

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: Vine Hill
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Not for publication, see continuation sheet #2			
CITY OR TOWN: Centerville 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. Richard Alston		
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 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: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE

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(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

2. Location

End of lane east of N.C. 58, 1.2 mi. south of Centerville.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

Vine Hill, though documented as expanded from a smaller, early house, appears to be all of a piece. It is a relatively simple but typical example of the work of Jacob Holt, combining elements of the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. The house is a simple four-square two-story frame building covered with plain weatherboards; it rests on a low stone foundation and has a shallow hip roof pierced by two interior chimneys which have been stuccoed and have molded caps. Defining the three-bay front and rear facades and the two-bay sides are heavy corner posts treated as pilasters that 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; this is in contrast to Holt's more usual use of 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; the sidelights are arched and have simple tracery; the transom is an elongated oval and the corner lights are circular. The elements are separated by heavy molded strips with corner blocks at the intersections, and heavy brackets occur between the upper elements. Soffit and reveals are paneled. The plain one-story full-width porches front and rear, are evidently replacements.

The interior, characteristic of Holt's work in plan and finish, follows a center-hall plan, two rooms deep, with closets flanking the interior fireplaces. The hall is divided midway by a wall pierced by a large opening which once contained a louvered door. In both front and rear halls there is a stairway rising in two flights, with heavy square newel, slender turned balusters and rounded, ramped handrail. Tread ends are finished with a simple molding, and risers are marbleized. Throughout the house, walls are plastered above very heavy molded baseboards. Architraves are also heavy and molded, and doors have four arched panels. Some woodgraining survives. The mantels are those commonly used by Holt. Arched insets define the pilasters, shorter ones define their caps, and a fluted band extends across the frieze beneath a heavy shelf and backboard. Other mantels are simple Greek Revival ones.

To the rear of the house is an outbuilding in disrepair, with two one-story frame sections flanking a very large stone chimney. To the southeast of the house, in the woods, is a family cemetery including the graves of A. D. Williams, his wife Lucy, and some children.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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) 1856-1858

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/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

Vine Hill, remodeled to its present appearance in 1856-1858, is a two-story frame plantation house typical of the individualized Italianate style of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt. A contract between Holt and the owner of Vine Hill, A. D. Williams, gives the house a pivotal place in documenting Holt's distinctive and prolific work in Franklin, Warren, and Vance counties and in southern Virginia in the 1850s.

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 planter families as the Alstons and Williamses held large tracts of land and numbers of slaves, and built more pretentious and stylish 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 locally to Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt. No documentation of his connection with these highly individualized, clearly similar buildings has been known to exist in Warren County; the ledger-journal of Franklin County planter A. D. Williams, however, firmly establishes Holt's connection with Vine Hill--and hence with the large number of other, similar buildings.

Archibald D. Williams, son of Robert W. and Harty Hogg (Hodge) Williams was born January 7, 1821. His father died intestate within the next two years, leaving his widow with four children, two sons and two daughters, who were raised with the help of guardian Archibald H. Davis. In 1843 Archibald Williams married Lucy Ann Lewis; in the following year Archibald began keeping a farm journal which was to continue for twenty years. The entries begin with records of agricultural activities at Vine Hill, where several hands were at work on tobacco, cotton, and other crops. There are also entries for another plantation called Rivers Dale. The entries show not only the schedule of agricultural work--clearing land, plowing and fencing, stripping tobacco--but also the close inter-family connections and social activities. References are made to various cousins among the Alston, Williams, and Davis families; to preachings at Sandy Creek and Red Bud; to fox hunting "in company with several other gentlemen;" to traveling extensively within the several-county region, particularly to Oxford; to dining in company, with one entry mentioning Cousin Nick Alston,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Franklin	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.A

Sam T. Alston, Sol Alston, and Wm. Davis--and presumably some of their families. Business as well as social dealings with the community are recorded, with long lists of transactions with Alstons, Davises, Perrys, Williamses, and many others.

After he had been operating the Vine Hill farm for at least a decade--perhaps managing it for his long-widowed mother--Archibald D. Williams executed a deed on October 10, 1854, with his brother Robert E. and his two sisters and their husbands, in which they sold to him for \$1,440, their 4/5 right in a 900-acre tract on Sandy Creek in which their mother, Harty H. Williams, had a life estate. Presumably this was Vine Hill. The next year A. D. Williams bought from his brother R. E. Williams (of Warren County) for \$1,800, 551 acres on the north side of Sandy Creek, adjoining land already owned by A. D. Williams. Williams continued to purchase land in the area, and by 1857 was listed as having 1,451 acres valued at \$2.50 an acre, which expanded to 1,632 acres in 1859, a size that remained constant through the war.

Shortly after obtaining the rights to the plantation, Williams set about remodeling the already-standing house. On September 5, 1856, he signed an agreement with J. M. Holt for "an addition and repairs to dwelling house." The work, as indicated by details of the very specific contract and the present appearance of the house, was an almost total rebuilding, creating a unified dwelling typical of Holt's Italianate work. Quantities and prices are listed for framing, weatherboard, cornice (bracketed), flooring, pilasters, windows, "heart shingles," blinds and sash, hardware, painting ("in fashionable & best manner of 3 coat work"), as well as such identifiable details as "2 stairs ramp rails & Banisters/the front one \$35 & 1--\$20;" the convenient "Blind door across passage (four fold) pivot, or stationary slats--\$15.00;" and the unusual number of closets. Following this contract is one dated April 3, 1857, between Holt and Francis O Day in which the latter agrees to do certain work on the house, including rebuilding the chimneys and doing the plastering. From entries in the journal, it appears that the work on the house was not complete until sometime in 1858.

The 1860 census listed A. D. Williams as having fifty slaves (relatively high for Franklin County) living in nine slave houses; he had 600 acres improved and 1,033 unimproved; his livestock was valued at \$2,840, he produced 2,500 bushels of corn, 30,000 pounds of tobacco; no ginned cotton was listed. Williams evidently was a collector of taxes during the Civil War, recording in his journal agricultural products received as tax in kind. In 1862 he recorded paying W. T. Collins \$2,500, "for substitute in army." A genealogy states that Williams was "a captain, C. S. A.," but no record of his service in North Carolina troops exists, and the listing of taxes in kind from local people continues through 1864.

His son, Robert Lewis Williams, attended Belmont Select School in Granville County in 1859, and was a schoolmate and kinsman of future supreme

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

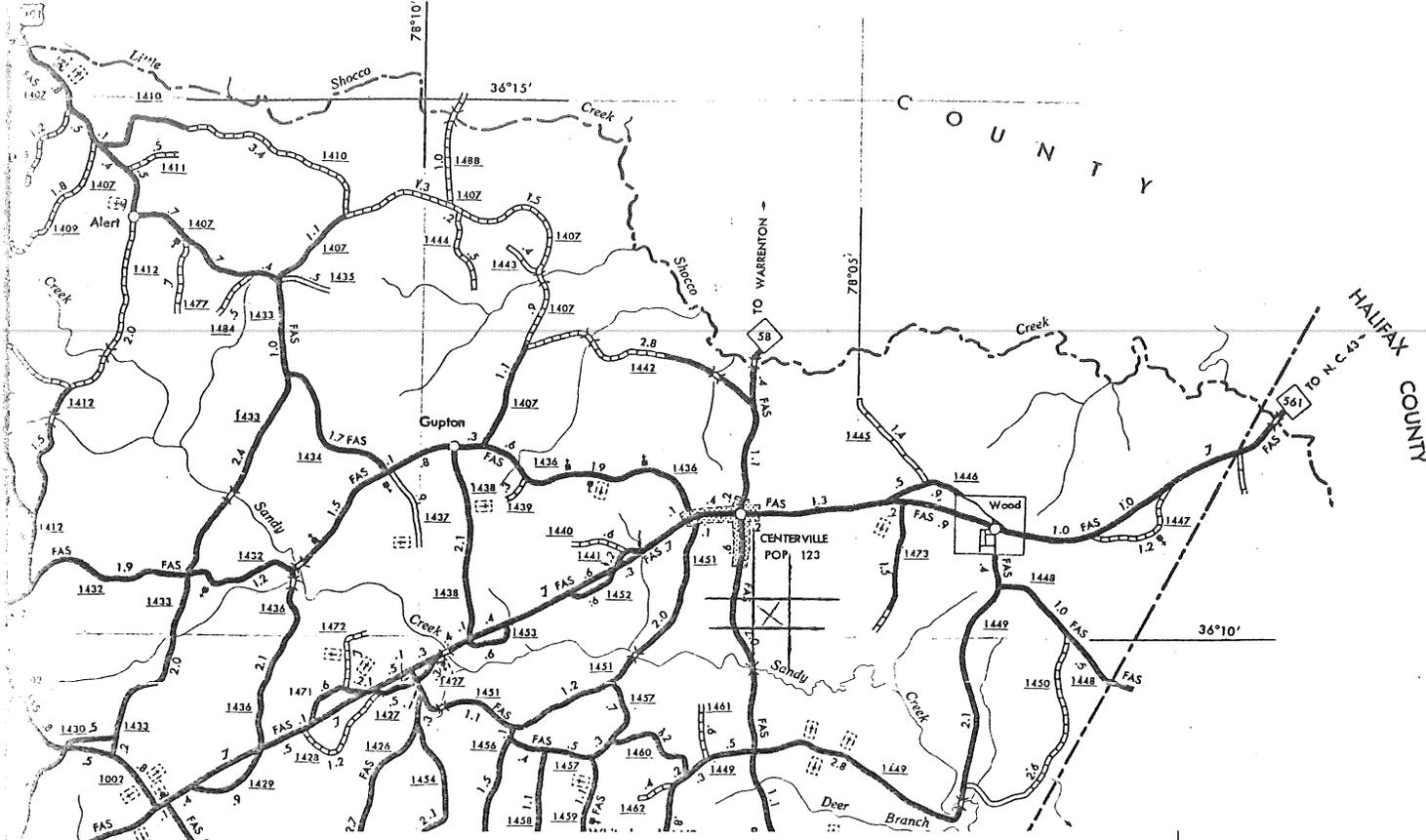
STATE	
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COUNTY	
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8.B

court justice Walter Clark. During the war, Robert served in Company K, 12th North Carolina Regiment.

During Reconstruction--perhaps to avoid some legal or economic difficulties--Archibald D. Williams sold to Elizabeth Lewis (probably a relative of Lucy Lewis Williams) on March 4, 1868, for \$700 a "part of the tract upon which the said Archibald D. Williams resides including the dwelling." In the same year, Elizabeth Lewis conveyed this property to William's wife Lucy (in a deed later lost). Thereafter, county tax lists show A. D. Williams holding no land, with only a few hundred dollars in personal property; as an agent of Mrs. Lucy A. Williams he held 1,112 acres valued at \$3,892. Nearly forty years later, in 1903, a quitclaim deed between the widespread heirs of Elizabeth Lewis and the heirs of Lucy A. Williams conveyed the property into the hands of the latter's heirs. In the same year, these Williams heirs sold the timber rights to the Greenleaf Johnson Lumber Company of Norfolk, Virginia--a company then buying timber rights to thousands of acres in the area. The "entire grove around the residence and graveyard" were excepted from the timber rights. The deed indicated that A. D. Williams and his son-in-law P. G. Alston, Jr., both widowers, were tenants in the land--and may have been living on the place. The elder Williams died in 1904, aged eighty-two. The property passed through several hands in the twentieth century; it was repurchased by members of the Alston family and is now owned by Richard Alston and is occupied by tenants.



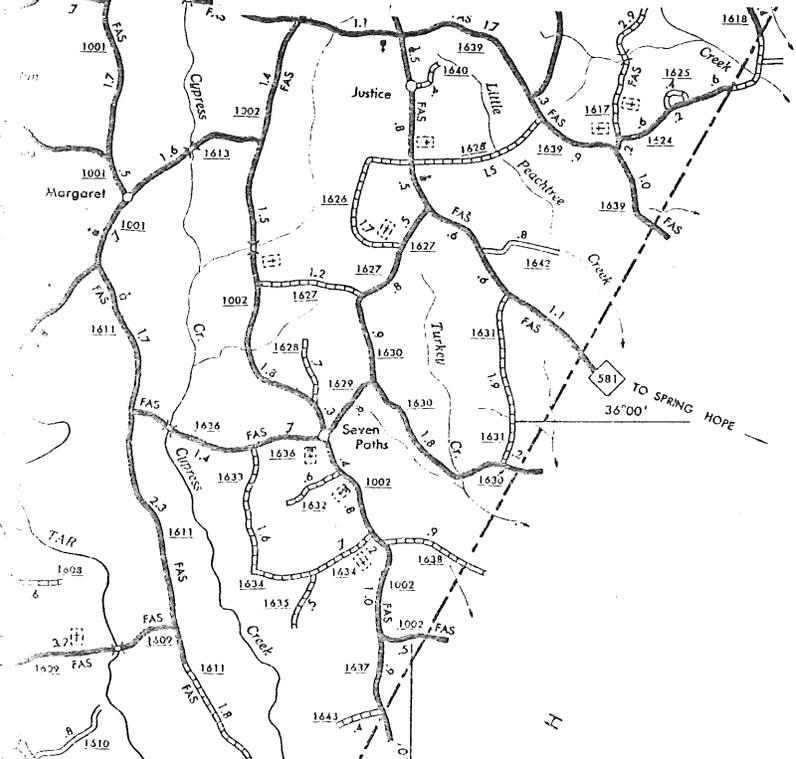
Vine Hill
 Centerville vicinity
 North Carolina

N.C. Highway Commission Map (no USGS map available)

Scale: 1/2" : 1 mile

Date: 1974

	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
NW	36	10	21	78	06	11
NE	36	10	21	78	05	45
SE	36	10	05	78	05	45
SW	36	10	21	78	06	11



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franklin County Records, Franklin County Courthouse, Louisburg, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Tax lists).
 Franklin County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Tax lists).
 Graves, Joseph A. The Alstons and Allstons of North and South Carolina (Atlanta), 1901.
 Thorne, Edgar. Interviews and material provided to Catherine W. Cockshutt. United States Census Records, 1860.
 Williams, A. D., Ledger. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Alston, Franklin County.

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' 21"	78° 06' 11"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36° 10' 21"	78° 05' 45"				
SE	36° 10' 05"	78° 05' 45"				
SW	36° 10' 05"	78° 06' 11"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 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: 10 February 1975

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Robert E. Stipe</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>10 February 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

