

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Bumpas-Troy House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 114 S. Mendenhall Street  
(mid-Block, West side, Between Market & Rankin)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Greensboro

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Guilford

81

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

Reverend & Mrs. P. H. Stevens

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 766

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oak Ridge

VICINITY OF

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Guilford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

W. Market & Eugene Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Greensboro

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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with tile. The wall finish is rough plaster above a flat-paneled wainscot three quarters of the height of the wall and a molded ceiling cornice. The wainscot was probably added in 1911, as were the windows and window seats which flank the fireplace. The window and door trim, like that in the other rooms of the house, is post and lintel type with an applied, plain molding around the outer edge.

In the north, front room there is no paneling, but the room has a tall molded baseboard, a molded ceiling cornice, and a fireplace with a deep, plain frieze carried on heavy pilasters, which are probably original. The fireplace opening has been adapted to coal use. The walls are plaster, and the doors, hung on nineteenth century butt hinges, are composed of two full-length vertical panels. According to family tradition, it was in this room that Frances Bumpas printed The Weekly Message.

The original dining room, which was part of the rear wing of the house, has been severed into a small hall, a bathroom, and a closet. The features which remain, however, are a tall baseboard, a ceiling cornice, and rough plaster walls.

Directly behind the old dining room is the original kitchen. Its walls are rough plaster, and there is a large projecting chimney breast on the west wall. The opening has been entirely enclosed and the walls have been covered three quarters of their height with tile. Ethel Troy wrote of her grandparents' home that, "There were huge chimneys. . .the largest was from the kitchen with its brick oven. Downstairs was parlor, living room, dining room, and kitchen."<sup>6</sup> A small back porch has been added behind the kitchen.

The twentieth century dining room was added to the southwest side of the house in 1911 in the form of a rectangular room with a projecting bay. This room has a wainscot identical to that of the living room. The fireplace is on the west wall and has a mantel shelf supported by consoles on either end and brackets between them. Directly to the rear of this added wing is a sun porch which was built in the 1940s or 1950s.

The second story of the main block of the house also follows a central hall plan. The rooms on either side of the hall are very similar: neither is ornate but both exhibit the heavy molded baseboards of the Greek Revival period; as well as thick, plain trim window and door frames, and fireplaces capped by heavy friezes and flanked by wide pilasters. The ceiling cornices are thin. Both rooms have an unusual projecting curve in the west fireplace wall which does not occur on the first floor.

Behind the south, front room is the second floor of the 1911 addition. The wall finish in this room is consistent with the original rooms, except in the absence of cornice molding. The fireplace, located on the west wall, is surrounded by a very heavy architrave and has a wide pilaster on either side of the opening.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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

1847

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bumpas-Troy house, located on a wooded lot in Greensboro, is one of the few examples of Greek Revival architecture surviving in the city. Built in 1847 for the Reverend Sidney D. Bumpas, the house remained in the Bumpas family until 1975. The property is chiefly associated with Mrs. Frances Moore Webb Bumpas, a pious lady who, as a widow, carried on her husband's ideals of Christian education. Mrs. Bumpas is noted, among other accomplishments, for her role as an early newspaper editor and publisher. From 1851 to 1872, she managed and edited The Weekly Message, an early Methodist-related weekly newspaper in North Carolina.

Sidney Bumpas was born in 1808 and as a young man "had concluded to yield to my father's wishes and become a farmer."<sup>1</sup> In 1835, however, he "received an invitation from the Holy Spirit to a higher and holier calling," and in 1836 he began his circuit as a Methodist minister.<sup>2</sup> In December, 1842, he married Frances Moore Webb, whom he described as "the lady who should possess most of the excellencies I desired, with the fewest faults."<sup>3</sup> Sidney Bumpas had informed Frances Webb of his intentions by sending her a Reference Bible in which he had marked several passages pertaining to love.<sup>4</sup>

Frances Moore Webb was born in 1819 to Isaac and Harriet Webb of Mecklenburg County, Virginia. When she was very young, her parents moved to Person County, North Carolina. She met Sidney Bumpas when he administered her final examinations at the school of the Reverend D. G. Doak in Orange County, North Carolina. Frances Webb passed her examinations and taught school in Granville County for four years before she married Bumpas in 1842.<sup>5</sup> The young couple was stationed in Raleigh, Pittsboro, Louisburg, and New Bern before coming to Greensboro in 1846. Reverend Bumpas had been appointed the Presiding Elder of the Greensboro District.<sup>6</sup> In 1847, Bumpas bought from Greensboro College<sup>6A</sup> land on which he soon began building a home for his family which was, according to a granddaughter, Ethel Troy, "constructed according to authentic Greek proportions."<sup>7</sup> While the house was being built, Frances Bumpas and the couple's two children<sup>8</sup> stayed at Greensboro Female College of which Reverend Bumpas was a trustee.

During his Greensboro assignment, Sidney Bumpas began to fulfill a longtime dream of starting a newspaper; as he wrote in his journal, "the matter of which should be adapted to the popular taste and the price within reach of almost everybody."<sup>9</sup> The first or "specimen issue" was published in June 1851. In an editorial Sidney Bumpas wrote that, "The Editors great aim shall be to point out the relationship between religion and whatever engrosses the public attention from time to time. . . . For want of a paper sufficiently cheap to reach the masses, we have found them not par-

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After the War, Frances Bumpas continued to publish The Weekly Message, but she had always contended that "When the Message has accomplished its mission, let it die in peace." In 1872, when The North Carolina Christian Advocate appeared as the official organ of the Methodist Church and began to run successfully, The Weekly Message ceased to exist.<sup>17</sup> But Frances Bumpas still had work to do.

Mrs. Bumpas felt that Southern women must be more active and assertive outside the home: "They had hesitated fearful lest it be said they were stepping beyond their sphere." The time had come for the Southern woman to take part in the world around her. In her unassuming way, Frances Bumpas began to work within the Methodist Church to set up women's missionary societies. She succeeded and became the first corresponding secretary of the North Carolina Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, as well as a member of the Board of Missions. Mrs. Bumpas stated her feelings about women's roles: "Sisters, we have tarried too long. Each of us owes it to herself, in this favored age, to rise to the noblest possibilities of our nation."<sup>18</sup>

Frances Webb Bumpas and her daughter, Eugenia, continued to be active in West Market Street Methodist Church. Mrs. Bumpas became affectionately known as "Aunt Bumpas" to the community, and her gentle manner and strong spirit have become almost legendary. She died in May, 1898.

Bumpas' will had left his whole estate to Frances for "her natural life or widowhood," but if she should die or remarry, the estate was to be divided between the children (Duella, Eugenia, and Robah) "except my dwelling house, furniture and utensils, which together with a convenient lot about it so laid off as to embrace the outhouses and garden shall be held undistributed as a residence for my single daughter or daughters, until her or their marriage."<sup>19</sup> His daughter, Eugenia, never married, but Duella wed Captain Robert Preston Troy in 1871.<sup>20</sup> In 1872 Frances Bumpas, Eugenia Bumpas, and Robah Bumpas deeded the house to their married sister and her family.<sup>21</sup> Duella and Robert Troy had seven children who upon their parents' deaths each inherited oneseventh of the property.<sup>22</sup> Allah Troy, a daughter, lived in the house most of her adult life, and her three sisters, Lota, Nina, and Ethel, came back to Greensboro to live after their respective retirements. Allah had worked for a Greensboro insurance firm, Lota had been head of the art department at Sophie Newcomb College in Louisiana, Nina had been a missionary to China for over twenty years, and Ethel had traveled in the northeastern United States for<sup>23</sup> the Y. W. C. A. Upon Ethel's death in 1975, the house went to Greensboro College.<sup>23</sup> The College, however, did not have the funds to maintain it, and in February, 1976, the house was bought by William P. H. Stevens and his wife, Margaret.<sup>24</sup>

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- <sup>16</sup>Troy, "Lady Editor"; interview with Sue Vernon Williams, Greensboro, N.C., August 23, 1976; interview with Mrs. Bill Brodnax, Greensboro, N.C., August 18, 1976.
- <sup>17</sup>Robertson, "Frances Webb Bumpas," pp. 169-170.
- <sup>18</sup>Troy, "Lady Editor".
- <sup>19</sup>Guilford County Estates Office, Book C (1850), p. 369, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>20</sup>Interview with Sue Vernon Williams, Greensboro, N.C., August 23, 1976.
- <sup>21</sup>Guilford County, Register of Deeds Office, Deed Book 44, p. 505, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>22</sup>Guilford County, Register of Deeds Office, Deed Book 298, p. 212, Greensboro, N.C.
- <sup>23</sup>Eleanor D. Kennedy, "Home's Fate Hangs," The Greensboro Daily News (July 6, 1972).
- <sup>24</sup>Guilford County, Register of Deeds Office, Deed Book 2811, p. 271, Greensboro, N.C.

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- Greensboro Daily Record. Greensboro, N.C. May 10, 1925.
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- Guilford County. Estates Office. Wills. Greensboro, N.C.
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- Interviews by Gwynne S. Taylor with Miss Sue Vernon Williams, August 23, 1976. Mrs. Bill Brodnax, August 18, 1976. Mr. James G. MacLamroc, August 18, 1976.
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- The Greensboro Record. March 10, 1951. March 29, 1968. Greensboro, N.C.
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