

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:
Patty Person Taylor House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See continuation sheet #2, not for publication

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisburg 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
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 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)
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Kenneth Hawkins *he died Jan 1 Feb 175-*

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 473 *his heirs ->?*

CITY OR TOWN:
Henderson

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Franklin

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 Patty Person Taylor House stands on a slight rise in a remote rural section of Franklin County. Its exterior appearance resembles that of many traditional eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses in the county, but its interior finish surpasses in ambitiousness and sophistication any Georgian style buildings seen in the county. These interiors are, in fact, among the best examples of Georgian woodwork in the state, seldom rivaled outside the coastal areas.

The two-story frame house is five bays wide, with a central entrance protected by a plain replacement shed porch. The main entrance consists of a double door with six raised panels per leaf, set in a molded frame. Windows have molded architraves, robustly molded sills, and contain nine-over-nine sash at both levels. Most of the house is covered with plain replacement weatherboards, but some molded siding survives in protected areas. The overhang of the gable roof has been slightly extended, but beneath is a molded box cornice and some indication of a molded, tapered raking cornice. The foundation is of brick laid in Flemish bond. The same bond is used in the exterior end chimneys, one of which occurs at either end; they have paved double shoulders and freestanding stacks, and they stand on stone bases. Brick nogging is said to exist between the framing.

To the rear is a one-story extension with gable roof running perpendicular to the main block; it appears to be original. On the south side its gable roof extends to cover a shed porch; the wall protected by the porch is covered with wide flush sheathing, and there is a single door with six raised panels, set in a two-part molded architrave. The north facade of this section, now also covered by a porch, retains early molded weatherboards. At the rear of this section is a double-shoulder Flemish bond chimney with paved shoulders. It is flanked by tiny four-pane gable windows. There are several more one-story additions attached to the rear and side of this section, to the rear of the main block, and one to the south side of the main block.

The interior of the house follows a center-hall plan one room deep, with the rear extension containing two small unheated rooms (one of which is a tiny entrance hall to the south porch) and a larger room to the rear. Consistent throughout is the use of a paneled wainscot with heavy Georgian moldings and molded chair rail and baseboard. Doors with six raised panels are set in heavy molded three-part architraves and hung with HL hinges. Some have box locks with pendant handles. These traditional elements are characteristic of the more ambitious early houses of this area. Unusual are the impressive stair and interesting, full-blown Georgian mantels.

The stair occupies the large central stair hall; its very existence is remarkable in a county where the hall-and-parlor plan with enclosed stair is typical in pre-Greek Revival houses. The stair rises in two long flights with a wide transverse landing. The newel is a heavy turned one with ball finial, and turned balusters rise from the closed stringer, carrying a heavy molded handrail that neither ramps nor eases. The secondary posts resemble the newel. A flat-paneled wainscot carries around the room and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7.

up the stair, and the spandrel is paneled with vertical panels. A small door serves a closet beneath the stair. The walls in the stair hall are plastered above the wainscot; there is a very heavy molded cornice with pierced dentils.

The north room is finished in a slightly more elaborate fashion than is the south room. The flat-paneled wainscot recurs, breaking out beneath the windows: there is a window sill that repeats the design of the molded chair rail but is slightly lower, and the area beneath projects to provide a pedestal for the molded window frame; the corners of this projection are chamfered. The heavy molded cornice in this room features a course of unusual undercut dentils. The mantel frames a rebricked, closed square fire opening. It has a beaded architrave and a robustly molded, crossetted backband. Between the crossettes runs a band of Greek fret design. Above is a wide cushion frieze, which breaks out above each crossette in a kind of end block. The heavy molded cornice shelf, ornamented with a course of pointed corbels, breaks out over these elements.

The mantel in the south room is of almost identical design, varying in only minor respects: the Greek fret band runs the opposite direction, the corbel band on the cornice is replaced by a dentil course, and the cushion frieze does not break into end blocks. This room is similarly finished, but lacks the cornice, and the wainscot continues unbroken beneath the windows, with the chair rail serving as sills.

The second-story rooms continue much the same treatment as those below. In the north room the wainscot--which has raised panels--is lower beneath the windows; in the south it continues unbroken. There are simple molded cornices. The mantel in the north room frames a plastered segmental-arched opening, but the mantel opening is square. It is an extremely tall mantel, consisting of full-height fluted pilasters that stand on molded pedestals and terminate in two-stage caps, the lower stage plain, the upper with a cushion frieze beneath a molded cornice that carries across the mantel, breaking out over these pilasters. In the area flanked by the pilasters are three tall raised panels. The south room mantel is of identical design.

The main room in the rear extension has a mantel of similar form, but the pilasters are simple fluted ones with less elaborate molded bases and caps, and the central area contains a single large raised panel. This mantel too is of remarkable height--roughly that of the flanking (later) doorways.

The house, though uninhabited, is kept up reasonably well and is in a good state of preservation. Much of the interior woodwork was sanded and refinished by a local craftsman in the 1940s. The only other house in the county having interior work of this character is the Dr. Foster House, a less ambitious house.

To the side and rear are a number of small outbuildings, none apparently approaching the age of the dwelling.

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Patty Person Taylor House is a traditional late eighteenth century farmhouse, which contains Georgian interiors of sophistication and quality unique in Franklin County and rare in the state. Research indicates that it was the home of Patty Person Taylor, sister of the outstanding Revolutionary and anti-Federalist leader Thomas Person, who died at her house in 1800.

Among the most prominent figures in eighteenth century North Carolina was Thomas Person (1733-1800). He began his career as surveyor for Lord Granville, and, like many others including George Washington in Virginia, became acquainted in his capacity as surveyor with the best lands and soon assembled a handsome estate; by 1788 he listed for taxation 82,358 acres in North Carolina and present Tennessee. Person played a vital role during the Regulator troubles, and became "one of the foremost advocates of separation" as the Revolution drew near, serving as a member of all the provincial conventions and congresses, as brigadier general in the militia, and holding a number of important offices. After the Revolution, Person along with Willie Jones of Halifax led the state's anti-Federalist faction. He was a prominent member of the General Assembly and was influential in securing the charter for the University of North Carolina, also contributing to that struggling institution's financial support. Person's chief seat was at Goshen, in Granville County; he also had a home (Little Manor/Mosby Hall, NR) in Warren County. He was en route from the Warren County place to Goshen when he died November 16, 1800, while visiting at the house of his sister Patty in Franklin County.

Although the lack of any local tradition concerning the house's early history leaves some uncertainty, deed research indicates that the large Georgian house is that of Patty Taylor where General Person died.

Martha (Patty) Person (1752-1836) was nearly twenty years younger than her notable brother Thomas. She married Peterson Thorp, lived with him in Virginia, and by 1778 at the age of 26, was a widow with three young children. On January 19, 1783, her brother deeded to her for 100 pounds current money of Virginia a "parcel known by the name of persons sims's ford land," lying north of the Tar River and on both sides of Eaves Mill Creek, Rayleys Creek, and the Reedy Branch, and including "persons lynchess creek lands." It encompassed 3,190 acres. Evidently it was upon this land that Patty had a house built. In 1785 she remarried, to Major Francis Taylor, a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

8.A

prominent citizen of Franklin County and a trustee of the Franklin Academy, which became Louisburg College. Early in the nineteenth century Patty and Francis Taylor became involved in the first of what were to be a series of suits involving family property; this involved Patty's dower right in her former husband (Thorp)'s property and Francis's handling of the property belonging to Patty's children by Thorp.

Patty and Francis had three children, William Penn Taylor, Thomas Person Taylor, and Ann Williams Taylor. The Thorp estate testimony states that by 1802 Patty was living on the lands "General Person" had given her. Evidently the Taylors' domestic life was far from peaceful. Francis died in 1816; his will gives an inkling of his bitterness:

I give to my wife Patty Taylor my riding chair & harness and my best chair horse. I give her no more--Because she will at my death possess a very considerable estate of her own and because I here solemnly declare that she never earned for me one cent in her whole life . . .

to his son, William P. Taylor,

the whole of the truth and honesty I may possess at my death, which if he makes a prudent use of, will be of /illegible/ advantage and stay /illegible/ with him than the handsome estates in /land/ and Negroes I gave him. . . .

and further on,

It is my earnest wish and desire that none of my family except my daughter wear the slightest scrip or badge of mourning for me as I am well convinced not one of them except herself will be the least sorry for my death.

Francis Taylor's estate was the object of some controversy in the family, involving Patty's dower right in his property and his having sold some of her own property. One statement alleged that Patty "was for some time during the lifetime of her husband placed in an unparalleled /sic/ state of distress and want--driven from the house of her husband either by her own /illegible/ or that of her husband. . . ." During this time, evidently, she was supported by her son William.

Yet another controversy, this one of greater proportions, was the suit of Patty Taylor, initiated in 1818, against William Person, Sr., and others, to reclaim her part of Thomas Person's vast estate in North Carolina and Tennessee; Person's will had been lost, and there was a lengthy suit over his lands, which were finally distributed among his brothers and sisters, he having no children.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)
8.B

Only distantly related to Thomas Person and Patty Taylor was Jesse Person, a Louisburg attorney. In the early nineteenth century Jesse began buying and selling land extensively in Franklin County. Among his purchases were some in northwest Franklin County, near Patty Taylor's property. In 1822 he bought a 412-acre tract "where William P. Taylor now lives." He also bought up other land of William Taylor's and additional land in the area. In 1822 Patty sold to Charles E. Johnson (her son-in-law) for \$2,250 the tract "on which I now live," known as Persons Sims Ford Lands, roughly 3,190 acres deeded her by General Thomas Person, minus any which she had previously sold, but also to include another tract on the south side of Eaves Mill Creek, a fork of Lynches Creek, 237 acres also previously owned by General Person. In 1837, Johnson sold to Jesse Person for \$3,500 the tract of roughly 600 acres "on the waters of Lynches Creek and the reedy branch," being the land "whereon Mrs. Patty Taylor formerly lived including what is commonly called the Eves tract also." Presumably this is the house and acreage that Jesse made his homeplace. Jesse Person apparently never married. In the 1850 census he was listed as farmer, male, aged 62, with real estate valued at \$4,000. The 1870 census listed him as a farmer, living alone, aged 87. The next entry was Buck Perry, a black farmer, and following that was Polly Harper, an 80-year-old black woman with Elisabeth, also black, aged 45, also living there.

Jesse Person's will of October 5, 1872, devised to his nephew Willie M. Person "all my books and library, secretary and book case, sword case, perspective glass and prints, . . . and my clothes press." To Elizabeth Harper (who lived nearby) and "my house woman Roxana," he devised about 120 acres of land. The rest, except the graveyard, was to be sold to pay debts and to "enclose graveyard with loose rock which may be collected in the field near." His nephews Willie M. Person and Matthew P. Person were executors. At the sale on December 17, Patrick H. Winston was high bidder, paying \$1,987.50 for 159 acres. A year later a deed from W. M. Person and M. P. Person, executors, to Helen M. Thompson of Bertie County confirmed the sale, and that Winston had transferred the bid to Mrs. Thompson, the land being "the place where Jesse Person formerly resided." In 1887, Helen M. Thompson and her husband Thomas W. Thompson sold to M. Pettway Clarke for love and affection and \$1 a tract lying on the east side of road from Hayesville to Sims Bridge, using Jesse Person's line as some boundaries, 110 acres. The Clark family dealings are somewhat confusing, but this is evidently the 110 acres called "the Tom Perry place" in the will of Marina Clark, and it may be included in the will of K. M. Clark. It is apparently from Marina that the property went to her three cousins, Richard, Wiley and Kenneth Hawkins; Kenneth, the present owner, grew up there, and his recollection of the history of the place since Jesse Person's death is quite clear, offsetting the confusing nature of the Clark family transactions. He also stated that he had heard the place had belonged to Thomas Person.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.
 Davis, Edward Hill. Historical Sketches of Franklin County. Raleigh: privately printed, 1948.
 Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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 ' 38 "	78 ° 22 ' 11 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 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:
Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION

DATE
25 November 1974

Division of Archives and History
 STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Robert E. Stipe

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 25 November 1974

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

9.

Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate papers, Tax records).
Hawkins, Kenneth. Interview, Catherine W. Cockshutt, 1973.
Person Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
U. S. Census, Franklin County, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870.
Walker, George W. Persons Lineage. Privately printed, n.d.

