

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
North Carolina

COUNTY:
Surry

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

276

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bernard Franklin House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On S.R. 1331, 0.3 mi. west of junction of S.R. 1442 and S.R. 1331

CITY OR TOWN:
Dobson vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

COUNTY:
Surry

CODE:
171

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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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"/> 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	Restoration	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	contemplated	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Surry County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
314 Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Mt. Airy

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Mt. Airy

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Surry

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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

Situated on a slight knoll near the road and facing south down the Fisher River bottom is the two-story frame house of Bernard Franklin. The five-bay structure rests on a stone foundation and features asymmetrical fenestration at both levels of the main facade. Supported by six heavy chamfered posts, the well-executed shed porch with a molded cornice runs the length of the first-floor main facade. The east bay and the two west bays of the first floor, main facade, contain windows with nine-over-nine sash; the central two bays contain wood-grained doors set very near each other. Each door has six raised panels and is surmounted by a four-light transom. The second floor, has four unevenly spaced windows also with nine-over-six sash. The sash arrangement of the facade carries around the house, and all windows have simple architraves. Flush sheathing above a beaded baseboard is used in the area protected by the porch. The balustrade of the porch is gone but a beaded board at the end of the facade shows the outline of the profile of the handrail and of the baluster base support. A molded box cornice across the main and rear facades has returns at the ends of the cornice which do not enter the wall of the side elevations.

The east end is dominated by a sturdy, double shoulder chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond. There is a door to the south which is said to have been connected by a low bridge to the kitchen which no longer exists. To the north of this chimney is a window which still has its fixed-louver blinds. The second floor has only one window to the south of the chimney, and there are paired attic windows with four-over-four sash. The west end has a similar chimney with the date, 1799, painted near the top shoulder (north side) and paired windows at all three levels. The basement entrance, to the north of this chimney, has a door made of vertical boards which has a wooden box lock and strap hinges.

The knoll on which the house stands drops sharply behind the house with the stone foundation being about four feet high on the rear facade. A door is located roughly in the center of this side and resembles the front doors but lacks the wood graining. There are two windows to the west of the door and one to the east. The second story has two windows, one at each end, but there is evidence that a third existed in the second bay from the west end. Whatever arrangement was used in getting from the back door to the ground no longer exists. Evidence indicates that there was probably only a flight of steps or a very small porch.

Basically a Quaker style plan, the house has its two small rooms to the east with the east front door leading into the south room. The west front door leads into the great room which occupies the west half of the house and contains the stair. Crude partitions have recently been installed which gives the house a central stair hall and divides the great room into two smaller ones. Fortunately, little damage was done to the original fabric.

The first floor has a handsome wainscot consisting of horizontal raised panels with molded fillets below a molded chair rail which also serves as the window sills. The wainscot has interesting wood graining, as do the doors which have six panels raised on molded fillets. Throughout

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

the house are simple architraves. The large, main room mantel is transitional Georgian-Federal. It has two large horizontal flat panels with Federal moldings above the fire opening, flanked by broad planes with slender, superimposed fluted pilasters which support a heavy molded shelf that breaks out slightly in the center and over each pilaster. The small first-floor rooms have corner fireplaces, with the southeast room (originally the dining room) having a less elaborate version of the main room mantel and the northeast room having a simple mantel which has a square fire opening surmounted by one horizontal flat panel.

The Federal stair, which rises along the east wall of the main room just past the door to the southeast room, has marbleizing along its string, as well as on the risers and baseboard. Slender balusters support the rounded handrail which begins abruptly as it passes over a slender, square newel which tapers upward, and the handrail ramps to its conclusion as the stair reaches its first turn near the rear wall. Simulated panels are painted on the dado below the chair rail as it climbs to the point where the stair winds to reverse its direction and reach the second floor.

The second floor appears to have originally reflected the first-floor plan but was modified at an early date to give a central-hall plan, two rooms deep. The handsome wainscot of the first floor is repeated on the second but the added partitions were made with horizontal sheathing in the dado beneath a distinctly Federal chair rail as opposed to the more transitional one of the original work. A semi-enclosed stair rises in the southeast corner of the hall, but panels in the wainscot behind it indicate that this may not have been its original position and that it may have been moved during the early renovation. There are two fire openings on the second floor: that in the southwest room with a square fire opening surmounted by a horizontal flat panel, and that in the southeast room is a corner fireplace with an arched opening surmounted by a horizontal flat panel. The second floor exhibits several forms of marbleizing and wood graining in every room with the use of various color combinations.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <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 Bernard Franklin House is a handsome Georgian-Federal dwelling retaining a remarkable amount of its original fabric, including fine paneling throughout the house with interesting marbleizing and wood graining. It is by far the most ambitious early house in Surry County. The significance of the house is further enhanced by its association with Jesse Franklin, son of the builder, who is said to have selected the land for his father's new home. This is the only extant reminder of North Carolina's twentieth governor and noted senator, who was Surry County's most outstanding historical figure.

Bernard Franklin, of Orange County, Virginia, began buying land in Surry County, North Carolina, with the help of his son, Jesse, who scouted the land for him, about the time of the American Revolution. Tradition has it that his family settled in Surry County about this same time, living in log houses which Jesse had built until the "mansion house" could be built in 1799. Since Jesse's own house burned, this house is the only visible reminder of Bernard Franklin's most illustrious son. Jesse entered the Continental army and before the war was over had risen to the rank of major. In 1793 and 1794 he was elected a member of the North Carolina General Assembly and re-elected in 1797 and 1798. In 1805 he was elected a member of the state senate. In the meantime, from 1795 to 1797, he was a member of Congress. In 1799, as the state swung from Federalist domination to the Jeffersonian Republicanism he was elected to the United States Senate and served as president pro tem, paralleling North Carolina arch-Republican Nathaniel Macon's service as speaker of the House. Franklin was re-elected to the Senate in 1807. In 1816 President Monroe appointed Senator Franklin commissioner to make a treaty with the Chickasaw Indians; he capped his political career by being elected the twentieth governor of North Carolina in 1820. He died in Surry County in 1823.

The Bernard Franklin House passed from the Franklin family when Jesse D. Franklin, grandson of Bernard, sold the 1,300-acre plantation to Saint Clair (Sinclare) McMickle on 6 May 1847 "but at the same time excepting the lot called the grave yard . . . to remain the property of said Jesse D. Franklin." The McMickle family held the property into the twentieth century when it passed by marriage to James Blevins. The property was purchased by the Surry County Historical Society in 1972 from Sam Blevins, and its restoration is planned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Charles Greer Suttlemyre, Jr., survey specialist.
 Minnick, Ruth. Unpublished materials on Bernard Franklin House, copy in Survey files, Office of Archives and History.
 National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. . . . New York: J. T. White and Company, 1893 to present.
 Surry County Records, Surry County Courthouse, Mount Airy, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Surry County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	27'	24"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	80°	49'	13"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 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: Office of Archives and History

DATE: 28 March 1973

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 28 March 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

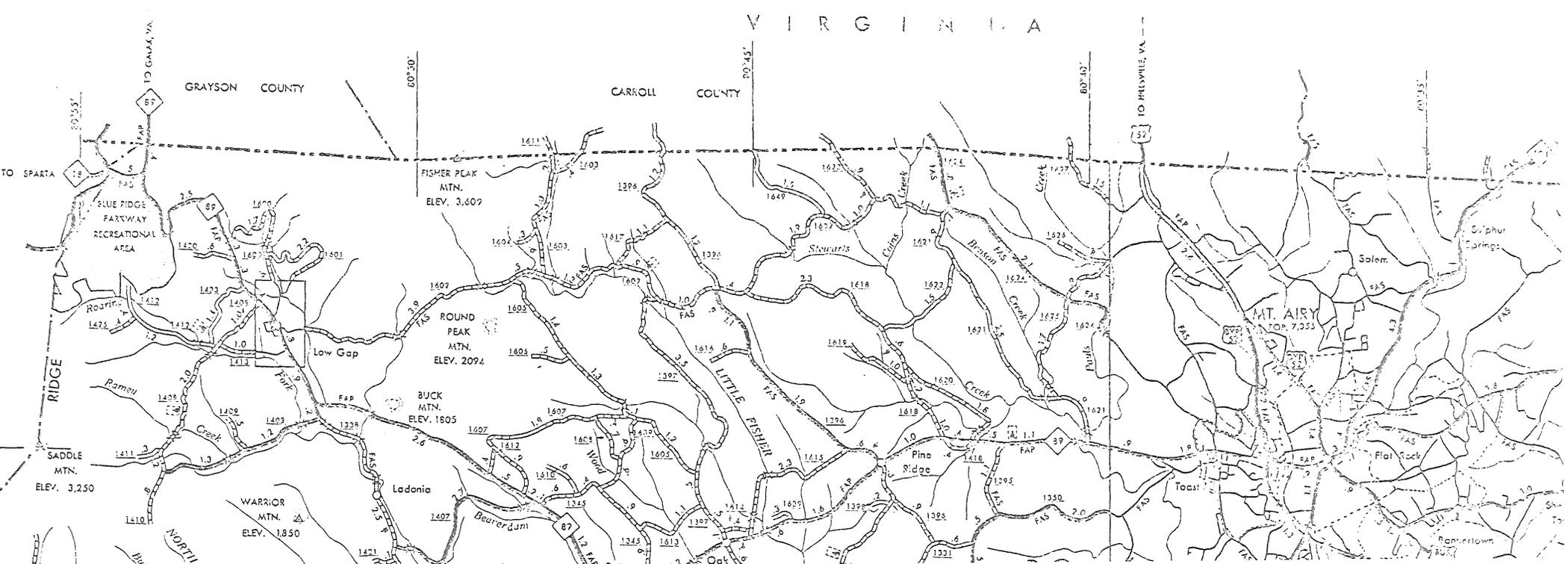
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Bernard Franklin House
 S.R. 1331, 0.3 mi. west of junction of S.R. 1442 and S.R. 1331
 Dobson vicinity, North Carolina

State Highway Map of Surry County
 Scale: 1: 2 miles
 Date: 1 January 1962

Bottom Gap

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
36	27	24	80	49	13

