

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic James Newsome House

and/or common Wynnewood

2. Location

street & number NW side NC 11 at jct. w/ NC 42

not for publication

city, town Ahoskie

X vicinity of

state North Carolina

code 037

county Hertford

code 091

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 checked="" 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rachel N. Pittman (Mrs. Woodrow Pittman)

street & number Route 1, Box 255

city, town Aulander

vicinity of

state N. C. 27805

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hertford County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Winton

state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date

federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wynnewood is a late Federal-style dwelling situated on a slight rise overlooking the junction of NC 11 with NC 42. The large yard, shaded by several large trees and dominated by a huge beech tree, is surrounded by cultivated fields.

The house is a three-bay, two-story structure with single shoulder, common bond brick chimneys with free-standing stacks at the gable ends. Six-over-nine sash appear on the first floor and six-over-six on the second. Beaded siding survives on the sides and rear of the house; the siding on the front facade has been renewed. The present porch, constructed by the current owner within the past ten years, is a small pedimented porch with Chinese Chippendale railing which shelters only the doorway. This porch replaced a shed porch built in the 1920s. This porch, in turn, had replaced a shed porch with sawn wooden posts thought to have been built ca. 1880 to connect the house with a kitchen-dining room addition (formed from a former slave cabin) to the side of the house. The only other major change to the house, the extension of the roof to form eaves, was done at the time the 1920s porch was built.

The plan of the house as originally built was the typical hall-and-parlor plan with an enclosed winder stair and two rear shed rooms, with two rooms on the second floor. All rooms, except one second floor bedroom, feature molded baseboards and chairrails with a fielded-panel wainscot. Single architrave and beaded door and window surrounds are used throughout the house as are flat six-panel doors, some with old hardware. The mantel in the hall, or larger room, features symmetrically molded surrounds with cornerblocks beneath the mantel shelf. The fireplace is composed of three flat panels divided by small applied and tapered pilasters. A simpler version of this mantel is located in the parlor (now the dining room) and in the bedroom above the hall; the other bedroom apparently has never had a fireplace. These mantels, with the cornerblocks, exhibit the only influence of the Greek Revival style in the house, with the other detailing being typical of the Federal style. These mantels are similar to those in several nearby contemporary houses.

Sometime after the Civil War a former slave cabin was moved to within a few feet of the east side of the house for use as a kitchen and dining room; this was connected to the house only by a shed porch which ran across the front of both structures. This arrangement is documented by an 1898 photograph in the possession of the current owner. The house remained basically unchanged until the 1920s when the father of the present owner moved the kitchen-dining room structure away from the house, replaced the porch with one with brick piers and wooden columns, and added a one-story kitchen wing and porch to the rear of

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the house. In the sympathetic restoration carried out by the present owner between 1974 and 1978, the 1920s kitchen was converted into a den, the porch into a bathroom, and one original shed room was turned into the kitchen. On the second floor, parts of the hallway and bedrooms were partitioned off for use as a bath and for closets.

Several antebellum outbuildings survive near the house. The former slave cabin, moved in the 1880s next to the house and removed in the 1920s, has been returned to its place a few feet to the east side of the house. This is a one-and-a-half story frame building, two bays wide, with a single gable-end chimney replacing the original central interior chimney. Near the northwest corner of the house is a small gable-roof smokehouse which has received shed additions on each side. Several hundred feet behind the house is a large barn, now covered with sheet metal, which appears to be of antebellum construction. In the front yard are two one-and-a-half story frame structures, one with beaded siding, the other covered with board and batten siding. Both structures are three bays wide and have new gable-end chimneys. One of these buildings was used as the plantation office, while both probably served as extra sleeping space for the male members of the antebellum Newsome household. These buildings were once located further away from the house nearer the road, but were moved in the 1920s to be joined as a single tenant dwelling. The current owner moved them to their present site, and has finished the interior of each with a single large room on each floor with an enclosed stair opposite the fireplace wall.

Other outbuildings near the house which no longer remain included a log house on the lane between the house and the barn, a dairy, and a well house. A family cemetery was once on the property within sight of the house, but the widening of NC 11 caused the relocation of the graves.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Unknown **Builder/Architect** Attributed to Drew Hollomon

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wynnewood is representative of the unpretentious but substantial frame plantation dwellings of eastern North Carolina dating from the early part of the nineteenth century. Probably built in the 1820s or 1830s, the house was the home of James Eley Newsome, a planter with fifteen slaves and over 1,000 acres of land. The house shares similar architectural features with several neighboring houses which have family traditions that they were the work of a free black carpenter, Drew Hollomon.

CRITERIA:

- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a late-Federal plantation dwelling in antebellum eastern North Carolina in addition to exhibiting architectural traits associated with the buildings attributed as the work of free black carpenter Drew Hollomon.

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Wynnewood is a well preserved, late-Federal dwelling located in rural Hertford County. The two-story, three-bay frame structure is representative of the comfortable homes built by prosperous farmers and small planters during the antebellum period in eastern North Carolina. The house was built in the 1820s or early 1830s by James Eley Newsome, a small planter whose holdings included fifteen slaves and over 1,000 acres of land. The house shares similar architectural features with several neighboring houses which, like the Newsome house, have family traditions that the buildings were the work of a free black carpenter, Drew Hollomon.

James Eley Newsome was born between 1797 and 1800.¹ With the destruction of most Hertford County records in a courthouse fire during the Civil War, and lacking pertinent family records, it has not been possible to identify his parents or establish his background. Without the survival of the county's deed books, it has also been impossible to document Newsome's acquisition of land, but family tradition claims that the family received grants for a "tremendous scope of land" in the colonial period which included the present Wynnewood property.² No doubt Newsome acquired some of his land, either by purchase or through inheritance, by the time of his marriage to his first wife, Mary (born ca. 1802-died prior to 1860), which occurred sometime before 1820, the year the first of the Newsomes' ten children was born. The Newsomes became the parents of five daughters and five sons: Nancy (1820-?), Joseph (1821-1886), Eley (1830-1861), Martha Elizabeth (1838-1882), Sarah (1839-1904), Ellen (1841-?), Leander (1842-1875), David Edward (1843-1907), Missouri Jane (1846-1884), and Irvine P. (1847-1932).³

By 1850 Newsome had accumulated 1,180⁴ acres of land, suggesting that his agricultural pursuits were profitable. His farm was bordered on the north and west by Ahoskie Swamp, a major topographic feature of the county, while the southern and eastern boundary of the farm was formed by the public road leading from Harmon's Crossroads (now Aulander) in Bertie County to Frazier's Crossroads, just northeast of the Newsome farm; his house faced the road down a lane through the fields.⁵ As early as 1820, the first year he was recorded in the census, Newsome owned two slaves; by 1840 he owned five slaves.⁶ The 1840 census also recorded that six of Newsome's fourteen-member household were engaged in agriculture.⁷ Nothing else is known of James Newsome prior to the 1850 census except that from 1828 to 1836 he served as a delegate from Ahoskie Baptist Church to the Chowan Baptist Association meetings, suggesting that he was an active and well-respected member of his church.⁸

Judging from its architectural characteristics, James Newsome

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probably built his house sometime in the 1820s or early 1830s. The house is finished with simple Federal-style details throughout except for the mantels, which feature an early use of Greek Revival fluted trim with cornerblocks. It is family tradition that the house was built by a free black carpenter named Drew (Andrew?) Hollomon; a field across the road from the house has long been known as "Drew's field."⁹ The nearby Mitchell-Gordon House (NR) and the Mitchell House in nearby Ahoskie, both transitional Federal-to-Greek Revival structures, also have family traditions attributing them as the work of Drew Hollomon, and both houses feature mantels similar to those in the Newsome house.¹⁰ In addition, a small story-and-a-half Federal house stands on property just west of Wynnewood which features a mantel identical to that in the dining room of Wynnewood. No record has yet been found in any census for Drew Hollomon. However, after the death of James Newsome in 1867, his administrator paid one Drew Hollomon for the hire of a horse.¹¹ The 1870 census for Hertford County recorded Samuel Hollomon, a twenty-four year old black carpenter with fifteen-year old Andrew Hollomon living in his household; perhaps these were the sons of Drew Hollomon.¹²

At the time of the 1850 census, James Newsome was in comfortable circumstances. His land holdings, valued at \$1,700, included 150 acres of improved land in addition to 1,030 acres of unimproved land; much of the latter probably was located along the run of Ahoskie Swamp. Newsome owned livestock worth \$1,000 which consisted of 4 horses, 14 cows, 2 oxen, 40 cattle, 125 swine, and 40 sheep. The farm, worked by nine slaves, produced 1,100 bushels of corn, 60 bushels of oats, 50 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 8 pounds of wool. Eight of the Newsome children still lived at home, with Eley, the oldest, listed as a student.¹³

No doubt aided by the prosperous economic conditions enjoyed by the South between 1850 and 1860, James Newsome worked during those years to expand his farming operations. Probably because of the increased prices for cotton and other agricultural products, Newsome doubled the amount of his land under cultivation from 150 acres in 1850 to 300 in 1860, leaving him with 750 acres of unimproved land.¹⁴ The 1860 valuation of his land was \$3,500, twice its 1850 value. Newsome's personal property was valued at \$14,067, reflecting his ownership of fifteen slaves, up from nine slaves in 1850. Seven of his slaves were males between fourteen and thirty years of age, providing Newsome with a considerable labor force. His livestock holdings, worth \$1,137, were similar to those of 1850: 6 horses, 2 mules, 6 cows, 4 oxen, 40 cattle, 35 sheep, and 75 swine. The variety of crops and amount of production of the farm, however, had increased considerably from 1850, with Newsome raising 1,750 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, 50 bushels of peas, 40 bushels of wheat, 10 bushels of Irish potatoes, 5 bales of cotton, and 14 tons

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of hay, while his wool production was up to 75 pounds. By the time of the 1860 census, Newsome was a widower, and his household was composed of six of his children, ranging in age from twelve to twenty. In 1861 nineteen-year old Eley would be killed in the Civil War. Sometime between 1860 and 1867 Newsome married Sally L. King.

The remaining information about James Newsome comes from the settlement of his estate, begun in April 1867, with his oldest son Joseph serving as administrator.¹⁵ The estate accounts indicate that Newsome died in prosperous circumstances. At the time of his death he possessed \$700 in cash and two estate sales and the collection of debts brought the total value of the estate to \$4,669.39. Possessions sold in April of 1867 included Newsome's crops, livestock, his seed cotton, a two-horse carriage, and a buggy. Household items sold in December of 1867 reveal that Newsome had comfortably furnished his six-room dwelling with 7 beds, 8 tables (one of mahogany and one of walnut), 14 chairs, 2 buffets, a sideboard, 4 chests, a desk, a map, 4 mirrors, a carpet, curtains, china, flatware, a stove, and numerous other objects.

In March of 1869 Newsome's 1,042 acres, valued at \$2,647.00 were divided among his eight surviving heirs.¹⁶ His daughter Missouri Jane received the house and 131 acres of land, valued at \$524.00, subject to her stepmother's dower interest. Jane and her stepmother Sally lived in the house together until Sally's death in 1870. Jane continued living in the house after her marriage to Thomas T. Wynne which occurred sometime prior to 1880. Wynne (1851/2-1943) was the son of George W. Wynne, and a member of a family long settled in Hertford County. Jane and Thomas Wynne were the parents of three daughters: Eva Belle (1880-1976), Bettie G. (1882-?), and Janie (1884-1957); Jane Newsome Wynne died in October of 1884 just a few days after the birth of Janie. The house and property was inherited by her three daughters with Thomas T. Wynne having a lifetime interest.¹⁷ Wynne lived in the house with daughters Eva and Bettie (Janie was raised by relatives) after his second marriage in 1886 to Armetta Early (1852-1920), the daughter of Andrew Early; the family lived in the house until 1918. Armetta and Thomas became the parents of Mary Victoria (b. 1889) and Lula Virginia (1893-?). Mary Victoria married George J. Newbern, Sr., a prominent Hertford County businessman and landowner; in 1920 Newbern purchased the house tract from Eva Belle Wynne, but giving her and his father-in-law lifetime rights of occupancy.¹⁸ From 1918 to 1927 a black tenant family occupied the house. In 1927 Thomas and Eva Belle returned to the house; Thomas died in 1943 and Eva Belle, who never married, continued living in the house until she moved out in 1964. From 1965 until 1975 the house was occupied by white tenants. From 1974 until 1978 restoration work was carried out on the house and

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outbuildings by the present owner and occupant, Rachel Newbern Pittman, the daughter of Mary Victoria Wynne and George J. Newbern, Sr. The house was named Wynnewood by Mrs. Pittman.¹⁹

Wynnewood stands amid cultivated fields on a site marked by a huge beech tree and is complimented by five outbuildings contemporary with the house. The house and outbuildings survive as a well-preserved and representative example of a farm complex of a prosperous planter in antebellum eastern North Carolina. The house is also significant for its architectural relationship with several other area houses as well as for its oral tradition of having been built by free black carpenter Drew Hollomon.

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

Notes:

¹The 1850 census records his age at 53 while the 1860 census gives his age as 60.

²Rachel N. Pittman to author, undated letter of 1983, copy in the file of Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Pittman to Bullock, 1983.

³ This information in a letter from Rachel N. Pittman to author, 4 July 1983, copy in the files of Survey and Planning Branch, hereinafter cited as Pittman to Bullock, 4 July 1983. Mrs. Pittman has received much information on the Newsome family from Miss Louise Boon, librarian of the Hertford County Public Library, who is the great-granddaughter of James Newsome. It has been assumed that all these children were born to Mary and James, but because the date of Mary's death is not known and because there are no surviving Hertford County marriage bonds, it is possible that some of these children were born to a second wife. Mrs. Pittman also received much information about the house and its occupants

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from her aunt Eva Belle Wynne who spent most of her life in the house.

⁴Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Hertford County, North Carolina, agricultural schedule, p. 575, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁵Newsome's house is located on "A Map of Hertford, and part of Northampton and Bertie Counties, N. C., April 1863, by Chas. E. Cassell, Civil Asst. Engineer, surveyed under direction of A. H. Campbell, Capt. of Engineers and Topographical Dept., N. D. Va.," photographic copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁶Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, p. 180; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, p. 50, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

⁷Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Hertford County, North Carolina, "number of persons in each family engaged in agriculture," p. 50, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. By 1840 the Newsomes only had five children; the identities of the other seven people in his household are unknown.

⁸Joseph R. Parker, The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County (Ahoskie, N. C.: Parker Brothers, Inc., 1939), p. 386.

⁹Pittman to Bullock, 1983.

¹⁰Pittman to Bullock, 1983; see National Register nomination for Mitchell-Gordon House, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹¹Hertford County Record of Account, 1868-1873, p. 273, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹²Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Hertford County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 367, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹³Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Hertford County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 332; slave schedule, p. 113; agricultural schedule, p. 575 (microfilm copy), copy in Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

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¹⁴Eighth Census of the United States, 1860; Hertford County, North Carolina, population schedule, p. 35; slave schedule, p. 18; agricultural schedule, p. 40 (microfilm copy), copy in Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Evidently Newsome had sold 130 acres since the 1850 census recorded his ownership of 1,180 acres.

¹⁵Hertford County Record of Accounts, 1868-1873, pp. 174-180, 272-273, Archives, division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

¹⁶"Land Division of March 1869--James Eley Newsome estate, W. W. Mitchell, James Mitchell, N. B. Adkins, George Askew, Edward Sanders, commissioners," Hertford County Land Divisions, Hertford County Courthouse, Winton, information supplied by Rachel N. Pittman to Bullock, 4 July 1983; lot one of the division, "dwelling house and subject to encumbrances of dower," with 131 acres went to Missouri Jane Newsome.

¹⁷Eva B. Wynne to George W. Newbern, 13 December 1920, Hertford County Deeds, Book 67, p. 525, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh; Eva B. Wynne conveyed to Newbern her undivided interest and title, free from all encumbrances "except life interest of T. T. Wynne," in the house tract.

¹⁸Eva B. Wynne to George W. Newbern, 13 December 1920, Hertford County Deeds, Book 67, p. 525, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh. Apparently by 1920 there had been a division of the estate between the three sisters, with Eva Belle getting the house tract (no acreage is given in the deed), but no record of this division has yet been located.

¹⁹Information on the occupants of the house is in Pittman to Bullock, 4 July 1983.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cassell, Chas. E. "A Map of Hertford, and part of Northampton and Bertie Counties, N. C., April 1863." Photographic copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.
See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 103 acres

Quadrangle name Union

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1 8	3 1 5 0 7 0	4 0 1 7 2 8 0
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

1 8	3 1 6 0 0 0	4 0 1 6 4 4 0
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

1 8	3 1 5 5 4 0	4 1 0 6 0 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

1 8	3 1 4 6 6 0	4 1 0 7 0 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundaries of Wynnewood are shown on the attached plat map, Hertford County Deed Book 332, p. 537, and include acreage connected with the house since its construction.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marshall Bullock, consultant

organization _____ date March, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 808, 515 Dogwood Dr. telephone 919-967-6986

city or town Chapel Hill state North Carolina 27514

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. P... Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 20, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Hertford County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Hertford County Record of Accounts, 1868-1873, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

National Register of Historic Places, nomination for Mitchell-Gordon House, Hertford County, Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Hertford County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Parker, Joseph R. The Ahoskie Era of Hertford County. Ahoskie, N. C.: Parker Brothers, Inc., 1939.

Pittman, Rachel N., letter to Marshall Bullock, undated, 1983, copy in Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Pittman, Rachel N., letter to Marshall Bullock, 4 July 1983, copy in Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Hertford County, North Carolina, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Sixth Census of the United States, 1840: Hertford County, North Carolina, microfilm copy, Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

