

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME	
COMMON: Cove Grove	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Southwest of junction of S.R. 1301 and S.R. 1302			
CITY OR TOWN: Parkville Township		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First The Hon. Walter B. Jones	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Perquimans	CODE: 143

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> 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) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Elizabeth S. Jethro, Sallie S. Halsey and Joshua H. Skinner			
STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Elizabeth S. Jethro, Route 3, Box 19			
CITY OR TOWN: Hertford		STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Perquimans County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Church Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Hertford		STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1940		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cove Grove is a large transitional Federal-Greek Revival plantation house in an undisturbed wooded setting on Old Neck Road, an early road lined by a number of plantation houses. The house is one of a regional group of houses related by form, detail, and family. It combines the overall masiveness and boldness of forms of the Greek Revival with the delicacy of detail characteristic of the Federal period. The two-story frame structure is five bays wide, and is dominated by dramatic full-height porticos that extend across the front and rear facades and are covered by extensions of the main gable roof. The facades are flush-sheathed, the sides covered with lapped weatherboards; the latter are covered over with asbestos siding. Both porches feature tall, somewhat attenuated unfluted Ionic columns separating the five bays; those on the front rise uninterrupted, but the rear porch has a second-level gallery with lateral steps between the levels in front of the central doorway. The columns, which rest on a sturdy brick round-arched arcade, are handsomely executed, with well-molded bases and capitals with an egg-and-dart echinus resting on a bead molding. The simple entablature features a modillion cornice that carries about the house.

The treatment of the central entrance bay is consistent with the dramatic scale and fine detail of the porch. Visually framed by the two central columns are a first-level fanlit entrance and a second-level doorway with transom and sidelights, opening onto a small balcony. The lower entrance provides a focal point for the facade: the double door is flanked by sidelights flanked in turn by pairs of symmetrically molded pilasters that carry a striking, outsized fanlight with a bold molded arch and key-stone. The large area of the fanlight is articulated only by six simple muntins radiating from the central hub. The door at the second level is a single one, with sidelights beneath a full-width transom, each with geometric tracery. These elements are outlined by well-articulated Greek Revival surrounds consisting of symmetrically molded bands with corner blocks at each intersection and a double greek key motif at top center. The delicate iron balcony, with railings composed of elongated lozenges joined by floral bosses, is supported on curvilinear brackets. The remaining bays of this facade contain windows with molded frames and sills, with nine-over-nine sash at the first level and six-over-nine at the second, an arrangement consistent throughout the house.

The side elevations have a striking configuration characteristic of the group of houses to which Cove Grove belongs: on each side rise two chimneys; the wide gable roof has two planes of slope, steep between the chimneys, and less steep from the chimneys in unbroken lines to the cornice of each porch. The west side has four bays at the first level, two beneath the chimneys and one to front and rear; the rear bay at the second level is blind; and two windows occur in the gable. The east side has only two bays marked, one between the chimneys and one to the front with a single gable window; the rear first-story bay is covered by a small shed entrance wing of later construction. The rear facade has a central entrance at the first level and at the second, doors in the second and fourth bays; there is an exterior transverse stair to the central second-level entrance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE North Carolina	
COUNTY Perquimans	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

The interior, which follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep, continues the combination of Greek Revival and Federal elements. The plan, with the two parlors joined by wide sliding doors framed by an arch, some of the detail, and the paneling scheme of the doors themselves, are characteristic of the Greek Revival and relate to the other houses of the group, which are more thorough-going Greek; the mantels, the door and window frames, and the treatment of the stair, however, are Federal in feeling--far more so than in the other houses. The first-floor rooms feature simple molded chair rails and baseboards.

The west parlors are the most elaborately treated, having full-blown three-part Federal mantels. That in the front room has symmetrically molded pilasters carrying a frieze with sunbursts in high relief on end blocks and center tablet, beneath a double dentil cornice and shelf adorned with gouge-work; the cornice breaks out over all three elements, the shelf only over the end blocks. Joining the two rooms is a large arched doorway containing sliding double doors with vertical ranges of horizontal raised flat panels outlined by broad moldings. Flat-paneled pilasters carry a rather wide molded arch with a deeply molded keystone accented by a central vertical row of round beads. The soffit of the arch is flat-paneled, and the inner corners of the doors are notched to fit around the keystone when closed. The rear room has a mantel of similar but slightly simpler design. That in the front east parlor is of the same form but with flat-paneled pilasters and flat panels replacing the sunbursts as ornament; the rear east parlor has flat-paneled end blocks and no center tablet.

The first-floor hall is quite an impressive room, lighted by the oversize fanlight of the front door. It is bisected by a transverse arch like that in the adjoining parlors, differentiated by a bead-and-reel molding on the keystone. A wainscot with raised flat panels with square-indented corners is present. The stair rises in two flights at the rear of the hall with an intervening transverse landing. The open string is ornamented with simple wave-pattern brackets, and slender balusters square in section carry a graceful rounded handrail, which terminates over the tapered newel in a carved element characteristic of the group of houses, rather like a stylized paw and also resembling a robust scallop shell; eleven rounded sections radiate from the back focus, and it is by far the most delicately detailed of the examples seen, including those at Land's End and the Edmund Skinner House.

The second-story rooms are more simply finished, having walls plastered above molded baseboards. The mantels have molded architraves and backbands that carry end blocks and a plain frieze beneath a molded cornice and shelf. In two of the rooms applied moldings form lozenge patterns on the end blocks.

To the southwest of the house is a small latticework gazebo with a cupola.

6. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cove Grove is an unusually graceful and impressive coastal plantation house, combining the boldness of the Greek Revival with much of the delicacy of the late Federal period. Its dramatic double porches engaged under the main roof and its well-executed exterior and interior detail make it an outstanding member of an important regional group of houses, of which it is stylistically apparently the earliest. Its builder, Benjamin Skinner, was a notable member of a family of regional and state importance.

Benjamin Smith Skinner (1795-1861) acquired a number of small tracts of land in the Old Neck section of Perquimans, beginning in 1818, to form Cove Grove Plantation. About 1830 he built the Cove Grove mansion, which has been owned by his descendants ever since. (A tradition says he wished to provide his wife, Elizabeth, with a dwelling like that of her father, Colonel James Leigh of Land's End. Another tradition claims Colonel Leigh himself built Cove Grove for his daughter and Skinner. The similarities between Cove Grove and Land's End are striking, but Cove Grove shows far greater Federal influence and is probably the earlier of the two.)

A prominent planter, Skinner was a patron of education, being a subscriber or trustee of Union Hall, Farmington, and Harveys Neck academies. He was also the virtual founder and principal supporter of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Hertford and first senior warden of its vestry. He died on the eve of the Civil War, bequeathing Cove Grove to his son and namesake. Benjamin S. Skinner, Jr. (1839-1864) enlisted in the Perquimans Beauregards (Co. F, 27th Regt., N.C.T., U.S.A.) in 1861. In 1863 he became captain of the company, and in 1864 he was killed in battle at Reams Station, Virginia.

Because of economic disruption and the early death of Captain Skinner, Cove Grove was sold at public auction in 1870 and was purchased by the captain's younger brother, Joshua Skinner (1845-1911), who died in 1911 leaving Cove Grove to his three children during their lives and afterward to their children. In a 1923 division the home farm was allotted to Dr. Joshua John Skinner (1882-1969).

Dr. J. J. Skinner was a biochemist with the United States Department of Agriculture and the author of a number of scientific articles on plant nutrition and soils. He bequeathed Cove Grove to his sons Joshua Hopkins Skinner and Frank Brightwell Skinner (1915-1967). The present owners of the house are Joshua H. Skinner and his brother's daughters, Elizabeth S. Jethro and Sallie S. Halsey.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Raymond A. Winslow, Jr., consultant; architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey supervisor.
 Perquimans County Records, Perquimans County Courthouse, Hartford, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds Wills).
 Perquimans County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

2. 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
NW	36°	10'	74"	76°	24'	47"	0			
NE	36°	10'	74"	76°	25'	10"				
SE	36°	10'	56"	76°	25'	10"				
SW	36°	10'	56"	76°	24'	17"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 20 acres

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

3. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit
 ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 1 March 1974
 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: Thornton W. Mitchell
 Title: Acting Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date: 1 March 1974

13. NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

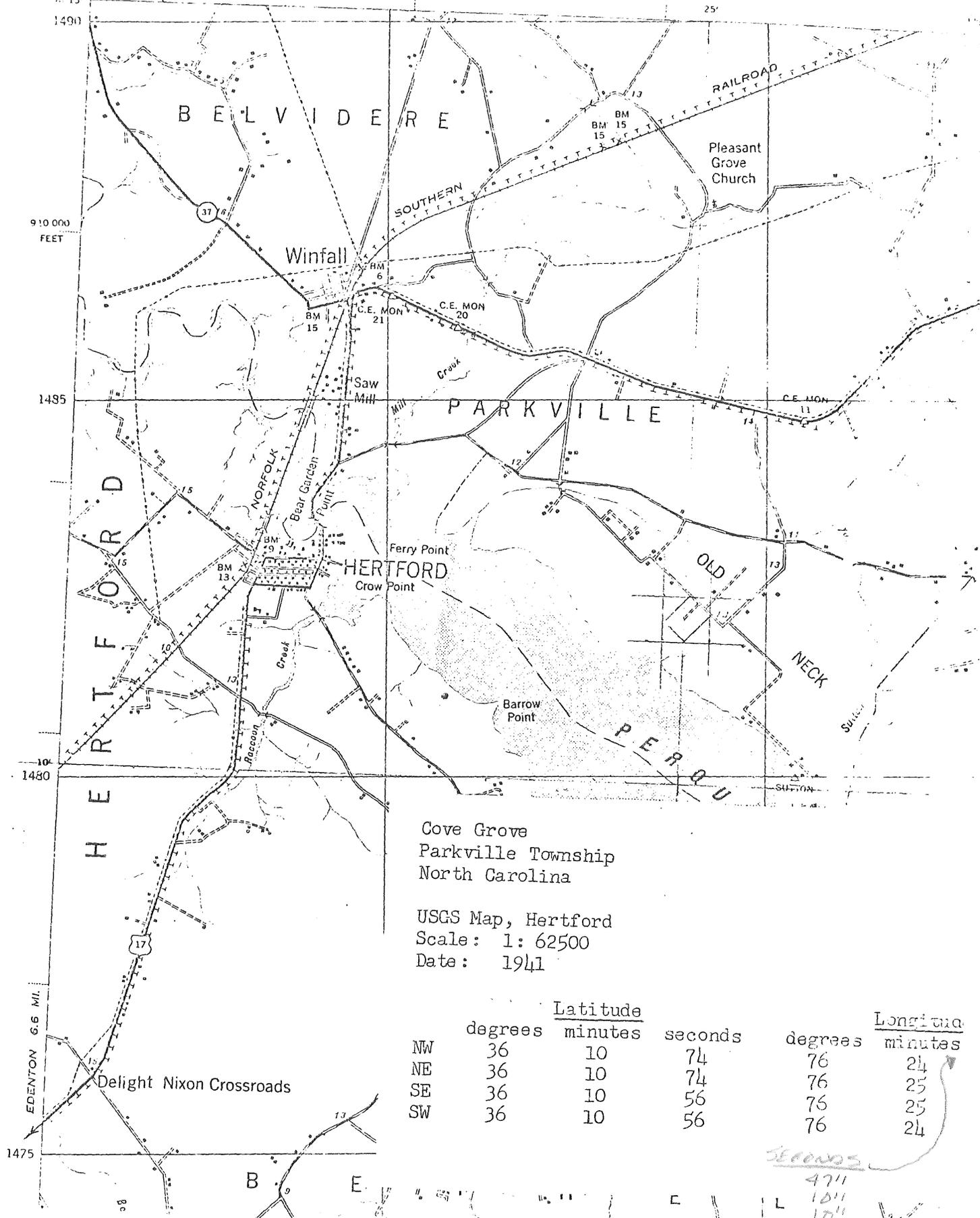
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NORTH CAROLINA
HERTFORD QUADRANGLE
GRID ZONE "A"



Cove Grove
Parkville Township
North Carolina

USGS Map, Hertford
Scale: 1: 62500
Date: 1941

	Latitude			Longitude	
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes
NW	36	10	74	76	24
NE	36	10	74	76	25
SE	36	10	56	76	25
SW	36	10	56	76	24

SECONDS
471
1011
1011

10 Miles
9
8
7
6
5
EDENTON 6.6 MI.

1490
910 000 FEET
1485
1480
1475

BECKFORD
2 740 000 FEET
25
BELVIDERE
Winfall
SOUTHERN RAILROAD
Pleasant Grove Church
C.E. MON 20
Saw Mill
Creek
PARKVILLE
C.E. MON 11
HERTFORD
Ferry Point
Barrow Point
OLD NECK
SUTTON
Delight Nixon Crossroads
B E