

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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  
Dr. Samuel Perry House

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER North side S.R. 1436 just east of junction with S.R. 1407

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Gupton

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 type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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. and Mrs. Alexander B. Alston

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 6, Box 321

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisburg

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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. Samuel Perry House stands amid large trees at the end of a tree-lined lane. It is the only known example of builder Jacob Holt's Italianate idiom in Franklin County that is kept in good condition. The two-story frame dwelling is a relatively simple but typical example of Holt's work, which combines elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The house is a substantial, four-square structure covered with plain weatherboards. It rests on a brick cellar and has a shallow hip roof pierced by two stuccoed, paneled interior chimneys with widely overhanging caps. Defining the three-bay front and rear facades and the two-bay sides are heavy cornerposts treated as pilasters with bracketed caps. They break out from a wide baseboard and carry a wide frieze. The latter is adorned by pendant brackets that support the wide overhang of the roof. Plain window frames contain six-over-six sash at both levels and feature louvered blinds. The central second-level window is a triple one. The windows are trabeated--in contrast to some others of Holt's houses, which have arched windows.

The entrance treatment is typical of Holt's work: a very heavy molded architrave frames a double door surrounded by sidelights and a transom. Beneath the sidelights are two arched panels, and the reveals and soffit are also paneled, the reveals having arched panels that may have corresponded with arched lights around the entrance (these are now rectangular). The transom has a single light over the door and a smaller square one in each corner; these are flanked and separated by heavy brackets, whose fascia feature a spearhead trefoil motif characteristic of Holt's work. Protecting the entrance is a one-story porch that stops short of the flanking windows. It has fluted pillars square in section, with bracketed caps, carrying a wide bracketed frieze.

Across the rear of the house is a one-story original hip roof extension one bay deep; to it have been added a one-bay ell and a porch.

The interior, characteristic of Holt's work in plan and finish, follows a center-hall plan, two rooms deep, with the hall divided midway by a wall featuring a very large doorway filled with louvered doors, each leaf of which has two folding sections. (This was often used in Holt's houses, still exists at Cherry Hill also, and is documented at Vine Hill, where it was supplied for \$15.00.) The panels may be folded to have a completely open doorway, completely closed, or with the outer panels closed and inner ones open. In both front and rear halls rise stairways in two flights, the front one rising front to back, the rear one back to front. In each, the open string is finished with simple moldings, and turned newels and posts and balusters square in section carry a rounded rail that ramps dramatically at the turnings. The finish generally consists of walls plastered above high, molded baseboards, some of which are marbled. First-floor door and window frames are very heavy molded ones that break out in a distinctive "foot" at baseboard level; window frames extend to the baseboard to frame a panel. Second-level door and window frames have simple cornerblocks. The mantels in the primary rooms are also typical of Holt's work, with pilasters having panels carrying a spear-head trefoil motif at the top. These carry bracket end blocks that flank a reeded roll-like frieze (also used in typically Greek Revival mantels by Holt elsewhere). Other mantels are simple pilaster-and-frieze Greek Revival ones.

# 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 checked="" 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 Ca. 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Probably Jacob Holt

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Samuel Perry House, the home of a physician and planter, was probably built in the late 1850s by Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt. It is the best-preserved of Holt's Greek Revival-Italianate idiom in Franklin County and is related by family and architecture to an important group of houses in Warren and Franklin counties.

Unlike most of Franklin County which was made up in the antebellum period primarily of small farmers holding small numbers of slaves, the northeastern corner of the county was culturally tied to the wealthy plantation society of bordering southeastern Warren County, where such close-knit families as the Alstons and Williamses held large tracts of land and numbers of slaves, and built more pretentious and fashionable houses than those typical of Franklin County. Nearly all the dwellings built in Warren County and in other nearby areas in the late 1850s are variations on a single Italianate theme, and are evidently the work of a single builder, being consistently attributed to Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt. The houses built by Holt are connected not only by their physical similarities but also by complex family and social ties.

Dominant numerically, economically and socially in antebellum Franklin County was the Perry family, said to be descendants of seven brothers who settled in the county in the eighteenth century. The Perrys married frequently with the Alstons and Williamses of Warren County, so that the gentry of the Shocco Creek area consisted almost entirely of relatives, a high proportion of them living in houses built by Jacob Holt. Elijah Boddie Perry of Franklin County (d. 1846) married Lucy B. Williams (1797-1864)--whose brother John Buxton Williams and cousins A. D. Williams and Marina Williams Alston all were to live in Holt houses (Buxton Place, Vine Hill (NR), and Cherry Hill (NR) respectively). Elijah and Lucy had several children, of whom two would live in Holt houses--Sam and Mary (who married Archibald Taylor). Most of Elijah's children and their families are buried in a neglected graveyard on a deserted plantation not far from the Samuel Perry House--perhaps Elijah's home.

Elijah Perry was a wealthy planter; at his death in the 1840s he left his daughters numbers of slaves and his sons Green (d. 1850), Joshua (1819-1894) and Samuel (1834-1898) tracts of land and many slaves. To Samuel he left a tract on Shocco and Isinglass Creeks in Franklin County, plus about 20 slaves. In 1850 Samuel added to his holdings a tract of 513 acres "on the waters of Shocco and Isinglass Creeks," bought from the heirs of (another) Samuel Perry. By 1855 he held 3,115 acres 'evaluated at \$9,345. Through inheritance and perhaps purchase, his brother Joshua had built up impressive landholdings as well, adjoining those of Samuel. He also owned a mill, probably that later known as Laurel Mill (NR). In 1852, Joshua sold his brother for \$25 a tract of

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

12 acres on the waters of Shocco and Isinglass Creeks, north of the Isinglass near its mouth, "making the creek the line between Samuel Perry and Joshua Perry." For several decades, the two lived side-by-side, and were among the largest planters in the area.

Samuel Perry had attended the University of North Carolina in 1842-1843, and was a non-graduating member of the Class of 1846. Apparently in the early 1850s he married Bettie Gee (1834-1905); they had three daughters, who by the Census of 1860 were recorded as Mary (7), Lucy (5) and G. (Georgia) Anne (3). Local tradition states that the house was built in 1857 for Samuel and Bettie Perry, which would accord with other houses in the area. The 1860 Census also showed Perry listed as a physician--aged 35, whose real estate was evaluated at \$31,000 and personal worth at \$40,000. He owned 37 slaves in 10 slave houses; the plantation included 1,100 improved acres and 2,000 unimproved and produced among other crops 30,000 pounds of tobacco and 8 bales of ginned cotton. (Dr. Samuel Perry's holdings and wealth were relatively high in the county, but were exceeded consistently by his brother Joshua.)

Dr. Samuel Perry continued to practice medicine throughout most of the century. State business directories list him as one of twelve physicians in Franklin County in 1867, and he was one of nineteen in 1896. When he died in the fall of 1898, he left his widow Bettie the house and 500 acres, his unmarried daughter Lucy another 500 acres, and the remaining 749 was to be divided among his heirs. Bettie survived her husband a little over a year, and at her death she left the house with 500 acres plus all the household furniture to Lucy, except the organ and desk, which went to the youngest daughter, Georgia Perry Boddie.

Lucy W. Perry lived until 1925, but on July 26, 1913, she sold the home place to J. D. Alston for \$2,000. In Lucy's will of 1924, she made specific bequests of her personal property. To her sister Georgia she left "my family bible and all the books formerly belonging to my father, which are now at the residence of Mr. John D. Alston, my old home place."

The house has remained in the Alston family, and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Alston.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alumni History of the University of North Carolina.

Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers).

Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina  
(Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers).

Graves, Joseph A. The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina (Atlanta), 1901.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9

L&L:  $36^{\circ} 11' 52''$   $78^{\circ} 09' 06''$

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Research and architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives and History

8 April 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

919/829-7862

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8 April 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

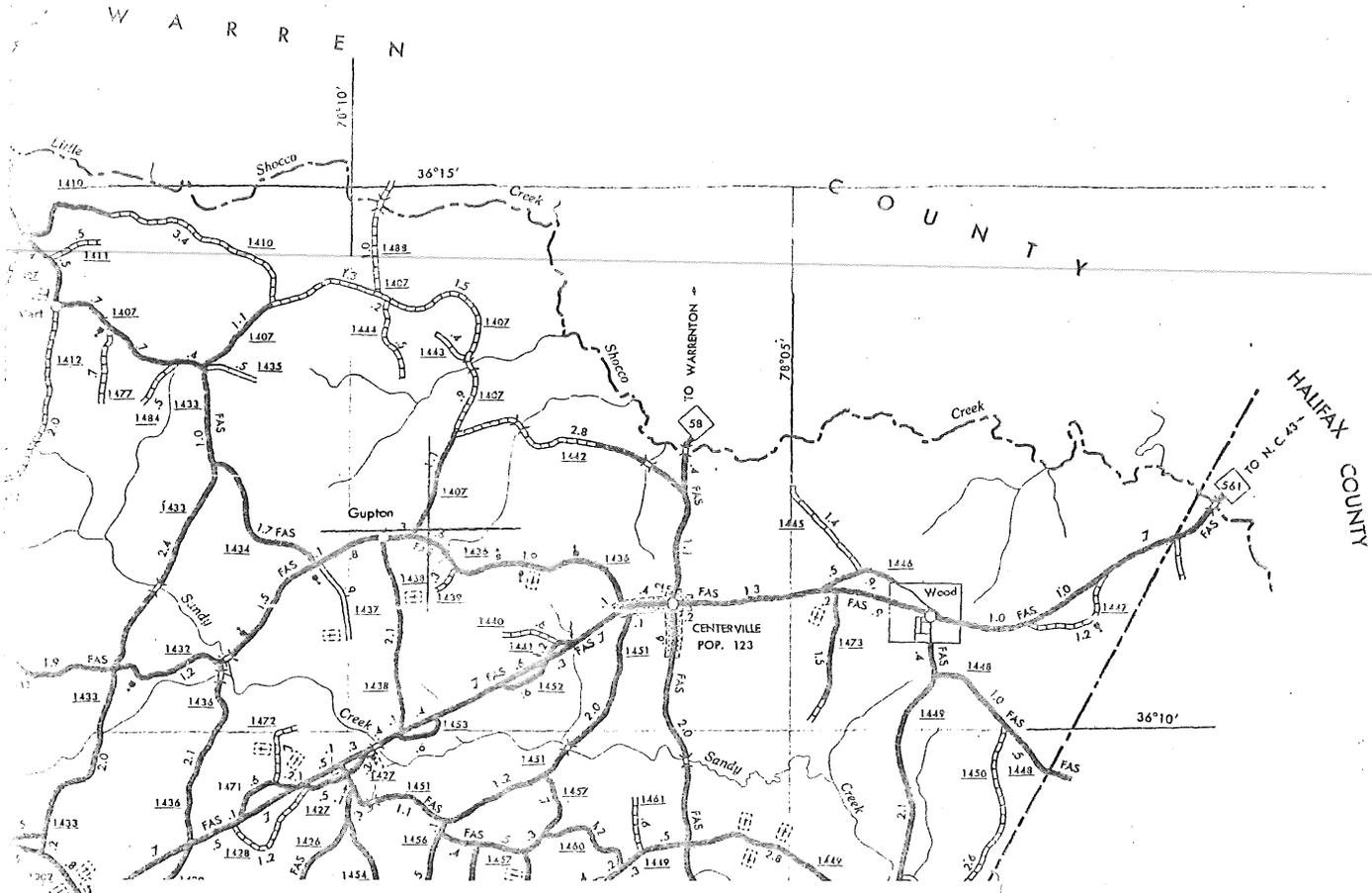
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

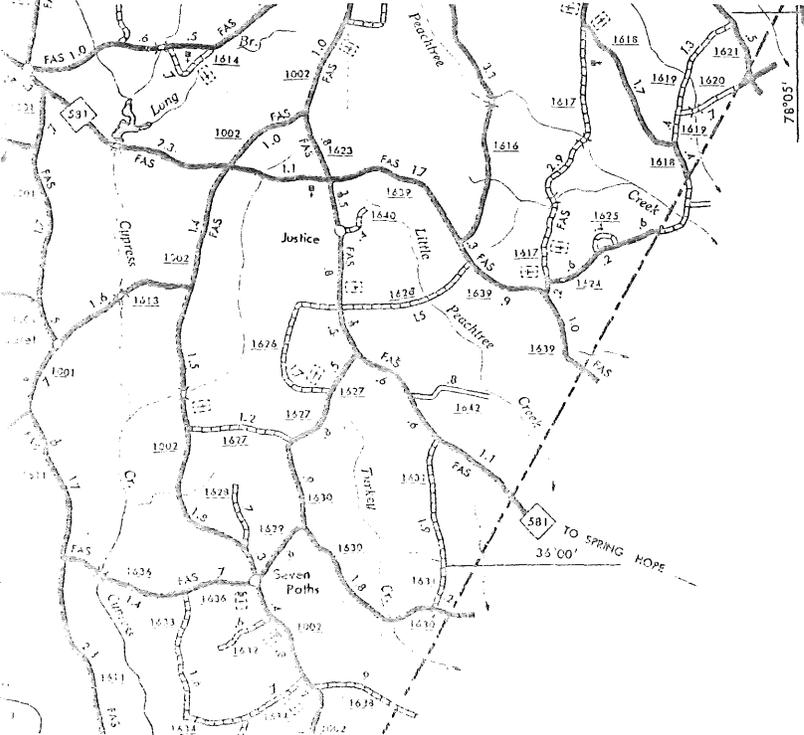
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Dr. Samuel Perry House  
 Gupton  
 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	11	52	78	09	06



- ROAD
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- HIGHW
- FCA
- FAT
- FAP
- FAS
- NS
- FAP
- PROJEC
- INTERSE
- TRAFFIC
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- RIGHT
- RAILRC
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