

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Richard Mendenhall Plantation Buildings

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
U.S. 29-70A, south of junction with Lakeside Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Jamestown (Sixth Congressional District, The Hon. L. Richardson Preyer)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Guilford	CODE 081
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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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. W. G. Ragsdale, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Greensboro	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey N.C. 37

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE
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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Richard Mendenhall House, which sits only a few feet from the main road through Jamestown, is part of a farm complex including a large barn, a smokehouse, a well house, and other outbuildings. Large trees, a stream, and the rolling terrain combine to create a pleasant rural atmosphere in the midst of a developing area. The farm is just across the road from the Mendenhall Store, which in turn is not far from the Quaker Meeting House.

The Mendenhall farmhouse consists of a two-story main block of plain-typically Quaker--design, plus a porch on three sides and a number of additions to the west and rear. The main block is of brick laid in Flemish bond, now painted white. It is covered by a gable roof and rests on a full basement with stone foundation walls. (The downward slope of the terrain from front to rear allows the basement to be above ground level at the rear.) An interior end chimney rises on each side. The three-bay front (north) facade is protected by a full-length two-tier porch whose roof is an extension of the main roof. The porch appears to have been a fairly early addition. Chamfered posts occur at both levels; between them runs a plain balustrade with square balusters and heavy, plain rails. All the openings of the main block have the segmental-arched heads characteristic of the Quaker and Germanic architecture in the area. The central front entrance consists of a single door set in a plain frame. In the area between the lintel and the arch is a small three-light transom, the space around it being filled in with plaster. The door is most unusual, having the upper half paneled in the form of a St. Andrew's cross. Below are two small horizontal panels above two large vertical ones. The central door at the second level has four panels and no transom.

The sides of the house were probably originally identical, but only the east side remains unaltered. There are no openings at the first level; two windows occur at the second; and two small round openings framed by radiating bricks flank the chimney in the gable. Extending along the east side and across the rear of the house is a one-story porch with a hip roof. It is raised on brick piers and its floor is laid over hand-hewn beams and rough logs. The posts and balustrade are similar to the front porch. Access to the basement is at the rear, beneath the porch. The rear facade is similar to the front, except that the first-floor openings have been changed somewhat, and the second-floor door has been replaced by a window.

On the west side of the house there are three additions. That at the front abuts the front porch, with a door at the end of the porch providing an outside entrance on its east wall. This addition, which is thought to have been built not long after the main block, is two stories high, with a gable roof parallel to but lower than that of the main block. The lower half of this section is of brick; the upper, of frame. To the rear of this is a narrow middle addition, with a shed roof built directly on the side of the main block beneath the gable level; it appears to be the most recently built section. The third addition, still lower and to the rear, has a gable roof perpendicular to the main block and front addition. This section was probably a separate building, perhaps a kitchen, and appears to be about the same age as the house. It is of brick laid in Flemish bond and has at the rear a large single-shoulder chimney with a stepped base. The west side

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is covered by a shed addition; the east has a door and a window.

All three levels of the interior of the main block including the basement, follow a hall-and-parlor plan. In the basement, the stone walls are plastered and there is a large segmental-arched fire opening in the stone base of the chimney on the east wall. An iron cooking arm is in place. At the rear of the east room is a window with crude solid shutters hung with strap hinges. The main floor has plaster over the brick walls, and wide beaded baseboards and chair rails appear on the outer walls. The inner partition wall is of wide vertical sheathing. The windows and outside doors are set in deep splayed reveals and have plain frames. Both rooms have Greek Revival mantels with plain pilasters supporting a shelf; that on the east wall is small and off-center on the chimney breast. The doors here, most of them having six panels, are hung with strap hinges. The hinges on the closet door beneath the stair have the leather washers still in place. The narrow enclosed stair ascends in two flights with winders in the southeast corner of the east room. The stair well is protected by a balustrade similar to that of the front porch. The finish of the second story is much like the first. The east chimney has only a stove flue; the west one, a segmental-arched opening behind a late nineteenth or early twentieth century mantel which features freestanding Ionic colonnettes. The windows flanking it have been filled in but are still quite visible in outline. The attic is one large room, unheated, and lit only by the small round openings in each gable.

The arrangement of the rooms in the west and rear additions is rather confusing, especially since they are at descending levels from front to rear, with short flights of steps between them. The largest is the two-story front section, finished with plain trim and plaster walls. An enclosed stair rises along the east wall. The middle room is rather curious and may have been added, seemingly in a rather makeshift fashion, to connect the front and rear sections. On the first floor, on its east wall the stone foundation of the main block is left uncovered, and on the west wall, there is what appears to be a solid stone outcropping between floor and wall, at baseboard level. The rest of the walls are plastered. On the second floor of this section, the east wall is unfinished, revealing the unpainted brick and filled-in windows of the main block. This section is unheated and crudely finished. The rear addition is the lowest (its east door opens at the ground or basement level to the rear of the main block) and has a single large room on the first floor and an attic above. The heavy ceiling joists and rafters are visible at both levels. In the first-floor room the fireplace has a square fire opening with a plain wooden shelf supported by brackets. A large cooking arm in the fireplace suggests that this section served as a kitchen.

Among the outbuildings is a large early barn of the Pennsylvania German type. The lower story is of large stones and contains stalls; the upper, which projects out over the first and protects the windows of the stalls from weather, is of vertical boards. Inside are very heavy timbers and a number of wooden locks. The well house, which provides a third side to the small paved yard

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enclosed by the main block and kitchen wing of the dwelling, is of brick, with a gable roof. Other outbuildings are of frame. Still standing is a fence with log posts supporting a gate attached with strap hinges.

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 checked="" 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

In 1762, James Mendenhall, a Quaker from Pennsylvania, settled near Deep River in what is now Guilford County. His father, Aaron, had preceded him, arriving in this area in 1754. James Mendenhall built a house, probably on a 625-acre tract granted him August 27, 1762, but within a few years he left to live in Georgia. James's son, George, 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. It later became one of the more significant settlements in Guilford County. In 1807 Jamestown was one of three voting places in the county.

The present Mendenhall house was built in 1811 probably by Richard Mendenhall, son of the founder of Jamestown. Richard, who served in the state legislature in 1805 and 1806, and his brothers were leading citizens of the area. In 1812 he married Mary Pegg, and they had a number of children among whom was Nereus Mendenhall. Nereus distinguished himself in a number of endeavors but should perhaps be remembered mainly for his efforts as an educator and a sustaining force in the Friends School at New Garden Meeting, a center of Quaker learning near Jamestown. This New Garden school became the present Guilford College in 1888. Richard Mendenhall's house was a noted gathering place for people devoted to learning and to discussion of philosophical and religious questions. The homestead was also the location of a tannery and other productive activity. It is thought to have served for some time as an inn.

The house was held by the Mendenhalls until around the turn of the twentieth century. After a succession of owners it is now the property of Mrs. William G. Ragsdale, Jr.

The Richard Mendenhall House, built by a member of one of Jamestown's most important early families, is an excellent example of the rather austere but comfortable brick buildings characteristic of Quaker architecture. It is distinguished by the use of segmental-arched openings, handsome brickwork, and plain but good craftsmanship. The Mendenhall Plantation Buildings provide a rare and essentially intact survival of the Pennsylvania-influenced farm complex built by Quaker settlers in this area of North Carolina. These buildings, together with the nearby Mendenhall Store and Quaker Meeting House, form a compact, complete, and representative collection of Quaker buildings probably unique in the state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnett, Ethel Stephens. Greensboro, North Carolina. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1955.
 Guilford County Records, Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Guilford County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Henderson, Archibald, and Wootten, Bayard. Old Homes and Gardens of North Carolina. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press (published under the auspices of the Garden Club of North Carolina), 1939.

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' 32"	79° 56' 47"	
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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff
 ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 27 June 1972
 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 27 June 1972

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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High Point Chamber of Commerce, compiler. The Building and the Builders of a City. High Point, North Carolina: Hall Printing Company, 1947.
Sham, Jessie Owen. The Johnsons and their Kin of Randolph. Washington, D.C.: McGrigor and Werner, Incorporated, 1955.
Waterman, Thomas T., and Johnston, Frances B. The Early Architecture of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947.

