

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Gates	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elmwood Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On SR 1400, on west side of road,
.6 miles north of junction of 1400 and Highway 37

CITY OR TOWN:
Gatesville (First Congressional District, the Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Gates	CODE 073
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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:
Miss Ethel Parker

STREET AND NUMBER:
Elmwood

CITY OR TOWN: Gatesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Gatesville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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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: Gates
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Elmwood Plantation is an unusually fine example of a rural side-hall dwelling which, with the exception of a twentieth-century shed porch across the front, has remained essentially unaltered since its construction. The main block, covered with beaded weatherboards, rests on a low brick foundation. Each facade is framed by heavy molded cornerposts and a modillion cornice below the gable roof. The main entrance, located in the north bay of the three-bay front (east) facade, contains a large double door with three raised panels in each leaf. The entrance lacks a transom, sidelights, or any other adornment typical of the Federal period in the Albemarle area. The remaining bays are marked by windows accented by delicately molded architraves and slightly molded sills. Nine-over-nine sash occurs at the first level and nine-over-six at the second.

Dominating the three-bay north gable end is an extremely large lunette located in the center of the gable. It is bordered by a molded architrave and sill and contains delicate muntins radiating from a sunburst at the center of the base. The south end features a pair of large common bond single-shoulder chimneys with stacks that rise high above the roof. The rear chimney is enclosed by a two-story rectangular wing which projects two bays from the west side and repeats the cornice, roof type, and other basic elements of the main section of the building. It is likely that this addition was constructed soon after the completion of the main block (if, in fact, the two parts were not built at the same time). Across the rear facade is a shed porch featuring tapered wooden supports with a beaded hand-rail square in section. It is thought that a similar porch once extended across the front of the house as well.

The interior of the main block is essentially a side-hall plan two rooms deep. The hall and all the rooms are finished with walls plastered above a wainscot consisting of two horizontal flush boards bordered by a molded chair rail and baseboard. The hall is divided into two equal sections by a well-executed transverse arch which springs from pilasters featuring molded caps and shafts marked by a wide reeded band convex in section. Reeding also occurs on the soffit of the arch. The outer band of the molded archivolt is punctuated by a series of shallow notches. The main stair, which rises in four flights separated by landings to the second floor and the finished attic, is most unusual. It is particularly heavy for the Federal period and lacks the grace that frequently characterized Federal stairways. The tall balusters square in section, the somewhat awkward height of the risers, the crude handrail supported by a square newel and posts, and the large, vernacular wave brackets that appear at the end of each tread and across the fascia of the landing combine to create this feeling. Though not especially beautiful, this stair is one of the most interesting of the period in the state.

The main (east) parlor and the dining room to the rear are finished like the hall. Each contains a mantel consisting of a three-part frieze bordered by horizontal bands of reeding and supported on pilasters like those of the transverse arch in the hall. The heavy molded cornice shelf breaks out over the flat-paneled end blocks and the unadorned central tablet.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
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7.

The plan of the second floor is the same as the first, except that the front half of the hall is partitioned off to form an unheated bedroom. The rooms on this floor are plainly finished with walls plastered above and below molded chair rails. The mantels provide the only sophistication in either of the main (south) bedrooms. Each mantel is of simple Federal design featuring reeded pilasters and an unusually heavy molded cornice shelf that breaks out above the plain end blocks. The shelf is embellished with a horizontal reeded band while the frieze is separated from the rectangular fireplace opening by a narrow horizontal band that extends across the end blocks. This band is adorned with diagonal reeding on each end block and a long flat panel between.

The two-story south wing is finished like the main block and contains mantels similar to those on the second floor. Originally the second story of the wing could not be reached through the main block but only by the secondary stair that rises from the southwest corner of the wing's first-level room. The stair is like that in the main hall but lacks ornamental brackets.

To the rear of the house is located a gambrel-roof kitchen, thought to be only one of its kind in North Carolina. It is a small frame structure dominated by massive double-shoulder stepped-shoulder brick chimney located at the north end. Extending north from the base of the chimney is a small rectangular brick "potato house" with a standing-seam tin gable roof. The main (east) facade of the kitchen features a central entrance containing a board-and-batten door flanked by windows with nine-over-six sash. This facade is finished with wide horizontal flush sheathing, while the remainder of the kitchen is covered with beaded weatherboards, which indicates that a porch protected the main facade. On the front side of the shingle roof are two small shed dormers containing four-over-four sash. The south side is partially enclosed by a small lean-to addition which is entered through a small door on the west side.

The rear of the kitchen also features a central entrance. There is one small window to the left of the doorway and a tiny four-pane flush casement window in the center of the rear side of the roof. The first-floor kitchen room has horizontally sheathed walls with a crudely molded chair rail. Dominating the north wall is the wide kitchen fireplace surrounded by various nineteenth-century cooking utensils. A closed-string stair rises in two flights connected by winders from the southwest corner of the kitchen room to the servants' quarters above. This small room is finished like the kitchen below with a small fireplace adorned with a plain mantel consisting of a thin shelf supported by vernacular wooden brackets.

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)

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

Elmwood Plantation near Gatesville was built about 1822 by David Parker, the son of Joseph Parker, an early settler of Gates County. Tax lists for the year 1812 do not carry David Parker's name or any indication of a homestead associated with him, but in 1822 he is listed as possessing 235 acres valued at \$1,025. According to his granddaughter who lives there now, it was Parker who built the house on the property, and stylistic elements also support an 1820s building date. In 1822 Parker owned only two slaves, but Gates County slave holdings were generally small, and farming there was on a modest scale in comparison to other eastern counties. The tax schedule reflects an increase by 1855 in Parker's land holdings to 685 acres worth \$3,500. The same schedule shows he held fifteen slaves, and among other things, one gold watch and one "piano forte," suggesting fairly prosperous circumstances.

When David Parker died in 1875, he left Elmwood Plantation to his three sons. Of the three, James Parker was the one who came into possession of the property and farmed and reared his family there. An 1861 graduate of the University of North Carolina, Parker was a trustee of that institution from 1885 until his death. He was elected a state senator in 1885 and again in 1891.

Parker's will, proved in 1908, directs that the "'Home Place' . . . containing one thousand three hundred (1,300) acres more or less, be and remain as a home" for his wife and children throughout their natural lives. The present owner of Elmwood is the youngest of James Parker's children, Miss Ethel Parker.

Elmwood is an excellent and well-preserved rural example of the Federal side-hall plan. It is particularly notable for the interesting vernacular handling of detail, especially of the unusual stair. The picturesque gambrel-roof kitchen is perhaps unique in the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connor, R. D. W., ed. A Manual of North Carolina. Raleigh: E. M. Uzzle and Company, 1913.

Gates County Records, Gates County Courthouse, Office of the Register of Deeds, Gatesville, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Gates County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, 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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36°	23'	43"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		79°	41'	59"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Four 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 Staff, John B. Wells, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 5 October 1971

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 H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 5 October 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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9.

Grant, Daniel Lindsey, ed. Alumni History of the University of North Carolina.
Durham: General Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina,
1924.

Harrell, Isaac S., "Gates County to 1860." Trinity College Historical Papers.
Series XII.

