

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Alston House
AND/OR HISTORIC: House in the Horseshoe

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: On SR 1624, .5 miles from jct of SR 1624 and SR 1621			
CITY OR TOWN: Glendon township (Eighth Congressional District)			
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Moore	CODE: 125

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

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.: Moore County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Carthage	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 Alston House, built about 1772, is a two-story frame dwelling with a gable roof, exterior end chimneys, and a foundation of brick and stone piers. The house is covered with replacement lapped weatherboards except under the porches where the original flush siding remains. The main (west) facade is five bays wide and features a shed porch with chamfered wooden supports and square balusters. The central entrance is quite well-executed, with rather elaborate decorative detail that contrasts with the plainness of the rest of the facade. The six-panel door is flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a fanlight which contains geometric tracery and is framed by a molded architrave with keystone. There is also a doorway to the right of the central entrance which leads into the south parlor and appears to be a later alteration. To the left of the main entrance both bays are marked by large windows with nine-over-nine sash. At the second level the windows are much smaller, containing six-over-six sash. Each gable end is dominated by a large double-shouldered Flemish bond brick chimney with a T-stack. Each chimney is flanked by windows with nine-over-nine sash in the first story and with two-over-two sash in the gable. The rear facade is similar to the front with all but the central bay under the shed porch marked by large windows. The rear central entrance, like that on the front facade, is more elaborately treated than is the rest of the facade. The door is flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by a pediment. The ramped entablature is adorned by a band of incised geometric designs below a row of dentils which is repeated in the pediment.

The interior of the Alston House has a center hall plan. The narrow hall has a flush-sided ceiling and walls above a flat-paneled wainscot. The enclosed stair is not located in the hall but ascends from the front of the south parlor, and is reached by two doors, one opening into the parlor and the other into the hall. The south parlor is quite plain with a flat-paneled wainscot and horizontally sheathed walls, except over the mantel where the boards are vertically set. The mantel has a molded architrave around the opening and a small cornice shelf. The north parlor is more elaborately finished with plaster walls above a flat-paneled wainscot with an incised geometric design resembling a Greek key pattern. The mantel is especially fine with the opening flanked by fluted pilasters which support a full entablature including a ramped architrave adorned by pierced marrow spoon and floral designs below a narrow cushion frieze. The molded shelf features an incised design similar to that on the wainscot. Framing the flush-paneled overmantel are fluted pilasters and a cornice ornamented with pierced dentils which carries around the room and breaks over the pilasters.

The second level presents a similar floor plan but with the stair ascending to the center hall. The newel consists of a slender turned column on a flat-paneled pedestal in contrast to the heavy turned balustrade. The most noticeable feature on the second floor is the variety of wall types. The stair well and north wall of the hall have long vertical flat panels reaching from the floor to the ceiling. The east and west walls are horizontally sheathed. The north room has completely plastered walls with no wainscot while the walls in the south room are horizontally sheathed above a flat-paneled wainscot. The mantel in the south room has an arched opening below a crudely molded shelf. The opening in the north room is rectangular and is framed by a wide architrave with no shelf.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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 checked="" 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"/> Landscapes | <input 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 Alston House, or House-in-the-Horseshoe, derives its name from its location in a horseshoe bend of the Deep River. In 1747 the house site was originally granted to Edward Griffith, secretary to Governor Gabriel Johnston. Griffith transferred the land to Johnston soon afterward, but the governor died in 1752 and willed 7,000 acres including the house site to his nephews, John and Samuel Johnston.

Samuel Johnston, a lawyer and later governor, conveyed his half-interest to his brother-in-law, George Blair, in 1763. The property was then divided and sold to several different parties, but was bought in 1772 by Phil Alston. The house was probably built by Alston about 1772 or 1773. Although Alston was distinguished as a lieutenant colonel in the state militia, a justice of the peace, and a state senator, his career was marked by nefarious activities. He was twice indicted for murder, removed as a justice of the peace, and suspended from the General Assembly for a variety of reasons. In 1781, during his ownership, a group of Tories led by David Fanning attacked Alston and some of his men at the house. After several casualties on both sides Alston surrendered, leaving the house riddled with bullet holes, many of which remain.

In 1790 Alston left the state, selling the house and plantation to Thomas H. Perkins of Orange County. Perkins was a member of the House of Commons and Moore County's largest slaveholder in 1790, with 24 chattels. In 1798 Perkins sold the plantation to Governor Benjamin Williams, who owned the place (named "Retreat") until his death in 1814. Williams enlarged the house by adding two wings, a kitchen, and a master bedroom. He was the house's most illustrious owner, being a colonel under George Washington, ex officio president of the first Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, a member of the Third Congress in Philadelphia, and four times governor of North Carolina.

Williams's son, Benjamin Charles, inherited the property in 1828 but died soon afterward with the land and house going to his second wife, Mary McBryde Williams. She remarried Dr. Charles Chalmers, and they occupied the home until 1853, when the house and land were sold to a coal mining syndicate. At least one mine was opened near the mouth of Governor's Creek, but little coal was ever taken. Anderson Jones took over the house as a tenant of the syndicate in 1853 and bought the place in 1874. He died in 1905, and the home was sold in 1910 to H. L. Farley of Dillon, South Carolina. Farley destroyed several of the outbuildings and tore down the wings added by Governor Williams. In 1914 the property was purchased by George Wilcox,

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance.

in whose family it remained until 1946 when it was transferred to R. C. Hancock of Chatham County. In 1955 the home was acquired by the state and is now under the supervision of the Moore County Historical Society for purposes of operation.

The house, which remains much as it stood in the late eighteenth century, is of interest both as a Tory battleground and as the home of several of North Carolina's most important political figures. Architecturally it is a typical eighteenth century plantation house which is distinguished by the strikingly elaborate and well-executed detail of the doorways and some of the interior woodwork.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Moore County Records, Moore County Courthouse, Carthage, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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

Robinson, Blackwell. A History of Moore County, North Carolina, 1717-1847. Southern Pines, North Carolina: Moore County Historical Association, 1956.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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 . "	35°	27' 57"	79° 23' 07"
NE	0 . "	0 . "			
SE	0 . "	0 . "			
SW	0 . "	0 . "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Five Acres

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, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: April 26, 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

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

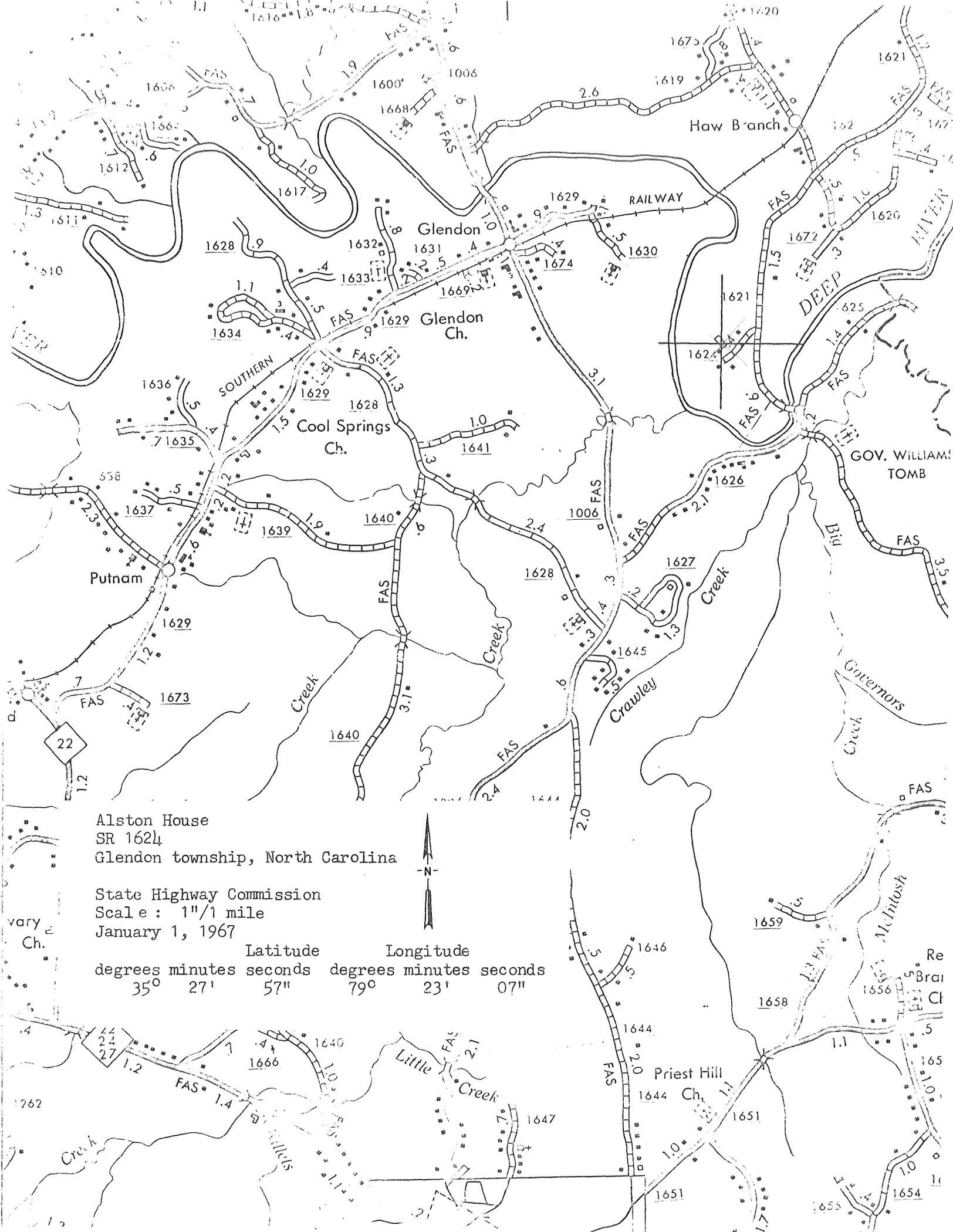
Date

ATTEST:

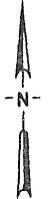
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Alston House
 SR 1624
 Glendon township, North Carolina



State Highway Commission
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile
 January 1, 1967

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
35°	27'	57"	79°	23'	07"

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