

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Nash
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
General Joseph Arrington House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North side of S.R. 1500, 0.1 mi. west of junction with S.R. 1310

CITY OR TOWN:
Hilliardston vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

COUNTY:
Nash

CODE:
127

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"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Burrell Lew Arrington heirs (c/o Onyx Arrington)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 2

CITY OR TOWN:
Whitakers

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:

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17. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General Joseph Arrington House is a frame structure apparently built in two parts and resting on a brick cellar. Both parts are covered with gable roofs and have handsome molded weatherboard with an unusually complex profile. Together they present a five-bay facade, facing southwest. The west section, probably older, is one story high, two bays wide and two deep, and has simple Georgian interiors. This section may have faced north-east originally; the rear roofline has two slopes, suggesting an original engaged porch. The larger east section is two-stories high, three bays wide and two deep and has elaborate, vernacular Federal interiors. The small section has a box cornice with pattern boards and the larger has a molded cornice; a 1936 photograph shows a dentil course now concealed by the roof overhang. At the rear of the large section is a one-story shed extension, apparently original. A later shed addition has been constructed at the rear of the smaller section, its roofline continuing the slope of the now-enclosed porch.

On the northwest side of the house occur two double-shoulder, brick exterior end chimneys laid in Flemish bond, with tumbling at the smooth shoulders and molded caps. One is located at the ridgeline and the smaller second chimney on the shed extension. The larger chimney displays a mouse-tooth band in its cap and, an unusual feature, on the sides of the shoulders as well. (The chimney treatment is like the single-shoulder ones at Tory's Tavern [burned] in southern Nash County, but at the latter the mouse-tooth carries across the shoulder as well.) The smaller chimney is double-shouldered, with the upper shoulder occurring above the roofline. Originally there was an exterior end chimney on the opposite end of the house (south-east facade) serving the older part. (The 1936 photograph shows it was of brick laid in Flemish bond, and was quite deep, with smooth, steep shoulders and a freestanding stack with molded cap.) This chimney was removed to provide for a doorway which now leads to an adjacent frame structure built since 1936.

Nine-over-nine sash occurs at the first level and six-over-six at the second. The northwest facade has narrow windows flanking the larger chimney, with six-over-six sash on the first floor and four-over-four on the second. In the gable ends of each section are pairs of small four-pane casement windows. The window surrounds consist of molded architraves and rounded sills.

The front facade (northeast) has a simple gable roof entrance porch, added since 1936, sheltering the southeasterly bay of the two-story section. The entrance contains a double door with three raised panels on each leaf, surmounted by a four-light transom and framed by a molded architrave.

The interior of the house reveals its two-stage construction. The larger section follows a side-hall plan, two rooms deep, and is finished in elaborate vernacular Federal style, while the smaller section contains two simple rooms. This hall and the front parlor in particular contain wood-work of apparently unique character, with Adamesque motifs rendered in skillful, distinctly vernacular fashion, with a wealth of gougework in ornate patterns. The large hall is treated with a molded transverse arch springing from a pair of unadorned pilasters. The arch is embellished with a gouged

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and pierced garland motif and zig-zag work, and has a reeded soffit. The wainscots in the hall and northwest parlor are similar, each consisting of a single row of rectangular raised panels with indented corners. The two differ in that the chair rail in the hall has gougework in equally spaced groups of four vertical lines in three rows, while the chair rail in the parlor has a gouged garland strung between each group. Door and window architraves are also similar in the hall and parlor: with the exception of the front and rear doors at either end of the hall, the hall door surrounds consist of symmetrically molded flanking pilasters supporting a semi-circular molded overdoor arch with pierced and gouged garlands, vernacular dentils, and a richly molded decorative keystone. The arch contains flush sheathing which is unadorned in the hall but is embellished with a gouged garland-and-tassel motif in the parlor. Also in the parlor the arches are further adorned with two bands of cable molding. The doors themselves (except the front and rear double doors) consist of six raised panels with indented corners.

The window surrounds in the northwest parlor and the front and rear door surrounds in the hall are quite similar. They utilize the same pilasters as used on the doors, but support an entablature instead of the arch. The overdoors have a continuation of the pilasters flanking the transom, and each of these has a flat panel with a vertical row of gouged lines and pierced and gouged work at the capital. The entablature breaks out in end blocks and has a symmetrically molded architrave, a three-part frieze surmounted by a band of pierced and gouged garland motif, and a heavy cornice. The window surrounds in the parlor lack the gouged pilaster extension and have sunbursts on the end blocks and center frieze panel.

The parlor has a highly unusual mantel-wall treatment, wherein the windows are handled as part of the mantel composition. The mantel proper has a rectangular fire opening and plaster surround, flanked by symmetrically molded pilasters with convex center parts that give the impression of colonnettes, embellished with continuous bands of vertical gouging. These support a three-part entablature similar to the overwindows. The frieze is bordered by a lower band of circular cut-outs and upper band of alternating vertical gouges and gouged symmetrical crosses. Sunbursts occur on the end blocks and center panel. The cornice features a course of pierced vertical lozenges. The mantel is tightly flanked by windows, which share a common entablature that spans the space over the mantel. Sunbursts occur on end blocks over the window pilasters and on a central tablet over the mantel; a band of gouged garland-and-tassel beneath a heavy molded cornice breaks out over each element. The area over the mantel itself is plastered, framed by a simple beaded architrave.

The rear northwest room is much simpler than the parlor. It has a flat-paneled wainscot, a small, typical two-part Federal style mantel with sunbursts and reeding, and simple, molded architraves.

An enclosed stair, which can be entered from either the rear of the hall or the rear northwest room, has a flush wainscot and ascends to the second

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floor in a single run. The second floor has two rooms with a small center hall. A molded chair rail and beaded baseboard is used throughout, and window and door architrave are simply molded; the doors consist of six flat panels. The mantels in both rooms are identical and of Georgian form. Each has a square opening with plastered surround and a wide, simple, molded architrave surmounted by a simple molded shelf.

The older section has been extensively reworked on the first floor with both original mantels removed. They are stored in the barn and both are in the Georgian style but feature Federal moldings. The larger of the two has a segmental-arched opening surmounted by two flat panels and a molded dentil cornice. The smaller mantel is similar; however, it has a rectangular opening and lacks a cornice shelf, being contained within a simple, molded architrave. The main room in the older part has a simple wainscot composed of flat sheathing boards and a simple molded chair rail. Windows and doors have flat board architraves. An enclosed stair with flush wainscot and winders ascends to the upper level. This single room appears to retain its original interior, having a high flush sheathed wainscot with a wide, simple, molded chair rail and simple molded architraves. There are cutouts in the wall (northeast) where dormers were once mounted. These, however, have been removed and the opening covered over from the outside.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The General Joseph Arrington House is composed of a small Georgian dwelling and a larger late Federal period addition containing elaborate vernacular interiors of extraordinary richness and individuality. It is of local historical importance as one of the few surviving plantation houses of the Arrington family, who were among the most important citizens of Nash County.

About 1760 Arthur Arrington and his sons moved from Isle of Wight County, Virginia, to western Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Arrington was among the commissioners who laid out the line separating this section into Nash County, was appointed first sheriff of the new county, and was one of the first justices. He and his sons, Arthur, Jr., and Joseph, obtained extensive land holdings in the area of northern Nash County around Swift Creek. Arthur, Jr., had twelve children, and Joseph had eight, many of whom were equally prolific, so that by the early nineteenth century the area was populated by Arringtons who were neighbors and consistently intermarried and exchanged land. The chain of title for the Arrington House is thus uncertain.

General Joseph Arrington, Jr., son of Joseph (above) was probably the builder of the large Federal period addition. (He was a general in the militia.) In the early nineteenth century he owned large tracts of land in the neighborhood, part of which had been formerly owned by his father, Joseph, and part of which had been owned by General William Arrington, the father of Joseph, Jr.'s wife, Mary Jackson Arrington. The two tracts appear to have been contiguous. Local tradition reports that the small part of the present house was that which Joseph Jr. received from his father, but deed research indicates that it was probably on the property formerly owned by William Arrington. (Joseph, Sr.'s plantation and house went after his death in 1818 to his wife, Martha, who lived there as a widow until after Joseph, Jr., left the state.)

In 1834 Joseph Arrington, Jr., advertised in the Tarborough Free Press in August, September, and October, his desire to sell all his lands in Nash County, "having determined to remove to the west." (He and his wife, Mary, moved in the 1830s to Sumter County, Alabama, where they died in 1864.) His description of his home tract and house seems to identify it clearly and reveal his pride in--and suggest his likely building or elaboration of--the large Federal section:

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8.A

The TRACT whereon I now live, lying on the north side of Swift Creek, and within one and a half miles of Hilliardston, immediately on the road from Mearn's meeting house to Warrenton. This Tract contains

900 or 1,000 ACRES,

and is not inferior to any in this neighborhood in point of quality of land and improvements, it having thereon a very commodious DWELLING HOUSE, 62 feet long, 32 feet wide, with 5 rooms below and a passage running across the house 10 feet wide, and two pair of stairs--the inside work of a part of this house is inferior to none in this section--4 chimneys, with an excellent cellar, 32 by 18, the balance of the house closely bricked underneath, with all other necessary out houses, amongst which is an excellent KITCHEN, 28 by 18, built of brick with two chimneys. There is attached to this building an excellent well of pure water within 20 steps of the door, and a never failing spring within 150 yards of the house. As to health I believe this is one of the most healthy settlements in this county.

On November 24, 1836, Joseph, Jr., deeded to Arthur Arrington his father's land, "whereon Martha Arrington now lives, and also my right . . . to the Land and plantation whereon I formally lived;" Arthur was to sell the properties if needed to pay off Joseph's debts. The same year, Joseph and his wife Mary sold to Thomas Irvin the "tract on the north side of Swift Creek containing 300 acres more or less . . . whereon the s^d Joseph now lives," adjoining Martha Arrington's place, and being "a part of the land drawn by the said Joseph in right of his wife Mary J. as one of the heirs of General William Arrington deceased." Irvin, who was married to Leah C. Arrington, General Joseph's niece and Arthur Arrington's daughter, bought the other tract (above) from Arthur Arrington, Joseph's trustee in 1838, thus putting himself in possession of much of Joseph's former holdings. He sold 300 acres obtained from Joseph Arrington to John Dancy in 1840; no other deeds or wills from Irvin were found. The tract passed in quick succession through several owners, with John F. Spaight of Edgecombe County purchasing it in 1857.

The radical social and economic changes of Civil War and Reconstruction are epitomized in the next transfer, in which Spaight's heirs sold about 320 acres of the property for 38 bales of cotton to "William Arrington (colored)" in 1873. (A William Arrington, farmer, mulatto aged 45, was recorded in the 1870 census, owning real estate valued at \$240 and personal property worth \$600; his wife was Caroline.) William also bought 100 acres of the Spaight tract via Kimball and D. E. Sumner for \$500. Over the next twenty years, William executed a number of crop-lien deeds, mortgaging his land to T. W. Battle against his crop. In 1893 William's land, including his home tract, was sold at auction to satisfy a \$2,400 debt to Battle. One parcel, about 300 acres, was divided among Melvin, Solomon, and Burrell Arrington, each to pay over a seven-year period, with Battle holding title until fully paid, with a similar crop-lien arrangement. (A Burrell Arrington

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was listed in the 1870 census as a mulatto aged 25, farmer without real estate; the 1880 census list a B. L. Arrington, aged 37, mulatto, farmer, illiterate, with Dorsey his wife and children including Melvin [aged 5 in 1880, possibly the Melvin who shared the 1893 purchase above, signing his name whereas Burrell did not], and Birl Lou aged 2.) Burrell Arrington, like William, bought widely in the plantation lands in the area: in 1874 he had bought from John P. Arrington for \$1.00 a tract "known as the 'Doles place,'" located in the same neighborhood and adjoining the lands of William Arrington and D. E. Sumner. (This land has been described as that including the house of Joseph Arrington, but it can be tentatively traced back to John P. Arrington's grandfather, Peter, who was roughly contemporary with Joseph Arrington, Jr.; no link to Joseph Arrington can be found.) Burrell Arrington evidently was able to hold on to his land, for the division of the Burrell Lou Arrington farm (probably the son), recorded and platted in March, 1945, shows clearly the house at its proper location (labeled "Old Home"). The property is now owned by heirs; it is occupied by Onyx Arrington and his family, who farm the land.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor; architectural description by Neil Pearson, consultant.
 Boddie, John Bennett. Southside Virginia Families, Vol. II. Redwood City, California: Pacific Coast Publishers, 1956.
 Nash County Records, Nash County Courthouse, Nashville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Newspapers).
 Nash County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Newspapers).

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 ' "		36° 06' 56"	77° 54' 41"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 1/2 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

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 5 November 1973

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, Division of Archives and History
 Date: 5 November 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

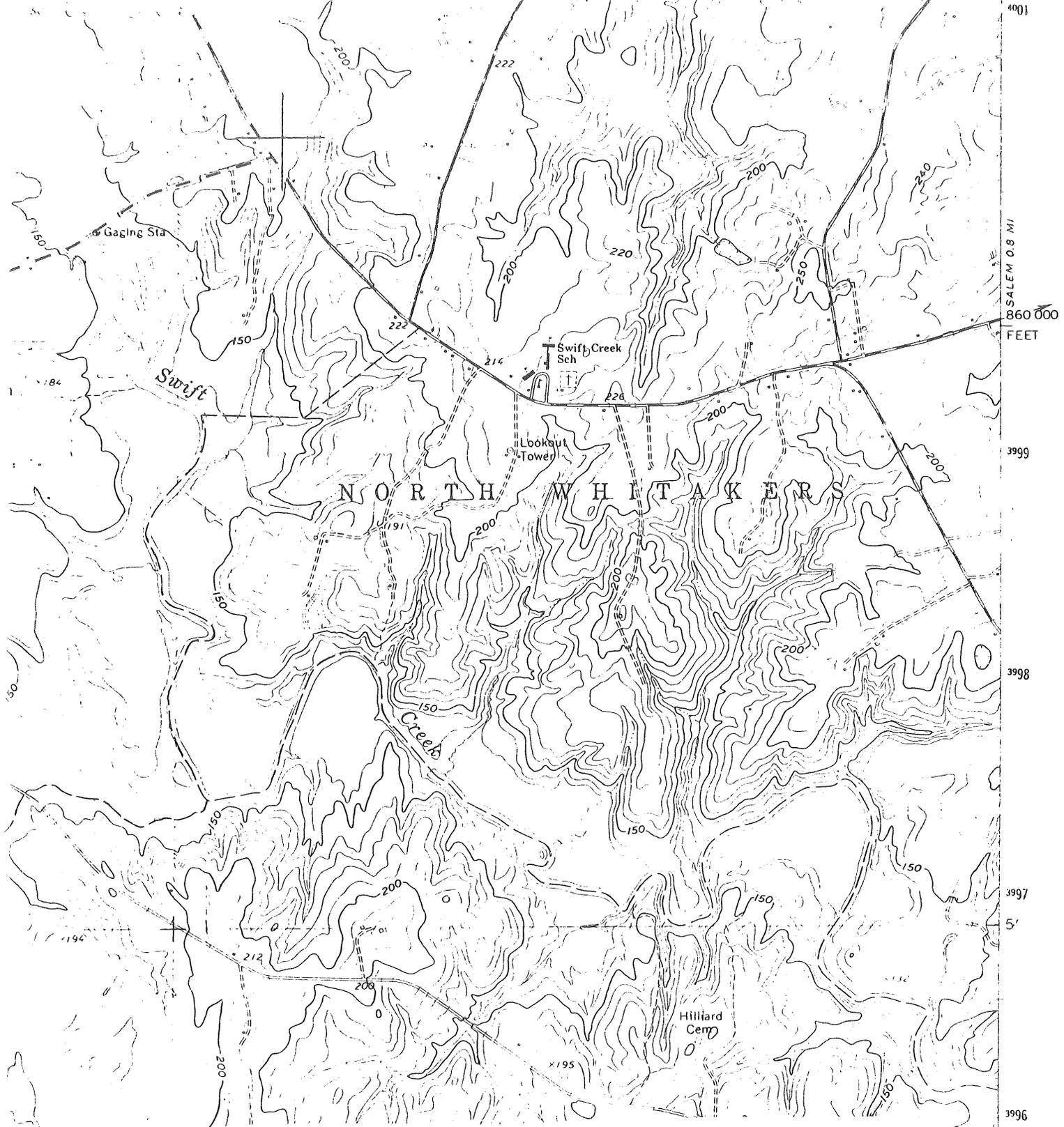
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



General Joseph Arrington House
 Hilliardston vicinity
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Red Oak Quadrangle
 Scale: 1: 24,000
 Date: 1963

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	06	56	77	54	41

4001
 SALEM 0.8 MI
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