-like space, open to the second level ceiling; the stair then turns to rise front to back along the west wall. Newel and posts are heavy, square, paneled ones, with molded caps; from the closed string rise turned balusters. They carry a very heavy molded handrail that is asymmetrically molded beneath to fit the hand. The spandrel is paneled and the wainscot, interrupted by a window, continues up the entire stair. Beneath the rounded landing is a small, cozy tower room, its ceiling formed by the paneled soffit of the landing.

In this room, on the rear wall, is a typical turn-of-the-century Neo-Classical mantel. Full-height reeded Doric colonnettes flank the opening, a bracket-borne shelf above a frieze with a relief urn, and a mirror above it. The colonnettes carry a heavy shelf. The whole is set against a backboard that rises above the shelf.

Framing the entrance to the central hall is an elaborately treated screen with attenuated, fluted colonnettes with acanthus capitals; these carry a delicate, sinuous frieze screen of fancy curved sawwork and thin spindle-and-ball elements.

The two east rooms are joined by a large sliding door; a similar door separates the front east room from the entrance hall. There is no wainscot in the front room. On its east wall there is a handsome Neo-Classical mantel. A narrow band of egg-and-dart outlines the tiled opening which frames an elaborate cast-iron grate cover. Heavy scrolled consoles elaborately trimmed with floral and foliage motifs flank the frieze, which has a center tablet featuring a flower garland carried by standing cupids. The tablet is flanked by scrolls. At the base of each of the side pilasters is a delicate anthemion motif. The shelf of the mantel is plain and carries paired turned Doric colonnettes draped with garlands in relief. They flank a mirror and support a dentil cornice; the back board above is accented with a central shield cartouche with scrolls and leaves. The room to the rear lacks a mantel but has a wainscot like the entrance hall. The other rooms are less elaborately finished but continue the Victorian character of the front rooms.

An interesting feature of the front rooms and some others is the intact survival of louvered fixed double-hung blinds in the windows. They are of dark wood with brass

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fittings. There are two in each window, occupying about two-thirds the height of the window. The lower blind is stationary, and the upper one can be slid up to touch the top of the window or down to rest on the lower blind. Where windows are curved, these too are curved.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1902-1904 BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. H. Whitfield

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. J. H. Harris House is a large, handsome, well-preserved Queen Anne style house, among the best representatives of the style in Franklin County. The irregular roofline, wraparound porch, and the treatment of corner tower and central gable, plus the rich interior woodwork and dramatic stair hall give the building a distinctive and vigorous character. It was built in 1902-1904 by a local contractor, J. H. Whitfield, for Dr. John H. Harris, a Franklinton physician.

John H. Harris was born May 18, 1862, and attended Wake Forest College 1878-1881. In 1886 he became an M. D., having studied at Bellevue. He was practicing medicine in Franklinton by the late 1880s. He married Lula Timberlake of Franklin County, and they had two children--Martha and John Henry, Jr. According to a close friend of Martha, the couple had made plans before 1902 to build a large new house; it is said that Mrs. Harris had drawn up rough plans which were elaborated by a Raleigh architect. In August, 1902, however, Mrs. Harris died suddenly. Her husband was severely affected by her death but decided to go ahead with plans for the construction of the house she had planned. The house was built by a local contractor, J. H. Whitfield; his son who still lives in Franklinton remembers working on the house. It is said to have been completed by 1904.

Dr. Harris continued his medical practice for many years. In 1925 he died, and his property went to his children. His daughter, Martha, married Edward McGee in 1926, and they lived in the house for several decades. Mr. McGee died in 1967, and Mrs. McGee in 1969. The house property was bought from her estate on October 15, 1969, by E. T. Dement, who lives in the house, which he is renovating.

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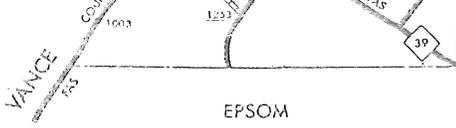
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CONTINUATION SHEET

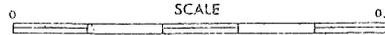
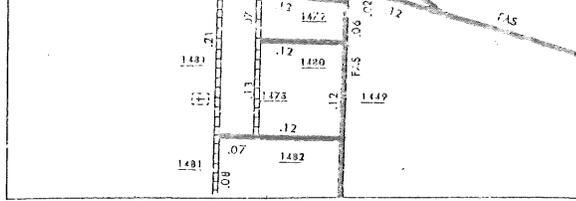
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Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers).
Franklin Times, January 1, 1900-December 31, 1909.

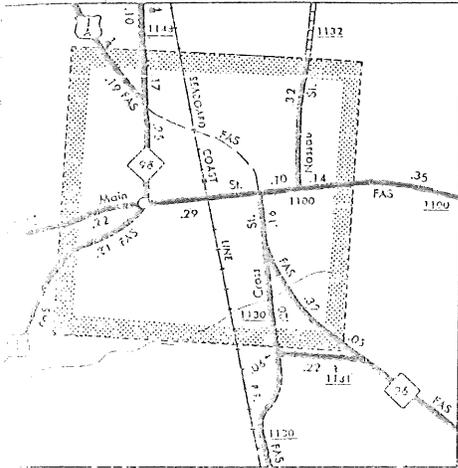


EPSOM

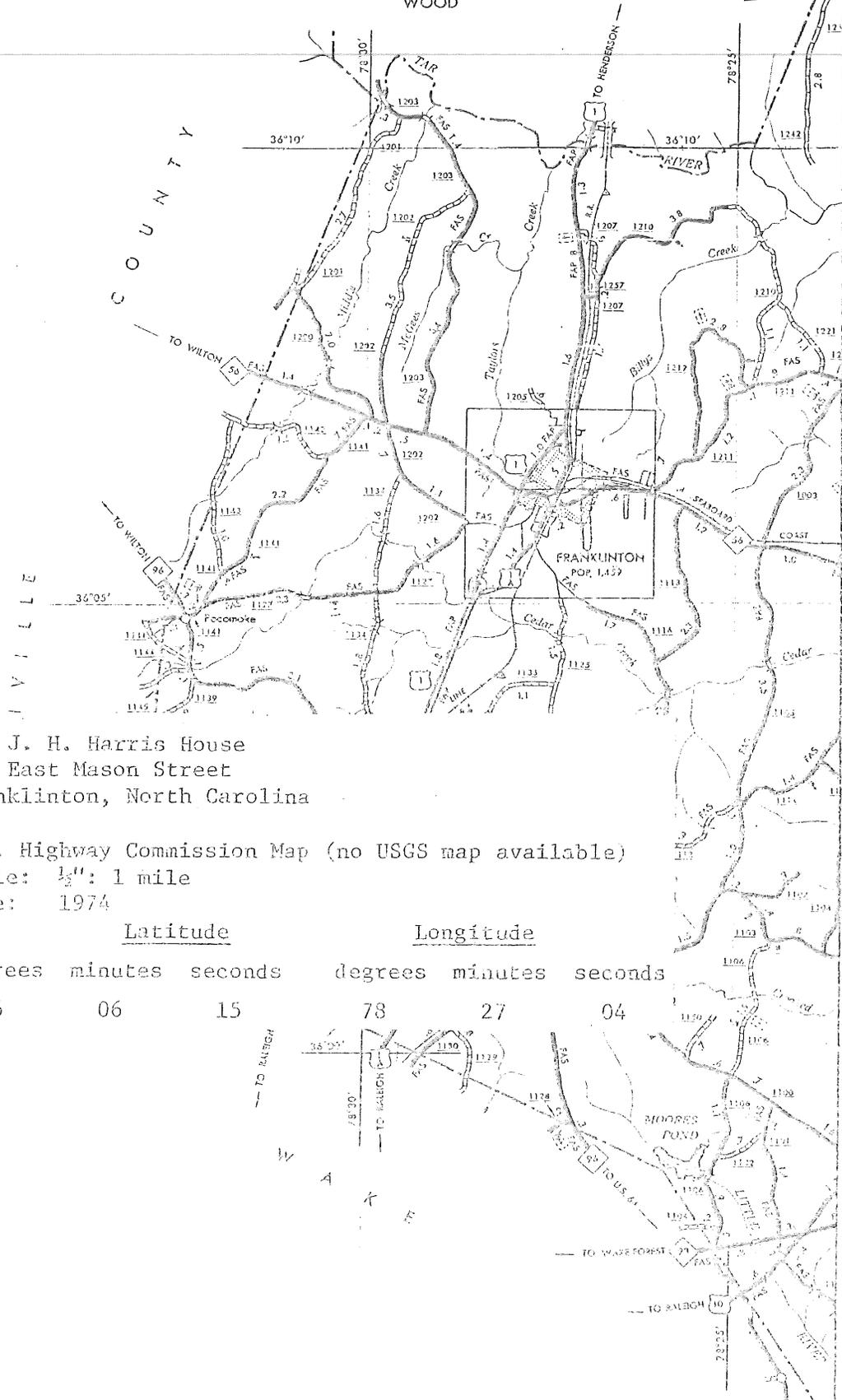


WOOD

VANCE



YOUNGSVILLE
POP. 555

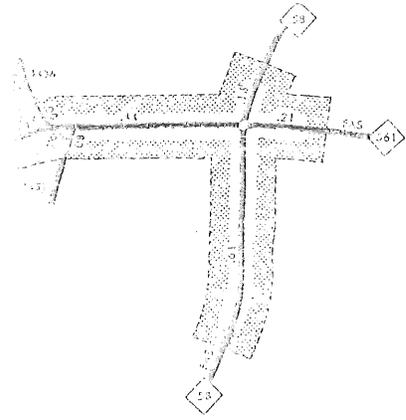


FRANKLINTON
POP. 1,432

Dr. J. H. Harris House
312 East Mason Street
Franklinton, North Carolina

N.C. Highway Commission Map (no USGS map available)
Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile
Date: 1974

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	06	15	78	27	04



CENTERVILLE
POP. 123



