

344

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Matthew Moore House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Not for publication, see continuation sheet 2
 CITY OR TOWN: Danbury vic. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth
 The Hon. Wilmer D. Mizell
 STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Stokes CODE: 169

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 checked="" 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"/> 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Bertha George Mrs. Margaret George Simmons
 STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1 Rt. 1, Lawsonville 27022
 CITY OR TOWN: Lawsonville STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Stokes County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Danbury 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:

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2. Location

On S.R. 1484, 0.3 mi. north of the junction with 1483.

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 Matthew Moore House is located on a remote, picturesque knoll overlooking the Dan River Valley. It is a small one-and-one-half story brick cottage on a raised basement (the dormers have been removed). The basement walls are of uncoursed fieldstone to the water table; above, the brick walls are laid in Flemish bond with unglazed headers and well-executed closers. An interior end chimney breaks the roofline at each end of the house. The three-bay main (south) facade has on the west a large door with four raised panels and on the east two windows containing six-over-six sash. All openings have segmental arches and plain architraves. A two-bay shed porch protects the two west bays and extends from the west corner of the house to the edge of the easternmost window. The porch retains two apparently original chamfered posts with lambs' tongues and marks of the handrail. Entrance to the basement is beneath this porch. The east end of the house has at the first level a door to the south and a small window (casement type with four vertical glazed lights) and in the attic two similar windows which have no sash. The west end of the house has in the first story two small windows of unbalanced horizontal placement and in the attic two windows similar to those at the east end. The rear (north) side of the house has three evenly spaced windows of six-over-six sash. There are plain box cornices at both the front and rear of the house. (The front cornice boxing has now partially disappeared.) The raking cornices are flush and slightly splayed, a feature occurring in early Salem buildings.

The interior follows one of the simplest of the Quaker plans, one large room with two smaller ones, the stair rising in the large room. Simple molded architraves are found throughout the house, and there are deep reveals found on the first floor. The large room, occupying the west end of the first floor, contains a door and window in the south wall balanced by two windows in the north wall. Centered on the west wall is a fireplace with a plain mantel consisting of boards with a beaded edge surrounding the fire opening. Flanking the fireplace are closets which are lighted by exterior windows and have six-panel doors with panels raised on molded fillets. The stair rises in the northwest corner of this room and has three steps extending into the room before the stair disappears behind a four-panel door, also with panels raised on molded fillets. Entrance to the smaller rooms from the larger is through a door into the south room and from there into the north room. The walls of the first floor have been covered by sheetrock, as have the corner fireplaces of the two smaller rooms.

The attic has the same plan as the first floor, but both the small rooms open directly into the large room. The large room is heated by a large arched fire opening which has plaster over the brick and shows no evidence of having had a mantel. The large room has a rather tall wainscot with a molded chair rail and applied stiles which break the dado into narrow vertical panels. About midway on either side of the room, the wainscot returns to accommodate a single dormer, since removed. The rest of the room was finished with plaster. The basement plan is similar to the rest of the house but contains only one small and one large room, both with dirt floors. A large stone fireplace, with a square fire opening and a huge wooden beam across the top for support, is found in the large room.

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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1786

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>Exploration and Settlement</u> |
| <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 Matthew Moore House is a rare and important example of eighteenth century Pennsylvania-influenced domestic architecture, one of the few known instances outside Salem of the building characteristics brought to the North Carolina midlands by Moravian and Quaker settlers. Notable features include the Quaker plan, segmental-arched openings, and fine brickwork. The small brick dwelling is also significant as the home of Matthew Moore, an early and prominent settler and a large landowner in the area; it is believed to be the oldest intact structure in Stokes County.

Matthew Moore was an early resident of present-day Stokes County and owner of many tracts of land on or near the Dan River. It is unclear as to when he first settled there or exactly where he lived before coming to the banks of the Dan.

The earliest deed bearing Moore's name was written in November, 1773, when John Walker and his wife Elisbeth "of the County of Guilford" sold to "Mathew Moore of the Same County" a 520-acre tract "lying on both sides of Dann River at the mouth of the Double Creek." Moore paid "one hundred and seventy five pounds Current Money North Carolina" for the property, upon which he later built his dwelling. (Walker had acquired this tract in December, 1761, from Earl Granville.)

In 1780 Moore acquired from Governor Richard Caswell 100 acres adjoining his original tract and "including part of an Improvement he Moore purchased of W^m Horton. . . ." What this "Improvement" refers to is not given. That same year Moore purchased from Gamaliel Bailey and his wife Elisabeth additional acres adjoining his own and "including his Moore's Plantation." (Apparently Moore had established a "Plantation" by renting at least part of the Bailey land for agricultural purposes.)

Moore soon achieved prominence in his new surroundings. He was elected a member of the safety committee in Surry (later Stokes) County in September, 1775, and was appointed justice of the peace in 1776.

The date cut into a brick on the east side of the Moore house indicates construction in 1786. Other bricks suggest that Matthew Moore ("MM") and his wife Letitia ("LM"), along with an unidentified "WRW," were responsible for the building. The state census, taken in Stokes County this same year,

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indicates that Moore's immediate family then included thirteen people and he held fourteen slaves, a considerable number for mountainous Stokes County. The federal census of 1790 credits Moore with the ownership of fifteen slaves, making him one of only six heads of household in the county owning this number of slaves or more.

At about this time, Moore began to acquire huge tracts of "bounty land" granted freely by the state "agreeable to act of assembly passed at Fayetteville [sic] for the encouragement of manufacturing of Iron. . . ." Between December, 1789, and April, 1795, Moore obtained a total of 3,500 acres of free bounty land in Stokes and Surry counties. He apparently began operating his iron works about 1790 and continued to own the facility until his death in 1801.

It is not clear whether the iron works was a successful enterprise, but Moore's vast land holdings surely represented a tangible form of wealth. A county dwelling valuation survey conducted in 1799 credited Moore with "1 Dwelling House and 2 Out-Houses valued at \$800." In a land valuation survey taken the same year, Moore was credited with the ownership in Stokes County alone of 3,065 acres valued at \$3,945.

Matthew Moore died in 1801. The exact date of death could not be ascertained, but his will was probated at the December Term of Court in that year. He was survived by seven sons and three daughters, as well as his wife Letitia. The will provides insights into Moore's wealth. It enumerates a total of nearly 5,000 acres in Stokes and Surry counties, and in Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Amherst counties, Virginia, all of which were devised in varying proportions to his seven sons. In addition, Moore bequeathed to his sons and daughters a number of slaves, dwelling houses, horses, feather beds, and furniture, as well as several "bonds for title" (deeds of trust) to various parcels of real estate which he held at the time of his death. Furthermore, the will provided funds for the education of three of Moore's sons and one grandson.

Finally, the will provides that Moore's iron works "known as providence" and the 2,500-acre tract upon which it stood be "rented, Leased or sold to discharge all my Just debts & further to discharge the necessary expense that may attend the education of my three sons . . . & my grandson. . . ." Moore's wife was granted a life interest in the land comprising the homeplace and plantation, as well as a similar interest in other realty, slaves, and live-stock. As to the mansion house, the will devises to Moore's son, Matthew Red Moore, "the original survey that I purchased of John Walker contains [sic] five hundred & seventy five acres . . . to include the mansion & Plantation where I now live. . . ."

Matthew R. Moore was evidently a minor at the time of his father's death. His substantial inheritance enabled him to own thirty-six slaves in 1820. He also became a prominent politician, serving as clerk of the Stokes County

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Court and as state senator from Stokes at various sessions of the General Assembly from 1833 to 1840. In 1828 he pledged "all that part of the tract of land bought by my . . . father of John Walker . . .," as well as other tracts totaling 875 acres, to Emmanuel Shober, trustee, as security for a loan of \$2,981.88 from Theodore Shultz of Salem. Moore evidently defaulted on this indebtedness: in August, 1843, Shober placed the property on sale "at the C. H. /courthouse/ in Germanton for cash to the highest bidder. . .," who was William Henry Van Vleck of Salem; he paid \$1,000 and received formal title to the property in May, 1844. Van Vleck was at this time "proprietor" for the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian settlement at Salem. In this capacity he was charged with the duty of "handing down the property /held by the brotherhood/ legally to a successor."

In March, 1844, Charles F. Kluge, formerly of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, was named "administrator of the Unity's properties in North Carolina" and in April of that year the Brotherhood's ruling body decreed that "the proprietorship of the Unity's properties in North Carolina is to be transferred to this brother /Kluge/ by . . . William Henry Van Vleck by deed of conveyance. . . ." In August, 1844, title to all North Carolina lands in which the brotherhood had an interest was deeded by Van Vleck to Kluge for a consideration of \$100,000; this included the former Matthew Moore property.

In 1849 Hardin W. Reynolds of Patrick County, Virginia, purchased "the tract of land known by the name of Col. Matthew R. Moores home place. (Hardin Reynolds was the father of tobacco baron Richard Joshua Reynolds of Winston.) After Reynolds' death, the Moore property went to his son, W. N. Reynolds, and thereafter to Robert W. George, in whose family the property remains.

On land east of Moore's homeplace--the tract inherited by his son Tucker--was a mineral spring. In the late nineteenth century, the Moore's Spring Company was founded, and a rambling hotel, a few cottages, and a store were built up as a resort near the spring. Like many of its kind, including others in Stokes County, Moore's Springs flourished into the early twentieth century; the hotel burned in 1925.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Robert Topkins, survey specialist; architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Clark, Walter, ed. The State Records of North Carolina. 16 volumes, numbered XI-XXVI; Winston and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 1895-1906, XXIII, XVI.
 Fries, Adelaide, and others, eds. Record of the Moravians in North Carolina. 11 volumes; Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission (Division of Archives and History), 1922-1969, IX, X.
 Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: North Carolina. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.

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° 26' 06"	80° 17' 32"	
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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 21 June 1974

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 Thornton W. Mitchell
 Thornton W. Mitchell

Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 21 June 1974

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 _____

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9.

A List of Houses and their Valuation above 100 Dollars in Stokes County August, 1799, unpublished originals in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

A List of Persons who Own Taxable Negroes and their Number's an abstract, unpublished originals in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

A list of the persons who own houses of a 100 Dollars value and under, also the quantity and valuation of each persons Lands in said County the situation of Lands and persons being distinguished according to the Assessors Districts which the original List of the Assistant Assessors point out, unpublished originals in State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Rowan County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Saunders, William L., ed. The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Ten volumes; Raleigh: 1886-1890, X.

State Census of North Carolina, 1784-1787. Second ed., rev.; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1973.

Stokes County Records, Stokes County Courthouse, Danbury, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Stokes County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Surry County Records, Surry County Courthouse, Dobson, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Surry County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Wheeler, John Hill. Historical Sketches of North Carolina From 1584 to 1851. Two volumes in one: Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1964.



Matthew Moore House
 Danbury vicinity
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Hanging Rock Quadrangle
 Scale: 1: 24,000
 Date: 1964

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	26	06	80	17	32

