

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Coleman-White House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Whitesome

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South side of Halifax Street, opposite and west of Hall Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second The Hon. L. H. Fountain	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Warren	CODE: 185

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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	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: Mrs. Frank P. Hunter	STATE: North Carolina
STREET AND NUMBER: Halifax Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton	
STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Warren County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton	STATE: North Carolina
	CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Coleman-White House is a two-story frame dwelling with elaborate Federal detail quite similar to that of Montmorenci, Prospect Hill, Elgin, and other related late Federal houses in Warren and Halifax counties. Like Montmorenci and Prospect Hill, and in contrast to the related group of temple-form houses, the building is a rectangular block three bays wide beneath a gable roof running parallel to the facade. The Palladian entrance in the central bay of the main (northeast) facade is nearly identical to that at Elgin and similar to those of Prospect Hill and Montmorenci. Attenuated Tuscan colonnettes flank each of the sidelights, which are in turn outlined by an unusual engaged bead-and-reel border, the beads being pear-shaped. The colonnettes support an entablature that breaks out over the colonnettes. The architrave features reeding; the frieze is plain except for incised vertical sunbursts on the end blocks over the colonnettes, and the cornice is adorned with gouge-work. The fanlight is framed by a molded band edged with tiny corbels. The character of the delicate geometric tracery in the lights, accented with rosette bosses, is the same as at Elgin, but the design is slightly different.

The facade window treatment is nearly identical to that at Prospect Hill and Montmorenci--and since the latter structures are gone, this represents the only known examples of this highly individualized treatment remaining in North Carolina. At both levels, there are triple windows, each element with double-hung sash--nine-over-nine in the center and three-over-three in the narrow side elements. Beneath the first-level windows is an apron with three flat panels echoing the window division. Separating the sections of the window are symmetrically molded pilasters. Above the central two are caps with incised sunbursts. Between them runs a plain frieze, and over the side windows the frieze area is ramped; an applied rosette boss occurs at the juncture of the upper molded ramped edge and the pilaster caps. Above the central section is a blind lunette with a molded rim adorned with the bead-and-reel motif. The second-story windows are the same but lack the lunette. In the central bay at the second level is a handsome Palladian window; the fanlight, filled with spider web tracery, is flanked by pilasters that carry an entablature.

The ends of the facade are defined by pilasters with a reeded central element; these carry a simplified entablature, with a plain frieze and a cornice with mutules. (Not present is the individualized demi-sunburst triglyph motif of the other related houses.) The entrance porch has Tuscan columns, supporting a Doric entablature and flat roof; the columns replace much heavier ones said to have been added in the mid-nineteenth century. On the southeast end of the house are two tall brick exterior chimneys of Flemish bond with tumbling at the single shoulders. A pent appears between them at the first level and a pair of windows, each with symmetrically molded pilasters supporting simple entablatures at second. On the northwest end is a single chimney centrally placed, flanked at both levels by windows of similar design. The rear facade has been somewhat altered by expansion--a full-width double porch and a central one-story wing, in which decorative elements of the original are reproduced. Three triple windows remain at the second level.

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The interior follows a center hall plan with one room on the northwest and two on the southeast. Doors with six flat panels are found except in the hall where there are double doors with four panels in each leaf or single doors with eight. The late Federal finish resembles that of the related houses: pedestal-type wainscots with gougework and reeding on the chair rails and doors and windows framed by pilasters supporting entablatures also adorned with gougework garlands and rosettes, and reeding. These motifs are executed with relative simplicity; in contrast to the restraint of the woodwork is the ornate plaster decoration in hall and main parlor, with the latter the most elaborate. In the hall the ceiling medallion features scroll acanthus and other floral motifs, and the cornice has a course of acanthus modillions with upper and lower molded borders. In the parlor the medallion is similar, augmented by outer rings of acanthus and dentils, and the cornice is extremely elaborate. It features from bottom to top, bands of tiny undercut modillions, egg-and-dart, acanthus modillions alternated with Tudor roses, bead-and-reel, and acanthus. The three-part mantel in this room has a reeded architrave bordered by a cable molding. Reeded pilasters support a three-part frieze with a dentil cornice and molded shelf breaking out over each element.

The finish throughout the house is consistent, with mantels somewhat simpler in design adorned with various combinations of reeding, gougework, and cable molding. The open-string stair is quite simple; it has slim balusters, square in section, and square posts carrying a rounded handrail which is not ramped. Simple wave-pattern brackets adorn the stringer, and the spandrel is flush-sheathed.

The second floor features a flush pedestal-type wainscot. In the northwest room the chair rail is reeded and there is a three-part mantel; in the front room on the southeast side is a very simple mantel with molded architrave with cable, plain frieze and molded shelf. The rear room is unheated, and a bath occupies the front hall.

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) 1821-1824

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 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 | <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 Coleman-White House is an important and well-preserved member of a regional group of late Federal period houses--including the well-known Montmorenci, some of which is now at Winterthur--which were related by the use of elaborate, inventive Adamesque ornament. The Coleman-White House links the houses still standing in Warren and Halifax counties with the now-gone Montmorenci and Prospect Hill; particularly notable are the distinctive triple windows, now unique in the state, and its intricately detailed Palladian entrance.

The Coleman-White House was built by Dr. Littleton H. Coleman between 1821 and 1824, the year of his death. In 1821 Coleman paid Richard Davison \$500 for a lot "near the town of Warrenton being part of the Land now occupied by the said Davison containing upward of three acres." In 1823 Coleman bought an adjoining five acres from Davison for \$280.53. In 1825 an inventory of his estate shows this property, "The Mansion house and lot adjoining the town of Warrenton," was sold at public auction for \$2,325 to Edward Pattillo. Included in the inventory, but not in the sale to Pattillo, were "One Mahony [mahogany?] side Board, one ditto Beauuro, one old Birch Beauuro, one sett mahogany Dineing tables, two mahony Tea Tables, three Curtain Bedsteads . . . two Common ditto, three pine Tables, one Candle stand, one picture of the Washington family," among other articles.

Pattillo had made out a mortgage in 1825 to the executors of Coleman, but he died shortly after this purchase. The house was then held successively by several trustees for Carter Nunnery and Thomas E. Green until, by the terms of the trust, it was sold to Edmund Mayfield for \$1,000 in 1827. Mayfield sold the house to a Mr. Hill who in turn sold to John Parker. In 1837 Thomas White, a prominent merchant of Scottish birth, bought the house and lot for \$3,500. White was in business with another outstanding early citizen of Warrenton, Peter Mitchel, also a Scotsman, and the first owner of Elgin, a temple-form house also of the Montmorenci school. After many years as a reputable merchant and leading citizen, White moved to Virginia. It is said that sometime before 1846 when he sold his residence, "called by him, Whitesome," he had remodeled it. (This might refer to the Greek Revival porch, since replaced.) The property was then held successively by William C. Williams and Turner W. Battle before Thomas White's nephew, William Jones White, purchased it in 1873. In 1870, shortly before moving into this house, W. J. White encountered General Robert E. Lee who had come to Warrenton to visit the grave of his daughter, Annie Carter Lee. Lee accepted William J.

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White's offer of lodging and stayed at the home of White's father, John White, next door to the Coleman-White House. During the Civil War John White had been designated a special commissioner to England and had raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Confederacy through the sale of bonds there. William Jones White was himself an honored Confederate officer, having served as quartermaster in the North Carolina Ninth Regiment. The house went to W. J. White's widow, Sue B. White, upon his death in 1903, and was bought from her by Howard Jones. From the Jones family it passed into the hands of its present owner, Mrs. Frank P. Hunter.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Charles Blume, Jr., survey specialist; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.
 Clark, Walter, ed. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina: 1901.
 Montgomery, Lizzie Wilson. Sketches of Old Warrenton North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards and Broughton Printing Co., 1924.
 Warren County Records, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Warren County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 ° 23 ' 28"	78 ° 09' 15"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 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: 18 September 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 18 September 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 _____

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9.

Wellman, Manly Wade. The County of Warren, North Carolina. Chapel Hill,
North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press, 1959.

AND NEW MAP
OF
RENTON
WASHINGTON COUNTY, N. Y.

W. H. COLTON & CO. PUBLISHERS
NEW YORK



