

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC David Jenkins House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1017 Church Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Gastonia

VICINITY OF

10th

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
37

COUNTY
Gaston

CODE
71

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Bryte Warren

STREET & NUMBER

Box 103

CITY, TOWN

Gastonia

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Carolina

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Gaston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gastonia

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It appears that David Jenkins constructed this substantial farmhouse in Gaston County in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The house has attributes of the popular antebellum Greek Revival style and details of the Italianate style. Though the house has lost its original porch and has had additions to the sides and rear, it remains essentially unchanged. It is a three-bay, two-story frame house with a low hip roof supported by ornamental brackets grouped along a simple, wide frieze. Two interior chimneys pierce the roof. The central entrance is surrounded by sidelights and transom which contain diamond patterns formed with wooden muntins. A wide molded surround encompasses the entrance and breaks at the top and bottom corners as crossettes. There is a simplified version of the main entrance at the second level; both doors are flanked by paired windows containing four-over-four sash.

The interior follows a center hall plan two rooms deep. The hall contains an open string stair with turned balusters and ornamental brackets. The balusters support a large molded handrail which originates from a large, turned newel. The two rooms on either side of the hall are heated by common chimneys which have simple mantels. Although not all of the interior of the house was accessible, the interior woodwork is typical of the third quarter of the nineteenth century and seems to be intact throughout the house. The molded woodwork, though not elaborate, is well executed and typical of a substantial house of the period.

A small brick dependency is immediately to the rear of the house.

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 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1876-1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The David Jenkins House was built in 1876 or 1877 by David A. Jenkins, after he had retired from public office. Jenkins, significant figure in Reconstruction North Carolina, was born April 5, 1822, in what is now Gaston County. The eldest child of Aaron and Mary Jenkins, he was a direct descendant, on his mother's side, of Revolutionary War hero Colonel Frederick Hambricht, a commander of the rebel forces at Kings Mountain. Although educated modestly, he began teaching in the area at age 14. He was elected constable or magistrate several times. An ardent unionist, he opposed secession from the union. As a magistrate he was exempt from the Confederate draft.

Following the war, Jenkins was elected to the state legislature and served from 1866 to 1868. In 1868 he was elected state treasurer on the Republican ticket, and was re-elected in 1872. Jenkins opposed Governor W. W. Holden's plans to use the militia to squash the Ku Klux Klan, one of the few Republican leaders to do so. These plans resulted in the Kirk-Holden War, Holden's subsequent impeachment, and his removal from office. Jenkins's conduct in office earned him the sobriquet "Honest Dave" Jenkins. Historian J. G. deRouhlac Hamilton states that Jenkins's personal honesty was of the highest order, and that he was genuinely outraged at the excesses of his fellow Republicans. Fellow historian R. D. W. Connor characterizes Jenkins as having "made for himself a lasting place in the history of North Carolina as much for the continuous and forceful expression of his characteristic attributes of honesty, integrity, and steadfastness of conviction, as for the high place he enjoyed in state official affairs."⁵ Comparable testimonials are abundant.

Jenkins declined to run for treasurer in 1876. He retired to Gastonia, purchased land from J. M. Hanna and R. Y. McAden, and built this house. He was widely rumored to be in line for the Republican nomination for governor in 1880, but the death of his wife apparently changed his plans. Jenkins died September 10, 1886, in Gastonia.⁶

Jenkins and his wife, the former Lodema Holland, had ten children. One of these, a son A. D. Jenkins, was state paymaster during the Holden administration, and was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for state treasurer in 1880. Of more importance was Laban Lineberger Jenkins, the youngest son of David Jenkins.

L. L. Jenkins was born December 3, 1864 on a farm near Gastonia. He was twelve years old when his father retired and built the house. He was educated at Charlotte, Gastonia, and Wake Forest, receiving a degree from the latter in 1883. He was an assistant postmaster in Charlotte from 1883 to 1885, and also taught school in 1885. In 1886, following the death of his father, he returned to Gastonia.⁸ His father's will left

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him five thousand dollars. The will also left the family house to David Jenkins's daughter, Mary A. Craig, wife of John H. Craig.

With the money left to him by his father, and in partnership with his brother-in-law John Craig, Jenkins founded Gastonia's first bank, the Gastonia Bank. In 1890 it was reorganized as the First National Bank with Craig as the first president. Jenkins remained on the bank's board of directors until 1930, serving at various times as its president, vice-president, and chairman of the board. Craig was also intimately involved in the operations of the bank for many years.¹⁰

On December 12, 1887 the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company, the first textile plant in Gastonia, was opened. L. L. Jenkins and John H. Craig were among the seven organizers of the plant. They were also among the organizers of the Modena Cotton Mills, Gastonia's third textile mill. Both men remained important in the early development of Gastonia's vital textile economy, providing capital, leadership, and organizational ability well into the 1930s. Gastonia was incorporated only in 1877. Ten years later, when Jenkins and Craig began their entrepreneurial activities, Gastonia was a village of two people. By 1900 the town had seven textile plants, a population of almost 5,000, and was well on the way to becoming the textile center that it is today.¹¹

L. L. Jenkins also kept his foot in the political door. Like his father, a Republican, Jenkins waited for a revival that never came. He was a delegate to the Minneapolis Republican national convention in 1892, was a postmaster in Gastonia from 1889 to 1893 [the administration of Republican President Benjamin Harrison⁷], was an unsuccessful candidate for the legislature in 1892, and 1898, and was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for lieutenant governor in 1916.¹²

In 1940, following the death of John Craig, the old Jenkins House was sold, at public auction, to Mr. Boyd Warren. Several months later he sold the property for one dollar, to his wife Mrs. Bryte Warren, the present owner.¹³ One century old, the Jenkins House has had a rich history. It was built by David Jenkins, an important politician, following his retirement from the affairs of state. It served as the boyhood home of L. L. Jenkins, one of the important founders of industrial Gastonia, and for five decades was the homeplace of John Craig, another important figure in early Gastonia.

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Footnotes

¹Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century (Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1892), p. 379, hereinafter cited as Cyclopedia of Eminent Men; North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, VI of History of North Carolina, by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. deRoulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), IV, p. 277, hereinafter cited as Connor and others, North Carolina Biography.

²Cyclopedia of Eminent Men, pp. 379-380; Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, pp. 277-278.

³J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton, Reconstruction in North Carolina (New York: Columbia University Press, 1914), p. 501, hereinafter cited as Hamilton, Reconstruction in North Carolina.

⁴Hamilton, Reconstruction in North Carolina, p. 413, p. 589.

⁵Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, p. 276.

⁶Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, p. 277; Gaston County Deeds, Book 7, p. 529, Book 7, p. 530.

⁷Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, p. 277.

⁸Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, IV, pp. 277-278.

⁹Gaston County Records, Gaston County Courthouse, Gastonia, North Carolina, Subgroup: Wills, Book 2, p. 264.

¹⁰Robert F. Cope and Manly Wade Wellman, The County of Gaston (Gaston County Historical Society, 1961), p. 125, p. 130, hereinafter cited as Cope and Wellman, The County of Gaston; Joseph H. Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County, North Carolina: Past, Present and Future (n.p., 1936), p. 98, hereinafter cited as Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County.

¹¹Cope and Wellman, The County of Gaston, pp. 130-135; Separk, Gastonia and Gaston County, pp. 114-119.

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¹² Connor and others, North Carolina Biography, pp. 277-278.

¹³ Gaston County Deeds, Gaston County Courthouse, Gastonia, North Carolina, Book 378-550, 400-334.

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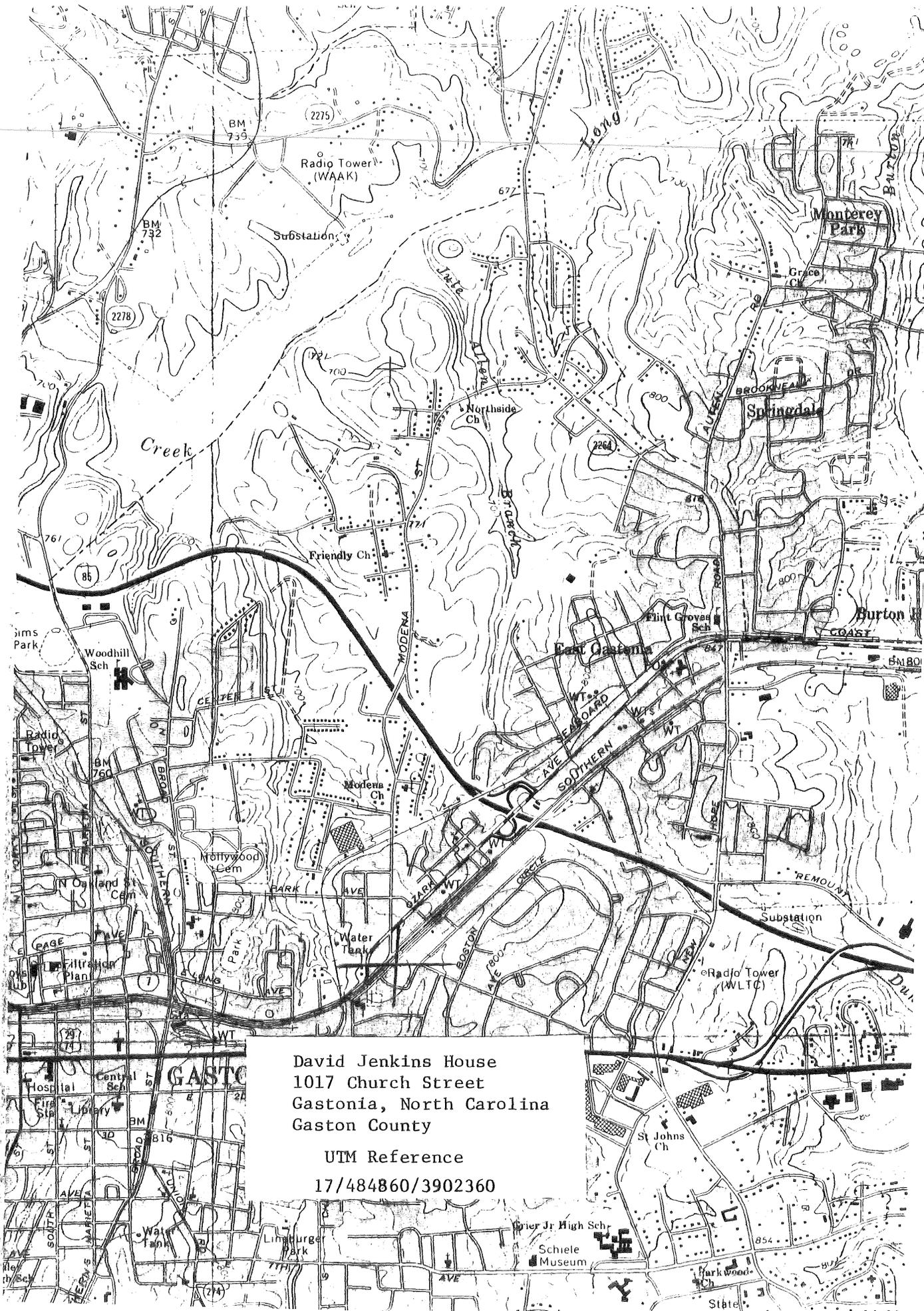
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Cope, Robert F., and Wellman, Manly Wade. The County of Gaston. Gaston County
Historical Society, 1961.

Hamilton, J. G. deRouhlac. Reconstruction in North Carolina. New York: Columbia
University Press, 1914.

Separk, Joseph. Gastonia and Gaston County. Gastonia, 1936.



David Jenkins House
1017 Church Street
Gastonia, North Carolina
Gaston County

UTM Reference
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