

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Reedy Rill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
0.8 mi. on dirt road west of S.R. 1600 between Richneck and Bridle creeks

CITY OR TOWN:  
Warrenton vicinity

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: The Hon. L. H. Fountain	CODE 185
-------------------------	------------	------------------------------------	-------------

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 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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Twitty

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Reedy Rill

CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Warrenton 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:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina  
COUNTY: Warren  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Reedy Rill is an Italianate plantation house set amid great trees at the end of an impressive boxwood mid-nineteenth century walk, approached by a long winding wooded lane. It is similar in form and detail to a number of Warren and Franklin county houses credited to Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt. The square frame building is two stories high above a raised basement. It is three bays wide and two widely spaced bays deep, with each bay of the front and side elevations containing paired arched windows in a single rectangular frame. The tall, narrow windows have four-over-two sash with a tracery V in the arch. The central entrance is a wide double door, flanked by arched sidelights and an elongated oval transom; the corner lights are circular. Simple pilasters terminating in heavy brackets separate the elements. The exterior woodwork is quite simple, with cornerposts treated as pilasters supporting a plain frieze and rather wide overhang. The one-story porch has simple paired replacement posts. The foundation is stuccoed and rusticated, and the two interior chimneys are somewhat elaborate, each with a molded cap adorned with brackets. The rear facade has a shed addition with irregular fenestration across the first story and has at the second level three windows with six-over-six sash and simple molded frames.

The interior follows a center-hall plan two rooms deep and has bold trim using Greek Revival and Italianate motifs. Particularly remarkable is the survival of marbleizing and woodgraining of fine quality. The walls of the hall feature, painted directly on the plaster, realistically rendered marbleizing, giving the impression that the walls are of blocks of pinkish marble. The baseboards resemble black marble, and doors here and in the front parlors as well as some other woodwork have skillful woodgraining.

Used consistently are symmetrically molded architraves with corner blocks; paneled aprons occur beneath the long windows. Walls are plastered above heavy molded baseboards. Doors have several paneling schemes, and some of the panels are round-headed. In the northeast and southwest rooms are similar mantels with pilasters having two long narrow arched panels topped by a short row of four deeply recessed strips suggesting a cap; reeding extends across the frieze, and there is a molded shelf.

The mantel in the southwest parlor is a robust Greek Revival one, reflecting the patterns of Asher Benjamin, and typical of Jacob Holt's work. A symmetrically molded architrave with corner blocks frames the fire opening. Forward of this stand paired, tapered, fluted Doric colonnettes which carry a frieze featuring a fluted horizontal roll. The heavy cornice breaks out at the ends, but the thick shelf continues uninterrupted. Other mantels are of heavy Greek Revival design.

The stair rises in two flights with a transverse landing at the rear of the hall, the first flight rising along the south wall. An urn-like turned newel and posts of similar design, and balusters square in section carry a heavy rounded, ramped handrail. The ends of the treads are molded but there are no brackets along the open string. The risers are skillfully marbleized. The second floor plan and finish are much like the first, but somewhat less elaborate. The basement of the house is finished and retains a stair like the main stair and a mantel with frieze brackets recalling the entrance treatment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. 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) 1850s

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

Reedy Rill is a handsome Italianate plantation house, one of a group of distinctive, closely related houses of the type built or remodeled by Warrenton contractor Jacob Holt and characteristic of Warrenton's antebellum boom era. Of special significance is the rare survival of marbleized walls and woodwork and woodgrained woodwork, all in unusually good condition.

The house called "Reedy Rill" is the product, according to family tradition, of two periods of construction. The first section, apparently two rooms deep, was built for Daniel Turner on land he had inherited from his father, James Turner, and it is believed to have been built between 1830 and 1846. Turner was born near Warrenton in 1796, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1814 and served in the War of 1812. After resigning his commission in 1815, Turner was a student at William and Mary College for two years. He was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons 1819-1823 and a member of the United States Congress 1827-1829. In 1829 he married Ann Arnold Key, a daughter of Francis Scott Key, and for some years lived at "Woodley," four miles from Warrenton between Bridle and Fishing Creeks, about 3/4 mile from his mill. At Woodley, Turner established a small school for girls. Between 1830 and 1846 Turner had built a new house, the present Reedy Rill, about one-and-one-half mile from his mill and roughly the same distance from Woodley.

In 1847 Turner was elected principal of the Warrenton Female College, a position he held until moving to California in 1854 with several of the elder of his family of eleven children. Mrs. Turner later joined her husband there, where he served as superintending engineer of the construction of public works until his death in 1860.

In 1846, Turner had named Alfred Alston and William Plummer trustees for 2,623 one-half-acres between Fishing and Richneck creeks. This was sold in January 2, 1847, to Thomas Gayle, who in 1853 deeded to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband G. W. Burwell 1,461 acres of this property. In the following year, the Burwells sold the land to Richard B. Robinson. It was, according to family tradition, for Richard Robinson that the house was enlarged and remodeled to its present form; the work is credited to Warrenton builder Jacob Holt, and stylistically the building is markedly similar to others in and near Warrenton attributed to Holt, whose forte seems to have been a rather individualized version of the Italianate style--with heavy bracketed overhang, paired arched windows, and an elaborate bracketed,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

8.

transomed, sidelit doorway on the exterior, and mantels within like those at Reedy Rill. A recently found contract for a similar Franklin County house documents the traditional attribution of these houses to Holt, who both built and remodeled houses--all of which are very much alike.

In 1868 Robinson lost the plantation, and it was purchased by his brother James Clack Richardson. He in turn sold it to John Searls in 1876. The Searls family lived on the place for thirty years before selling it in 1906 to W. W. Robertson, a timber dealer of Norfolk. Robertson deeded the land to William E. Twitty, Jefferson D. Palmer, and Nathan M. Palmer, reserving timber rights for some years. In 1906 W. E. Twitty married Rebecca Robinson, the granddaughter of James C. Robinson, who had lived at Reedy Rill 1868-1876; Twitty and his bride went to live there, and an "at-home" card preserved together with a wedding invitation refers to the place as Reedy Rill. It is not certain how much earlier the name had been used. In 1923, W. E. Twitty and his brother Frank purchased the Palmers' interests. Through purchase and inheritance, Henry F. Twitty, the son of William and Rebecca, acquired Reedy Rill and much of the surrounding land. Mr. and Mrs. Twitty, the present owners, maintain the house in good condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research by Panthea Twitty, consultant; architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey specialist.  
 Ashe, Samuel A., ed. Biographical History of North Carolina from Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro, North Carolina: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1907.  
 Montgomery, Lizzie Wilson. Sketches of Old Warrenton, North Carolina. Raleigh, 1924.  
 Warren County Records, Warren County Courthouse, Warrenton, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Warren County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

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°	20'	48"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	78°	08'	29"
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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 30 July 1974

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 Thornton W. Mitchell

Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 30 July 1974

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

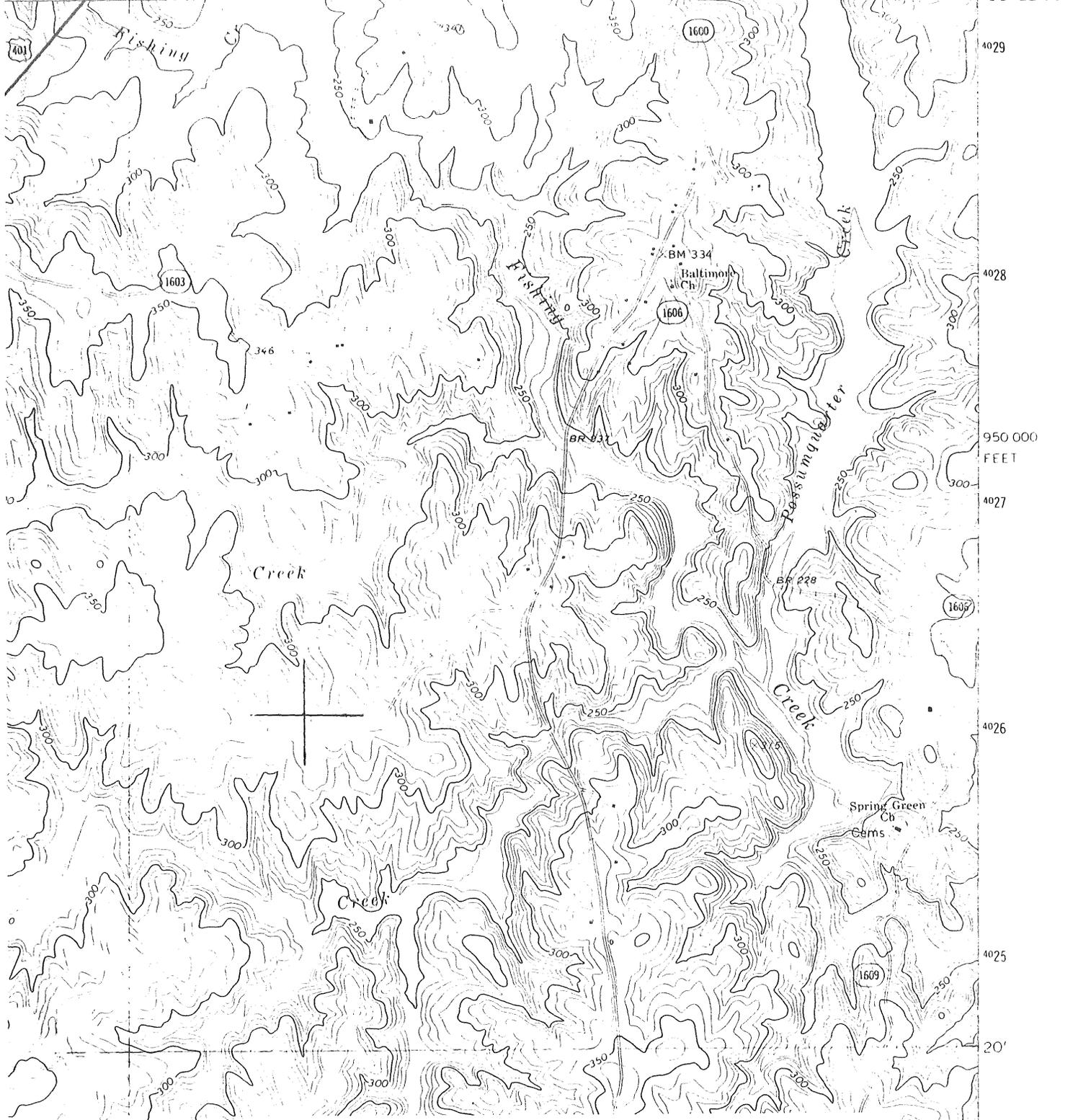
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

AFTON QUADRANGLE  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5356 1 NE  
 (MAGON)

ITON 1.7 MI 10' 755 2,250 000 FEET 756 757 78°07'30" 36°22'30"



Reedy Rill  
 Warrenton vicinity  
 North Carolina

USGS Map, Afton Quadrangle  
 Scale: 1: 24,000  
 Date: 1971

<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds

