

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wright Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Reid House, Reid Hotel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NC 65, one block east of Rockingham County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Wentworth

STATE North Carolina	CODE 32	COUNTY: Rockingham	CODE 79
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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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Rockingham County Historical Society Headquarters	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Rockingham County Historical Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 84

CITY OR TOWN:
Wentworth

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rockingham County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Wentworth

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934

REPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE
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7. 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 earliest extant portion of the Wright Tavern is the western four-bay two-story section composed of an open stair hall with a single large room to the west. It has an exterior end chimney with straight sides laid in Flemish bond. From archaeological and architectural evidence, it is certain that this section was an addition to a one or one-and-a-half story structure. This earliest unit was replaced by the present three-bay eastern section which is two rooms deep. It has a single end chimney of American bond which serves the corner fireplace in each of the two ground floor rooms.

As a unit, the plan of the east and west sections takes the form of a "dog-run." This configuration is typical of log cabin construction, but is seldom found in a frame building, particularly in one of two stories. In The Early Architecture of North Carolina Thomas T. Waterman states that, "A singularly elaborate example of such a building (dog-run) is the old Wright Tavern at Wentworth, in Rockingham County . . . This is an exceptional instance, a more normal example being the Andrews log cabin in Polk County." (pp.7-8)

The exterior features beaded weatherboards on the west section and plain ones on the east. There are simple box cornices and windows framed by architraves which differ in design in the two sections. There is a full length one story shed porch which dates from the time that the main block reached its present form. The posts are not original.

The open stair hall, or "dog-run," is framed by a fine elliptical arch resting on pilasters and featuring a keystone. The hall retains its original plaster above a simple unpaneled wainscot. The stair ascends on the east side of the hall in an initial straight run to a transverse landing and returns in a short straight run. It has fine Federal details, especially noteworthy are the rich curvilinear brackets.

The large room west of the stair hall has plain wainscot finished with late nineteenth century graining. On the second floor of this section there are five small rooms, two of which have small corner fireplaces. In the east section the ground floor rooms have simple mantels decorated with bands of fretwork which are similar in design to those on the second floor of the west section. There is one large room on the second floor of the east section which features a large, elaborate mantel ornamented with intricate reeded patterns.

There have been various additions to the rear of the building. Very early in its history the dining room was located behind the west room and connected to it by a narrow passage. Due to its modillion cornice and fine Adam mantel which bear no relation to any of the other woodwork of the house, it is thought that the dining room may predate the tavern and was perhaps moved to its present location from another site. At an early date the connecting passage was removed. The end wall of the dining room was extended to the rear wall of the main block. This greatly enlarged the size of the room but necessitated the closing of a second floor window.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(July 1969)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. At the rear of the east section there was an early unheated shed room, which was later replaced by a larger shed room with an exterior chimney. In the late nineteenth century the latter addition was increased to a full two stories in height and an interior chimney built to serve the single room on each floor. At an early date a porch was built along the rear of the house between the shed room and the enlarged dining room. Later the porch was extended along the eastern side of the dining room. In the twentieth century a board and batten kitchen was added to the rear of the dining room. Originally the kitchen was a log structure in the yard. Neither of the kitchens is extant.

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/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>History</u> |
| <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 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sometime prior to 1814, William Wright, constructed the original part of Wright Tavern in Wentworth, the County Seat of Rockingham County. After his death in 1824, his son James operated the tavern until his death in 1870, at which time the tavern was taken over by his unmarried daughter Nannie Wright. She operated the tavern in conjunction with her nephew James W. Reid and the tavern became known as the Reid House or Reid Hotel. James W. Reid was the son of Dr. Numa Fletcher Reid, a noted Methodist preacher and Presiding Elder, and Anne Wright, the daughter of James. James Reid practiced law in Wentworth and served in Congress from the Fifth District. He subsequently moved west and died in 1902. The tavern was later operated by his half-brother Numa Raine Reid, who was the son of Dr. Reid by his second wife Sallie Wright, the sister of Anne. For some years Numa R. Reid was postmaster of Wentworth and the Post Office was located in a small building adjoining the tavern. After his death in 1946 the tavern was owned by his widow. After her death, the tavern was purchased from the heirs of Mrs. Numa R. Reid by the Rockingham County Historical Society in 1967. The restoration of Wright Tavern is now being undertaken by this group.

The proximity of Wright Tavern to the county courthouse made it the gathering place of many local political figures. Numerous courthouse officials stayed there.

In addition to its fine architectural detail, the Wright Tavern is one of the most sophisticated versions of the so-called "dog-run" plan to be found in North Carolina. It is one of the few buildings in the state which has been used as a tavern for well over a century and has survived with most of its fabric intact.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Craig, Alberta Ratliffe. "Old Wentworth Sketches." North Carolina Historical Review. Vol. XI, No. 3, July, 1934.

Rockingham County Records, Rockingham County Courthouse, Wentworth, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Estate Papers, Census Reports).

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

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
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	36°	23'	54"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	79°	46'	13"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
J. G. Zehmer, Survey Specialist; Sherry Ingram, Survey Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: June 4, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

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*
Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date June 4, 1970

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

Form 10-580a
(July 1969)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina

COUNTY

Rockingham

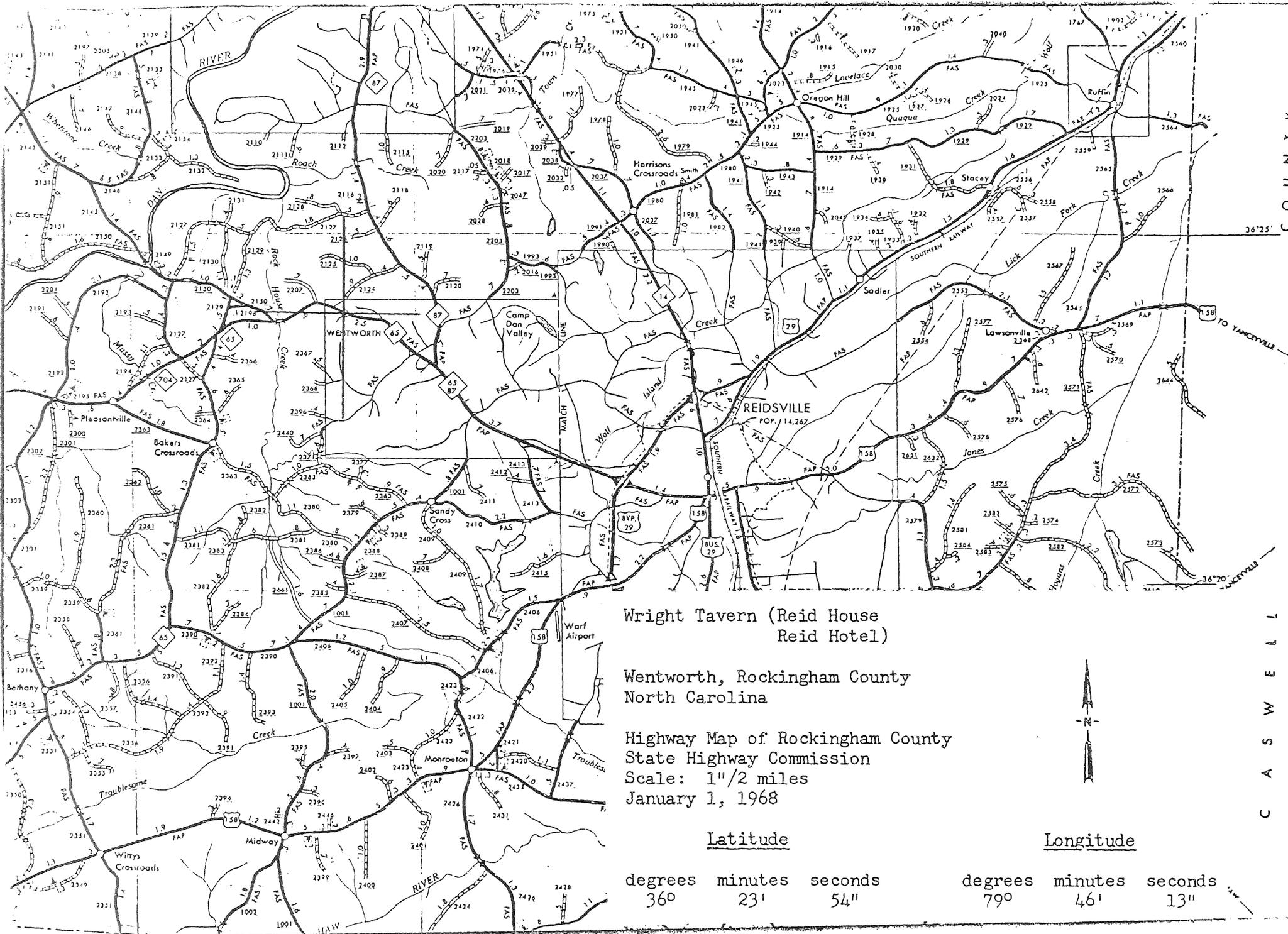
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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Waterman, Thomas T. The Early Architecture of North Carolina.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1947.



Wright Tavern (Reid House
Reid Hotel)

Wentworth, Rockingham County
North Carolina

Highway Map of Rockingham County
State Highway Commission
Scale: 1 1/2 miles
January 1, 1968

Latitude

Longitude

degrees minutes seconds
36° 23' 54"

degrees minutes seconds
79° 46' 13"

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WRIGHT TAVERN