

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Warren <i>Macon County?</i>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Elgin

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North side of S.R. 1509, 0.9 mi. east of junction with N.C. 58

CITY OR TOWN:
Warrenton (Second Congressional District, The Hon. L. H. Fountain)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Warren	CODE 185
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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. Edith H. Crinkley ~~now Mrs. Bruce Bell~~

STREET AND NUMBER:
RFD 2

CITY OR TOWN: Macon	STATE: North Carolina	CODE 37
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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
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1939, 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
East Capitol and Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	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

Elgin is a handsome temple-form dwelling, surrounded by well-tended boxwoods and framed by a variety of tall trees. The pediment of the three-bay main (west) facade of the two-story frame structure is repeated on the front entrance porch and on the similar porches that protect the first bay of the three-bay sides of the building. To the rear of this temple-form block, but not visible from the front, is a one-and-one-half-story dwelling of an earlier type, with a gable roof running parallel to that of the front section; this building faces south.

The superbly proportioned simplicity of the temple-form house is complemented by the imaginative handling of classic details, many of which bear a marked resemblance to other major houses of the same period and region-- notably the now-demolished Prospect Hill at Airlie in neighboring Halifax County, which was treated at length in Thomas Waterman's Early Architecture of North Carolina. The entrance porch features two pairs of rather attenuated fluted Tuscan columns with plain, slightly elongated neckings: These support a pediment with a flat-paneled soffit. The entablature, a variation of the Doric order, features triglyphs handled in an unusual fashion seen in Prospect Hill and the related temple-form houses, Dalkeith, and Oakland: just below the tertia, beneath each triglyph, instead of regula is a half-sunburst or rosette. There are no mutules, and a molded cornice frames the flush-sheathed tympanum. At the corners of the house are paneled pilasters that support the entablature that carries along the sides of the house as well. The distinctive triglyph treatment is repeated, and above them and along the raking cornice of the pediment are handsome mutules; instead of having guttae, their soffits are deeply reeded. The windows of this block contain six-over-six sash below simple entablatures. Beneath each of the first-floor front windows is a dentil band over a flat-paneled apron, a treatment that recalls that at Prospect Hill.

The Palladian entrance also resembles that at Prospect Hill (especially in that the sidelights, instead of reaching to the transom bar, have tall friezes above them) but the delicate ornamentation is quite individualized. Attenuated Tuscan colonnettes flank the narrow double door and the sidelights, which are in turn outlined by an unusual engaged, bead and reel border element, the beads being pear-shaped. The colonnettes terminate in caps square in section, which support a frieze over each sidelight that breaks out above each colonnette in a frieze block with an incised sunburst. The fanlight is framed by a molded band edged with tiny corbels. The delicate geometric tracery of the fanlight and the sidelights is executed with fragile wood members punctuated with wooden rosette bosses. The side porches resemble the front porch and protect simply framed doors. The rear facade is windowless and is not pedimented. Interrupting the blank facade are two exterior end chimneys of brick laid in Flemish bond, with tumbling at the single shoulders.

The rear block of the building, five bays wide and one deep, has a long porch along the east side, with an engaged shed roof supported by unfluted Tuscan columns. Most of the openings have simple frames with unusual vertically gouged corner blocks. Four small pedimented dormers with diagonally sheathed sides pierce each slope of the roof. An interior brick chimney with a molded cap rises between the two northern dormers.

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7.A

The interior of Elgin confirms the impression of the exterior: simple, handsome proportions combine with elegant, inventively handled Federal details. As on the exterior, there are references to Prospect Hill, but the restraint evident at Elgin contrasts with the profusion of "ungrammatical ornament" of the Airlie house. As is typical of the temple-form houses whose plans are a reorientation of the side-hall plan, Elgin has a front cross hall with two large rooms behind. A door occurs at each end of the hall and the stair rises at the south end. All first-floor rooms have flat-paneled wainscots and heavy molded cornices. Doorways and windows are elaborately framed; deeply and symmetrically molded pilasters support a full entablature with the proportions of a three-part Federal mantel. Details of ornament vary from room to room. Over all the hall openings, a band of alternating gougework and crisply puckered rosettes extends across the lintel. On the frieze, the end blocks and center tablet feature oval sunbursts in high relief. The cornice and shelf, which break out over all three elements, are augmented with courses of dentils and gougework. The Palladian entrance is more simply treated, with the elements flanked by symmetrically molded pilasters capped only by a gougework band extending across all elements. The rosette and gougework band is employed over the sidelights. The chair rail in the hall repeats the high-relief rosettes and gougework pattern. The molded baseboard retains well-executed marbleizing. The open-string stair, which rises in three short flights, has thin square balusters and simple square posts supporting a rounded handrail that does not ramp. The posts are echoed in the wainscot, which continues up the stair. Each tread is adorned by a delicate foliated scroll bracket.

The two large rooms to the rear are finished much like the hall, with differences in detail. The chair rails are plain molded ones; in the north chamber the baseboard is handsomely woodgrained, but in the south room it is painted. The doors and windows have similar frames, but the lintel band is vertically reeded, and applied star-like flowers appear on the end blocks. The three-part mantel in the west chamber is the most elaborate--and though much less ornate, bears a striking resemblance to one at Prospect Hill. Paired fluted Tuscan colonnettes stand against a background of diagonal reeding and support a vertically reeded band. Oval sunbursts appear in high relief on the flat-paneled end blocks and center tablet. The frieze is paneled and adorned with applied star flowers. Beneath the molded cornice is a carved band of H fretwork. A dentil course adorns the shelf. The mantel in the east room resembles the door and window treatment, except that a band of half-sunbursts occurs beneath the frieze.

The second floor of this section has in the hall symmetrically molded architraves with roundel corner blocks. The chambers have three-part molded door frames, and the mantels on this floor are quite unpretentious and rather retarditaire, having a beaded architrave and molded backband, a plain frieze, and an unbroken dentil cornice and molded shelf.

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7.B

It appears that the rear section of the house was built sometime before the front but was extensively remodeled when or not long after the front part was constructed. Apparently original remnants exist in the full basement and on the second floor, such as beaded sheathing, beaded baseboards, and a simple flat-paneled mantel. Most elements of this section, however, are like those of the front block. A stair repeating the trim of the front stair rises in a cross hall just behind the joining of the two sections. To the rear of this is a dining room with a three-part Federal mantel like those in the other front rooms; it has symmetrically molded pilasters, a band of applied rosettes and gougework, a sunburst on the center tablet and star flowers on the end blocks, surmounted by a gougework cornice and a dentil shelf. To the rear is another room with a simple three-part mantel featuring lozenges backed up with reeding. Most openings on this level have been treated with symmetrically molded architraves and roundel corner blocks, but a blocked off door and window between these two rooms retain simple beaded frames.

To the north is an interesting outbuilding, that retains a delicately molded cornice and some equally fine sections of interior trim. It has two rooms and an enclosed stair to a partitioned attic.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input 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 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

During the antebellum years Warren and Halifax counties were an area of remarkable wealth and culture that produced many town and plantation houses of sophisticated design. With drastic changes in the social and economic conditions in the area, however, several of these have disappeared and more stand deserted or in disrepair. Elgin, gleaming white in its boxwood garden, contrasts strikingly with the ruinous condition of many of its fellows; its sheen of careful attention recalls the days when all these houses were in their prime.

Elgin is a superbly executed temple-form house whose exterior and interior ornament exemplify the spirit of the late Federal period--the almost playful delight in the seemingly infinite variety of combinations available from the imaginative use of classical motifs. Enhancing Elgin's inherent architectural significance is its relation to other contemporary buildings, including especially the quite similar temple-form houses, Dalkeith and Oakland in Warren and Halifax counties, respectively. Of the three, only Elgin retains the flanking porches which relate its form to the tripartite houses thought to derive from Plate 37 of Robert Morris's Select Architecture. Further, the handling of ornament--notably the distinctive, freely interpreted Doric entablature outside and the mantel, door, and window treatment within--indicate a definite kinship with the now-gone epitome of full-blown Federal inventiveness, Prospect Hill. Alone, and in its regional context, Elgin is one of the major structures of the late Federal period.

Peter Mitchel is said to have come from Elgin, Scotland, to Virginia in 1797 and to Warrenton a few years later. In partnership with another Scotsman, Thomas White, he established a store in Warrenton and his business flourished. He courted Elizabeth Person, daughter of William Person, one of the area's wealthiest landowners and, according to Elizabeth's grandson, a hardheaded man with an eye for property who had denied his daughter's hand to another suitor, saying "My daughter is for no damned poor Virginian. I have quite other plans." The successful Scot businessman met Person's requirements, however, and Peter and Elizabeth were married in October, 1824. Upon their marriage Person settled upon the couple a large farm near Warrenton where they had built a fine house in the latest fashion. (A deed of 1827 records the transfer of 650 acres from Person to Peter Mitchel; appurtenances are mentioned, which could refer to the older house behind the larger one.) It is possible that Elgin was built immediately after the

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marriage, but a granddaughter's memoir states that the couple lived in Warrenton until 1832, when they moved to Elgin; the house is said to have been five years abuilding. Within ten years, however, Peter Mitchel became ill with a paralysis that continued four or five years until his death in 1846. By this time he had expanded his holdings to include over 2,000 acres at Elgin, at least 2,000 acres more in the county, and other large tracts in Shelby County, Tennessee, as well as perhaps \$50,000 in slave property.

Peter Mitchel left his widow with two daughters, two sons, and the vast plantation to manage. In the years following his death, there was a series of suits and countersuits regarding Mitchel's will but, as it had devised, Elizabeth remained at Elgin with the two younger children (the 1850 census records Elizabeth, 53; Elizabeth, 20; and Peter, a student, 17). Elizabeth P. Mitchel was, according to the accounts of both her grandchildren, a remarkable woman of intelligence, character, and grace, who competently managed the vast plantation, "a community in which there was all the manufacturing claimed by a New England town." She was an omnivorous reader, and a strong Whig who promised her grandson a gold dollar if he would not shake hands with James Buchanan when the Democratic president stopped at the neighboring railroad station.

When her son, Peter, to whom his father had left Elgin subject to Elizabeth's dower interest, reached his majority about 1854, she moved to Warrenton to give Peter "complete control of his estate." The coming of the Civil War, as in much of the South, effected drastic changes at Elgin. Peter Mitchel enlisted promptly (May 4, 1861, over two weeks before the state officially seceded) as third sergeant in a Warren County unit. He survived the war and was recorded in an 1867 tax list as holding 2,000 acres and \$150 in pleasure horses. During the trying days after the Confederate defeat, however, the Mitchels and other members of the family were rearranging their affairs in order to move to their property in Tennessee. In 1868 Peter Mitchel assigned to Samuel Arrington full power of attorney to sell and handle all his North Carolina property, but he also executed a deed specifically placing Elgin in trust for his wife, Laura, and their children, putting the plantation "beyond the reach of future contingencies, so that in any event his said family may have a comfortable home, and a support." In March, 1872, Elizabeth Mitchel, visiting her daughter Elizabeth in Tennessee, where Peter still lived, formally deeded to him her dower right in Elgin, which she had already released to him according to the 1868 deed; Elizabeth died in Tennessee the next month.

The "future contingencies" Peter Mitchel had provided for must have altered in the disastrous years of Reconstruction for in the next year (August 18, 1873), Samuel P. Arrington and others sold Elgin for \$20,000 to Andrew and William Brown Crinkley "recently of Gads Hill, Ontario, Canada." Family tradition records that they purchased the place after seeing it advertised in the New York Times. Immediately after the transfer, just as the first Peter Mitchel had purchased slaves when he obtained the Elgin tract, the Crinkleys

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8.B

went about obtaining labor for their new plantation. In the new system, they did not buy slaves, but executed contracts recording a crop-lien arrangement for work on "the 'Elgin' plantation" with a number of illiterate workmen-- probably former slaves. Under the Crinkleys, Elgin again flourished: one account describes the variety of industries there, including sheep raising for meat and wool that was sold to blanket mills in Elkin; brewing; cotton production and ginning; and a saw mill and spoke factory. Elgin remains in the hands of the descendants of the Crinkley family and is kept in excellent condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Architectural description and research by Catherine Cockshutt, survey specialist
 Montgomery, Lizzie Wilson. Sketches of Old Warrenton. Raleigh, 1924.
 Warren County Records, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Warren County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Wellman, Manly Wade. The County of Warren, North Carolina 1586-1917. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1959.
 Wilson, Peter Mitchel. Southern Exposure. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1927.

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	36° 23' 21"	78° 06' 19"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36° 23' 21"	78° 05' 58"				
SE	36° 22' 51"	78° 05' 58"				
SW	36° 22' 51"	78° 06' 19"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 60 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 Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History

DATE: 6 November 1972

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 Administrator, Office of Archives and History

Date 6 November 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

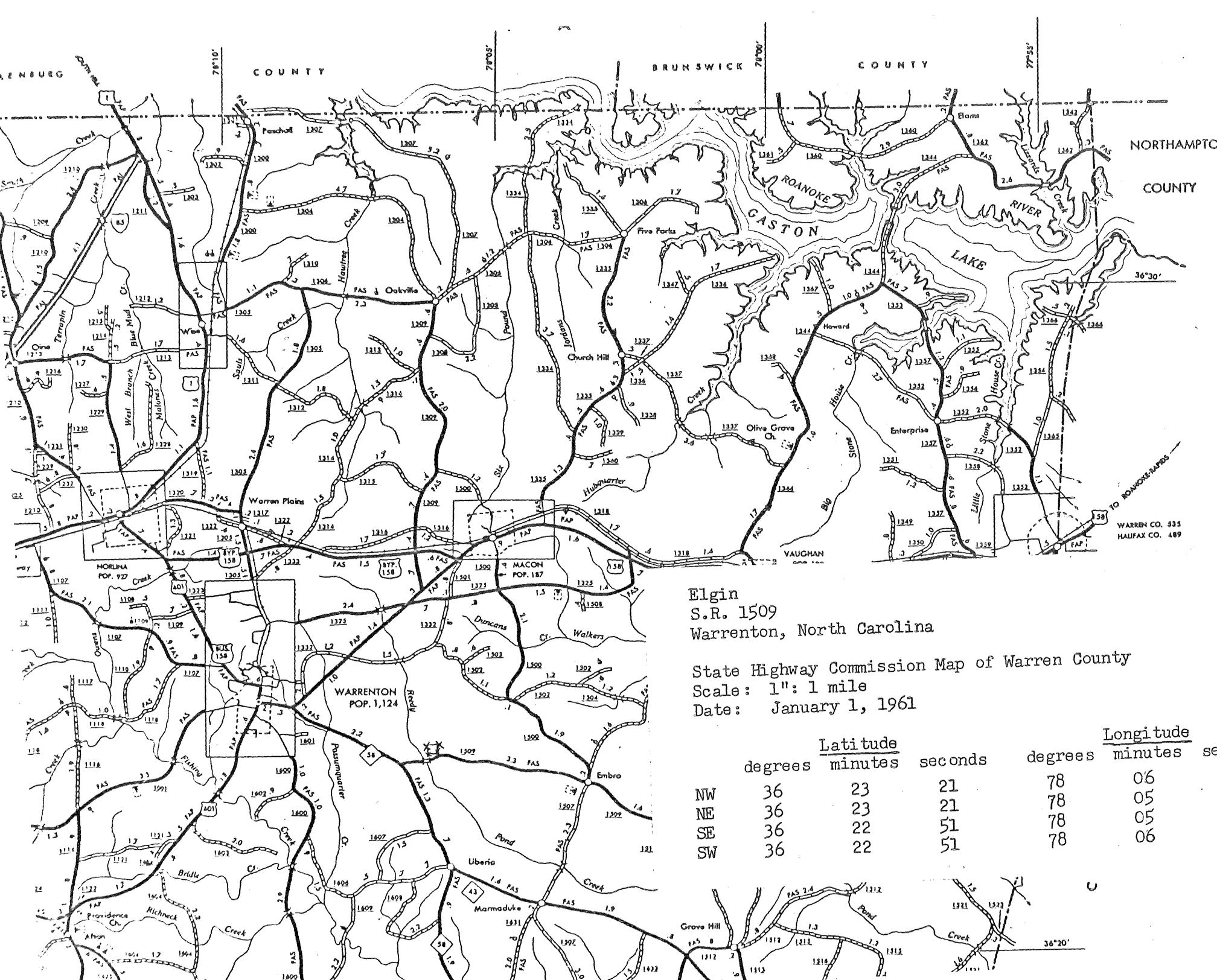
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



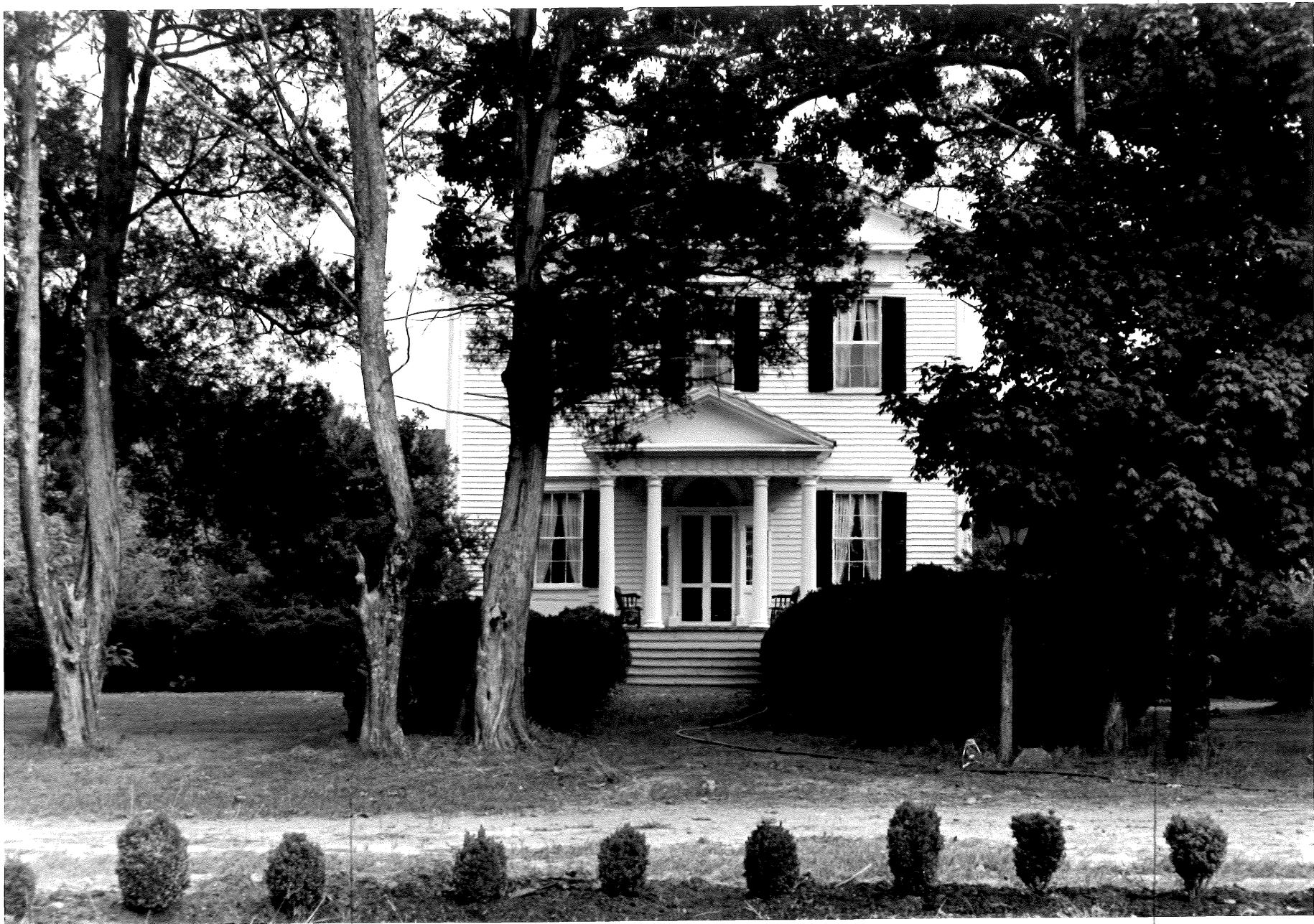
Elgin
S.R. 1509
Warrenton, North Carolina

State Highway Commission Map of Warren County
Scale: 1" = 1 mile
Date: January 1, 1961

	Latitude			Longitude		
	degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
NW	36	23	21	78	06	19
NE	36	23	21	78	05	58
SE	36	22	51	78	05	58
SW	36	22	51	78	06	19

- RAILROAD, PRIVATE STANDARD GAUGE
- RAILROAD, ANY NUMBER OF TRACKS USED BY SINGLE OPERATING COMPANY
- RAILROAD, ANY NUMBER OF TRACKS USED BY MORE THAN ONE OPERATING COMPANY OR SAME OR ADJACENT RIGHTS-OF-WAY
- RAILROAD STATION
- GRADE CROSSING
- UNDERPASS
- OVERPASS
- RAILROAD TUNNEL
- FREE OR TOLL FERRY
- HIGHWAY BRIDGE, 20 FT. OR OVER
- DRAW SPAN ON BRIDGE
- HIGHWAY TUNNEL
- OPERATED SHIP AND BARGE LINES
- DOCK, PIER OR LANDING
- NARROW STREAM
- WIDE STREAM
- LIGHTHOUSE
- LIGHT, NAUTICAL
- COAST GUARD STATION
- CANAL
- FORD
- DAM WITH LOCK
- DAM
- ARMY, NAVY OR MARINE CORPS FIELD
- COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
- MARKED AUXILIARY FIELD
- HANGAR ON FIELD "B" BY SYMBOL
- AIRWAY BEACON
- STATE LINE
- COUNTY LINE
- CITY LIMITS
- RESERVATION OR PARK BOUNDARY
- INSET AREA
- DELIMITED AREA, POPULATION EST.
- PROMINENT PEAK, NUMERALS INDICATE ELEVATION
- ROAD THROUGH MOUNTAIN PASS
- COUNTY SEAT
- OTHER TOWNS AND VILLAGES
- TRIANGULATION STATION
- SCENIC SITE
- LODGE
- CAMP GROUND
- BATHING BEACH
- ATHLETIC FIELD
- MUNICIPAL PARK - PICNIC GROUND
- FAIR GROUNDS OR RACE COURSE
- GOLF COURSE
- GROUP OF DWELLINGS
- FOREST RANGER STATION
- FOREST LOOKOUT STATION
- GAME FARM
- RESERVOIR, POND OR LAKE
- FISH HATCHERY
- GAS, OR OIL TANKS
- POWER PLANT
- POWER SUBSTATION
- RADIO STATION WITH CALL LETTERS
- PUMPING OR GAUGING STATION
- SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT
- WATER SUPPLY, ELEVATED TANK
- MANUFACTURING PLANT
- SEASONAL INDUSTRY
- BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT
- SAW MILL
- MINE
- GRAVEL PIT OR QUARRY
- CHURCH
- CHURCH WITH CEMETERY
- CEMETERY
- POST OFFICE
- TOWN OR COMMUNITY HALL
- HOTEL OR MOTEL
- HOSPITAL OR COUNTY HOME
- OPEN AIR THEATER
- GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH STATION
- MONUMENT - SMALL HISTORICAL SITE
- URBAN FIRE STATION





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