

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Hardee House

Ormondville vicinity, Greene County, GR0533, Listed 9/22/2014
Nomination by Penne Sandbeck
Photographs by Penne Sandbeck, August 2013



Façade view



Rear view

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hardee House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 515 L. A. Moyer Road not for publication NA
city or town Ormondsville (Ayden mailing address) vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Greene code 079 zip code 28554

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper _____	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Hardee House
Name of Property

Greene County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Agricultural: Processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK/CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

METAL: Tin

roof METAL: Tin

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hardee House
Name of Property

Greene County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** Removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1842-1844

1900-1914

Significant Dates

circa 1842-1844

1900-1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: NC-DCR

Hardee House
Name of Property

Greene County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Three acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 270910 3929850
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Penne Sandbeck
organization _____ date April 29, 2014
street & number 421-B Craven Street telephone 252-649-1147
city or town New Bern state NC zip code 28560

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lawrence A. Moyer, Jr.
street & number P.O. Box 10 telephone 252-747-3638
city or town Maury state NC zip code 28554

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House
Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 7 Page 1

Location and Physical Description

The Hardee House stands on its original location, facing south to what is now SR 1340, at 515 L. A. Moyer Road, in the Ormondsville vicinity of Maury Township, near Greene County's eastern boundary with Pitt County.¹ Its immediate surroundings remain much as they were when Allen Hardee built this two-story, side-gable house in the early 1840s; period maps show that this location was primarily agrarian, consisting of woodlands and flat terrain with cultivated fields.² One late nineteenth-century outbuilding, a large frame three-story tobacco pack house with a one-story side shed, survives and is located southwest of the house, closer to L.A. Moyer Road. From the two-lane blacktop of L.A. Moyer Road, the unpaved drive to the house leads from the pack house to just west of the house's west elevation. The wide concrete sidewalk leading from the drive to the house was laid within the last ten years and has little to no landscaping on either side.

Hardee House: Contributing building

The house built by Allen Hardee between c. 1842 and 1844 is a frame, two-story, three bay single-pile weatherboarded dwelling that rests on a brick foundation. The four-bay, hip roof porch, dating from the early twentieth century, replaces the original shed roof porch. Turned posts and decorative sawnwork brackets are original to this early twentieth-century porch, but the porch's present enclosed brick foundation, circa 1945-1955, replaces the earlier twentieth-century foundation, which a 1910 photograph shows as openwork, or "honeycomb" patterned brick between each brick support pier.³ The house's façade has a prominent central entrance bay with a rectangular transom and sidelights, flanked by nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows. Above the spacious hip roof porch, the second floor is lit by three nine-over-six double-hung sash windows, and the side exterior end chimneys and the simple corner boards are also plainly seen.

Exterior alterations are typical for a farmhouse periodically updated to meet immediate needs and reflect contemporary fashions, these very alterations in turn becoming part of the house's

¹ Ormondsville is about two miles south of this house. There is no longer a post office there, and although the town of Maury is closer (2.79 miles) to the house than Ayden (8.46 miles), the house's mailing address is Ayden, NC.

² Greene County section, Lieutenant Arthur Koerner, 1863 Reconnaissance Field Map for area between Tar and Neuse Rivers, Confederate Engineers Bureau (State Library Collection, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC).

³ Photograph of Hardee House, c. 1910 . GR 533 (Allen Hardee House) survey file, Survey and National Register Branch, NC-HPO, Raleigh, NC.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House
Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 7 Page 2

history. For example, the porch's existing turned posts and decorative millwork spandrels, typical of turn-of-the-twentieth-century Queen Anne style residences, were in place by 1910, replacing the earlier, Greek Revival style square box columns, shown in a circa 1895 photograph.⁴ Wear and tear on the porch's wooden floor resulted in periodic replacements, the most recent being the treated wood flooring installed in the 1990s. The two exterior end chimneys, composed in irregular running bond, each have sloping shoulders and a stepped base, typical of third-quarter nineteenth-century chimney construction, although both bases are obscured by concrete and paint, making them difficult to analyze. The chimney caps were altered at some point in the twentieth century, and the east chimney was plastered with concrete, ostensibly in the spirit of preserving it.

According to the Moye family, who have owned the house since the 1960s, wood shingles remain under the roof's present standing-seam metal covering. After 1890, the Hardee family, in the flush of rural prosperity that came with the spread of bright-leaf tobacco farming in eastern North Carolina, made some changes to their dwelling, including moving the detached side kitchen building to the rear of the house, constructing two parallel one-story wings, and extending the first floor hallway to the rear of the house. A one-story, hip roof porch on the west wing has been recently enclosed to create a bathroom. The side elevations of the main block are pierced by two nine-over-six, double-hung sash at each floor. There are no windows at the north elevation's second story, as these were removed to accommodate the early twentieth-century rear wings.⁵ Windows in the rear ells are either six-over-six, or nine-over-six, or, in the case of the now mostly-enclosed rear hip roof porch, a single modern vertical two-pane window is the only window in either rear ell's north elevation. In the east ell (the later kitchen-dining room space) the flue, positioned between dining room and kitchen, survives with a corbeled top comparable to the exterior end chimneys. Another survival is the shed-roof addition housing the original interior bathroom thought to be added during renovations during the 1920s.

Inside, the Hardee House retains its original center-hall plan, and its overall plain finish, particularly in the two front parlors of the house's main block. In both the east and west parlors, walls retain original plaster and other interior finishes such as high, plain un-molded baseboards and plain board door and window surrounds. Both rooms also retain their original vertical two-panel Greek Revival-style doors, although the knobs have been replaced. The east parlor has a plastered ceiling and a simple post-and-lintel Greek Revival-style mantelpiece with a wide,

⁴ NC-HPO, Survey and National Register Files, Allen Hardee House file.

⁵ John Wood, Greenville, NC (NC-HPO Reviewer, Eastern Office), correction to Hardee House first draft, 6 December 2013.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House
Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 7 Page 3

unadorned frieze. The west parlor has a wide tongue-and-groove board ceiling, which is likely original to the house or executed within the house's first twenty years, and a wooden mantelpiece with a bracketed shelf and turned pilasters that probably came with the house's turn-of-the-twentieth-century renovation. The first-story floors in the house vary as well; where left alone, the heart pine flooring from the house's first period (c. 1842-1844) rooms, particularly the two front parlors, is approximately six inches wide, where flooring in the rear hallway (1900-1910) is approximately three inches wide. The rooms in the rear wings are similar to the front parlors, with equally plain door and window surrounds, tongue-and-groove board ceilings, and some surviving plastered walls. Although the flue in the west ell was taken down some years ago and the wooden mantelpiece considerably altered, the pantry closet and corresponding five-panel door survive in the room. The east wing reflects practical additions, one being the small shed-roof addition housing the bathroom, thought to date from the 1920s.

Between December 2011 and January 2013, the Moye family, who bought the house from the Hardee estate in 1966, changed the house's rear ell back rooms and the west ell's wraparound porch to make it a more livable place. The north shed-roof porch was enclosed and converted into a bathroom, then a window opening by the north ell's fireplace was enlarged, creating a door into the bathroom.⁶ The east ell's early twentieth-century kitchen was renovated. Modern finish in both rooms is compatible with the rest of the house. The kitchen retains some original window surrounds and wainscot along the east wall. According to family history, the Greek Revival-style post-and-lintel mantelpiece in the kitchen was moved from the front west parlor; the new counters and shelves have been carefully designed to fit into the house's style.

The center hall is a good example of how the house's plain Greek Revival-style decoration merged with the more ornate style of the 1900-1910 renovation. When the house was constructed, the most elaborate decorative element it possessed might have well been its imposing entrance, with its wide eight-light transom and five-pane sidelights, below which are paneled aprons delineated by applied molding. Inside, according to the Moyes, the hall was smaller and there was a box stair to the upstairs area. During Ernest Hardee's early twentieth-century tenure, among the changes that took place within the following twelve years was the addition of a Queen Anne-style straight-run stair which runs from the rear to the front. The staircase itself, which extends into the rear passage, has turned newel posts, a molded handrail, paneled siding, and a soffit that arches into a small alcove between the stair and the west parlor door, was henceforth the center hall's focal point.

⁶ John Wood, 6 December 2013.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House
Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 7 Page 4

The second floor rooms echo the house's downstairs two front parlors and hall, with narrow beaded board ceilings, mostly plastered walls, plain window and door surrounds, and remnants of a molded wooden picture rail. The two wooden mantelpieces are post-and-lintel with a plain frieze. The two upstairs bedrooms, however, have sheet paneling at their north walls, likely covering the infill openings of the earlier windows at this elevation; however the walls are painted the same color as the rest of the room so that the replacement siding is not obtrusive. The only significant modern change to the upstairs is the half-bath which was installed between December 2011 and January 2013 in the second-floor hallway passage.⁷

The original detached kitchen building stood to the east of the house, connected by a breezeway from the front porch, until the 1900-1910 remodeling, when the new kitchen wing was constructed at the rear of the house. In its new location, the former kitchen was situated very close to the house and was connected to the north wall of the new kitchen-dining room wing by a porch.⁸ The circa 1895 photograph shows the former kitchen to be a plain, one-story gable-roof frame weatherboarded building with six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The kitchen's entrance was located in the gable end wall facing the house. According to the son of a twentieth-century tenant, the former kitchen served for a time as housing for his grandmother, but its function had changed to storage by the time it was torn down in the 1990s.⁹ Twentieth-century outbuildings consisting a frame mule barn and a metal tobacco bulk barn complex located immediately west of the house. These buildings have since been demolished.

Pack House: Contributing building

The Hardee House's one surviving agricultural outbuilding is an exceptionally large balloon frame, two-and-a-half-story gable-roof tobacco pack house constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. Its original weatherboarding is concealed beneath a 5-v metal covering that also covers the roof, thought to have been installed in the last quarter of the twentieth century. A side lean-to shed at its south elevation is attached to the building's south elevation. Resting on concrete block piers, the pack house, accessible on each floor by a straight-run open staircase, was never insulated or sheathed on the interior, making its balloon framing quite clear. One interesting structural support detail is that of narrow downcorner bracing, secured by a nailed, wedge-shaped block at its base. Horizontal two-over-two sash windows, circa 1950-1965-light

⁷ John Wood, 6 December 2013.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Bud Johnson, Ayden, N.C., and Lawrence A. Moye, Jr., Maury, N.C. Conversation with Penne Sandbeck, August 15, 2013.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House
Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 7 Page 5

the first and second floor's north elevation, with another window in the front gable. Doors at the front elevation's first and second floor are replacement, and a rail has been installed at the second door opening for security. The current owners use this building for family events.

General Statement about Archaeological Potential

The structures are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains such as trash pits, privies, wells, and other structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information concerning land-use patterns, agricultural practices, social standing and social mobility, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structures. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 6

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Statement of Significance

The Hardee House meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register and is significant as a good representative example of Eastern North Carolina's traditional nineteenth-century Greek Revival-style I-house in Greene County. It is also indicative of the two-story, side-gable farmhouses and their transition from plainly-constructed but sturdy antebellum houses to the more decorative and comfortable dwellings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, due in part to increased affluence resulting from the ascendancy of cash crops like bright-leaf tobacco and cotton. The period of significance for the Hardee House is circa 1842 to 1844, the approximate period the house was constructed for Allen Hardee, and 1900 to 1914, for the period when the house was enlarged and redesigned with stylish Queen Anne features added by Ernest Hardee.

Historical Background

Allen Hardee (1802-1870) was a Pitt County native, and the son of William and Nancy Barrow Hardee. The Hardees were a prominent eastern North Carolina family, and William Hardee was a great-nephew of Colonel John Hardee (1707-1784), a planter whose no-longer-extant house served as the first courthouse for Pitt County.¹ Around 1842, Allen Hardee, who had acquired farmland in this section of eastern Greene County, sold his Pitt County land and moved his family to the tract near Ormond's Chapel, the future site of Ormondsville's rural community. Sadly typical of these times, Hardee experienced a loss within his young family soon after moving; Stanley Hardee, one of Hardee's children, died as an infant in 1844 and was the first burial in the Hardee Family Cemetery located east of the house.²

The farmstead was gradually cleared and cultivated. Eight years after his arrival, Allen Hardee was not producing major cash crops in 1850, but he did harvest wheat, rye, corn, and sweet potatoes in that year, with the assistance of his sons and fifteen slaves. His livestock at the time included 140 swine, probably foraging in the 114 unimproved acres

¹ Scott Power, *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina* (Greenville, NC: Pitt County Historical Society, 1991), 25-26. Also Jonathan B. Butcher, "Hardee: Ancestry of Allen Hardee (February 1988, Collection Stanley Little)," 1-3.

² Mary Virginia Kilpatrick, "Greene County Cemetery Inscriptions, 1750-1970" (private printing, c. 1990), p. 295.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 7

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

of what was then a 334-acre farm; Hardee also had four cows, fifty-five sheep, and six horses.³ Accordingly, his home from what can be ascertained of exterior and interior details, was initially modest but ambitious, a frame, two-story, single-pile, center-hall plan dwelling with an enclosed staircase along the hall's west wall and a detached weatherboarded kitchen building located at the house's side elevation to the east. The most stylish feature of the house was its entrance, with a wide transom and paneled sidelights. Surviving original finish in the two-story main block included the well-crafted but quite plain approximately five-inch-wide, sawn beaded-board sheathed ceilings seen in the first floor's west parlor and upstairs, and the wide heart pine floors in this part of the house. This dwelling was home to Hardee, his wife Marina, and their ten children, from twenty-seven-year-old Whitmel, who would build his own house nearby in the 1870s, to five-year-old Francis Marion, whose later home would be almost identical in form to Whitmel's.⁴

Between 1850 and 1860, Allen Hardee's farm production became larger and more diverse as he began cultivating cotton and acquired more land, increasing his farmstead from 334 to 758 acres. With the assistance of his sons and twenty-eight slaves, the recently-widowed Hardee's other crops in 1860 included sweet potatoes, corn, wheat, and peas.⁵

In 1869, Hardee deeded 182 acres containing his farmhouse to one of his younger sons, Epenetus Hardee (1833-1913), with the proviso that his siblings Allen, Whitmel, Edwin, Marion (Francis Marion), Emily Hardee McLawhorn, and Marina Hardee Frizzelle "shall have the exercise and privilege of digging and hauling marl from the above-named plantation" to their respective farms for fertilizer, conveyed to them either by deed or by will.⁶ Hardee was already in ill health, and his will of September 3, 1869, followed by a codicil on September 28, 1870, made this plain.⁷ In spite of his infirmities, he, with hired help, managed to produce twenty-eight bales of cotton that year, plus 1,000 bushels of corn, in addition to some wheat, peas, and sweet potatoes.⁸ Allen Hardee died at the age

³ U.S. Federal Census, 1850 Agricultural and Populations Schedules for Olds Township, Greene County NC.

⁴ Ibid.; Penne Smith Sandbeck, *Greene Along Contentnea: The Architectural History of Greene County, North Carolina* (Snow Hill, NC: Greene County Museum, 2009), 182-183.

⁵ U.S. Federal Census, 1860 Agricultural and Population Schedules for Olds Township, Greene County, NC.

⁶ Greene County (NC) Register of Deeds, Book 8, pp. 349-350 (Allen Hardee>Epenetus Hardee).

⁷ Greene County (NC) Will Book 1, pp. 13-15 (Allen Hardee, last will and testament).

⁸ U.S. Federal Census, 1870 Agricultural Schedule for Olds Township, Greene County, NC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 8

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

of sixty-eight two months after signing the codicil, and Epenetus Hardee and his family moved into the house after the new year.

Epenetus Hardee himself was a successful enough farmer to be listed in state business directories during the 1890s.⁹ The Agricultural Schedule for the 1880 census shows that he had maintained the farm's \$3,000.00 cash value. With hired laborers, Hardee had maintained 200 tilled acres where he planted corn, oats, wheat, sweet potatoes, "irish" potatoes, and peas. He also continued in cotton production, with thirty bales of cotton from fifty acres of his farmland. Hardee also managed to cultivate an apple orchard on one acre of his land. At this time his household included his wife Serena; Lura, their oldest child at home (then seventeen and about to be married), followed by Henry, Ada, and four-year-old Ernest.¹⁰

Epenetus Hardee deeded the property to Ernest Hardee in 1900, who with his wife Bessie raised their three children Marjorie, Ralph, and Guy on the farm until 1914, when the family moved to Ayden. Some years after Epenetus and Serena Hardee's deaths, their bodies were moved from the Hardee family cemetery to a mausoleum in Norfolk, Virginia, where their older son Henry had settled. Ernest Hardee, after nearly thirty years of managing the Hardee farm, died in 1934. The farm was divided between Hardee's heirs, with his wife receiving a life estate.¹¹ After her death in the 1960s, the Hardee heirs sold the property to L. A. Moye, L. A. Moye Jr., and Charles L. Stokes on November 4, 1966.¹² The Moyes and Charles Stokes used the surrounding land for raising tobacco and other crops, and the Johnson family became longtime tenants of the house. The Moye family eventually gained complete ownership of the property in 1985.¹³ In the mid-twentieth century, the Hardee farm complex included the massive turn-of-the-twentieth-century tobacco pack house, and a smaller outbuilding, all of which were located directly southwest of the house. Metal bulk barns, which improved the tobacco curing process, became popular in the early 1960s, replacing the more traditional frame tobacco barns on the farm's landscape; two bulk barns were built on a concrete pad immediately west of

⁹ *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1890 ("E. Hardee, Ormondsville," 302)

¹⁰ U.S. Federal Census, 1880 Agricultural and Population Schedules for Olds Township, Greene County, NC; "Family Bible of Epenetus and Serena Hardee (private manuscript, transcribed by Stanley Little)."

¹¹ Greene County Will Book 6, p. 406 (Ernest E. Hardee Will, probated November 6, 1934).

¹² Greene County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 367, pp. 92-93; Greene County Will Book 11, p. 92 (Bessie Taylor Hardee Will, probated July 19, 1960).

¹³ Andrew Moye, L. A. Moye, Jr., and Bud Johnson. Conversation with Penne Smith Sandbeck at Hardee House, Ormondsville, NC, 15 August 2013. Also, Greene County Register of Deeds, Deed book 434, pp. 583-587.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 9

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

the house sometime between 1965 and 1980. Today, only the house and pack house remain of this earlier complex. The frame tenant houses across from SR 1340 have also been demolished. The Moye family has recently completed restoring the house.¹⁴

Architectural Context

The Hardee House is an increasingly rare surviving house type dating from the mid-nineteenth century in Greene County. Many similar properties have been demolished as the result of two factors that have progressively altered Greene County's rural landscape; the exodus of rural residents to the nearby cities and amenities of greater Greenville, Kinston, Wilson, and beyond; and the rise of corporate farming, which has replaced the earlier paradigm of the landowner-tenant farm relationship, where older houses were continuously occupied. A number of contemporaneous mid-nineteenth-century dwellings in this eastern portion of Greene County have been demolished within the past fifteen years, including at least two of the antebellum Carr residences, the William Speight Darden House of Willow Green, a short distance northeast of Ormondsville, and, to the southeast, the 1890s Dixon House near Scuffleton, an I-house that was destroyed by fire in 2013.

Despite the loss of historic houses with generational ties in greater Ormondsville and Scuffleton (a nearby village on the southwest banks of Little Contentnea Creek, largely decimated by Hurricane Floyd in 1999), at least one other Hardee family house remains standing. Whitmel Hardee, one of Allen Hardee's sons, constructed the 1880s Italianate-style Whitmel Hardee House on SR 1336. Like the Hardee House, the Whitmel Hardee House was built to serve as a farmhouse, although the Whitmel Hardee House's Italianate style, as evidenced by its bay window, T-plan, and bracketed cornice, has some pretensions to a less rural, more high-style dwelling. But the Whitmel Hardee House has taken more reversals of fortune in terms of integrity loss than the home of the paterfamilias, with a remodeling it has suffered from changes in materials and workmanship, and also changes in setting, as its road has been less agricultural and more heavily traveled. On the other hand, the Hardee house has kept its original siding, windows, chimneys, and setting, as well as key exterior and interior components chronicling its existence as a nineteenth and early twentieth century agrarian-related dwelling.¹⁵

¹⁴ John Wood, 6 December 2013.

¹⁵ Sandbeck, *Greene Along Contentnea*, 182-183.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 10

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

With a few notable exceptions, architecture in 1840-1850s Greene County was comparatively humble. Greek Revival style became more common—center-hall plan dwellings predominated over hall-parlor plans, embellished by interior finish such as post-and-lintel mantelpieces, open staircases, and two-panel doors. Greener county examples of Greek Revival style include the Grimsley-Rasberry House, with its impressive temple-front, two-story portico, and the Benjamin W. Best House, which, although rougher in finish than the Grimsley-Rasberry House, boasts a large center hall and imposing stair, along with distinctive small cornerblock door and window surrounds. There were even a few Gothic Revival-style dwellings, right out of Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books, including the 1850s Ruffin-Farmer-Dawson House near the Wilson County line, and the late 1850s Williams-Exum House in Snow Hill. In contrast, however, were many dwellings, from the two-story Asa Jones House in Lizzie Township to the smaller, one-and one-and-a-half-story farmhouses built for the Sugg family in southern Greene County close to the Lenoir County border. Sara Hicks Williams, an 1850s New York transplant to Greene County, observed that, in the face of farmers' and planters' desires to own and farm as much land as possible, "Houses, furniture, dress are nothing," and this would seem to explain the relative plainness of the county's antebellum architecture.¹⁶

Nearby extant I-house dwellings in Greene County comparable to the Hardee House include the Edwards-Turnage House in Ormondsville, constructed between 1850 and 1852. The Edwards-Turnage House is late Federal in style, with comparable nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows, a transom lighting the entrance, and a single-pile, center-hall plan. There was some Greek Revival-style decoration as well, particularly the corner blocks at the front entrance surrounds and the plain post-and-lintel mantelpieces within.¹⁷ Approximately four miles south of Ormondsville is another antebellum I-house, the 1850s Edward R. and Sallie Ann Coward House (NR, 2002), comparatively much less of a traditional farmhouse, given its classically-derived center bay portico and elegant interior details, such as molded chair rails, two-part molded door and window surrounds, and a well-executed staircase with scrolled risers, a molded handrail, and slim, battered newel posts right out of an Asher Benjamin pattern book.¹⁸ The Hardee House shared a two-story, center-hall, single-pile plan with these houses, but was, otherwise, more

¹⁶ Sara Hicks Williams, Clifton Grove, Greene County, NC. March 17, 1854, letter to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hicks, New Hartford, CT, reprinted by James Bonner in "Plantation Experiences of a New York Woman," *North Carolina Historical Review* (July 1956), 391

¹⁷ Ibid, 183-184; Edwards-Turnage House file, Survey and National Register Files, NC-HPO.

¹⁸ Sandbeck, *Greene Along Contentnea*, 44-46, 175-177.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 11

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

modest, with its very plain post-and-lintel mantelpieces, double-paneled doors, plastered walls, and wide tongue-and-groove beaded board ceilings.

But important architectural changes were yet to come to the Hardee House. On December 11, 1900, Epenetus Hardee deeded his property over to his son Ernest, but retained a life estate interest in the property as a condition of the deed. The extensions to the house—two one-story end-gabled rear ells, one of which was a new kitchen-dining wing, the other an additional room with a rear hip-roof porch—and other substantial changes to the property, within and without, took place early in Ernest Hardee's tenure of the farm. It is thought that the massive, two-and-a-half story balloon-frame pack house for storing and processing harvested tobacco was built during the early years of the younger Hardee's ownership. According to locals and to the Moye family, who bought the property in 1966, the old kitchen building was moved from its original location during the 1900-1914 re-design, where it served as housing and other functions until being dismantled in the 1990s.¹⁹

The circa 1910 photograph of the Hardee family in front of their homeplace—Ernest and Bessie Hardee with their children Ralph, Guy, and Marjorie, with Epenetus and Serena Hardy, seated—tells the story of the house and family's newfound prosperity, consonant with the wealth the cash crops of tobacco and cotton brought to eastern North Carolina at this time.²⁰ Like the Hardees, arrayed in their Sunday best, the house had undergone a transformation; the square columns and narrow balustrade rail are gone and in their place are Queen Anne-style turned posts, decorative brackets, and a turned spindle balustrade. Another change can just be glimpsed in the photograph; just past the open front door is the curve of the new open, Queen Anne-style paneled staircase. The alterations made in Ernest Hardee's time—the porch, the new stair, the new kitchen, new mantelpieces, new outbuildings—are important to the Hardee House's significance as such innovations speak of the optimism and economic bond that tobacco money poured into this formerly somewhat hardscrabble part of eastern North Carolina.²¹

The Queen Anne style, although quite popular in neighboring counties such as Wayne and Pitt during the early twentieth century, did not gain a comparable foothold in rural Greene County. In

¹⁹ Bud Johnson, Grifton, NC, conversation with Penne Sandbeck 15 August 2013; Stanley Little, e-mail communication to Penne Sandbeck 20 September 2013.

²⁰ Photograph, Hardee House, c. 1910. Survey and National Register Files, NC Historic Preservation Office (NC-HPO), Raleigh, NC; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 35, 39-41; Power, 109-110; Sandbeck, *Greene Along Contentnea*, 61.

²¹ Sandbeck, *Greene Along Contentnea*, 60-61.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Section number 8 Page 12

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

county towns, it was not as prolific as earlier styles, such as Italianate and composite Greek Revival dwellings; Snow Hill's Edwards-Dawson House (circa 1900), an elaborate, L-plan two-and-a-half-story residence, has a paneled center hall staircase with turned newel post finials and a small alcove, an imposing version of the Hardee House's smaller Queen Anne-style stair.²² Rare rural examples include the circa 1910 Speight-Aycock House in the county's northernmost point, although the Speight-Aycock House's exterior shows little of the Queen Anne's volumetric play or surface decoration.²³ The 1832 Taylor-Mewborn House in northwestern Bull Head Township is a more comparable example whereby a late Federal-style house was substantially altered and expanded during J. R. Mewborn's tenure from 1908 to 1945.

Among Mewborn's changes was to remove the hallway's west wall, relocate a semi-enclosed dogleg stair, and install a more imposing staircase.²⁴ In short, it is not entirely understood why Greene County residents, unlike neighboring Wayne or Pitt counties, did not choose to build in the Queen Anne style, especially since those counties' larger towns would have provided milled lumber and other features via the railroad, which Greene County, with its small depot stops at Walstonburg, Snow Hill (discontinued in 1930s), and Maury (also discontinued in 1930s) did have in the early twentieth century.²⁵ But locals preferred either the earlier forms of Greek Revival - Italianate or looked ahead to Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. The basic conservatism of the county even today might suggest that farmers such as the Hardees, Mewborns, Speights, and Aycocks preferred a more traditional, less innovative, house form.²⁶

²² Ibid., 214-215. Also, Edwards-Dawson House file, Survey and National Register Files, NC-HPO.

²³ Ibid., 114-115.

²⁴ Ibid., 151-152.

²⁵ Ibid., 162, 203-205.

²⁶ Ibid., 67.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 9 Page 13

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Maps

Greene County Section, Lieutenant Arthur Koerner, 1863 Reconnaissance Field Map for area between Tar and Neuse Rivers, Confederate Engineers Bureau. State Library Collection, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

Legal Documents (specific records cited in nomination)

Selected Records, Greene County Register of Deeds, Snow Hill, NC
Selected Records, Greene County Clerk of Court (Wills and Estates), Snow Hill, NC

Archival Records

Tabitha Marie DeVisconti Papers, Special Collections, J.Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

NC-HPO, Survey and Planning Files, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, NC. Specific records cited in nomination.

Secondary Sources

Bishir, Catherine W. and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996

Bonner, James C., ed. "Plantation Experiences of a New York Woman (Sara Hicks Williams)." *North Carolina Historical Review* 33: 3 (July 1956), 384-412.

Branson, Levi. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1890. Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton, 1890.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 9 Page 14

Kilpatrick, Mary Virginia. "Greene County Cemetery Inscriptions, 1750-1970." Goldsboro, NC: Private printing, c. 1990.

Little, M. Ruth. *Coastal Plain and Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*. Kinston: Lenoir County Historical Society, 1998.

Power, Scott. *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, North Carolina* (Greenville, NC: Pitt County Historical Society, 1991.

Sandbeck, Penne Smith. *Greene Along Contentnea: The Architectural History of Greene County, North Carolina*. Snow Hill, NC: Greene County Museum, 2009,

United States Federal Census Records, Washington, DC. Population, Agriculture, and Slave Schedules for Olds Township, Greene County, NC, 1850-1880.

Secondary Sources: Genealogical Records courtesy of Stanley Little, Greenville, NC

Butcher, Jonathan B. "Hardee: Ancestry of Allen Hardee. Private Printing, February 1988 Collection Stanley Little, Ayden, NC, and in Allen Hardee House survey file, NC-HPO.

Hardee, David L. "The Eastern North Carolina Hardy-Hardee Family in the South and Southwest." Private Printing, n.d., copy in Allen Hardee House survey file, NC-HPO.

Family Bible of Epenetus and Serena Hardee. Private manuscript previously in possession of Mrs. Ralph Hardee, transcribed by Stanley Little, c. 1998. Copy in Allen Hardee House survey file, NC-HPO.

Oral and Written Communication

Lawrence A. Moye, Jr., and Andrew Moye, Maury, NC. Conversation with Penne Smith Sandbeck, August 15, 2013.

Bud Johnson, Ayden, NC. Conversation with Penne Smith Sandbeck, August 15, 2013.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
N/A

Section number 9 Page 15

Stanley Little, Ayden, NC. Electronic communication with Penne Smith Sandbeck, September 13, 20, and 24, 2013. E-mails are in nomination packet.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hardee House

Greene County, North Carolina

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

N/A

Section number 10 Page 16

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of three acres, located within the larger boundaries of Parcel Identification Number 0606983, as described in Greene County's GIS and Tax Property Information, which includes approximately 229 acres. This three-acre boundary is shown on an attached tax map at a scale of one inch equals two hundred feet.

Boundary Justification

This nominated boundary comprises an appropriate setting and acreage historically associated with the Hardee House, specifically the house itself and one remaining outbuilding. The remaining 226 acres of the total tract, including additional fields and woodlands, are not included in the nominated property because they exceed the acreage allowed for a property nominated under Criterion C, according to National Register guidelines.