

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Laurel Mill and Colonel Jordan Jones's House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet #2

CITY OR TOWN:
Gupton vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 069

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted Mill <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No House
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Mr. Louis Waskey (house) Mr. William Holmes (mill)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3 Box 72-A, Rt 6 Rt 6

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisburg

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Franklin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisburg

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 AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: CODE:

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2. Boundaries

Begin at the northeastern limit of the property line of Laurel Mill (owned by William Holmes) where it crosses S.R. 1432. Follow this property line along this road west and southwest to a point 100 feet east of the east bank of Sandy Creek (south of S.R. 1432). Going south, continue along a line 100 feet east of the creek to a point 50 feet south of the south bank of Richland Creek. Then go west and then southwest, following a line 50 feet south of the bank of Richland Creek as it meanders, to a point 100 yards east of the Colonel Jones House. Then go north along a line 100 yards east of the Colonel Jones House to the middle of S.R. 1432. Then go southeast along this road to a point 200 yards west of the west bank of Sandy Creek. Then north along a line 200 yards west of this west bank to a point even with the back property line of the Laurel Mill property. Then west along this line to the beginning.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The road from Moulton to Gupton crosses Sandy Creek in a wide valley between two gradually sloping hills. Here, at the junction of two roads and two creeks (Richland and Sandy), was once the busy little town of Laurel. It is no longer marked on maps, but the mill that remains bears the name. On the south side of the road, at the crest of the hill overlooking the creek, from the west, stands the Colonel J. F. Jones House, a frame raised cottage in vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style; on the north side of the road, on the east bank of the creek, stands Laurel Mill, a grist mill that is the only standing vestige of Jones's once-flourishing industrial complex that operated on both sides of Sandy Creek. Contemporary photographs show the other industrial buildings that stood on the west side of the creek.

The frame mill building is two stories tall above large stone piers that rise from a stone bluff or outcropping and support the building well out over the water. There is evidence in the foundation and timbers--most notably a double sill running north-south midway the building--that the portion of the building nearest the water may predate the rest of the structure. In addition, among the rubble of the foundation farthest from the water is a piece of millstone--suggesting of course that that part was built after there had been a mill on the site for some time. The stark height and simple finish of the gable-roof building are typical of nineteenth century grist mills. It is a turbine mill; the turbine machinery located beneath the building can be viewed from the open area beneath the part of building on the rock outcropping. Also located beneath the building is a recently-installed over-shot wheel, which runs but does not provide the power to the millstones.

Inside, the arrangement of machinery is also typical of grist mills of the period and area. The millstones and mill crane stand on a raised platform in the northwest corner of the buildings, and the two stories and attic contain the chutes, bins, and other equipment necessary for the working of the mill. (The present owner grinds meal on a limited scale.) On one of the doors, in the evidently newer section, is painted inscription, "Finished July 23, 1909. Put in new water house and breast, July 1909. J. R. Parrish."

In contrast to the functional plainness of the mill is the fashionable character of the dwelling that overlooks it. The frame cottage stands one story over a raised brick basement. Its four-square proportions and heavy bracketed cornice are typical of the vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style popular in the area in the 1850s. Several elements are similar to the large house at Cascade and to the Williamson House in Louisburg; some features, too, are somewhat similar to the Italianate mode of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt, but the similarities are not strong enough to attribute the building to him with certainty.

The facades are defined by cornerposts treated as fluted Doric pilasters, which rise from pedestals that break out from the brick foundation. The cornerposts carry a wide plain frieze adorned by rather ornate pendent brackets that support the heavy overhang of the hip roof. The brackets do not recur on the rear facade. The main (north) facade is three bays wide, with the center bay, a double door, protected by an entrance porch. Paired

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porch posts treated like the cornerposts carry a wide frieze with brackets paired over the posts. The sides of the porch are protected by a balustrade with small chamfered balusters between a rounded rail and simple base. The posts recur as pilasters on the facade.

Six-over-six windows are framed by plain architraves. The side elevations are two widely spaced bays deep. At the first bay of the east side has been constructed a small one-story extension. Another one-bay addition replaces the original rear porch.

Within, the house has a surprisingly spacious character. The main floor follows a center-hall plan, two rooms deep, with the stair descending to the basement midway the hall, along the west wall. The walls are plastered above high, molded baseboards, which do not break out at the architrave base as is typical of Holt's work but stop short of the architrave. Heavy molded architraves frame doors with four flat panels outlined by Greek Revival moldings; they are hung on rising butt-plate hinges. The mantels in the house, however, are quite similar to those found in Holt's houses. That in the front east room has pilasters carrying a frieze, each of which is ornamented by a long thin panel terminating at each end in a spear-head design. That in the front west room has fluted pilasters and a fluted frieze band. Other mantels are of simple Greek Revival design. The basement has largely been refinished.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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) 1850s, 1860s CA. 1840 (between 1839 + 1843)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Laurel Mill, located on Sandy Creek, is the only operating grist mill in Franklin County and is an important vestige of industry once vital in an overwhelmingly agricultural county. It is all that remains of the ambitious local industrial complex--including a saw mill, grist mill, and an early cotton factory--run by Jordan F. Jones in the last half of the nineteenth century. Overlooking the creek is the small but impressive raised cottage, probably built for Jones in the 1850s.

Colonel Jordan F. Jones was born in Franklin County on November 24, 1821, near the crossroads at Sandy Creek called Laurel. Little is known of his early years. In 1847 he married Lucy Stamper. In 1849 he was deeded from his father, Amos, 150 acres, "land and premises lying North of the road from Perrys mill to the late residence of Peter Foster." In the same year Amos Jones died, and at the sale following his death, J. F. Jones bought additional land, 190 and 30 acres, "on the waters of Richland and Sandy Creeks;" he bought other land in 1850 in the same neighborhood. The assemblage about 1850 of a sizeable tract of land near the confluence of Richland and Sandy creeks--at the Laurel crossroads--and the appearance of the vernacular Italianate house, much like others in Franklin and Warren counties of the 1850s, make an 1850s date for the dwelling reasonably certain.

On October 29, 1860, J. F. Jones purchased from Joshua Perry for \$9,000, "his Mills and land on Sandy Creek," containing fourteen acres, including "half an acre in front of the saw mill the right and title of said land and mills with all appurtenances." This is presumably the "Perry's mill" used in the 1849 deed (above) as a landmark. In 1851 Perry had taken out \$400 worth of insurance on his saw mill on Sandy Creek; it measured 44x18, had a vertical wheel, and one saw. The 1860 Census listed five industrial concerns, with Joshua Perry's "manufacturing mill" the second largest, evaluated at \$10,000.

North Carolina Business directories after the Civil War show the expansion of J. F. Jones's commercial-industrial enterprises. He had a dry goods store at Louisburg as early as 1867, and a mill "near Louisburg." (This may be Laurel, which was not yet a post office, or it may be just south of Louisburg, where he is said to have had a mill as well.) The 1869 and 1872 entries were similar. By 1878, Laurel is listed as a post office, and Jones is noted as having at Laurel a cotton factory, store, grist flour, and saw mill. This is confirmed by the 1878 report of the

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state Board of Agriculture on industries and resources in North Carolina, listing J. F. Jones as proprietor of the Laurel Mill, with 612 spindles, a capacity of 400 pounds of cotton per day, producing yarns, and valued at \$15,000. The cotton mill was described as having been put in operation in 1875. The 1890 business directory shows at Laurel, owned by J. F. Jones, a cotton manufactory with 650 spindles; a public gin run by water; a store; and a flour and corn mill. Also at Laurel were P. F. Gupton's steam-run public gin and John R. Bobbitt's general store. By 1896, a creamery and wagon factory,--owned by Jones, had been added. An 1898 industrial report noted that this was the most important utilization of water power on Sandy Creek, that the "dam is of wood and stone, 50 feet long, 5 feet high, backing the water one mile, and giving a fall of 12 feet, with a race 60 feet long. The power is used for a grist and saw mill, and for a cotton-yarn factory, with 650 spindles, using perhaps, in all, 40 or 50 horsepower." (In the nineteenth century, Franklin County produced considerable quantities of cotton, but this is no longer true.)

Along with this documented information about Jones's endeavors, there is considerable local tradition concerning the prominent businessman's enterprising and inventive efforts. A report in the 1930s credited him with founding "the third spinning mill established in N. C. . . . in 1867," and with inventing "the automatic winding machine used today in cotton mills," as well as a "mechanical corn planter" in 1875. His obituary described him as "the only cotton manufacturer in the county" at one time, and a "fine mechanic, having received the premium for a cotton elevator."

A local history described Jones as "the pioneer millman of this section." It noted that "those small bales of Laurel cotton yarns were a regular feature on the shelves of many stores in all this section for years, while his own mule and horse teams carried the bulk of his product through sand to Henderson for shipment elsewhere."

Jordan F. Jones died at the age of eighty-five, on December 28, 1906, having outlived all his children and three of his four wives. He died intestate, and the settling of his estate among his many grandchildren took several years. An advertisement in the Franklin Times, February 24, 1909, proclaimed, "Famous Jones Mill and Residence and Other Valuable Town and Country Property to be Sold at Public Auction." Among the properties listed were "The Mansion House tract," which included stables and outbuildings; the "Store House Tract, adjoining the Mansion House tract," and the "Mill and Gin tract." G. W. Ford, a businessman and partner in a Louisburg tobacco warehouse, purchased the Mansion House and Mill tracts at auction for \$10,175. The two tracts stayed in common ownership until recent years, when the house was purchased by Louis Waskey and the mill by William Holmes. Both are now being kept in good condition, and the mill is running again, a project of Mr. Holmes's retirement.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Edward Hill. Historical Sketches of Franklin County. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Co., 1948.
 Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds).
 Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Newspapers).
 North Carolina Board of Agriculture, L. L. Polk, Commissioner. Industries and Resources of North Carolina, 1878.
 North Carolina Geological Survey, Bulletin 8, 1899. Waterpower in North Carolina.

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° 10' 56"	78° 11' 47"		0	0	
NE	36° 10' 56"	78° 11' 13"				
SE	36° 10' 24"	78° 11' 13"				
SW	36° 10' 24"	78° 11' 47"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40 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: Research and architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, supervisor survey

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 27 January 1975

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 89-365), 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: Robert E. Stipe
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 27 January 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 _____

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Pearce, T. H. "The Mills on Sandy Creek." The State, August 1, 1972.
Spotswood, Dandridge. Industrial Survey of Louisburg, Franklin County, N.C.,
Private Collections (257.1), (1930s) D. F. Smithwick Collection, Division
of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Sketch map of Laurel Mill + Col Jones House

boundaries
delineated
areas

+++++
Helmes property line

map by Catherine Cockshutt,
copies from
1962 survey map
by P.R. Insoce
Scale: 1" = 500'



