

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
William Mitchell House

AND/OR HISTORIC? _____

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North side of N.C. 350, 3 miles ^{West} east of Ahoskie

CITY OR TOWN:
Ahoskie vicinity (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Hertford CODE: 091

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Gordon

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 24

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COU He Update 9/23/03

STR _____

CITY Hubert Gordon

WI 4504 Drum Castle Ct.

6. REPRESENTATIVE

TITL Virginia Beach, Va 23455 } owner

DAT 757/464-5463

DEP _____

STR Farm Office extensively damaged by tree toppled by Hurricane Isabel 9/14/03

CITY _____

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 William Mitchell House is a pleasant Federal farmhouse set amid a grove of large trees in the flat coastal plain farmland of Hertford County. Near the house, which is approached by a long, straight dirt road flanked by cultivated fields, are a number of well-preserved early frame outbuildings, including an office, schoolhouse, carriage house, and smoke-house. The dwelling is a two-story L-shaped structure of frame covered with plain weatherboards. The house, which rests on brick piers recently infilled with concrete blocks, is covered by a shallow gable roof of standing-seam tin. At each end of the front section and at the rear of the ell is a single-shoulder brick chimney with stepped weatherings and a molded cap. That on the west is of one-to-five common bond; the other two have no regular bonding pattern.

The main front (south) section of the house is five bays wide and two deep; the ell extends three bays to the rear, covering the two east bays of the rear facade of the main block. There are a number of one-story additions. Attached to the east side of the front section is a small, one-story, two-bay wing covered by a gable roof. To the rear of this, adjoining the ell, is another, earlier gable-roof wing with a rear shed porch. It was originally a separate kitchen building. The two wings are joined by a flat-roof enclosed porch. Occupying the northwest corner between the main front section and the ell are two one-story shed additions; they extend across the rear facade of the front section and cover all but the rear bay of the ell.

The exterior finish of the two-story house is simple and handsome, having traditional Federal proportions but using some Greek Revival elements. The windows, which contain nine-over-nine sash at the first level and nine-over-six at the second, have symmetrically molded frames with plain corner blocks and sills. The eaves are finished with a box cornice. The central front entrance is sheltered by a pedimented porch. Four paneled pillars, square in section, with molded caps, support a plain entablature. Similar pilasters occur on the facade at the ends of the porch. A heavy molded cornice frames the flush-sheathed tympanum. The porch is enclosed by a balustrade of thin square balusters between plain rounded rails, and the ceiling has long flat panels. The entrance consists of a wide single door beneath a transom. The whole is framed by a symmetrically molded architrave with plain corner blocks at the upper corners of door and transom; the lintel above the door is fluted. The door has seven raised panels: the arrangement is like that of a normal six-panel door, except that a narrow horizontal panel separates the two lower pairs of panels.

The interior of the front section follows a center-passage plan, one room deep; the ell, entered from the rear of the east room, contains a stair hall and a chamber behind. The finish, like that of the exterior, combines Federal and Greek Revival elements. The door and window frames of the main first-floor rooms employ a remarkable variety of symmetrical moldings and corner blocks. Several types of chair rails occur, including a wide one whose lower element is symmetrically molded like the door frames. In all main rooms there is a wainscot with a dado consisting of a single wide board, eighteen inches wide. Handsome carpenter locks remain on most of the doors, which are raised-paneled on one side and flat-paneled on the

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

7.

other. The five panels on most doors are arranged with a pair of long panels above and below a horizontal panel.

The doors in the center passage have symmetrically molded architraves with deeply molded corner blocks centered with a square panel composed of four triangular pieces of wood. The rear door is like the front door but slightly shorter; the lintel on each is flat-paneled. The west parlor, the most elaborately finished room, has symmetrical architraves with a faceted center band and faceted-paneled corner blocks. The mantel features wide, symmetrical moldings, which flank the square fire opening and extend beneath the convex molded shelf. A short strip of the molding vertically bisects the flat-paneled frieze. A plain corner block appears above the center band and at each corner. The east parlor, now a dining room, has a mantel with similar proportions but quite different elements. Engaged vernacular colonnettes flank the fire opening and terminate in small end blocks beneath a thick shelf. A narrow tapered block bisects the flat-paneled frieze. The door and window frames in this room feature rather flat symmetrical moldings and plain corner blocks.

The rear room of the ell, said to have been the dining room, contains a mantel that is a simplified version of that in the west parlor, and the rest of the finish resembles that in the east parlor. The steep, narrow open-string stair rises in one flight along the rear wall of the stair hall, beginning with winders and ascending from east to west. Slender balusters, square in section, and a plain newel, also square in section, support a molded rail. The lower border of the stringer is symmetrically molded. A short door with two long raised panels gives access to a small closet beneath the stair.

The second floor follows the same plan as the first except that the front hall has been altered somewhat and includes a bathroom. A very simple chair rail and baseboard are present, and the doors and windows have symmetrical moldings with plain corner blocks. The overall design of the mantels is like that of the ell room below. The most interesting feature of the second floor rooms is the survival of original wood-graining and marbleizing. In the west chamber, the mantel has extremely fine wood-graining, which is repeated on the soffits and reveals of the doors. The east chamber and the ell room have mantels that have been treated with curious marbleizing achieved by spattering; the baseboard in the ell room is similarly treated. The doors leading from the stair hall retain the handsome wood-graining.

The small frame office and schoolhouse are identical, and both retain their step-shoulder chimneys and mantels similar to those in the main building. They are finished inside with plastered walls; on the schoolhouse walls are a number of signatures and inscriptions, some dated as early as the mid-nineteenth century. The smokehouse and carriage house are simple frame structures.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <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

The Mitchell House was built by William W. Mitchell, probably around the time of his marriage to Martha C. Williford in 1832. Family tradition has it that Mitchell selected the timber and supervised the building, but left the finishing of the house to a slave. The first Mrs. Mitchell died soon after their marriage, and Mitchell was subsequently married twice.

That his offspring included four daughters partly serves to explain his interest in establishing a good school in the area. A devout Baptist and a believer in education, Mitchell was one of a small group of men who met in 1848 and agreed to found Chowan Female Institute. He was serving as the second chairman of its board of trustees when the board decided in 1863 to take over the operation of the school from William Hooper. Hooper, son of one of North Carolina's signers of the Declaration of Independence, was a distinguished educator and scholar, but his anti-secessionist views were apparently unacceptable to the board during this time of war. In 1868 Mitchell sustained the school during a financial crisis when he acted as chairman of a group of stockholders who purchased it. The school has since become Chowan College, a respected regional institution.

When William Mitchell died in 1897 the home tract of 1,117 acres was divided among four of his children with Bettie Mitchell Vann, his youngest daughter, being allotted 200 acres and the dwelling house. The Mitchell House has remained in the family and is now owned by Edith Winborne Gordon, Mitchell's great-granddaughter. Mrs. Gordon and her husband, Dudley Gordon, have carefully restored the house, which is now in excellent condition.

The William Mitchell House is of local historical importance as the home of one of the founders of Chowan College. It is a well-preserved example of a transitional Federal-Greek Revival farmhouse, retaining the traditional Federal proportions but exhibiting simple versions of the Greek Revival decorative elements that were fashionable. The survival of such interior features as the locks and handsome wood-graining, and of the numerous early outbuildings, enhances the significance of the Mitchell House.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hertford County Records, Hertford County Courthouse, Office of the Register of Deeds, Winton, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Hertford County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 McKnight, Edgar V. and Creech, Oscar. A History of Chowan College, Chowan College, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, 1964.
 Winborne, Benjamin B. The Colonial and State Political History of Hertford County, N.C. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1906.
 Parker, J. Roy, compiler. The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County. Ahoskie, North Carolina: Parker Brothers, Inc., 1939.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 20 acres

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	
NW	36° 16' 57"	77° 02' 59"	0	"	"	
NE	36° 16' 57"	77° 02' 44"				
SE	36° 16' 43"	77° 02' 44"				
SW	36° 16' 43"	77° 02' 59"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 18 July 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 18 July 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 _____



William Mitchell House
 N.C. 350
 Anoskie vicinity
 North Carolina

Union
 HF 5

State Highway Commission
 Map of Hertford County
 Scale: 1/2" = 1 mile
 Date: January 1, 1961

	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
NW	36	16	57	77	32	59
NE	36	16	57	77	32	44
SE	36	16	44	77	32	44
SW	36	16	59	77	32	59

