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## 7. Description

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

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The recently restored Jesse Fuller Jones House is located in the Martin County community of Spring Green about four miles south of the Roanoke River village of Hamilton. The house sits on the north side of North Carolina State Road 1409 and is surrounded on three sides by cultivated farmland. Situated in a well-landscaped yard of one-half acre, the house is surrounded by recently planted boxwood and is shaded by large pecan trees.

The Jones House is a two-and-a-half story frame structure dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth-century. A shed porch with tapered sawn posts and mortised handrail shelters the first floor of the asymmetrical four-bay facade. Two shed rooms on either side of an open porch, now enclosed, are original to the rear of the house. A small shed porch, a replacement of the deteriorated original, is attached to the side of the east shed room. A chimney of Flemish bond brickwork, with single tumbled shoulders and free-standing stack, appears at each end of the house. The house was built on a brick pier foundation, but this has been completely enclosed with brick. The house is covered with beaded siding, and all openings are trimmed with one-part architrave molding. The paneled cornerposts, tapered and beaded rakeboards, and handsomely molded box cornice survive on the exterior. Fenestration of the first floor is of nine-over-nine sash; that of the second floor is of nine-over-six sash. The end elevations of the house feature windows on all three levels flanking the chimney. The first floor openings are of narrow six-over-six sash, those of the second floor being six-over-four sash, and square four-lite windows appear in the attic.

The plan of the house consists of a wide hall containing the stairway flanked on the west by a large parlor and on the east by the dining room. The hall is entered from either end by a pair of raised six-panel doors beneath an eight-lite transom. An open closed-stringer stair ascends the west wall of the hall before sharply turning over the rear doorway; the stair features a handsomely turned newel and finial, molded handrail, and simple square balusters. The newel posts on the second floor are square posts chamfered with lambs' tongues. The trim throughout the house is of one-part architrave molding. The original pine flooring and raised six-panel doors survive; several of the doors retain their original brass hardware. All window frames rest upon the chairrails.

The hall and parlor feature a reeded baseboard beneath a wainscot of wide stiles forming square panels trimmed with narrow molding; the wainscot is surmounted by a molded and reeded chairrail. The panels of the parlor doors are trimmed with molding to match the wainscot. The parlor mantel is the most elaborate in the house. Two paneled pilasters with reeded infills support a narrow reeded frieze; above this is a wide, plain frieze framed at each end by vertical fluted members. Another narrow frieze with triangular reeded ornamentation surmounts the wide frieze and supports a heavily molded cornice and projecting shelf.

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The dining room is more simply trimmed with a fielded wainscot and molded chairrail. The original mantel was destroyed many years ago in a fire and has been replaced by a handsome Federal tri-part mantel taken from the Miller-Dunstan House in Bertie County. A large cabinet with raised panel doors was built into the northwest corner of the room, but this was removed during the recent restoration.

The shed room behind the parlor, originally a bedroom, has been made into a modern bath and laundry facilities. The room behind the dining room, originally a pantry, is now a modern kitchen. The open porch between the two shed rooms has been enclosed with glass to form a den.

The plan of the second floor is like that of the first floor with an enclosed winder stair to the unfinished attic. The south end of the hall has been partitioned into a modern bath. The bedroom mantels are simple but handsomely detailed with paneled and fluted pilasters supporting a plain frieze and molded shelves.

Several outbuildings are to the rear of the house. A turn-of-the-century kitchen-dining room is currently being demolished. Only one outbuilding appears to be old; this is a large gable-roofed structure of mortise and tenon construction thought to have been a smokehouse. In recent years one wall was cut out to form a garage. The site of the old well is at the east end of the house and the original kitchen is thought to have been next to the well. A local resident states that three small frame structures once stood on the north side of the front yard; supposedly they served Jones as his office, dispensary, and sickroom.

# 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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Jesse Fuller Jones House is an unusually well-preserved and intact Federal period house with handsomely detailed interior woodwork. The house was built as the home of Jesse Fuller Jones (b. before 1800-d. 1830), whom local tradition designates as an early Martin County physician. The house sat on the 620 acre manor plantation of Jones, and was sold by his son in 1850 to the Taylor family. The Taylors owned the house, used as a dwelling and then as a tenant house, until 1976 when the present owner purchased and restored the house.

**Criteria:**

- A. Associated with the small agricultural plantation unit owned by a small slaveholder, typical of antebellum eastern North Carolina.
- B. Associated with the life of Jesse Fuller Jones, supposedly an early Martin County doctor who established the first hospital in the county at his home.
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a substantial antebellum plantation home, and as well-detailed domestic vernacular architecture of the Federal period.
- D. Is likely to yield information on antebellum plantation household activities.

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The recently restored Jones House was built between 1800 and 1830 by Jesse Fuller Jones on his plantation in the Spring Green community of Martin County.<sup>1</sup> According to local tradition, Jones was a physician who established the first hospital in Martin County when he built a small structure for his patients near his home.<sup>2</sup> Twentieth-century tenants of the Jones House recall three small buildings in the front yard, no long standing, which supposedly served the doctor as his office, apothecary shop, and sickroom. No evidence has been found referring to Jones as a doctor, but contemporary documents do describe Jones as "Esquire."<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the 1810 Census Jones was the head of a household consisting of only two adults and four slaves; by 1830, the year of his death,<sup>4</sup> there were seven members in his household as well as fourteen slaves.<sup>4</sup> In his will, Jones directed that his wife should receive the manor plantation for her natural life, and at her death the plantation would belong to Justin Eddy Jones, the minor son of Jones.<sup>5</sup> In 1850 Justin Eddy Jones, then a twenty-four year old clerk in Washington, North Carolina, sold the plantation to Irvin Taylor of Edgecombe County.<sup>6</sup> Irvin Taylor conveyed "one half of the House tract" known as the "Jones Tract" to his son Jesse I. Taylor in 1855.<sup>7</sup> Jesse I. Taylor resided in the house until his death in 1909; the house was then owned by several Taylor descendants until purchased by the present owner in 1976.<sup>8</sup>

The Jones House survives as an unusually intact and attractive example of vernacular Federal architecture of high quality. The center-hall plan with an open stair is unusual in a region where the hall-and-parlor plan with an enclosed winder stair dominated contemporary house forms. The tapered sawn porch posts and the reeded inlay of the woodwork of the house can be found on several Federal-period houses in adjoining Bertie County.

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 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.

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## NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>The House was probably built between Jones's first purchase of land in 1801 and his death in 1830. See John Gardner to Jesse Jones, 15 February 1801, Martin County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Martin County Courthouse, Williamston, Book D, 34, hereinafter cited as Martin County Deeds; Joseph Bryan to Jesse Jones, 17 February 1803, Martin County Deeds, Book D, 51; Joseph Bryan to Jesse Jones, 21 February 1803, Martin County Deeds, Book D, 59. The deeds conveying this land all made reference to Wildcat Road and Conoke Creek. Jones also owned a lot at the corner of Main and Union Streets in Milton, now called Hamilton, see Kenneth Clark to Jesse Jones, 11 August 1802, Martin County Deeds, Book D, 40.

<sup>2</sup>Francis M. Manning and W. H. Booker, Martin County History, vol. I (Williamston, N.C.: Enterprise Publishing Company, 1977), pp. 303-306.

<sup>3</sup>John A Smithwick, Sheriff of Martin County, to Jesse F. Jones, Esquire, 13 January 1824, Martin County Deeds, Book G, 498.

<sup>4</sup>Second Census of the United States, 1800: Martin County, North Carolina, 398, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville; Third Census of the United States, 1810: Martin County, North Carolina, 427; Fifth Census of the United States, 1830: Martin County, North Carolina, 403.

<sup>5</sup>Will of Jesse Fuller Jones, probated February 1830, Martin County Wills, Book 2, 80, Office of the Clerk of Court, Martin County Courthouse, Williamston, hereinafter cited as Martin County Wills.

<sup>6</sup>Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Beaufort County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, 337, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville; Justin E. Jones to Irvin Taylor, 3 July 1850, Martin County Deeds, Book T, 193.

<sup>7</sup>Irvin Taylor to Jesse I. Taylor, Magilbra Taylor, and Kenneth C. Taylor, 4 June 1855, Martin County Deeds, Book T, 233-236.

<sup>8</sup>Will of Jesse Irvin Taylor, 3 October 1901, probated 17 July 1909, Martin County Willis, Book 4, 560; B. A. Critcher and H. G. Horton, commissioners, to L. G. Taylor, 19 October 1951, Martin County Deeds, Book FF, 371; Emma Taylor, et al, to Freddie Mayo Powell, 8 October 1976, Martin County Deeds, Book V-9, 365.

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

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- Third Census of the United States, 1810, Martin County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.
- Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Martin County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.
- Manning, Francis M., and W. H. Booker. Martin County History, vol. I. Williamston, N. C.: Enterprise Publishing Company, 1977.
- Martin County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Martin County Courthouse, Williamston.
- Martin County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Court, Martin County Courthouse, Williamston.
- Second Census of the United States, 1800, Martin County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.
- Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Beaufort County, North Carolina, microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, "Bibliographical References," Item number 9, page 1

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Williamston

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References Zone 18 Lat 35° 53' 02" Long. 77° 11' 08"

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing			

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing			

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property included in the Jones House nomination is shown within the red line on the attached map, "Plat of Land Belonging to Freddie Mayo Powell, 1976," and represents that portion of a large plantation still immediately associated with the house.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marshall Bullock, Consultant to Mid-East Commission, Survey and Planning Branch

organization Archaeology & Historic Preservation Section date August, 1980  
N. C. Division of Archives & History

street & number 109 East Jones Jones telephone 919-733-6545

city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

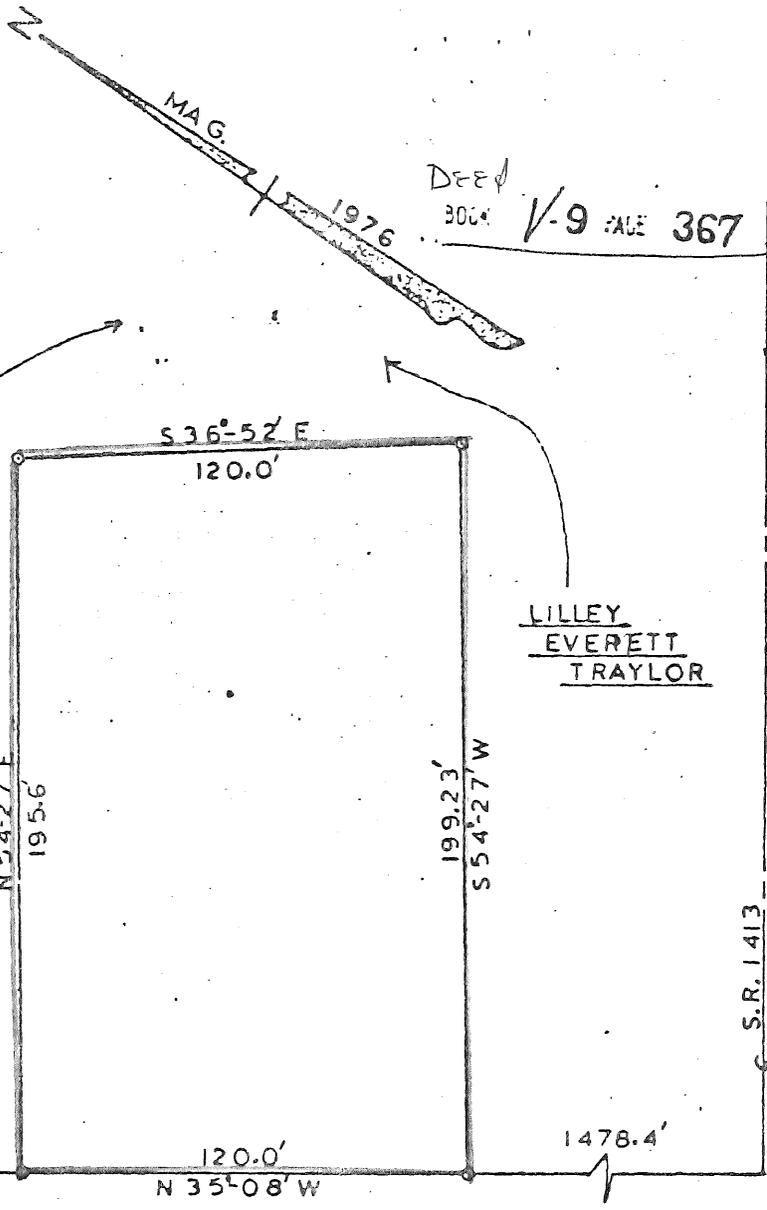
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Samy G. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 19 October 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	





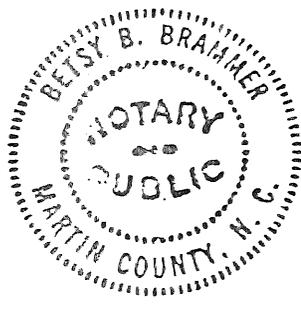
TO N.C. 1254903 S.R. 1409 19 B S T

60' R/W

I, Robert L. Spence CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP WAS SURVEYED AND DRAWN UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY AND THAT ACCORDING TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF SUCH MAP IS IN ALL RESPECTS CORRECT. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 7 DAY OF Oct. 19 76

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7 day of Oct. 19 76  
 My commission expires: MAY 18, 1980  
Betsy B. Brammer  
 Notary Public

Robert L. Spence



Martin County  
 Deed Book V-9  
 p. 363

SURVEYED BY	PLAT OF LAND	DATE
J. F. B.	BELONGING TO	OCT. 6, 1976
FREDDIE MAYO POWELL		
POPLAR POINT TWP. MARTIN CO. N.C.		
DRAWN BY	AREA	SCALE
J. F. B.	0.544 ACRE	1" = 50'
CHECKED BY	R. L. S. L-1128	
R. L. S.	WILLIAMSTON, N. C.	

