

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Harper House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3 miles off U. S. 701, on S. R. 1008

CITY OR TOWN:
Newton Grove (Fourth Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Johnston	CODE 101
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) State Historic Site
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Raleigh

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Johnston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Smithfield

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Johnston

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Harper House is a two-story frame dwelling with a hip roof and a pair of interior chimneys. It rests on brick piers.

The front (east) facade is three bays wide with large windows of nine-over-nine sash on the first level and nine-over-six on the second. The facade is dominated by a two-story pedimented portico, each story of which is supported by two wooden pillars and enclosed with simple balustrades. The central entrance is flanked by unadorned pilasters and framed by large sidelights and a wide eight-light transom. The transom is surmounted by a horizontal band of six octagonal flat panels. A similar doorway lacking the paneled band opens onto the second level of the portico.

The sides of the house are two bays wide. The rear facade is similar to the front but lacks the two-story portico. The mass of the building is emphasized by the heavy overhang of the cornice and the large corner-posts which take the form of paneled pilasters.

The interior has a center-hall plan two rooms deep. The rooms are quite plain with plaster walls above heavy baseboards. All of the mantels are of simple similar designs, featuring heavy shelves above ranges of three horizontal flat panels. The woodwork of the northeast parlor is enriched by a chair rail and small bands of reeding on the mantel. The rooms to the south of the main hall on the first floor have doors in their south walls leading out to the detached kitchen and slave quarters. The second floor, essentially identical to the first in plan, is reached by a narrow stair which rises in two flights from the left side of the main hall.

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934
 BY: [illegible]
 OFFICE: [illegible]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was probably built about 1850 by John Harper, a prosperous farmer and blacksmith. At the outbreak of the Civil War, John Harper had increased his holdings to about one thousand acres and owned three slaves.

In March, 1865, soldiers from Sherman's armies took over the Harper House as a hospital for the XIV Corps. At the beginning of the three day Battle of Bentonville (March 19-21), the property was the scene of intense fighting. Trees in the yard still bear the scars of bullets. After the Union victory the Confederate soldiers used the house for a hospital, as their enemies had previously done. On March 27, 1865, a Confederate scout reported forty-five wounded at the Harper place in the care of Surgeon J. H. Erskine, medical director of Johnston's Army. During the occupation of the home by both armies Harper and his wife, Amy, lived there with six of their children (two others were serving in the Confederate Army).

Harper died in 1897, leaving "my house and other improvements" and 306 acres of land "known as the Harper Homestead" to his wife during her lifetime and after her death to his three sons, John, Martin, and Henry. By 1918, Remus D. Dunn had bought all the interests in the property from the estates of the Harper brothers and had added several other tracts around the Harper place. Upon Dunn's death the property was transferred to Jake Dunn, who sold the house site to the state of North Carolina in 1957 for incorporation into the Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site.

The house, which has been restored to its antebellum appearance, stands on the grounds of the Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site. The building is the only important landmark remaining on the site of North Carolina's largest Civil War engagement. The battle which took place near the house represented a last attempt by Confederate troops to stem Sherman's sweep northward.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
North Carolina	
COUNTY	
Johnston	
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(Number all entries)

8. The Harper House exemplifies the widespread vernacular use of the Greek Revival style in North Carolina. The house is typical of those built by prosperous small landholders in the years just before the Civil War. It is distinguished, however, by the successful use of such elements as pilaster corner posts, a heavy unadorned cornice, and the rather elaborate geometric treatment of the main entrances.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrett, John G. North Carolina As A Civil War Battleground. (Raleigh, North Carolina: State Department of Archives and History, 1960).

Johnston County Records, Johnston County Courthouse, Smithfield, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Deeds, Wills).

Johnston County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroup: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		35 0 18	78 0 19	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: April 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 April 8, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

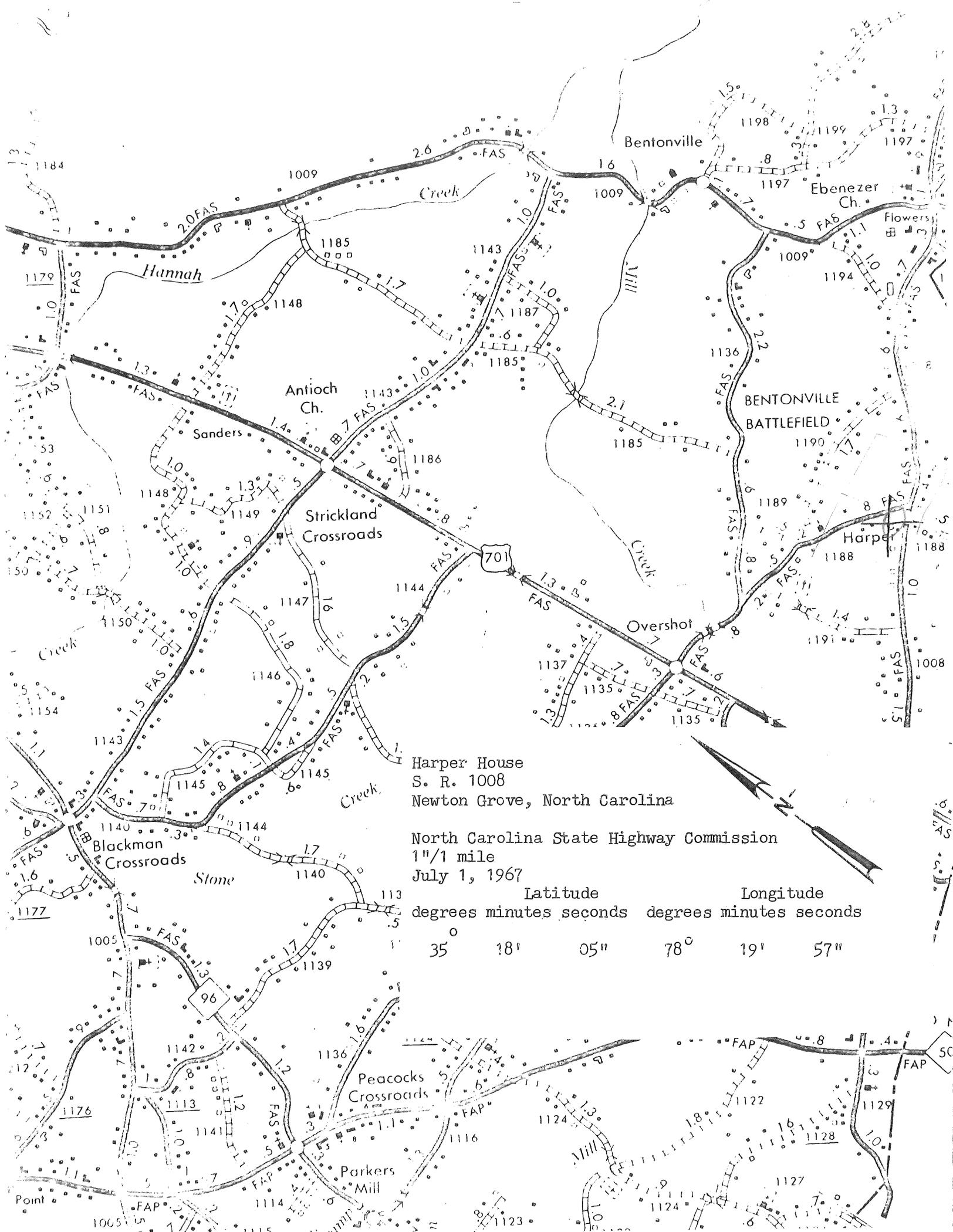
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Harper House
 S. R. 1008
 Newton Grove, North Carolina

North Carolina State Highway Commission
 1"=1 mile
 July 1, 1967

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35	18'	05"	78	19'	57"

