

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:
Samuel Nixon House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Perquimans River at the end of S.R. 1121

CITY OR TOWN:
Parkville Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First
The Hon. Walter B. Jones

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Perquimans CODE: 113

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. W. Haywood Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Winfall

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:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Perquimans

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Samuel Nixon House is a one-and-one-half story dwelling with a gambrel roof, with a full-width porch across the front (east) facade. At the north end windows at both levels flank a handsome double-shouldered chimney with smooth surfaced weatherings, of brick laid in Flemish bond, with random glazed headers. Two chimneys with rebuilt stacks occur on the south side of the main block. An early shed addition at this end is covered by an extension of the porch roof, and one-story shed additions continue along the side and rear. Many beaded weatherboards survive, and the lower slope of the gambrel roof is covered with weatherboards rather than roofing material. The openings at the first level of the main facade are irregularly spaced; reading left to right there are a window in the shed addition, an entrance in the left bay of the main block, two closely spaced, centrally placed windows, and a single window in the right bay. The three windows piercing the front slope of the gambrel are evenly spaced. Only two windows appear on the rear slope, and the arrangement of the first level has been altered.

The interior of the main block features at the first level a hall and parlor plan, with the hall on the south side. The south shed addition contains two smaller rooms, and behind the parlor is a room in the rear addition. The stair rises along the south wall of the hall, with initial winders and a single flight back-to-front. It is an impressive Georgian stair, with a wide closed stringer, a heavy newel square in section with a molded cap, and turned balusters carrying a molded handrail. The hall is finished with a flat-paneled wainscot that continues up the stair wall. The front room in the main block contains a well-executed Georgian wainscot with raised vertical panels beneath a robust, symmetrically molded chair rail. The mantel has a segmental-arched opening, and a molded backband supports a heavy molded shelf adorned with gouged dentils. Above is a raised-paneled overmantel with four vertical panels above a central horizontal panel flanked by square ones. In the front room of the wing is a simple mantel with three flat panels above a molded architrave. Between the chimneys of the wing rooms appears a small closet, apparently original, with raised-paneled door hung with HL hinges attached with rosehead nails and leather washers intact--a feature occurring frequently in the house. Access to the second floor was not permitted, but it is said to have a hall and a single room, the latter originally partitioned into two small rooms.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) ca. 1790

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Samuel Nixon House is an important survival of an eighteenth century gambrel roof dwelling, with much of its original fabric intact. Particularly interesting are the handsome Georgian stair and mantel. Its significance is enhanced by its connection with Samuel Nixon, a prominent merchant who operated a toll float bridge near this house, and later with "Blanchard's Bridge," an important commercial center that flourished there in the nineteenth century.

In 1789 Samuel Nixon (1768-1815) purchased a farm on the north side of Perquimans River. It is thought he erected the house now bearing his name about 1790. Becoming one of the wealthiest men in Perquimans, Nixon acquired many tracts of land. At his home plantation he operated a store and a toll float bridge. An unusual provision in Nixon's bridge contract with Perquimans County was the granting of free passage to persons going to worship at nearby Wells Friends Meeting House. Nixon was himself a Quaker until his disownment in 1796 for holding and hiring slaves. In his mercantile affairs he employed his own sailing vessels, manned by slaves. In the twenty years after Nixon's death in 1815, his homeplace and float bridge were owned by his son Samuel and two sons-in-law, Edmond White and Exum Elliott.

William Rawls Blanchard (1810-1875) purchased the property in 1837. His business partner at that time, James C. Skinner, owned a half-interest from 1837 to 1843. Blanchard moved to the Nixon farm and lived there until his death nearly forty years later. To it he transferred the mercantile firm he had founded in Chowan County in 1832. (The firm is still in existence, in the town of Hertford, as J. C. Blanchard & Co., Inc.) An important commercial center developed at "Blanchard's Bridge," with the toll bridge, a wharf, a cotton gin and press and sugar mill. Blanchard also engaged in farming, spinning, weaving, tanning, shoemaking, blacksmithing, and shipowning. During the Civil War, he was a member of the local Committee of Vigilance and Safety and of the committee chosen to design and print Perquimans County currency. His toll bridge was burned by Union forces in 1863. Blanchard was an inventor, receiving patents for a cultivator in 1869 and a corn and cotton cultivating-plow in 1870.

William R. Blanchard died in 1875. He is described in his firm's history as "merchant, farmer, shipowner; mechanic, craftsman, inventor; churchman, magistrate and patriot. . . ." William S. Blanchard owned his

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

7.

father William R. Blanchard's property from 1879 to 1905. He was a farmer, business leader and Hertford Town Commissioner. Alonzo R. Winslow owned the property from 1905 to 1934. In the latter year it was purchased by W. Haywood Smith, the present owner.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Ray Winslow, Jr., Hertford, North Carolina, consultant; architectural description by Catherine Cockshutt, survey supervisor. Perquimans County Records, Perquimans County Courthouse, Hertford, 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). "Over a Century of Merchandising 1832-1954," privately printed and distributed by J. C. Blanchard & Co., Inc., Hertford, North Carolina

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 ° 13 ' 03 "	76 ° 29 ' 45 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History

DATE: 28 August 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh

STATE: North Carolina

CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: 28 August 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

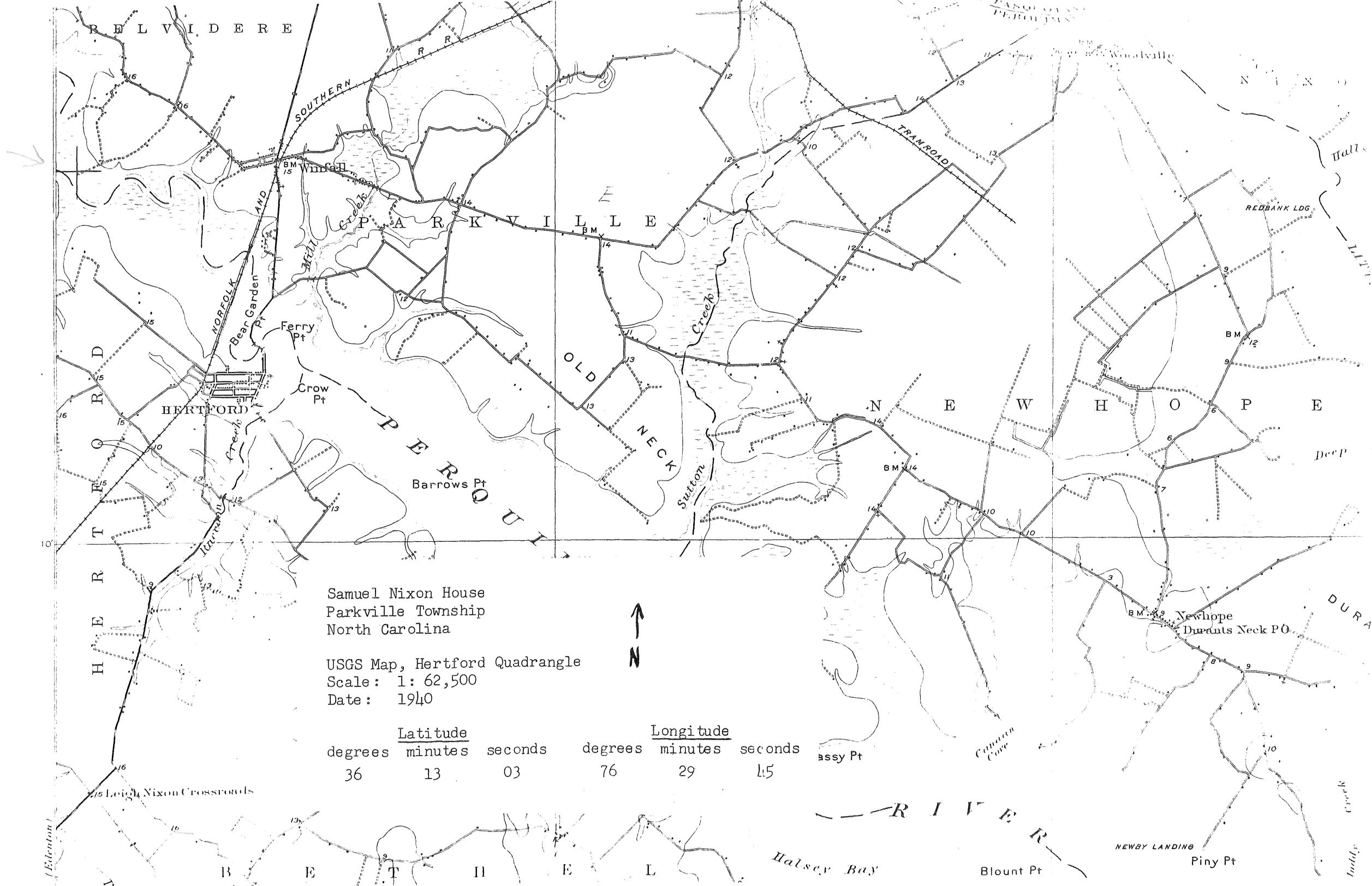
Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Samuel Nixon House
 Parkville Township
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Hertford Quadrangle
 Scale: 1: 62,500
 Date: 1940



<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	13	03	76	29	45

15 Leigh Nixon Crossroads

(Edenton)

T B E T H E L

Halsey Bay

Blount Pt

NEWBY LANDING

Piny Pt

Crack
Taddy

