Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The Wheeler House is a two-story structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond. The south (front) facade is three bays wide with windows of nine-over-nine sash on the first story and six-over-nine on the second, both trimmed with jack arches. The main feature of the facade is a later two-story pedimented portico supported by four simple square columns and enclosed with scroll saw balustrades. The central entrance is framed by attenuated paneled pilasters, sidelights, and is surmounted by an eliptical fanlight. The house has a single interior chimney at each end. The gable roof has slightly splayed eaves and rests on a simple cornice ornamented with pierced dentils. The north (rear) facade is covered by a two-bay shed porch which connects the house to a separate outbuilding. This dependency is a single-story, two-bay, gable-roofed structure of brick laid in common bond. It has a box cornice and slightly splayed eaves.

The interior of the Wheeler House is a central passage plan with one room on either side. To the left of the hall is a large parlor which has been greatly altered. It retains traces of the original painted wallpaper applied directly to vertical sheathing. The hall is finished with board and batten above and below the chair rail. The right parlor has plaster above the chair rail which is not original. In this room is an enclosed stair which actually opens into the hall.

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John Wheeler came to Murfreesboro in 1796 from Hope Plantation in Bertie County, where he was employed by the Stone family. He bought the brick house in the first decade of the nineteenth century soon after its completion. Wheeler became quite prominent in Hertford County. He served as the town postmaster and a trustee of both Murfreesboro and Hertford academies. In 1806, his son, John Hill Wheeler, was born in the house. The younger Wheeler served as superintendent of the United States Mint at Charlotte, and as the first United States minister to Nicaragua, and he wrote a history of his state. After the death of the elder Wheeler and his wife Sarah in 1832 and 1833, the house was transferred to their son, Dr. Samuel Jordan Wheeler who graduated from Union College in New York and later became an authority on the history of the Baptist Church in North Carolina. He also founded the Murfreesboro Citizen newspaper. His son, Samuel, Jr., sold the house in 1872 to Julian G. Moore who quickly resold it to Jesse J. Yeates, a United States Senator from North Carolina. Yeates sold the property within one month to James M. Trader. The Trader family retained the house for over eighty years. In 1969 it was donated to the Murfreesboro Historical Association by Mrs. Virginia Camp Smith for restoration and inclusion in the Murfreesboro Historic District.

Plans are presently underway to restore the Wheeler House as an interesting example of vernacular architecture of the Federal period in North Carolina.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Hertford County Records, Hertford County Courthouse, Winton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Hertford County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports.)

Parramore, Thomas C. The Ancient Maritime Village of Murfreesboro, 1787-1825. Murfreesboro, North Carolina: Johnson Publishing Company, 1969

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12.	STATE	LIAISON OFFICER CE	RTIFICATION			NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION		
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	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 _	Dr. H. G. Jones				ATTEST:		
	Title Director, State Department of Archives and History			- Keeper of The National Register				
	Date October 5, 1970					Date		

