



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

2.

The eastern boundary of the Jamestown Historic District is a line parallel with the eastern boundary of the second Shubal Coffin House lot (#10). From this line westward the northern and southern boundary lines of the district run along the back property line of lots flanking the Greensboro Road (U.S. 29A-70A). The south boundary line continues in this fashion to the intersection of the west boundary line of the Joyner House lot (#8) and the Greensboro Road. The north boundary line continues in the same fashion to the northwest corner of the Joyner House lot, but the north boundary line also encompasses the High Point City Park south of the High Point Lake, an area including the Mendenhall Store and the Jamestown Friends' Meeting House and cemetery.

## 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

Since Jamestown grew around the important stage road from Charlotte and Salisbury to Virginia, the Historic District consists of the remaining nineteenth century buildings that flank a roughly one-mile stretch of the present U.S. 29A-70A (the modern enlargement of the early road). The center of the original town is near the spot where the road crossed the Deep River, a stream along which early settlement in the area took place. Just north of Jamestown the river is dammed to make the High Point Lake. The core of the Historic District is a group of early nineteenth century brick buildings: the Richard Mendenhall Plantation Buildings (#1), the Richard Mendenhall Store (#2), and the Jamestown Friends' Meeting House (#3).

The Mendenhall Plantation (#1) (National Register, 3 November 1972) is a large brick structure in the Pennsylvania-influenced style typical of the area, of brick laid in Flemish bond, with segmental-arched openings and rambling additions. With its outbuildings and rolling field, it suggests the self-sufficient semi-rural life of early Jamestown.

The Mendenhall Store (#2), across the road from the house, is located quite near the pavement on the corner of the main road and the secondary road to the meeting house. The two-story three-bay structure is similar in exterior appearance to the main block of the house. It is of brick laid in Flemish bond and rests on a foundation of rough stone over a full cellar. The gables are slightly raised, and there is an emphatic brick corbel cornice. Wide massive stones are used as steps and thresholds; arched ones serve as lintels for the entrances on the street facades. On these facades the windows are surmounted by handsome flat arches and have stone sills. Cornice returns are suggested by horizontal stone slabs that repeat at the outer edge of the outline of the corbel cornice. On the west side, these are inscribed the initials "R M M" and the date "1824." Flanking the exterior end chimney on this side and the interior one on the east are round ventilating holes framed by radiating headers. The openings on the east and rear elevations are surmounted by jack arches. At the base of the east chimney is a large exterior segmental-arched opening. The interior of the house follows a modified Quaker plan and is plainly finished. The walls are plastered and openings are splayed. The central fireplace in the large west room and the corner fireplaces serving the two east rooms have segmental-arched openings in plastered chimney breasts. The wide board doors are affixed with strap hinges, and the ceilings have exposed beams.

The Jamestown Friends' Meeting House (#3) is a small, one-story, three-bay structure of similar design to the other two buildings. It too is of brick laid in Flemish bond, rests on a stone foundation and features a corbel cornice. The main (south) facade has well executed brick arches over the segmental-arched openings; the entrance is in the central bay. The rear facade is similar but the arches are simpler. Each end of the building has a single opening: a segmental-arched entrance to the rear of the centrally-placed exterior chimney. The single room of the interior is quite plain, with plastered walls, an exposed beam ceiling, and low segmental-arched fire openings. To the west of the meeting house is a small cemetery containing many early graves and surrounded by a (recent) loose rock wall.

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7. A

Three buildings in Jamestown are related to the importance of the medical profession there in the nineteenth century. Dr. Shubal Coffin's House and Medical School (#4) is said to have been built before 1812 but remodeled in the mid-nineteenth century. With handsome Greek Revival elements, it is apparently the only extant structure in Jamestown showing a significant influence of national stylistic trends in contrast to the utilitarian simplicity and almost timeless design of the more typically Quaker buildings. The three-bay frame house, located quite near the highway, has substantial tetrastyle front and side entrance porticos featuring heavy fluted Doric columns with pronounced entasis. The doorway is flanked by sidelights with a transom above, the whole being framed by architraves with Greek frets and corner blocks. The other openings are flanked by Greek fret pilasters and surmounted by full entablatures. The interior features heavy, rather impressive Greek Revival mantels and an open-string stair with a ramped handrail and slender square balusters.

Dr. Coffin's second house (#10), is said to have been built by him about 1855. It faces east, oriented toward the railroad. It is a pleasant two-story four-bay frame house covered with board-and-batten; flush boards occur under the full-width porch. An interesting feature of the interior is the herringbone-pattern brick floor in the basement.

The Dr. Madison Lindsay House and Medical School (#5) is located at the corner of the main road and Scientific Avenue. The double-shoulder chimney and overall proportions of the house (recorded by HABS) suggest an early building date. It is thought to date from before 1820. A shed porch with tapered posts covers the north and east facades--a relatively early addition, judging from the existence of flush siding on the protected areas.

Other early nineteenth century structures are present in Jamestown, which though neither of particular historic importance nor of great architectural merit contribute significantly to the ambiance and continuity of the district. The Harper-Johnson House (#7) is a two-story three-bay frame house of apparently early date. Its proportions and the small-paned windows framed by handsome molded architraves are the chief exterior features. The interior is finished with wide flush horizontal sheathing and there is an interesting vernacular Federal mantel with a heavy, molded architrave, and a robustly molded shelf that breaks out over tall frieze blocks.

The McInnis House (#6) and the Joyner House (#8) are two-story three-bay frame houses apparently of mid-nineteenth century date, each with rather wide roof overhangs with rafter-brackets, and exterior end chimneys of common bond. The Potter Log House (#9) is a small log structure of uncertain date; on the west end is a huge chimney of irregular coursed stones. On the east end is a one-story weatherboarded structure; a brick chimney stack rises between the two sections.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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                        | <u>Medicine</u>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input checked="" 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

Jamestown is perhaps the most complete vestige in North Carolina of the important contribution made by Quakers to the state's cultural, political, and intellectual history. The brick meeting house, the Mendenhall dwelling, and Mendenhall store are reminders of the outstanding family who founded Jamestown and provided leadership to that and other Quaker communities for decades. These buildings are the core of a district that includes several other unpretentious nineteenth century buildings spanning the development of the town along the old stage road. The physical plainness of Quaker life was accompanied by the uniquely Quaker progressiveness in education, medicine, and manumission--all of which were part of the life of the small community at Jamestown.

Quaker activity in North Carolina centered at first in the northeast, where a monthly meeting was organized by 1680 and a yearly meeting by 1698. By the mid-eighteenth century, however, the concentration had shifted to the central part of the state, when many Quakers migrated from Pennsylvania to settle in the present counties of Guilford, Randolph, Alamance, and Chatham. The New Garden Monthly Meeting (at present Greensboro) was organized in 1753; it later became a yearly meeting, and other monthly meetings were established in the area. (Although New Garden was the primary Quaker settlement, the growth of the industrial city of Greensboro has essentially destroyed the early town.) Another early meeting was at Deep River, located a few miles north of present Jamestown; on November 30, 1754, permission was granted to Quakers in the area to hold meetings there. Among the petitioners was Mordecai Mendenhall; "at Mendenhalls" was one of the places where the Deep River congregation was to meet.

Members of the large Mendenhall family of Pennsylvania had been among the earliest settlers of the area around Deep River. Aaron Mendenhall arrived in 1754 and in 1762 his son, James, was granted a 625-acre tract near that river. He built a house there but within a few years left for Georgia. (The house is said to have been intact until the river was dammed to create the High Point Lake.) James's son, however, either remained or returned later and, as far as is known, it was he who laid out a small town on his land, calling it Jamestown. The town, located on the main road from Virginia to Salisbury, grew to become one of the more significant settlements in the area; in 1807 Jamestown was one of the three voting places in Guilford County. At the center of its life was the Mendenhall family. The large house (#1) was apparently built by George's son, Richard, about 1811.

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Richard, a tanner by trade, ran the store (#2) across the road from the house, which was built about a decade after the house (as seen on the stones inscribed "R M M, 1824"). The Mendenhalls owned much of the land in the area, and at some point had built on their property north of the store the small brick meeting house (#3). This was called an "Indulged Meeting House," for it was not considered as a regular meeting and was apparently under the Deep River Monthly Meeting (of which the Mendenhall family were members). It may have been built about 1819, when in a deed of July 19 several Mendenhall brothers transferred the property to the trustees of the Deep River Monthly Meeting. Either the family connection with the property was never fully severed or the tract was reacquired, for in the will of the youngest brother, George C. Mendenhall (proved 1859), he excepted from the local property left to his wife the "Greens Churchs & the meetinghouse lots." Another clause left the tract to the town commissioners

to be kept for the comfort, & held to protect the health of the Town, and for suitable grounds whereon to erect any Buildings for public use. And the Brick Meetinghouse thereon to be held more especially for the use of the Society of Friends and generally for the Use of all Religious denominations who profess the Religion of Jesus Christ--and said land--grou[nd?]s, Meetinghouse, & grave-yard to be under the direction of the Commissioners of the Corporation of Jamestown and their Successors.

Quakers were known for their interest in education; in a backward state, they were among the few progressive elements. The eighteenth century minutes of the Deep River Monthly Meeting record "proof of some educational activities in the form of the distribution of books among their members for general use," and Yearly Meeting epistles advised parents as to the "proper education of children" A history of Quaker Education in North Carolina reports that

Richard Mendenhall, a Quaker, taught at night for sixteen years in his tannery at Jamestown, N.C., within the limits of the Deep River Monthly Meeting, furnishing books and tuition free of charge. Young men, old men and boys, busy struggling with the problems of existence, were taught the rudiments of learning. Richard Mendenhall, himself a classical and mathematical scholar of ability, inspired a love of culture. A monthly paper, The Public School Journal, published by him in the interest of education. In 1816, he was instrumental in having a girls' school opened at Jamestown. . . .

Richard's younger brother, George C. Mendenhall, was "active between 1820 and 1830 in educating his negroes. In 1835 he established a law school, Tellmont, situated on his farm at Jamestown." A prominent lawyer himself, he taught many later well-known lawyers there. George was also instrumental in establishing the Female College at Jamestown, founded in 1855, which enrolled as many as one hundred students, drawing largely from the vicinity but also including out-of-town boarding students. The building burned shortly before the Civil War. Another of the brothers, Nereus Mendenhall, had the widest influence

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on education in North Carolina. It was he who was one of the founders and guiding influences of the New Garden Boarding School, a respected coeducational institution which later became Guilford College.

Adding to the lively educational climate of Jamestown in the nineteenth century was the presence of at least three physicians who held medical schools in their homes--operated in much the same small-scale, informal fashion as the private law schools of the period. The earliest of these was operated by Dr. Madison Lindsay, whose school is said to have flourished in the 1820s and 1830s (#5). Among Dr. Lindsay's students was Dr. Shubal Coffin who went on to set up his own school (#4), which began operation in 1840. Dr. Coffin's students included a number of later prominent physicians. In 1854 Dr. Coffin moved to a house (#10) in "new Jamestown, taking his students with him." Dr. J. L. Robbins, who had practiced with Coffin, bought the earlier house and continued to conduct the school. According to his half-sister, Robbins "was also a surgeon and . . . he administered the first anesthetic used in this state about 1857." Another account reports Robbins's accomplishment as the administration in 1856 of "the first ether used as a general anesthetic in North Carolina." In any case, the medical profession of Jamestown was apparently active, progressive, and well-respected. It is interesting to note that the street that runs between the Lindsay house and the first Coffin house is called Scientific Street, a name used at least as early as the 1850s.

Another important aspect of Quaker activity that flourished in Jamestown was the early manumission movement. The Friends, of course, were firmly opposed to slavery, and their members played a leading role in the North Carolina Manumission Society, founded in 1816. "The meetings of the representatives of the various branches were held alternately at Deep River and Center Meeting Houses. . . ." Among the branches listed in the roll of September, 1826, was one at Jamestown, which included 75 members. There were also four Female Societies; "the first mention of a Female Society was in 1825 when such a branch at Jamestown contributed a sum of money to the treasury. It was recognized as an auxiliary." Among the leaders of the society was George C. Mendenhall. A letter from him, headed "Jamestown, Guilford, North Carolina/ June 14, 1825," illustrates the involvement of George and his brother, Richard, in the movement, and gives legal advice regarding "a certain method of effectually emancipating your slaves after your death." After referring to two Supreme Court cases, he advises that "the only way therefore seems to be, to set them free by removing to a free state or country in your own life time for you cannot set them free here in this State, either by deed or will, because the Laws will not allow thereof." A postscript recommends "Vestal Coffin of this County as an agent, [who] would honestly and safely convey your slaves to any other state that you may desire." With the growing pro-slavery feeling in the South and divisions among the society, the North Carolina Manumission Society declined during the 1830s and by 1834 "ceased to be, save as a part of the Underground Railroad." Despite his anti-slavery attitude, George C. Mendenhall continued to own slaves, and his will of 1859 called for

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their emancipation "in the manner prescribed by the Laws of North Carolina" and for provision to be made from his estate for their "removal out of this State, and for them to be located in some other State or Government where Slavery is not tolerated or allowed by law & for all my Slaves to enjoy their freedom."

In 1856 the North Carolina Railroad was completed from Raleigh to Charlotte, crossing the old stage road just east of Jamestown, which precipitated the growth of the town in that direction (for example the moving of Dr. Shubal Coffin to a new house there). Located as it was on the chief roadway and the only railroad, Jamestown had a number of successful small industries. Among these was the "old woolen factory," which was owned by James R. Mendenhall and Duncan A. McRae, who had contracted to manufacture uniforms for the Confederacy. According to a local account, in April, 1865, the factory was burned by a contingent of General Stoneman's raiders, "who were deceived into believing it was the gun factory located on the site of the present Oakdale Cotton Mills and for which they were searching."

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Jamestown lost momentum as nearby High Point and Greensboro attracted new industry and became major cities. It lost its municipal status in 1893 but was re-incorporated in 1947. It is, of course, the lack of rapid growth that has allowed the preservation of the many early and mid-nineteenth century buildings along the old stage road.

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"Quakers and the N. C. Manumission Society," Historical Papers, published by the Trinity College Historical Society, Durham, North Carolina, 1914. Research by Charles Blume, Jr., survey specialist; description and significance by Catherine Cockshutt, survey specialist.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Guilford County Records, Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Guilford County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 High Point Chamber of Commerce. The Building and the Builders of a City: High Point, North Carolina. Privately printed, 1947.  
 "Historic Houses and Buildings in High Point and Surrounding Area," leaflet compiled by the High Point Historical Society, Inc., May, 1969.  
 Klain, Zora. Quaker Contributions to Education in North Carolina. Philadelphia: Privately Printed, 1924.

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	35° 59' 50"	79° 57' 19"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	35° 59' 30"	79° 56' 10"				
SE	35° 59' 30"	79° 56' 10"				
SW	35° 59' 50"	79° 57' 19"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 70 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: Office of Archives and History DATE: 3 January 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 State Historian/Administrator

Date 3 January 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

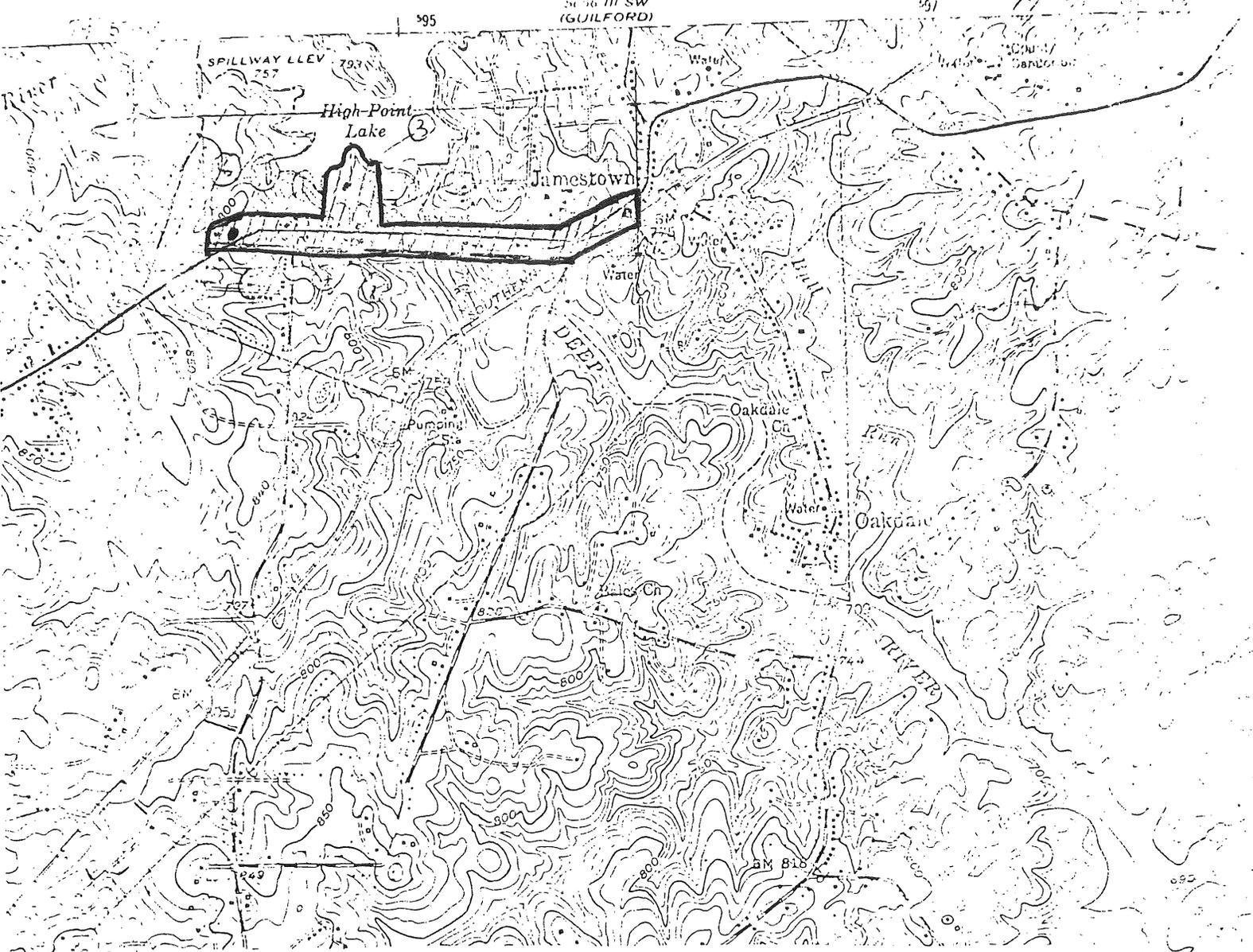
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION



Jamestown Historic District  
Greensboro Road  
Jamestown, North Carolina

USGS Map, High Point East Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series  
Scale: 1:24,000  
Date: 1950

	<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
NW	35	59	50	79	57	19
NE	35	59	30	79	56	10
SE	35	59	30	79	56	10
SW	35	59	50	79	57	19



