

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Heartsease

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
113 East Queen Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hillsborough (Fourth Congressional District, The Hon. Nick Galifianakis)

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 37      COUNTY: Orange      CODE: 135

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 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
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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Miss Rebecca Wall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
113 East Queen Street

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963       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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## 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 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

Heartsease, a frame dwelling in a pleasant wooded yard in Hillsborough, achieved its present form as the result of additions made during nearly two centuries of use. There are three main sections. The central block is a small three-bay house, dating from the late eighteenth century, with two rooms at the first level and a finished attic. It was probably in the early nineteenth century that the one-and-one-half-story east wing was added; it is one bay wide and two deep, projecting a few feet farther to the front than the older section. It is thought that the two dormers on the original block were constructed at the same time to match the one on the wing. Somewhat later in the nineteenth century, the two-story pedimented west wing (also one bay wide but three deep) was added; it sits back slightly from the facade of the central section. All these sections are covered with molded weatherboards. The wings rest on low foundations of random fieldstone; little of the foundation of the central block is visible, but it appears to rest on brick piers. To the rear are one-story frame shed additions.

The main (south) facade of the central section is sheltered by a shed porch whose roof, supported by plain Tuscan posts, continues the line of the main gable roof. Most of the area protected by the porch, including the side of the projecting east wing, is covered by wide flush sheathing. The entrance is in the east bay, but replacement weatherboards around this opening and the center bay (now a window) indicate there was once a central entrance. The windows, set in molded frames above molded sills, contain nine-over-nine sash. The door, hung with HL hinges, has six raised panels. Only the stack of the west chimney is visible. The body is concealed on the west by the two-story west wing; in front by a short extension of the central section, which is protected by the front porch but covered with molded weatherboards, not flush sheathing; and on the rear by an interior passageway. A side window like the front ones appears on the west side of the extension. The east side of the original block is completely covered by the east wing. The front window of this wing contains six-over-six sash. An exterior single-shoulder chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond is located on the east end of the wing and is flanked by windows at both levels: the first-story windows had six-over-six sash, but the rear one has been changed; the gable windows have four-over-four. Three very small, narrow gable dormers appear on the continuous roof of the central and east sections of the house. Their sides are diagonally flush-sheathed.

The south facade of the two-story west wing has at each level a large triple window with nine-over-nine sash flanked by three-over-three. The tympanum of the pediment is flush-sheathed. An exterior end chimney, of brick laid in common bond, is located between the two front bays of the three-bay west side. The windows at the first level contain nine-over-nine sash; those at the second, nine-over-six. The rear facade of this wing, which is not pedimented, has a single second-story window and an off-center entrance at the first level. The rear of the central section of the house is covered by a low shed addition (perhaps once a porch) covered with plain siding. A curious tall gable dormer (containing a stair) projects from the rear roof at the east end of the central section. Its apex is nearly even with that of the main roof, and it extends almost to the eaves

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of the roof over the shed addition. It contains a window with six-over-six sash and is covered with plain horizontal siding.

The central block of the house has an entrance hall and a parlor to the west. The walls of both rooms are plastered between a molded baseboard and a rather heavy molded cornice. The ceiling is flush-sheathed, and the wide floor boards extend the length of the main block. The doors from the hall to the parlor and to the east wing match the front door, having HL hinges and six raised panels. The door from the hall to the rear shed room is quite different, having six flat panels of equal size and a flat-paneled transom that opens like a door.

The parlor is dominated by a Georgian-style mantel on the west wall. The fireplace opening is outlined by a simple backband. Above is a robustly molded shelf, surmounted by a simple overmantel with a large square flat panel flanked by pairs of smaller ones; no moldings outline the panel fields. The ceiling cornice breaks out over the mantel. The chimney breast is flanked by molded arches which spring from symmetrically molded pilasters and are punctuated by simple keystones. These arches frame openings that lead on the left to a small niche lit by the side window and on the right to a short passage to the west wing. It is said that before the areas flanking the chimney were enclosed, these arches framed windows. In the rear wall of the parlor, access to the shed room is through a wide double door, each leaf of which has two flat panels outlined by applied molding. The door is hung with ornate Victorian hinges and set in a molded arch; the tympanum has two similarly treated panels.

An enclosed stair, entered from the northeast corner of the rear shed addition and occupying the large rear dormer, ascends to the second floor of this section. The original stair arrangement is not apparent. The upper level, divided into two rooms, is finished with wide flush beaded boards (except for the dormers, which have plain sheathing). In the west room there are indications that a dormer existed on the rear roof. An interesting feature is the handsome molding on the underside of the ridge pole. The small west gable windows, which are boarded over, interrupt a narrow chair rail along the west attic wall. No fire openings appear. The doors to the second-story east wing room and between the two attic rooms are similar to those at the first level but are hung with strap hinges. That between the two center rooms has a wooden lock.

The first-floor room of the east wing, the section thought to have been built in the early nineteenth century, has an unusual fireplace arrangement. The chimney breast projection is triangular in section, as for two rooms with corner fireplaces, but there is no evidence remaining of a partition. The small mantel on the front face features an exaggerated ramped frieze beneath a molded cornice and a wider, unmolded shelf. The rear part of this wing is partitioned off as a kitchen. The second-story room contains a plain mantel with pilaster strips flanking the frieze beneath a molded shelf.

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The first-floor room of the west wing, probably added in the 1830s or 1840s, has symmetrically molded architraves with plain blocks. The window architraves extend to the floor, framing flat panels. The doors have flat panels with applied moldings. The three-part mantel features symmetrically molded pilaster strips beneath a tall frieze. The shelf does not break over the center tablet or end blocks. An enclosed stair rises in the northwest corner of the small hall at the rear of this wing. The second-floor room has simpler finish: the architraves are plain molded ones and there are no panels beneath the windows. The mantel features fluted pilasters, plain end blocks, and an unbroken frieze.

The shed addition behind the central block is divided into a long room and a small hall from which the east stair rises. These rooms are unheated, have low ceilings, and have dados covered with narrow vertical beaded sheathing. This area may have been a porch, later enclosed.

B. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Journalism</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1786 Sterling Harris purchased Lot 62 in Hillsborough from the town commissioners. Although the deed mentioned houses and orchards, the price, twenty shillings, is that of an undeveloped lot. The small center section may have been constructed before this transfer, but it seems more likely that it was built by Harris. Firmly entrenched local tradition has it that the house served as the pre-Revolutionary home of Thomas Burke, North Carolina's third governor and a member of the Constitutional Convention, but no evidence has been found to support this. It is known that Burke resided chiefly at Tyaquin, his rural plantation house, from the early 1770s or before, until his death in 1783. He did rent a house in town, but a contemporary report located his town residence on the eastern boundary of Hillsborough; another described a flat plain behind his town house, where soldiers paraded for his benefit. Neither of these applies to Lot 62, and there is no record of his owning that lot. It seems probable that the later ownership of the house by Burke's daughter gave rise to the stories of the governor's having lived there.

Miss Mary W. Burke, Governor Burke's only daughter, bought Lot 62 on June 5, 1810, from Sterling Harris for \$400. In 1817 she added to the property twenty-five feet from the east adjoining Lot 63, purchased from James Webb. In 1832 Miss Burke sold the house and lot for \$1.00 to George Johnston, reserving for herself the use of one room, but in the following year he released his claim on the property for the same sum. In 1837 Miss Burke moved to Alabama, and on May 4 of that year James Webb, acting as her attorney, sold the property to Caroline and Henrietta Heartt for \$750; he bought back on the same day the twenty-five-foot strip of Lot 63 that Miss Burke had bought from him twenty years before.

Caroline and Henrietta Heartt, the daughters of Dennis Heartt, were aged twenty and fifteen, respectively, at the time of the transfer. The entire Heartt family lived in the house, which came to be known as "Heartsease". It seems that it was in the daughters' names to insure that its ownership would not be affected by any debts associated with Dennis Heartt's business as publisher of the Hillsborough Recorder. In the census of 1850, the household included Dennis Heartt, editor; the two daughters; a son, Edwin, aged thirty-one; Ailce [sic], aged twenty-five, and Mary, aged two--Edwin's wife and daughter. Also living there were two "printers" in their twenties, probably advanced apprentices, and four young men ranging from eleven to eighteen years, listed as students, but perhaps younger apprentices. The size of the household supports the suggestion that the

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west two-story wing was added by the Heartts soon after the house was purchased. It is said that the apprentices slept in the small garret rooms of the center section.

Dennis Heartt was the founder, publisher, and editor of the Hillsborough Recorder, one of the outstanding newspapers in the state during the nineteenth century. Born in Connecticut in 1783, Heartt served as apprentice to printers in New Haven from 1798 to 1802, when he moved to Philadelphia. In 1807 he was

one of the invited guests of Robert Fulton on the trial trip of the "Clermont." In 1810 he commenced publication of the Philadelphia Reportory, a literary paper. Ten years later he migrated to Hillsborough, . . . and on February 20, 1820, issued the first copy of the Hillsborough Recorder.

The Recorder soon gained a wide readership, and its editor won respect throughout the state. He included local news, but also "selections from the best current journals," and "reports from Congress and condensed news from Spain, Paris, and Berlin, which vary from three week [sic] to three months in age." A note to correspondents in June 28, 1820, issue said, "though an editor cannot at all times conduct himself so correctly as to give universal satisfaction, yet if he pursue an even course, unbiased by prejudice and unawed by fear, he will obtain the approbation of a liberal and free people."

As editor Heartt not only set policy; he set type as well. An apprentice described the process in later years:

Mr. Heartt engraved the head of his paper, and with laden cuts of various kinds illustrated his articles and advertisements. He made his own composing sticks of walnut wood, lined with brass. They were good sticks, and I remember to this day the sound made by the types as they were dropped by the left thumb into their places.

Dennis Heartt was "a man of strong personality, eccentric, but humorous and charitable." He was a firm supporter of the Whig party and fought for state aid for internal improvements for Orange County. In 1844 he supported Taylor and Fillmore. Always a strong Unionist, in the years before the Civil War he debated the political questions of the day with the secessionist North Carolina Democrat, holding to the principle, "The Union, the Constitution and the Laws--The Guardians of our Liberty." Heartt owned no slaves and was opposed to slavery, but he was a moderate man by nature and "did not go to the extremes of the abolitionists." After the war, in an editorial of August 27, 1867, he maintained, "We shall pursue the same lights hereafter that have guided us hitherto. . . . We are not without hope that wise counsels will ere long lead the country back to its former prosperity."

Among the apprentices who served under Heartt and lived at Heartsease was William W. Holden, who went on to become one of the state's most influential

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and controversial men during the Civil War and Reconstruction period: he was the strongly Unionist editor of the North Carolina Standard; became the leader in the peace movement during the war; was made provisional governor by President Andrew Johnson in May, 1865; was elected governor in 1868; and in 1871 became the only governor of the state ever removed from office by impeachment. In later years Holden paid tribute to Heartt:

His integrity in all respects was perfect. No consideration could have induced him to abandon or compromise his principles, or to do wrong knowingly. I was a member of his family as one of his apprentices for six or seven years, and I knew him thoroughly. . . . the best man in all respects whom I have ever known was my old master and teacher, Dennis Heartt.

The story is told that during Holden's apprenticeship the youth ran away, whereupon Heartt published an advertisement offering five cents reward for his capture. The runaway saw the notice, returned secretly by night, and set some type for the next issue. He left a note on his desk, "From this day I will be a man." The next number of the paper contained a "startling notice which advertised the Recorder and its editor for sale, fifty cents being the price set for both." A reconciliation soon followed.

In January, 1869, Dennis Heartt, aged eighty-five, sold his newspaper to C. N. B. Evans of Milton, North Carolina; he died the following year. Heartsease, his home for most of his life in Hillsborough, remained in the hands of his daughters until the late nineteenth century and then passed to the widow and children of Dennis Heartt's son, Edwin. Its present owner, Miss Rebecca Wall, the sister-in-law of Dennis Heartt's great-grandson, holds a life estate in the property.

Heartsease is an interesting, unpretentious late eighteenth century dwelling expanded to serve the growing needs of later occupants. It was the home of Dennis Heartt, one of North Carolina's most important newspapermen, founder of and for nearly fifty years editor of the influential Hillsborough Recorder, which has been called "as well edited a newspaper as North Carolina ever had."

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

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

Russell, Phillips. "Periodicals and Editors in Orange County," in Orange County--1752-1952, edited by Hugh Lefler and Paul Wager. Chapel Hill: The Orange Printshop, 1953.

Research, significance, and architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey specialist.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackwelder, Ruth. The Age of Orange. Charlotte: William Loftin, 1961.  
 Boyd, W. K. "Dennis Heartt," an Annual Publication of Historical Papers, Series II (1898), Historical Society of Trinity College, Durham, North Carolina.  
 Engsstrom, Mary Claire. Interview, June 6, 1972, with C. W. Cockshutt, based on documents in private collection.  
 Holden, W. W. Address on the History of Journalism in North Carolina, delivered June 21, 1881, printed in Raleigh by News and Observer Book and Job Print.

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	04'	44"	79°	05'	55"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 18 December 1972

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 State Historian/Administrator

Date 18 December 1972

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

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

79° 07' 30"  
36° 07' 30"

669000m E

21 MI. TO U.S. 158  
PROSPECT HILL 10 MI.

671

672

5'

11 MI. TO U.S. 501  
SCHLEY 2.3 MI.

3999000m N.

3998

3997

3996

BURLINGTON 20 MI.  
EFLAND 2.5 MI.

5'

3994

3993

5156 1/2 SW  
(EFLAND)

3992

BURLINGTON 18 MI  
EFLAND 2.8 MI





Governor Thomas Burke-Dennis Heartt House, "Heartsease," Hillsborough, North Carolina NPS Photo 1972