

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Shemuel Kearney House  
AND/OR COMMON

Shemuel Kearney House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side U.S. 1, 1 mi. south of Franklinton  
CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Franklinton

VICINITY OF

#2

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Charles F. Best

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 134

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

# 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 Shemuel Kearney House stands on a hill overlooking the present highway, U.S. 1. It is shaded by large trees including one extremely large oak, and there are a few out-buildings, evidently later than the house. The dwelling consists of one-and-one-half-story gambrel roof main block and a later one-story gable-roof rear ell. The main block is three bays wide, and the sides--unusually deep for a gambrel in this area--have few openings, irregularly placed. On the east side there are windows at both levels in the front bay and a tiny casement window high in the attic behind the chimney; on the west side is a first-story window in the front bay and a second-story one in the rear bay. There is one interior end chimney of brick, rising from the apex of the east gable. The building, built of frame, was covered with wooden shingles in recent years; 1969 photographs show a wood shingle roof and plain weatherboards in bad repair. The finish is quite simple: the narrow windows (containing nine-over-six sash at the first level, six-over-six at the second) have plain frames as do the four-over-four windows of the shed dormers. There are three dormers across the front and one in the east bay of the rear. The front central door has a similar frame and is sheltered by a small gable-roof porch of recent construction. A molded cornice extends across each facade beneath the narrow overhang of the gambrel roof, and some of the beaded raking cornice survives as well.

The plan of the dwelling is somewhat unusual: There are two rooms across the front and two across the rear, the latter separated by a small central hall. The two east rooms feature corner fireplaces served by the single chimney. The woodwork of the interior is relatively undisturbed, despite a few renovations. Doors with six raised panels, set in robust molded frames, are generally used. Also present is a flat-paneled wainscot with ovolo moldings framing two long single boards running the length of a room. The molded chair rail serves as window sills. Beaded beams are exposed overhead. In the rear east room in the south wall, one window retains its very heavy muntins, with four-over-four sash. The mantels in the two east rooms are similar, and of handsome, simple Georgian design. A wide bead rims the square opening; it is framed by a wide architrave, which features three raised panels vertically arranged on each side, and two horizontal ones across the frieze. This is outlined by a simple molding and topped by a shelf.

The stair rises from the front west room. A few exterior steps run east to west, then a batten door seals off the enclosed flight which rises south-to-north along the outer wall. A paneled spandrel and a small four-panel door finish the exterior of the stair.

The second-story stair well is protected by a railing with flat balusters and a heavy molded handrail. The second story has two rooms, divided by a north-south wooden partition pierced by a four-panel door, set in a narrow mitered frame, and hung with HL hinges with rosehead nails and leather washers. The walls are plastered, as are the reveals of the dormer windows.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 Shem Kearney House near Franklinton is believed to have been built for planter Kearney before the Revolution. The construction date is uncertain, but it was called "the old House" in 1808, and its simple, robust Georgian finish and gambrel roof form (unusual in the county) suggest that it is among the earliest of the few eighteenth century houses in Franklin County.

On November 4, 1758, Joseph Fuller of Granville County, North Carolina, deeded to Shemuel Kearney, also of Granville, 200 acres of land on the fork of Cedar Creek in Granville County. The price was 39 pounds "current speci money." The deed specified that the land was part of a grant to Anthony Rackly of April 20, 1745, and conveyed by him to Joseph Fuller on March 28, 1747. Franklin County was formed in 1779, and this section of Granville was taken into the new county.

Shemuel Kearney was probably a kinsman of the Kearney family that played a large role in the social, political, and economic affairs of neighboring Halifax and Warren counties. He was an extensive land owner, and the 1790 census shows that he owned 20 slaves. His grandson and namesake, Shemuel Kearney, was the "father" of the town of Franklinton, which is only a short distance from the Shemuel Kearney House. Edward Hill Davis, in his Historical Sketches of Franklin County relates that when

Shemuel Kearney gave the right of way through his property (for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, incorporated in 1835) it was with the understanding that there should be a station on his land an agreement that was carried out and the station at first was known as Franklin Depot. In 1842 the village became Franklinton.

The Kearney family has been a prominent one in the area from the time that the first Shemuel Kearney settled there in the mid-eighteenth century.

The elder Kearney made his will on February 27, 1808, and he named eleven children, and his wife, Catherine. He left to his son, Joseph, "the rest and residue of my land including the manor plantation (except the old House tract which I bought of Joseph Fuller) subject however to a claim hereafter in which possession is made to my wife." He then directed that the "old House tract" be sold to the highest bidder on a credit of at least six months, with the money from the sale going to pay his debts. From this it seems that Kearney before he died had moved from the old house, though he is said to have built it.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #8

PAGE one

Shemuel Cook, Junior, who had witnessed the will of Shemuel Kearney, purchased the tract of land. This tract remained in the Cook family until after the Civil War, when James Dent purchased it, and on March 14, 1876, sold it to George Winston for \$6,000. This deed specified that the land was "on the waters of Cedar Creek and Joes Creek." The lower branch of Cedar Creek had at that time come to be called Joe's Creek. George Winston's will of August 22, 1902, left to his wife, Bettie D. Winston, "all my lands lying on the west side of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, known as the Cooke and Kearney land, . . ."

Bettie D. Winston remarried Luke Utley, and in her will of June 29, 1922, she left a life estate in the "tract known as the Cooke place . . ." to her nephew, Charles F. Best. The tract was then to go to the Best children. Mr. Best now lives in the Shemuel Kearney House.



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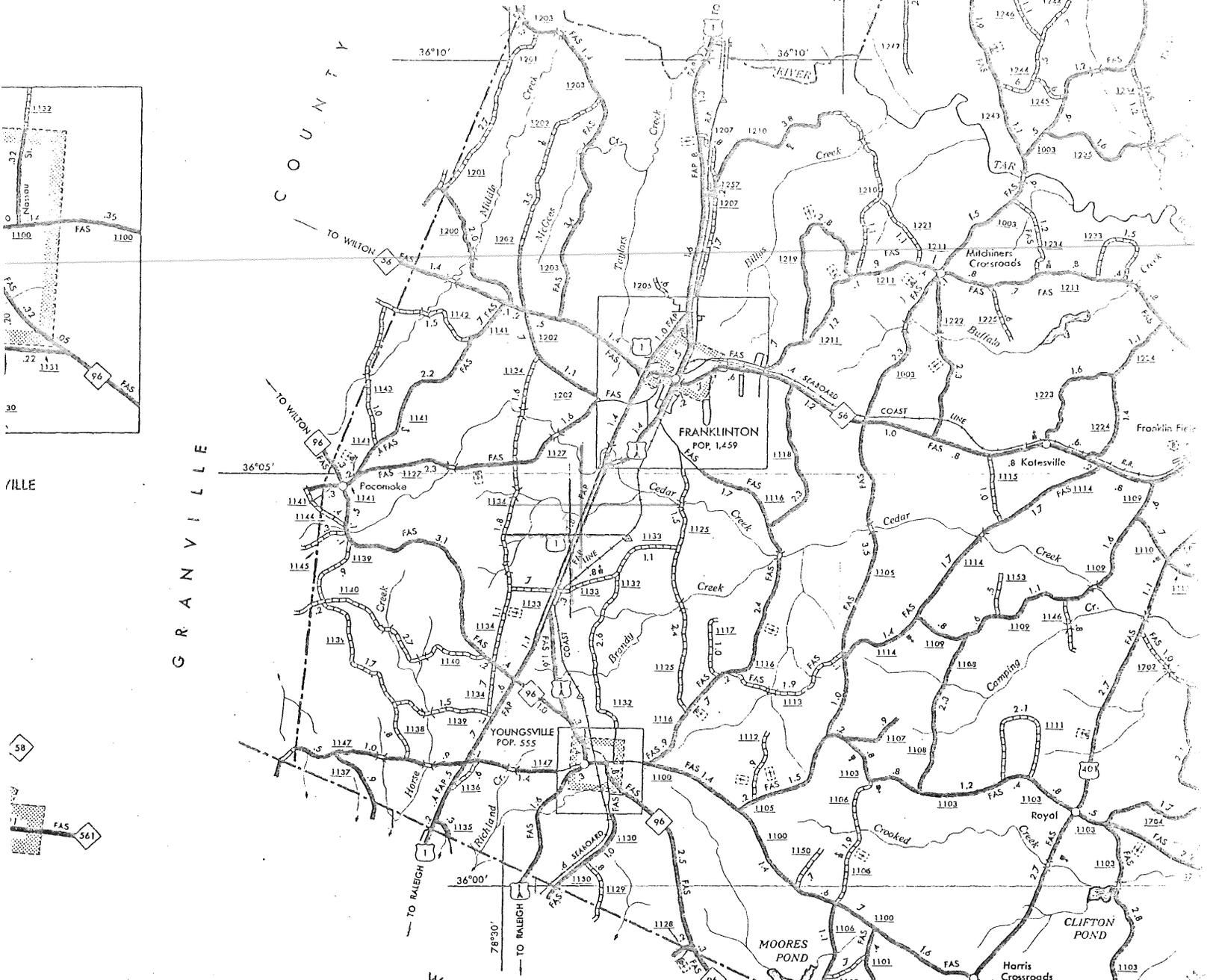
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

Granville County Records, Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).

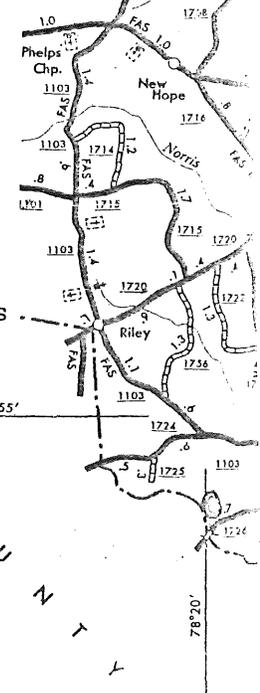
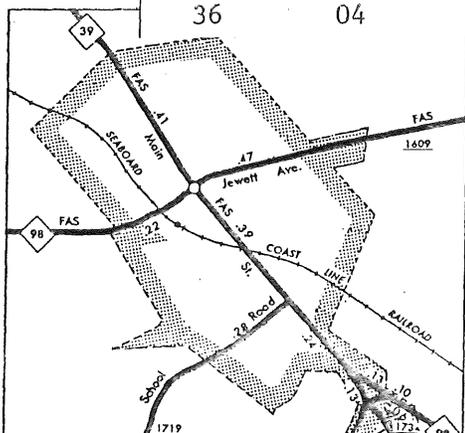
Granville County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds).



Shemuel Kearney House  
 Franklinton vicinity  
 North Carolina

N. C. Highway Commission Map (no USGS map available)  
 Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ " : 1 mile  
 Date: 1967

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	04	36	78	28	53



LINE  
MILTON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EK 2A0(CSL)

78°30'  
36°07'30"

726°00'00"E

727

728

27°30' 729

4000000m

CALCULATED FROM  
WILSON 4.3 MI

999

998

997

5'

995

McGehee Cr

Tiptons Creek

Cedar

Franklinton Reservoir

Filtration Plant

Water Tank

Athletic Field

Allens Ch

Sterling

WT

Holy Trinity Ch

Evergreen Cem

Substa

7/27 cell test w/ SBA  
8 AM

PROPOSED  
300' gaged  
flow over  
Creek

Shemuel Kennedy  
House

7210  
72

1134

1125

1202

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